

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of March 16, 2010 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010 in the CVIC HALL (DOWNSTAIRS) 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.**

PRESENT: Chairman Michael Turnipseed
Vice-Chairman Craig Burnside
Kevin Servatius
Bob Cook
Eric Scheetz

STAFF: Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Bernard, Private Citizen

NOTE: A tape recording of these proceedings is retained by the Board Chairman and is available for review upon request.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM** – Chairman Turnipseed called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.
2. **ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – February 2, 2010.

MOTION by Scheetz/Cook to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Burnside abstaining.
3. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA** – None.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS** – Chairman Turnipseed read an email from Marshall Goldy addressing his group's position on some of the items on tonight's agenda. That email is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.
5. **DISCLOSURES** – Chairman Turnipseed referenced the above email from Marshall Goldy. Craig Burnside discussed a letter received from a hunter expressing upset over a horse gathering held during the antelope hunt. The hunter emailed his concerns to the appropriate agencies but did not receive any response.
6. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ESTABLISHING A MULE DEER HERD RESTORATION SUBCOMMITTEE– ERIC SCHEETZ & BOB COOK**

Bob Cook and Eric Scheetz, along with two members from the Carson City Board, attended the first get together. The purpose of the subcommittee will be the gathering of facts and information to bring back to the boards but no decisions will be made. The subcommittee hopes to bring recommendations before the boards in May.

Eric Scheetz thought the meeting was productive but expressed concern with the term

“committee” and thought “working group” would be more appropriate. He talked about the advantage of including all the Advisory Boards that have a stake in the intercounty herds because it would provide a larger power base. One of their main focuses will be habitat.

Kevin Servatius thought it would be beneficial to have the input of an NDOW biologist and suggested they continue to contact Carl Lackey and encourage him to attend.

7. REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF FOREST SERVICE GATES IN UNIT 192-KINGSBURY GRADE/SPOONER LAKE AREA AND STATUS OF JOINT LETTER WITH THE CCABMW – BOB COOK

Bob Cook provided Chairman Turnipseed the final draft of the letter to sign (Attachment B).

The letter thanked the Forest Service for the concessions they have made to date but asked for two additional considerations. Those considerations included the relocation of one gate 4/10 of a mile north and holding a public comment period regarding the closure of the gate in the Carson Ranger District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Bernard said a travel management plan is the Forest Service process for closing these roads. Was a travel management plan not done?

Public comment closed.

Bob Cook answered he was unaware this road was in the Carson Ranger District when he attended the travel management plan for all the roads from Kingsbury to Spooner. No public hearing was held by the Carson Ranger District when they closed that road.

MOTION by Burnside/Servatius to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter and send it to the Forest Service; carried unanimously.

8. REPORT AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A JOINT LETTER FROM THE CARSON CITY AND DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO THE CARSON CITY OFFICE OF BLM REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF WILD HORSES IN NEVADA.

Bob Cook distributed a copy of the letter drafted (Attachment C) and explained the subsequent changes made to the draft. Gil Yanuck of Carson City will sign the letter tomorrow and the letter will be hand delivered after that. He read from the Wild Horse Program from the Department of the Interior and stated concerns with the language talking about adoption demand.

No public comment.

MOTION by Servatius/Scheetz to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter; carried

unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE STATUS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF DCABMW'S STRATEGIC PLAN – ERIC SCHEETZ

Eric Scheetz distributed the latest iteration of the plan and reminded the board this is a work in progress. He requested the board review this draft and provide input at the next meeting. He feels the document is growing and would like it to contain only the information the board deems important.

The board suggested he add an Appendix for each category and each version contain the date it was created.

No public comment.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PRESENTATION REGARDING THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER – BOB POHLMAN

There was no discussion on this item as Mr. Pohlman was not present. This item was continued to the next meeting.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO NDOW FOR AN URBAN FISHING POND IN THE GARDNERVILLE RANCHOS – MIKE TURNIPSEED

Chairman Turnipseed drafted a letter (attached to these minutes as Attachment D) for the board members to review.

Vice Chairman Burnside talked about a Carson City pond that is 15-18' deep and has a high water table but said the Ranchos pond will have to be lined.

No public comment.

MOTION by Servatius/Cook to approve the letter to Ken Mayer with a carbon copy to Kim Tisdale; carried unanimously.

12. DISCUSSION ONLY ON THE LISTING OF THE GREATER SAGE GROUSE ON THE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST – CRAIG BURNSIDE

Vice Chairman Burnside referenced the posting on NDOW's website and thought it would be worthwhile to discuss.

Chairman Turnipseed thought the Mono herd (Bistate Distinct Population Segment) was given special consideration.

Vice Chairman Burnside said that sub-species of sage grouse were given a rating of 3 versus the rangewide 8. Because of the rating it has, other species are given a higher priority so annual updates must be provided regarding the status of the bird. The result of that report could change the rating.

The primary threats of habit loss stem from concerns with wildfire, invasive species, energy development (wind turbines), agriculture and urbanization, and the lack of regulatory mechanisms.

Chairman Turnipseed said this is the 3rd go round for this and it still may not be successful.

This was discussion only and no action was taken.

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE'S BUDGET- ERIC SCHEETZ

Eric Scheetz distributed the proposed budget and noted the request for funds will be \$2,092.06. Most of the expenses are related to travel and allows for one person to attend each meeting.

No public comment.

MOTION by Servatius/Burnside to accept the proposed budget as presented for submittal; carried with Scheetz abstaining.

14. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE FEBRUARY 5-6, 2010 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.

Eric Scheetz attended the Saturday portion of the meeting and Kevin Servatius attended the Friday portion. The topics discussed included:

- Silver State Tag/Heritage Tag quotas
- Letter by Chairman Lent to Secretary Salazar
- Wild horse round up
- The interaction between the members of the Commission between both themselves and the public.
- Update on the sheep die off in Units 101 and 102

15. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are agendized for the March 19-20, 2010 Wildlife Commission meeting and may be acted upon by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife with one action and without extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that an item be taken from the consent agenda and acted upon separately during this meeting.

Bob Cook asked to remove item 15C for discussion.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to approve the consent agenda minus item 15C; carried unanimously.

15-A. ACTION REGARDING AN APPEAL FROM MR. ROBERT G. WALLIN. The Commission will hear an appeal from Mr. Wallin on the Department of Wildlife's denial of his 2010 Master Guide License.

15-B. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 380,

APPLICATION AMENDMENT, LCB FILE NO. R155-09 – PROGRAM OFFICER III MAUREEN HULLINGER. The Commission may adopt a proposed regulation change that would allow a tag applicant to withdraw or amend an application previously submitted. *Note: This item is agendized as an informational workshop of Friday, March 19, 2010.*

15-C. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 354, SILVER STATE TAG, LCB FILE NO. R196-09 - PROGRAM OFFICER III MAUREEN HULLINGER. The Commission may adopt a proposed regulation change that would establish language for the Silver State tag and drawing. *Note: This item is agendized as an informational workshop of Friday, March 19, 2010.*

Bob Cook asked the board for clarification on some of the language contained in the support material regarding the ability to hunt the species.

Chairman Turnipseed explained he thought it meant as long as the season is open somewhere, a hunter could hunt in any unit and with any legal weapon.

15-D. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 381, Crayfish Regulation, LCB FILE NO. R176-09 – CHIEF GAME WARDEN ROB BUONAMICI. The Commission may adopt a proposed regulation prohibiting the importation, transportation, or possession of certain crayfish, authorizing the Department of Wildlife to issue certain permits or licenses to an institutional member of the Zoological Association of America. *Note: This item is agendized as an informational workshop of Friday, March 19, 2010.*

15-E. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 382, COLORADO RIVER REGULATION, LCB FILE NO. R004-10 – SUPERVISING FISHERIES BIOLOGIST JON SJOBERG. The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to waterways; requiring vessels to be operated at a reduced speed along a certain portion of the Colorado River. *Note: This item is agendized as an informational workshop of Friday, March 19, 2010.*

15-F. ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF SPONSORING AGENCY FOR NEVADA DUCK STAMP ART CONTEST- CHIEF OF CONSERVATION EDUCATION KELLY CLARK. The Commission is being asked to select a sportsmen's group to sponsor the annual Nevada Duck Stamp Art Contest for the 2011 and 2012 contests.

- 7. DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 19-20, 2010 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.** A report on each of the following informational items will be provided by a Nevada Department of Wildlife representative or a Wildlife Commissioner at the upcoming Commission meeting.

Vice Chairman Burnside asked to discuss items 16D and 16F.

Kevin Servatius asked to discuss item 16I.

16-A. CORRESPONDENCE - CHAIRMAN GERALD A. LENT. The Commission will

review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and provide copies for the exhibit file.

16-B. CABMW Reports on Mule Deer Overview Efforts Within Each County – CABMW Members.

16-C. Bighorn Sheep Disease Update – Acting Game Division Chief Rich Haskins.

16-D. Legislative Special Session Update – Secretary Ken Mayer.

Vice Chairman Burnside asked if the money had been pulled from the Heritage Fund during the Special Session.

Kevin Servatius will research this and it will be reagendaized for discussion at the next meeting.

16-E. Nevada Department of Wildlife Budget Update – Deputy Director Patrick Cates.

16-F. College of Agriculture, University of Nevada, Reno Update – Professor and Chair Kurt Pregitzer, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science.

Vice Chairman Burnside talked about the impacts associated with doing away with the College of Agriculture.

16-G. Wildlife Damage Management Committee – Commissioner Raine.

16-H. All Gifts, Grants, Donations, and Bequests to Nevada Department of Wildlife Presented to Commission for Recognition – Deputy Director Patrick Cates.

16-I. Trail Cameras – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici.

Kevin Servatius commented on possible future regulations to prohibit having blinds at guzzlers and limiting trail cameras because it has gotten out of hand.

16-J. Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General David Newton.

16-K. Department Activities/Leadership Team Notes – Secretary Ken Mayer.

17. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A PERFORMANCE EVALUATION FOR THE RECORDING SECRETARY.

The board held a short session to consider a possible merit increase for the recording secretary. The public and the recording secretary voluntarily stepped outside the meeting room while this took place. The board invited the recording secretary and public to rejoin the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Bernard expressed support of the decision the board might make regarding a merit increase. He provided a brief history of how a recording secretary was retained for this board.

Public comment closed.

The board expressed their satisfaction with the recording secretary's performance and thanked her for all the work she does.

MOTION by Servatius/Scheetz to recognize Lorraine Diedrichsen as the Recording Secretary for her outstanding performance; carried unanimously.

MOTION by Servatius/Burnside, based on the outstanding performance, to move the hourly salary from \$20.70 to \$24.00 recognizing this covers a 2 ½ year timeframe and is comparable to 6-7% annually and is effective beginning March 16, 2010; carried unanimously.

18. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.

No one will attend the Las Vegas meeting. Bob Cook and Chairman Turnipseed plan to attend the meeting in Reno.

19. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT DCABMW MEETING. The next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for May 14 and 15, 2010, in Reno. The next meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2010.

20. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Strategic Plan
- Mule deer working group
- Recording Secretary timesheet
- OML presentation by the Douglas County District Attorney's Office
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation fundraiser
- Heritage account status

21. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION by Burnside/Servatius to adjourn the meeting; carried unanimously.

The minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 11th day of May, 2010

Michael Turnipseed, Chairman

ATTACHMENT A

From: Marshall Goldy <marshallgoldy@verizon.net>
Subject: **Wildlife Commission meeting**
Date: March 16, 2010 9:39:52 AM PDT
To: mike_turnipseed@sbcglobal.net

As the chairman of the Douglas Board, we are sending this to you as we (Jim & I) will not be able to attend tonight's meeting. Nevada Jim doesn't drive (or hear too well) and I have just been told I have pneumonia. From the agenda we received, we have a few comments.

Agenda Item # 7: Our group is not in favor of closing ANY access or roads (or paths) to ANY of the Federal parks, forests or BLM land. Except for military bases, these lands are owned by the public taxpayer. It is our land and the federal government DOES NOT have the Constitutional right to restrict access to any public land. Every time they try to do so, all of us must stand up (and go on record) that we (the public) are against their restricting access to our land.

Agenda Item # 8: Our group would like to go on record that we do not support ANY attempt to protect the "wild" horse population. First, they are not native to this area, no matter what the wild horse people are saying. The problem is that they are here and this state must "control" their population before they decimate the habitat. If this state is going to "manage" them, then "manage" them like all the other wildlife that NDOW has jurisdiction over. Make them a fur bearing game animal (and issue hunting tags as such) or a non-protected animal and allow un-restricted hunting. The only other option is to have private people (the wild horse crew) step up and put their money where their mouth is. Use their private land to house the horses and their private funds to feed the horses. These "wild" horses are an invasive species and should be treated as such!

Agenda Item # 12: We must, AT ALL COST, keep from putting the Sage Grouse on the list. Once the bird is put on the list, the federal government will use that excuse to restrict any number of uses of the land that they (the government) feel is the habitat of the Sage Grouse. This would cover most of the western United States! Once we (the citizens and the State of Nevada) loose control of our land, we will NEVER get it back, without a fight.

If the State of Nevada wishes to protect these Sage Grouse, then more power to them, but keep the Federal Government out of our States business.

Agenda Item # 17: Jim and I feel that your recording secretary has done an outstanding job. Everything that we have observed (and received) has been done in a very professional manner. Without her attention and hard work, the business of this wildlife board would be difficult to complete. Our hats are off to her.

Again, we are sorry we can't make it to the meeting and wish you a good day.

Nevada Big Game Restoration Group

Nevada Jim Ornellas, President

Marshall Goldy, Secretary

(775) 265-0267

marshallgoldy@verizon.net

March 16, 2010

Terri Marceron
U S Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Dr.
South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 96150-4500

Re: Consideration of closure dates for Spooner/Kingsbury FS Roads

Dear Ms. Marceron;

Thank you for your response of January 28, 2010 in regards to an alternative seasonal closing of FS (Forest Service) roads between Kingsbury Grade and Spooner Summit. The Nevada Wildlife Advisory Boards of Carson City and Douglas County are in receipt of your letter and have held respective public meetings. We appreciate that we can work together to try and accommodate the needs of all the people who want to take advantage of such a valuable resource.


The current gate closure is between November 15th and June 1st for Unit 192. The early Mule Deer season for this area is in October and not affected by the closure. The late Mule Deer season has changed and includes the entire month of December, (1st-10th) for Archery, (11th-20th) Muzzle Loader and (21st-31st) for Any Legal Weapon (formerly called the rifle season). The Blue Grouse season starts approximately September 5th and also goes through December 31st.

We agree that higher elevation gates could allow partial access, and concur, that extending the closure date from November 15th to November 30th would give the Grouse hunters the availability to hunt through Thanksgiving. Thank you for this consideration, our Boards feel it would be favorable for all hunters. While we realize the area can be accessed by hikers, bikers and horseback, this action extends the opportunity to people that may not be able to do those types of activities. Our Boards would appreciate one small change to your proposal, regarding the Proposed – Higher Elevation gate on road 14N32. That change is to move the closure 0.4 miles to the North. By doing this it would allow better access to the Sierra Canyon area.

On a related topic, the Carson Ranger District has permanently closed road 14N32B which is only 1 of 2 roads that access the Tahoe Rim Trail. We are not aware of any public comment regarding this closure and would appreciate any help for future considerations involving having the status of this road reviewed.

Both Boards thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you in the future and thank you again for a timely response.

Mike Turnipseed – Chairman
Douglas County Wildlife Advisory Board



Gil Yanuck – Chairman
Carson City Wildlife Advisory Board

cc: Mike Gabor, U.S.F.S.- Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

March 16, 2010

Ron Wenker, Director
BLM Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
1340 Financial Blvd
Reno, NV 89502

Re: Wild Horse Control

Dear Mr. Wenker;

Recently, Mr. John Axtell of the Carson District gave an excellent presentation to the Carson City Wildlife Advisory Board which was also attended by a member of the Douglas County Wildlife Advisory Board. Based on this presentation, The Douglas County and Carson City Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (Boards) would like to express our appreciation and to pass along that our Boards support of the actions taken by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in regards to feral horse removal projects. We appreciate the actions taken to control these populations of feral horses protected under the Wild Horse and Burro act. We realize that the resources of the BLM are limited, that you have numerous needs and your budget is consistently reapportioned. It is unfortunate that over 50% of horse management budgets are currently diverted to maintenance of captive herds rather than removals. It is hoped that this can change as our Boards understand that horse populations far exceed management plan population objectives.

Nevertheless, we are in favor of anything that keeps your efforts moving forward. It is important to understand that educating the public on the real issues, including the history of these feral horses in Nevada, why decisions are being made, how sound science is being applied, habitat is being destroyed, danger to other wildlife due to ~~lose~~ of habitat and how much of your entire budget goes to sustain the Wild Horses and Burros. We all must work together to keep looking for solutions. The public should be informed of the issues and the huge expense of maintaining captive feral horses. An alternate solution needs to be developed because of the rise in populations all over the ranges. The current rate the horses are proliferating alone is great cause for immediate concern. A massive educational program for the public to help them understand how many animals can be sustained and what is reasonable is critical information.

On a related topic, our Boards oppose the proposal to change the use of the Wine Cup Ranch for the benefit of the Wild Horses and Burros. What is not being considered with such a proposal is the detriment to the other wildlife habitat including the much needed water supply. Lastly our Boards do not support any moratoriums for horse roundups and do support the efforts of Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Salizar, in relation to his proposed horse policies that would balance populations, removals and adoptions, such that herd size on open range do not adversely compete with wildlife and livestock.

Thank you for everything you and your staff are doing and please keep up the good work.

Mike Turnipseed – Chairman
Douglas County Wildlife Advisory Board

Gil Yanuck - Chairman
Carson City Wildlife Advisory Board

cc: Nevada Wildlife Commission
Alan Bittner, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
John Axtell, Specialist

March 9, 2010

Ken Mayer
Director,
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV. 89512

Ken,

I am writing as Chairman of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Our board met on March 16, 2010 and voted to support the urban fishing pond in the Gardnerville Ranchos. Our only request is that the Gardnerville Ranchos GID be required to supply trash containers for bait jars, used mono-filament, worm cartons and other trash that often accumulates around fishing ponds.

I hope you are successful and the end result is selling many more fishing licenses and generates a renewed interest in our youth to become sportsmen.

If you have any questions or if our board can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to call me at 775-885-2101

Sincerely

R. Michael Turnipseed P.E.