

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

September 22, 2009

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board met in the Administrative Facility on September 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Chris Torres, Dale Hornickle, Chad Bliss, Mike Taylor and Jim Evans

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Mike Podborny-NDOW, Jake Tibbitts- Natural Resources Manager, Levi Winward- NDOW, Scott Raine-Wildlife Commissioner, and Kathy Porter-Natural Resources Assistant

Call to order

Chairman Torres called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Review and Approve Minutes-

The minutes of the August 11, 2009 and September 2, 2009 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved, as corrected, on a motion made by Mike Taylor and seconded by Jim Evans.

Correspondence and reports

Chairman Torres brought forward a questionnaire that was received in the mail asking for the CAB's recommendations or suggestions regarding Heritage, PIW, or Silver State tags and the potential of overharvest in a unit by these state wide tags. After open discussion, the CAB felt that bighorn sheep have the greatest potential to be overharvested and negatively impacted because the number of allotted ram tags in many bighorn areas is less than five. Chairman Torres commented that a person spending large sums of money on one of these tags should not be prohibited from hunting in an area. Mr. Taylor suggested that areas that have two or less bighorn tags should not be open to hunts with PIW, Heritage, or Silver State tags. The reason is potentially the double harvest or higher of what the biologist are trying to manage. Mr. Podborny stated that many of the "hot" bighorn hunting areas have a couple less tags available to the general public because of this exact issue. Mr. Bliss thought that there could be a split of the state into regions such as PIW north and PIW south tags so that there was some control on the area that a tag could be used. Mr. Hornickle felt that the hunts should be regulated by area.

The CAB took no formal action on the matter but directed Ms. Porter to summarize the ideas discussed and fill out and submit the questionnaire before the November deadline.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Agenda and support material

The Board reviewed, discussed, and took action on a few of the support materials and agenda items for the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting. Any item that was not acted upon was either not of concern to the Board or there was not enough information to take any action. The specific items discussed and acted upon are as follows:

Reports-Informational

B. Silver State Tag Update-

Mr. Bliss and Mr. Tibbitts gave an update on the Silver State Tag (SST). A working group has been formed to work out the final implementation of SST and they held their first meeting on September 11. The group is working to have the implementation details such as NAC language, application protocol, etc. worked out by spring of 2010 and the SST will be implemented by 2011. A schedule of the group's plan can be found online. Mr. Bliss stated this could be rushed through to be implemented by 2010 but he would like the working group to take their time so that it is done right the first time. Mr. Bliss would like to ensure that all of the state CABs have an opportunity to look at, comment on, and give recommendations regarding final implementation of the SST so that there is consensus and so that the SST will bring the greatest return to the sportsmen and wildlife of Nevada.

C. Upland Game Stamp Program Review-

Mike Podborny reported that as part of the Upland Game Stamp Program is the ongoing efforts to trap Rough Grouse in northern Elko County the entire month of October. They have presently captured and moved about a dozen birds and have relocated the grouse to the Toiyabe Range south of Austin. The desire of the Department is to broaden the opportunities for upland game hunting throughout the state.

Item No 8- Input concerning Methods of Restoring Nevada's Mule Deer Population- Chairman Lent: County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife's and the public are requested to provide written recommendations for specific suggestions and actions that may be taken within their respective counties to enhance mule deer populations.

ECAB recommends the following ideas as methods of restoring the Nevada mule deer population in Eureka County:

- A.** Instead of focusing on one single approach, there should be synergistic and holistic management that incorporates all of the variables impacting deer herds (i.e., habitat loss, predators, water sources)

- B. There must be augmentation and protection of critical winter habitat through restoration initiatives. Some of the things that should take place are bitterbrush plantings/seeding, vegetation treatments such as targeted grazing for desired vegetation (i.e., weeds, cheatgrass control, and promotion of new growth) and prescribed burns. Additionally, pinion-juniper (p-j) woodland encroachment into deer habitat is a huge issue. Great efforts should first be taken to protect the current intact habitat from further encroachment and then focus on efforts to reduce the density and distribution of the expanded p-j woodlands.
- C. Rather than focusing on broad predator control, there should be targeted predator control on winter habitat and fawning grounds so that predator control projects bring the greatest return on investment.
- D. Reduce wild horse numbers to appropriate management levels and manage horses at these levels. Wild horse access must be limited in critical winter range. Often, these critical areas are already “grubbed out” by horses before the onset of winter.
- E. Improvement of available water resources through development of reliable water quantity and proper water source distribution. In Nevada, this can only happen by working collaboratively with BLM and ranchers to develop water at springs or rehab water developments that are in poor or non-working conditions. Recommendations should be given to the BLM to allow for water developments by ranchers as recognizing the importance of these water sources for deer, not only livestock.
- F. Since nearly 90% of land in Nevada is administered by the federal government, it is imperative that a good working relationship is maintained with the federal agencies.
- G. The other 10% of land under private control often contains some of the best mule deer habitat in the state. Maintaining or mending relationships with the private landowners in Nevada can pay dividends in implementing some of the above projects on these lands.

Item No. 9- Translocation of Desert Bighorn to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources-Big Game Biologist Mike Cox: Utah Division of Natural Resources is requesting translocation of 20 desert bighorn sheep from Nevada to Utah during fall/winter field operations in FY 2010.

Dale Hornickle questioned the translocation at this time considering that the board voted at the August meeting to limit tags. Mike Podborny explained that only young rams, ewes and lambs will be translocated—not old trophy rams—and that translocation will only occur if there are sheep in excess of management needs. Mr. Podborny also informed the board that Nevada has the largest population of Desert Bighorn in the west. By helping to establish and maintain healthy herds in surrounding states, it will help the overall numbers and from a biological standpoint is a beneficial thing to do. Mr. Podborny assured the board that only excess sheep would be taken from precise areas after the fall survey has been completed. Mr. Bliss reminded everyone that Nevada has benefited from sheep and other wildlife being translocated to

Nevada and now is our opportunity to return the favor. There was also discussion that Nevada should not have to shoulder any of the costs associated with the translocation.

Chad Bliss moved to support the translocation of Desert Bighorn to Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Jim Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 10 (and 4) - Commission Regulations Number 368-LCD File No. R040-09 Chief of Operations Bob Haughian: The Commission may establish provisions pertaining to the electronic access to the 48 hour release of draw results.

Commissioner Raine addressed the board stating that this regulation is only making permanent a temporary regulation. Mr. Taylor – reiterate our support. Dale Hornickle moved to support the Commission Regulations number 368-LCD File No. R040-09 as written. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Item No. 11 (and 5) - Commission General Regulation Number 369-LCD File No. R041-09-Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici:The Commission may establish provisions pertaining to defining edible portions in the case of big game mammal, other game mammal, game birds and game fish.

Chairman Torres wanted assurance that neck meat was not included as edible. Mr. Podborny and Mr. Winward stated that neck meat was indeed not an edible portion. Mr. Taylor moved to support the Commission General Regulation number 369-LCB File No. R041-09. Mr. Hornickle second, motion carried unanimously.

Item No.12 (and 6) - Commission General Regulation Number 371- LCB File No. R083-09- Chief of Fisheries Mark Warren: The proposed regulation would remove an artificial lure only regulation for Crittenden Reservoir, limit method of take at Smith Creek Reservoir to only artificial lures with single barbless hooks and limit method of take at Dacey Reservoir to artificial lures only.

Mr. Hornickle moved to support Commission General Regulation Number 371- LCB File No. R083-09. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item No. 13 Commission Regulation Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits 09-09 Chief of Fisheries Mark Warren:The commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits, for the period of March 1, 2010, to February 26, 2012.

The board noted that there were not any changes proposed in Eureka County. Mr. Taylor moved to support Commission Regulation Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits 09-09. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Mr. Podborny addressed the board reminding everyone that sage grouse season opens Friday, September 25. Mr. Podborny asked anyone hunting sage grouse to save him a wing and drop it by the office.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Hornickle to adjourn. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2009.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Kathy Porter

Approved: _____, Chairman
Chris Torres