

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## DRAFT OF MINUTES

**Thursday ~ August 7, 2008 ~ 6:30 p.m.**

**Nevada Department of Wildlife**

**Conference Room B**

**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

## MEMBERS

Rick Smith, Chair  
Glen Copeland, Vice-chair  
Daryl Harwell, Secretary  
Rex Flowers  
Thomas Wilson

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE \***

Vice-chair Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL \***

Vice-chair Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Glen Copeland, Rex Flowers and Rick Smith. Daryl Harwell joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

**ABSENT:** Thomas Wilson.

### **3. APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2008, MINUTES**

*It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Flowers, to approve the June 19, 2008, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers and Vice-chair Smith assenting; and Members Harwell and Wilson absent.*

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS \***

Judi Caron asked that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife support Predator Projects 18 in the Granite Range and 20 in the Virginia Range.

Member Daryl Harwell joined the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

### **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 1) Chair; 2) Vice-chair; and 3) Secretary**

*Member Flowers nominated Rick Smith to serve as Chair. Member Copeland seconded the nomination.*

Vice-chair Smith accepted the nomination.

*The motion to elect Rick Smith as Chair carried: Members Copeland, Flower, Harwell and Vice-chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.*

*Chair Smith nominated Glen Copeland to serve as Vice-chair. Member Flowers seconded the nomination.*

\* denotes NON action item

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Member Copeland accepted the nomination.

***The motion to elect Glen Copeland as Vice-chair carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

***Member Flowers nominated Daryl Harwell to serve as Secretary. Member Copeland seconded the nomination.***

Member Harwell accepted the position.

***The motion to elect Daryl Harwell as Secretary carried: Members Copeland, Flower, Harwell and Vice-chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

## **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES \***

**6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Smith noted the upcoming Youth and Ladies Shotgun Classes that will be covered in four (4) two (2) hour sessions (total 8 hours) sponsored by the Northern Nevada Chapter of the Safari Club International. Chair Smith drew attention to information on Project 18 (Muledeer) and the removal of eight (8) coyotes. Although Antelope populations appear strong Muledeer populations are not. Additional Chukkar populations appear to be low and no chicks were observed

**6-2). Update on the Sheldon Wildlife Management Plan** – Dave Stanley commented that no new information was available and that it may be an addition two (2) or three (3) months before the scoping data is available.

**6-3) Overview of the June 26, 2008, Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee** – Chair Smith outlined the June 26, 2008, meeting noting that there had been a presentation on the draw as well as the demand/success formula. Chair Smith noted that by putting in more than one choice sportsmen bettered their odds of receiving an Elk tag.

Judi Caron concurred that most do not understand that putting in more than a single choice improved the odds in the draw. However, there are many locally that prefer to only hunt in the local area due to high fuel prices.

Chair Smith noted that the upcoming TAAHC (Tag Application and Application Hunt Committee) meeting had been cancelled. It is unclear what the future of the TAAHC is given the change in the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner's membership.

**6-4) Overview of the June 27 and 28, 2008, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings in Reno, Nevada** – Member Copeland summarized the U. S. Fish and Wildlife (USFW) classification of the wolf as a mammal noting that the USFW has final authority over the classification. A recent study indicates that the State of Nevada can support not more than 13,000 wild horses and has a current population of 16,000, which may be much lower than the actual population. Member Copeland noted that the United States Forest Service (USFS) refuses to allow

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helicopter access to remote guzzler installations in wilderness areas. The guzzler repair hotline is 775-688-5127.

**6-5). Update and status report on the Washoe County Predator Control Project and the Wildlife Damage Management Subcommittee** – Chair Smith noted that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners would act on the roster of Predator Control Projects including project 18 and 20 in the Granite and Virgin ranges respectively. Chair Smith then noted the number of Mountain Lion females and cub removed in February (2008) and pointed out the critical quick response to identify cause of death in large game animals.

**7. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) August 15 and 16, 2008, Eureka, Nevada; 2) September 5, 2008, Truckee California and September 6, 2008, Reno, Nevada; and 3) November 14 and 15, 2008, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.*

Member Rex Flowers will attend the August 15 and 16, 2008, meeting in Eureka (Nevada).

Member Daryl Harwell will attend the September 5 and 6, 2008, meetings in Truckee, California and Reno, Nevada.

Attendance at the November 14 and 15, 2008, meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, will be discussed at the August 28, 2008, meeting.

**8. STATEWIDE MOUNTAIN LION HUNT** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners on the ability to hunt Mountain Lions statewide. [Continued from June 19, 2008]*

Member Harwell outlined concerns about having a statewide tag for Mountain Lions and how that might affect unit quotas. Drawing attention to the unit tags in the Winnemucca area, Member Harwell suggested that Mountain Lion tags be allocated by unit.

During the discussion it was noted that most areas in the state do not reach their established quota. Other discussion noted that out of 2,400 tags issues in the past year only 400 animals had been harvested. Other discussion cautioned about keeping Mountain Lion issues low-key to avoid legislative intervention. It was pointed out that sportsmen are required to contact NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) before hunting to assure that the unit/region quota has not been met.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that no change be made to the current Mountain Lion hut and tag allocation process. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

**9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION – 358 – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R066-08 – Eligibility Waiting Periods** – *A review, discussion and possible*

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*recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposal to adopt language revising the circumstances under which a resident of Nevada or a nonresident is eligible to apply for a tag to hunt Antelope, Bighorn Sheep, Elk or Mountain Goat; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

### **Antelope**

During the discussion it was noted that there may be some issues associated with the approval of the recommendation in that it may change the odds of the draw. Other discussion noted that there had been significant discussion about the proposal both pro and con over the past several months and that the intent is to have a consistent set of rules apply to both archery and any legal weapon (rifle) hunts. It was noted that the loophole that allows non-tag recipients to apply in the archer hunt only applies to Antelope. It was pointed out that the process must achieve a balance and that hunter success ranges from 11 percent for archers to nearly 70 percent for rifle hunters. Based on the discussion and public input the following motion was offered.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Chair Smith, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners accept the staff recommendations.***

Mel Belding noted that, in his opinion, the proposal will cause more harm to Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) from a revenue standpoint and suggested that the waiting period for rifle hunters be reduced from five (5) to three (3) years

Member Copeland read the regulation into the record.

Mr. Belding commented that he had misunderstood the intent and withdrew his concern.

***The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell, and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

### **Big Horn Sheep**

Chair Smith read Section Two into the record.

There was significant discussion about the proposal during which it was noted that the lifetime provision applied only to Goat and sheep die-offs can and would have a devastating effect on sportsmen, especially as it pertains to the ten (10) year wait if unsuccessful. It was noted that tag return dates are being developed and that situations involving the inability of a sportsman to hunt after the season opens would not allow the return of the tag.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the once in a lifetime if successful in the hunt and five (5) year wait if unsuccessful. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flower and Harwell assenting; Chair Smith dissenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

**NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 502.361 (Elk)**

Chair Smith read the recommendation into the record.

During the discussion it was noted that the recommendation did not appear to exclude landowner tags. It was pointed out that sportsmen could not apply for Landowner Tag and that there is no waiting period on antlerless tags. It was noted that the intent is to standardize regulations as much as possible.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the recommendation as written. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers. Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

**NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 503.364 (Goat)**

Chair Smith read the proposed modification to NAC 503.364 into the record and that the previous recommendation had been a once in a lifetime if successful and five (5) year waiting period if unsuccessful.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the modifications to Nevada Administrative Code 503.364, as written. The motion carried: Member Copeland, Flowers and Harwell assenting; Chair Smith dissenting; and member Wilson absent.***

Chair Smith explained that he did not concur with the once in a lifetime provision.

The meeting recessed at 7:56 p.m. and reconvened at 8:01 p.m. A quorum was present with Member Wilson absent.

- 10. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION – LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R155-08 – Wolverines** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposal to adopt language to add Wolverines to the list of mammals classified as protected; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.*

James Herndon – Game Warden, explained that the Wolverine is not currently classified in the State of Nevada and submitted a photograph of a Wolverine taken in Truckee, California (copy on file). Mr. Herndon noted that Mr. Herndon noted concerns about bring the matter to the forefront before having a specific classification in place.

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There was significant discussion about other protected species in the State of Nevada, including the Northern Flying Squirrel and bats. As the discussion continued, it was suggested that additional information on how other states deal with Wolverines be developed. Other discussion noted that the action being contemplated may preclude intervention by the USFW (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and that this recommendation was developed by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) independent of Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

***It was moved by Member Copeland, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners take no specific action on this matter pending the receipt of additional information. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

**11. COMMISSION REGULATION 08-02 WATERFOWL SEASONS FOR 2008-2009** – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a proposal to establish hunting season dates and bag limits for Waterfowl, Snipe, Falconry seasons for migratory game birds, and a Youth Waterfowl Season for the 2008-2009 hunting season.*

Chair Smith noted his concern that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) staff was not present to address any issues or questions that might arise during the discussion. .

Dave Stanley noted that he had been involved in the discussions about waterfowl the preceding Saturday, August 2, 2008. The meeting included representative for Southern and Northern Nevada.

### **Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt**

Dave Stanley summarized the underlying reasons for the dates noting that federal regulation mandated that hunt be held on consecutive days. Given the heat in Southern Nevada, the season was moved to January 31 and February 1, 2009. Mr. Stanley noted that there had never been a request for an additional hut day in Northern Nevada.

During the discussion it was noted that a typographical error of 2007-2008 should be changed to read 2008-2009 in the season date.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the recommendations as written with the season date of 2007-08 corrected to read 2008-2009. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

### **Ducks and Mergansers**

#### **Scaup (Lesser and Greater)**

#### **Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules)**

#### **Common Snipe**

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Dave Stanley noted that the canal failure in Fernley (Nevada) earlier this year (2008) had resulted in significantly lower than average water flows into the management areas. It is anticipated that irrigation will cease on September 4, 2008, to allow time for Lohanton Reservoir to recover somewhat before the fall migration. Mr. Stanley noted that season dates in Elko County had been altered to accommodate the freezing weather that occurs later in the season.

***It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Copeland, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the recommendations for Ducks, Mergansers, Scaup (Lesser and Greater), Canvasback, Coots and Common Moorhens (Common Gallinules), and Common Snipe as presented. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

### **Canada and White-fronted Geese**

#### **Snow and Ross' Geese**

Dave Stanley noted that there would now be a separate flyway season established for the western United States to better reflect the actual populations. Responding to concerns about urbanized geese, Mr. Stanley explained that the City of Reno and City of Sparks did not allow hunting within their corporate boundaries and that the geese in question are non-migratory.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the season dates for Canada and White Fronted Geese; and Snow and Ross' Geese as presented. The motion carried: Member Copeland, Flowers Harwell and Chair Smith assenting' and Member Wilson absent.***

### **Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Bird**

#### **Swan**

Dave Stanley summarized the recommendations noting that the Falconry season should not open in Churchill until October 25, 2008 through January 24, 2009. It is Mr. Stanley's belief that it was an oversight not to have the Northern and Southern seasons the same. Mr. Stanley commented that there are about forty (40) licensed falcon handlers in the State of Nevada.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Flowers, too recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the recommendations for Swan and Falconry Season for Migratory Game Bird as presented with the a modification of the Churchill County Falconry Season to open October 25, 2008 and closed on January 24, 2009. The motion carried: Members Copeland, Flowers, Harwell and Chair Smith assenting; and Member Wilson absent.***

**12. MEMBER COMMENTS \* – Limited to emergent items not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. While the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may not engage in**

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*discussion or take action on any item identified under this topic the matter may be placed on a future agenda for discussion and possible action or recommendation of action to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.*

None.

## **13. FUTURE MEETING AGENDA ITEMS \*** – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the August 28, 2008, meeting.*

The August 28, 2008, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to a Presentation on the Nevada Open Meeting Law – Terry Shea – Deputy District Attorney.

There was some discussion about reprogramming the computer to recognize birthdates independent of regulations thus making a child eligible for Youth Hunts if their birthday falls within a specified parameter. It was noted that such a change might result in a youth losing one year of eligibility.

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.