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STATE OF NEVADA

**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** Nov. 21, 2008

**TO:** Board of Wildlife Commissioners; Governor's Office; County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Members; Department of Wildlife Employees; and Director Allen Biaggi

**FROM:** Kenneth E. Mayer, Director *Kenneth E. Mayer*

**SUBJECT:** Department Activities Report  
Nov. 10 – 21, 2008

Leadership Team Minutes Combined from Nov. 10 and Nov. 17, 2008

Attendance: Director Ken Mayer, Acting Deputy Director Rich Haskins, Management Analyst III Kim Jolly, Executive Assistant Suzanne Scourby, Administrative Services Officer III Dave Prather, Sherry Fenison, Wildlife Diversity Chief Laura Richards, Conservation Education Chief Kelly Clark, Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici, Chief of Operations Bob Haughian, Chief of Game Mark Atkinson, and Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam.

Nov. 10, 2008, emerging issues discussed were feedback from the Leadership Team on the Department's Green Team report; and Director Mayer's schedule was reviewed.

Director's Office

Director Mayer said he attended the Nevada Cattleman's Association in Winnemucca last week. He met a number of ranchers and discussed many issues regarding Nevada Cattleman's Association and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) interrelationships. Additionally he attended the Business Meeting where resolutions were passed relative to a number of issues, two directly affected NDOW. Director Mayer said he asked Cattleman's Association staff to email the resolutions affecting the Department to see if we are able to incorporate them easily.

Director Mayer said he attended the water summit in Winnemucca as well on Friday. He thought that the summit was excellent. He is going to request that Director Biaggi put a seminar for NDOW employees and other interested parties.

Director Mayer will attend the Governor's Cabinet meeting tomorrow.

Director Mayer said he received an email from Dave Jessup who is one of the California's Department of Fish and Game's state veterinarian and he asked if we have any laws against "green hunting" which is darting (chemical immobility) of the animals. There appears to be interest in doing this in California. Chief Game Warden Buonamici said it would be a prohibitive take method in Nevada.

Internal Controls meeting is Dec. 5 and Dec. 4, 2008, is the Department Christmas luncheon.

The upcoming Commission meeting was reviewed – travel logistics, agenda items and presentations were reviewed and finalized.

Department Budget was discussed and Administrative Services Officer III Dave Prather said the memo from Budget Director Andrew Clinger states that Nov. 19 is deadline for 2009 budget cuts and another memorandum was sent on Friday for additional cuts for 2010 and 2011. Mr. Prather said a general fund map was sent out last Friday to identify the status of the General Fund and how it affects the federal match. Dave Prather also said the 2010 and 2011 cuts need to be discussed today as that information is due to the budget office on Dec. 3, 2008. The cut will be approximately \$400,000 in General Fund monies. The narrative that accompanies the cuts has to emphasize the impact of lost federal funds to our constituents. Acting Deputy Director Haskins said that eventually if the budget condition worsens it may result in a loss of positions to the agency.

### **Conservation Education**

A press release announcing that nominations are open for the 2008 Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award went out this week. The award pays tribute to those conservation groups or individuals who do outstanding work in the area of wildlife conservation. Nominations will be accepted until Dec. 19, 2008. CABMWs and groups listed in the Sportsmen's Directory will receive the press release and nomination form.

The 2009 Fishing Regulation book is being worked on and if there are any corrections or suggestions on layout or content, please contact Aaron Meier, publications coordinator with your ideas.

Staff videotaped a fall fishing segment to be used on Channel 8 and the segment will feature spots that were highlighted in the fall Wildlife Almanac which was released on the NDOW website.

Conservation Education personnel provided photos of the River Mountain sheep capture to the Henderson Home News for an article and weekly contributions to the Las Vegas Review-Journal outdoor section continue as does the weekly fishing report.

“Where to hunt” and “Where are the birds” telephone calls show no signs of slowing down in the Southern Region as interest in upland game hunting remains high. Staff also assisted the Game Division by checking in several sheep during the week.

Staff hosted a Project Webfoot workshop at the Clark County Wetlands Park in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, also provided input on the interpretation plans and messaging for the Mt. Charleston visitor center. The volunteer coordinator is organizing volunteer efforts to assist with a Fisheries Division habitat project on Lake Mohave.

### **Wildlife Diversity**

Wildlife Diversity staff, together with Habitat Division staff, attended a Ruby Pipeline Project meeting at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Winnemucca Field Office to discuss a pipeline routing alternative through the Sheldon Wildlife Refuge. NDOW as well as BLM raised concerns that the proposed route immediately south of the refuge would establish a new utility corridor through relatively intact sagebrush steppe; conversely the Highway 140 alternative through the Sheldon would follow existing linear disturbances. It was decided that BLM and NDOW would coordinate to provide the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with a detailed map for an alternative route through the Black Rock Desert. Over the past week Division personnel worked with BLM staff to develop this alternative which was completed and submitted to Habitat Division staff.

Division staff from across the region attended the annual Partners-In-Flight meeting in October. Work items included updating the priority bird species list and reviewing draft bird species and habitat accounts for the revised Nevada Partners-In-Flight Plan.

As part of an ongoing effort to rehabilitate sagebrush habitat in Humboldt County, thousands of sagebrush seedlings were collected from Lucky Peak Nursery in Boise, Idaho, and the Nevada Division of Forestry nursery in Washoe Valley. Finishing touches were also put on the Winnemucca High School greenhouse which will be used for sagebrush and bitterbrush seedling propagation while greenhouse activity discussions took place with the plant science teacher at Lowry High School. In addition, coordination continued with the BLM regarding the Double H Mountains seedling project, green strips for fire breaks, and future fuel reduction projects. Four sagebrush seedlings plots were mowed to reduce fuel loads and competing plants removed.

Planning and coordination work for next year's Spring Wings Festival began this past month. The Spring Wings Coordinator position with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently vacant and will not be filled prior to the upcoming festival. Thus, coordination will be accomplished by volunteers and the Spring Wings Board. Education coordination responsibilities will be undertaken by the Fallon Biologist.

The 2009 fall survey of common loons and other water birds was conducted on Walker Lake. The survey centers on the migration of common loons as they move from their summer nesting grounds in Canada to their winter destination. Over the years, loon numbers have declined on this water body due in part to its conversion from a freshwater to an alkaline/saline system. This year's loon count was slightly higher (179) than last year's count (140) although both remain low compared to numbers recorded in the early 1990s. In contrast, eared grebe numbers (372) were among the highest observed on the lake.

The Division's Data Management Policy and Procedure Committee will gather in Reno this week for a final working meeting. It is anticipated that the draft document will be completed and ready for adoption by mid-November.