

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of September 21, 2010, 2010 Meeting

The DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE was scheduled for **5:30 p.m. on TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2010, 2010 in the CVIC HALL 1602 ESMERALDA AVE, MINDEN, NEVADA.**

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

ABSENT: Kevin Servatius

STAFF: Lorraine Diedrichsen, Recording Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Marshall Goldy, Private Citizen
Jim Ornellas, Private Citizen
Carl Lackey, NDOW

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Turnipseed called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and determined a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Cook/Burnside to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Servatius absent.

ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 10, 2010

MOTION by Scheetz/Burnside to approve the minutes as presented; carried with Servatius absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Cook discussed the upcoming Wayne Kirsch Conservation Award nominations and stated he will be nominating Barbara Byington, with her approval.

Public comment closed.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRI-COUNTY DEER RESTORATION WORKING GROUP.

Bob Cook stated they met at Spooner with Tahoe Douglas Fire and John Pickett. One topic of discussion related to trying to improve the habitat in the Carson range.

Carl Lackey thought attempts to improve the winter range would be futile because of lack of winter range and obstacles to travel corridors..

Eric Scheetz stated he did not attend but they had a presentation on fuels and talked about a Heritage project related to habitat and stabilization or a spot increase of the herds.

He would like to see more meetings held. He reminded everyone the deadline for Heritage projects applications was approaching.

Carl Lackey explained the responsibilities the Tri County group would have if they submit a Heritage project.

Both Bob Cook and Eric Scheetz said they were expecting NDOW to be involved in the project they submitted or thought the project could possibly come from an NDOW project.

Carl Lackey stated they could provide advice but they already had enough to do with the collaring project. During the last meeting they discussed a Heritage project that could go towards the collaring project as it is a huge project.

Craig Burnside thought the results of the collaring project could help direct where the funds go. He feels the group should continue but wait until the results of the collaring project are in before submitting an application. Waiting could help leverage some of the money.

The Board agreed to wait another year before submitting an application.

No public comment.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SEND A LETTER TO NDOW TO REQUEST A PROVISION REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF MONIES SPENT ON HERITAGE, DUCK STAMP AND UPLAND GAME STAMP PROJECTS BACK TO THE SPORTSMEN.

No public comment.

Eric Scheetz provided copies of a draft letter to the Board and public for their input. He noted the final draft would be sent to the Director.

Craig Burnside suggested language to change the focus of the letter to what we would like to see done and let them determine how it will be accomplished.

In response to Carl Lackey, Eric Scheetz stated this refers to all the reports sportsmen receive because they lack performance measures.

Craig Burnside feels the Advisory Boards never get tangible results on how effective the money was and whether the goals and objectives of the projects were met. There should be a greater accountability to the sportsmen.

The Board agreed to continue this to the next meeting and Eric Scheetz will redraft the letter for consideration at that time.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A COMMENT LETTER TO BLM WITH THE DCABMW'S POSITION ON PROPOSED WILD HORSE GATHERS IDENTIFIED IN THE CLAN ALPINE/PILOT MOUNTAIN/PINE NUT GATHER PLAN.

Marshall Goldy felt he could not comment as he does not know what the letter says.

Bob Cook provided the proposed statistics on the gather, vaccination, release, and removal in each of the areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy does not want any released because that will not solve the problem. The more horses out there the more habitats will be used and destroyed.

Carl Lackey felt the cost did not justify only a two year respite.

Public comment closed.

Eric Scheetz said the AML is in a range and they are trying to bring it down to the low side of the AML, vaccinate the mares and then release them so there is a slower up tick.

He is concerned about the amount of work it takes to round up the animals and wondered if they could vaccinate more of them. He would like to see a reduction in the horse herds. He did not feel the Board could request any changes to the document since it was prepared with input from many agencies.

MOTION by Scheetz/ to accept the recommendations of this project as is; motion died for lack of a second.

Craig Burnside provided options the Board could use to make the comments online before the comment period closes.

He stated he would support any project that would reduce the number of wild horses on our public ranges to a manageable level.

Bob Cook agreed and added they are not doing enough. He would like the numbers cut in half because they destroy the habitat for all the other wildlife.

MOTION by Scheetz/Burnside that the proposed wildhorse gathers with BLM as proposed is accepted with a recommendation to maintain the lower level AML; carried with Servatius absent.

Eric Scheetz stated he will go online and represent the Board's position.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALTERNATIVE GATE CLOSURES FOR USFS PROPERTY BETWEEN STATE ROUTE 207 (KINGSBURY GRADE) AND HIGHWAY 50 (SPOONER SUMMIT).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy stated he is against any gate closures. Public lands should be open to

the public.

Public comment closed.

Bob Cook said he visited the site with the Forest Service and Doug Martin. The Forest Service is against the higher elevation gate because the area in between the two closures is susceptible to erosion. Two options were offered: if they wanted the upper gate closure then as soon as an inch of snow fell all the gates would be closed or by accepting the proposed closure then the lower gate would remain open until there was substantial snow. In response to a request to leave the gate open until November 30th, the Forest Service said it was possible but not this year.

Chairman Turnipseed thought leaving the gate where it is would provide more flexibility and access for deer hunters could be longer.

The Board decided to continue this item to the next meeting until more information is available.

5. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

None.

6. DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE August 13 & 14, 2010 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.

No one attended but Chairman Turnipseed read from the minutes of that meeting and talked about the overpasses and underpasses constructed or being constructed on 93 to allow the deer to cross.

Eric Scheetz asked how much it was costing to do this project and who was paying for it because he would like to do it here. No one was sure so he offered to look into it and bring that information back to the Board.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

The following items, 7A through 7O, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meeting, September 24 & 25, 2010 at the Clark County Government Commission Chambers, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item or not take a position on the item. Public Comment will be allowed on each item.

7A – 7O. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

7A. ACTION REGARDING THE COMMISSION POSSIBLY DISCUSSING, CREATING, OR GIVING INSTRUCTION TO STAFF TO DRAFT REGULATORY CHANGES TO INCLUDE STATUS AND METHOD OF TAKE OF WOLVES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy stated they are dead set against them doing anything with wolves except making them predator-unprotected.

He explained that each state has to have a plan in place in case these are removed from the endangered species list. If the state does not have a plan that is acceptable to the federal government, they will remain on the endangered species list in that state.

Public comment closed.

Eric Scheetz thought this was a federal issue since they are on endangered list.

Chairman Turnipseed does not feel this is a threat to Nevada yet but it will be.

Eric Scheetz feels a wolf is a predator and should be listed as such.

Craig Burnside said they are creating a new category “Predator” and the mountain lion will be the only thing in it. It seems like wolves should go into the same category as mountain lions.

The Board decided not to take action until more information was available.

7B. ACTION REGARDING LICENSE APPEAL HEARING OF MR. JOHN A. SAUNDERS. Mr. John A. Saunders is appealing revocation of his license privileges.

No discussion or action was taken.

7C. ACTION REGARDING LETTER IN SUPPORT OF ELKO COUNTY MULTIPLE USE EFFORTS. The Commission may adopt, modify, or take other action to develop and adopt language supporting a resolution to support Elko County in its efforts to ensure multiple uses on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and on all public lands in Elko County and the State of Nevada.

No public comment.

Craig Burnside said there is something in the travel plan that would close some existing roads and precludes anyone from going and retrieving a big game animal. This resolution would provide the Forest Service with the Wildlife Commission's position on this.

MOTION by Burnside/Scheetz to support the Commission in this resolution; carried with Servatius absent.

7D. ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RESCINDING 2011 AND 2012 HERITAGE TAGS AND OR PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE (PIW) TAGS. Possible refund of 2010, 2011, 2012 donations and fees to successful Heritage and PIW donors pending outcome of potential court injunction and lawsuit against Heritage tags and approved Heritage projects that has been filed by Paul Dixon, Chairman, Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

No public comment.

Marshall Goldy said he could not comment because it is not clear what this is about.

Chairman Turnipseed said the 2010 hunt is already underway so how can they refund 2010 hunts?

MOTION by Scheetz/ to not refund the money and leave it in the bank; motion died for lack of a second.

Since the intent of this is not clear, the Board decided to continue this to the next meeting.

7E. ACTION REGARDING THE COMMISSION POSSIBLY DISCUSSING, CREATING, OR GIVING INSTRUCTION TO STAFF TO DRAFT REGULATORY CHANGES TO INCLUDE STATUS AND METHOD OF TAKE OF MOUNTAIN LIONS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy provided four of the five proposals to the Board. He stated he and Jim Ornellas support the unprotected or predator classification and he provided information to the Board on the reason for this position. Right now they are classified as a big game animal.

Jim Ornellas talked about the scientific management of these animals.

Public comment closed.

Bob Cook thought adding them to the unprotected list would allow more animals to be harvested.

Chairman Turnipseed stated mountain lions are one of the main problems for deer.

Carl Lackey stated Nevada has one of the most liberal mountain lion seasons and we still do not harvest more lions. Taking them off the list may not result in more being harvested. By declassifying them we may raise a red flag and lose the hunt altogether. Also, because they are protected, guides are hired and fees are paid to hunt them so there would be no incentive to hunt them if they are declassified.

Jim Ornellas stated lions were being hunted by guides years ago before declassification. The mountain lion sported its own trophy status. That is why they were paying a guide for his services. He feels NDOW conducted a conspiracy against the guides. He also provided information on NDOW's cost for killing a mountain lion.

The Board talked about the availability of mountain lion tags and the ease of purchasing one.

Jim Ornellas provided a brief history of mountain lions and feels once they were classified they proliferated. He also discussed the statistics on the number of lions killed by two lion hunters and said there are over 60 registered lion hunters in Nevada.

Craig Burnside said the lion has been listed as a big game animal since 1965 and any danger of losing the ability to hunt lions at all by declassifying them would not be the best way to go.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend they leave it as is; carried with Servatius absent.

7F. ACTION REGARDING 2011 HERITAGE PROJECT: REQUEST TO MODIFY HERITAGE PROJECT. Heritage vendor is requesting that the Commission approve its recommendations to modify 2011 Heritage Project #11-17.

No discussion or action taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy commented on the lack of support material provided on items where the Board is being asked to take action. Without the information, the county boards cannot make an informed decision.

Public comment closed.

7G. ACTION REGARDING COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 389-INTERFERENCE WITH A GUZZLER, LCB FILE NO. R083-10. The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to wildlife; prohibiting a person from interfering with the use of a guzzler or other water development; providing an exception.

No public comment.

Chairman Turnipseed stated this item continues to need wordsmithing.

There was a very brief discussion and no action was taken.

7H. ACTION REGARDING WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK INCENTIVE ARBITRATION PANEL SELECTION.

No public comment.

No discussion or action was taken.

7I. ACTION REGARDING NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN. The Department is asking the Commission for approval to amend the current biennial Big Game Release Plan to accommodate additional bighorn sheep releases.

Carl Lackey stated this is 63 miles of privately owned land which will be used as a release area for bighorn sheep. Guzzlers will be installed and the current guzzlers will be fenced to prevent horses from using them. The owners will allow access to the site and want to provide educational activities as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy stated he was in favor of this.

Public comment closed.

Discussion took place regarding the potential for disease from nearby allotments and the number of feral horses in the area.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to recommend approval to amend the current biennial Big Game Release Plan to accommodate additional bighorn sheep releases; carried with Servatius absent.

7J. ACTION REGARDING THE COMMISSION POSSIBLY DISCUSSING, CREATING, OR PROVIDING INSTRUCTION AND GUIDANCE TO STAFF TO CREATE BLACK BEAR SEASON REGULATION.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy and Jim Ornellas stated they are in favor of it but Mr. Goldy feels it is unlikely this will ever happen. He noted other areas and states have the same problem.

Public comment closed.

Chairman Turnipseed stated he was in favor of this.

Craig Burnside stated he was surprised at the proposed number (40) but understood it once he read the justification.

Carl Lackey said the proposed numbers are conservative and will not be separated by units. Most of the sentiment so far has favored a bear hunt because the numbers are based on the biology.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed season dates, use of dogs, and how a problem bear could be handled.

MOTION by Cook/Scheetz to support the Commission in giving guidance to the staff in developing a Black Bear season regulation; carried with Servatius absent.

7K. ACTION REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S BIENNIAL BUDGET. The Finance Committee will report on its meeting and recommendations for the Department's fiscal year 2012 and 2013 budget in accordance with NRS 501.337. The Commission may review and make recommendations on this budget.

No public comment.

No discussion or action was taken.

7L. ACTION REGARDING WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES (WAFWA). The Commission may review and take appropriate action in responding to attached letter sent to Chairman Raine from NDOW concerning Commission travel expenses to WAFWA conference and allocation of travel expense reimbursement.

No public comment.

No discussion or action was taken.

7M. ACTION REGARDING INPUT TO FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES. The Commission may create, adopt, or provide instruction to staff to create a policy governing all NDOW input, reports, and other written communications sent to Federal and State agencies, including but not limited to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that affect wildlife. The input to specifically include, but not limited to, impacts of energy, renewable energy, mining, and infrastructure effects on wildlife.

Discussion took place regarding the possible effect of this on advisory boards and the actual intent of this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marshall Goldy thought the intent of this item was to establish a policy that anytime NDOW sent anything to the federal government regarding renewable energy that it be made public.

Public comment closed.

The Board expressed concern this item was too broad. The item was tabled because the Board had concerns about how low level this goes and do not want the policy to handcuff staff from doing their job.

This was a discussion only and no action was taken.

7N. ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY THE COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS BIGHORN SHEEP AND MAY CONSIDER DRAFTING A POLICY CONCERNING DISEASED BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATIONS AND FUTURE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT.

No public comment.

No discussion or action was taken.

70. ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY THE COMMISSION MAY DISCUSS, CREATE, OR PROVIDE INSTRUCTION TO STAFF TO CREATE A NON-TROPHY BULL ELK SEASON AND REGULATIONS.

No public comment.

No discussion or action was taken.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.

Eric Scheetz reminded everyone he is unable to attend meetings from September to December due to his workload but is willing to attend any other time.

No one will attend the Las Vegas meeting.

9. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2010.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO SEND A LETTER TO NDOW TO REQUEST A PROVISION REQUIRING THE REPORTING OF MONIES SPENT ON HERITAGE, DUCK STAMP AND UPLAND GAME STAMP PROJECTS BACK TO THE SPORTSMEN.
- DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ALTERNATIVE GATE CLOSURES FOR USFS PROPERTY BETWEEN STATE ROUTE 207 (KINGSBURY GRADE) AND HIGHWAY 50 (SPOONER SUMMIT).
- ACTION REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RESCINDING 2011 AND 2012 HERITAGE TAGS AND OR PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE (PIW) TAGS. Possible refund of 2010, 2011, 2012 donations and fees to successful Heritage and PIW donors pending outcome of potential court injunction and lawsuit against Heritage tags and approved Heritage projects that has been filed by Paul Dixon,

Chairman, Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

- ACTION REGARDING INPUT TO FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES. The Commission may create, adopt, or provide instruction to staff to create a policy governing all NDOW input, reports, and other written communications sent to Federal and State agencies, including but not limited to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that affect wildlife. The input to specifically include, but not limited to, impacts of energy, renewable energy, mining, and infrastructure effects on wildlife.
- Found shed antlers.

MOTION by Burnside/Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m.; carried with Servatius absent.

The minutes of the September 21, 2010 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 23rd day of November, 2010

Michael Turnipseed, Chairman