



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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Leadership Team Meeting
May 18, 2009
KENNETH E. MAYER
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS II
Deputy Director

DATE: May 18, 2009
TO: Board of Wildlife Commissioners; Governor's Office;
County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Members; and
Department of Wildlife Employees;
FROM: Kenneth E. Mayer, Director
SUBJECT: Department Activities Report

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth E. Mayer".

Director's Office

Director Mayer reported on legislation and stated that Senate Bill 411 has been amended to include the amendments Mr. Ira Hansen proposed. Senate Bill 146 is scheduled for a hearing tomorrow at 8 a.m. by Ways and Means Committee and Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam will attend.

Director Mayer reviewed letters received – a letter from The Humane Society asking for biographical sketches of the Wildlife Commission, assigned to Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark and the other letter on wolves, assigned to Game Division Chief Mark Atkinson.

Director Mayer asked for background on the request by Conservation Education to no longer include the quotas in the Hunt Book, and staff said the reason was to get the book out earlier.

Director Mayer and Deputy Director Haskins reviewed assignments from the May 15 and 16, Commission meeting: Draft letter on wild horses and Winecup Ranch, assigned to Habitat Chief Pulliam; issue of spring snails, assigned to Fisheries Chief Mark Warren; Commissioner Lurie asked for a report on the Center at Overton Wildlife Management Area, assigned to Chief of Conservation Education and a second report on status of quaggas at Lake Mead Hatchery, assigned to Fisheries Chief Warren; Commissioner McNinch asked about wetland area at Washoe Lake and why no water is being pumped, assigned to Chief of Habitat Pulliam; Backcountry Hunters and Anglers provided a letter to the Commission; Commissioner McBeath requested information as to what other fund generating programs in the western states are available, and asked that the gimmicks be looked at for revenue; extended draw on next meeting's agenda; wolf regulation; and Commissioner McBeath received letter on mule deer and a holistic approach to wildlife management (Savory) response to Mr. Christopher Gil assigned to Game Division Chief Mark Atkinson.

Conservation Education

U.S. District Court Judge Lloyd George ruled in favor of the Clark County Shooting Park and denied a request for an injunction that would halt construction on the facility. He did request that the BLM complete an environmental impact statement, which is currently under way.

The Nevada Hunt Book is at the printer, upon approval of the final draft, it will begin shipping to license agents and NDOW offices. This year, and from now on, quotas will not be included in the Nevada Hunt Book. Without quotas, the publication can be printed earlier, which should help streamline tag mailings. Quotas will be published on the website, and those who are signed up via the hunting list serv will receive notice the day the quotas are posted.

The Eastern Region Fishable Waters map is at the printer and should be shipped directly to the Eastern Region Office, Lake Mead Hatchery (acting as storage for Southern Region needs) and Reno Headquarters by next week.

The Publications Coordinator and the Outdoor Education Coordinator presented a fishing rod and framed Free Fishing Day poster to Demi Bera, this year's poster contest winner on Friday. Teacher Debbie Davis organized the presentation on Piñon Hills Elem before the 4th grade classes. Demi's parents attended and Ron Skibinski of Sierra Big Mouth's Bass Club presented a certificate for a one-day fishing trip for Demi and her family.

Eastern Region staff gave an hour long presentation on "The Economic Impacts that Wildfire's Affect on Wildlife to Rural Counties," to the Association of Civic Fiscal Officers of Nevada at their annual conference held in Elko.

Staff did weekly TV segment on KENV TV on raptors. Staff also went on three radio stations promoting boating safety for the upcoming Memorial Day Weekend, including PSA and news stories that will air the week prior to the weekend. We also will be interviewed in a half-hour TV format for KENV TV on boating safety that will also air on KELK radio the day before Memorial Day. Staff also met with representatives of the local cable company to investigate the feasibility of running a half hour show each month on NDOW and Nevada's wildlife.

Eastern Region Con Ed Staff held its spring environmental education week in Lamoille Canyon interacting with almost 400 fifth graders over five days talking about Nevada's wildlife.

Southern Region staff coordinated a wildlife viewing event for International Migratory Bird day at Clark County Wetlands Park. Partners included Clark County Parks and Recreation, USFWS, Red Rock Audubon Society, and SNWA. There were 81 people who participated in a bird hike with experienced birders (including NDOW biologists),

and visiting activity stations featuring bird adaptations, storytelling, and making birdfeeders.

Congratulations to Margie Klein, the Southern Region Wildlife Education Coordinator, who graduated this week from UNLV's Nevada State Certification Program in Environmental Education and Interpretation. She was the class speaker.

Fisheries Division

Bull trout – NDOW and the Reno FWS Office continue to work together to get the Jarbidge bull trout population listed as a separate conservation unit apart from the Snake River populations. The Eastern Region Fisheries Supervisor and Deputy Director attended a meeting in Portland to discuss the situation. A decision will be forthcoming.

Salmon Recovery – Communication continues between NDOW and National Marine Fisheries Service/National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NMFS/NOAA) as to Nevada's potential role in salmon recovery efforts in Nevada. An MOU is being processed that will allow Nevada to compete for salmon grants the first quarter of 2010.

A total of 17,000 eggs were taken from six healthy females that ran Third and Incline Creeks at Lake Tahoe. The fish will be reared at the Mason Valley Hatchery and stocked into Marlette Lake in 2010 to enhance the broodstock in the lake.

The tentative date to move into Marlette Lake to spawn is June 2. This date, of course depends on the fish. Spawning objectives call for 400,000 bowcutt eggs, 522,000 rainbow eggs and 20,000 cutthroat eggs.

An internal meeting was held to discuss the possibility of acquiring the fishing rights to Smith Creek Reservoir east of Fallon. Discussed were regulations, stocking numbers, species, law enforcement issues and access. NDOW was approached by the rancher/owner in hopes of working out a deal to open the reservoir. The owner would like NDOW to purchase trout that he rears to stock the reservoir. A meeting with the rancher is scheduled for June.

The tour of Nevada's hatcheries (Mason Valley, Gallagher and Lake Mead) and one rearing station (Spring Creek) was completed. The new Fishery Production staff specialist, Caroline Cherry, and the new Chief of Fisheries, Mark Warren, toured the facilities, meeting personnel, reviewing operations and identifying needs.

The Panaca Fisheries Field Position was filled by Mark Beckstrand, currently the Lake Mead biologist. Mark will be finishing up a few projects at Lake Mead before reporting full time to Panaca in July.

Devils Hole Pupfish – after some discussion, the official spring population estimate from the April dive counts in Devils Hole was 70 adult fish. This is a significant positive trend

from the spring 2008 count estimate of 45 adults. The actual counts varied considerably and this was the mean of the four dives. Also, the Devils Hole Pupfish Incident Command Team (NDOW, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) was given the annual Conservation Achievement Award by the Western Section of American Fisheries Society at the meeting in Albuquerque last week. Jon Sjoberg has a really nice plaque, but is not sure who gets to keep it as they only gave one for the three agencies.

Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipeline project – the Southern Region has a two-day field trip this week with SNWA and FWS to look at possible monitoring sites for the Delamar, Dry Lake and Cave Valley parts of the project. Cris Tomlinson and Jon Sjoberg will be attending for NDOW, Dana Johnson (Kirch WMA) will assist with access to sites in Cave Valley. Most of the monitoring sites will probably be in southern White River Valley and Pahrangat Valley, as there just isn't any surface water to monitor in Delamar and Dry Lake.

With the warmer weather and increased fish planting in northern waters, fishing pressure has increased. Game wardens report numerous contacts with fishermen, which have resulted in citations for fishing without licenses, over limits of fish and false information to purchase resident licenses.

Game Division

Game Division, Habitat Division and Director's office met with representatives from the Nevada Cattlemen's Association. The tone of the meeting was very positive and all present agreed to the importance of regular communication and the need to continue working together for the long-term success of wildlife and livestock operations in this state.

The 10th Western Black Bear Workshop is scheduled for May 19-21 and will be held at the Peppermill in Reno. Carl Lackey, Western Region Game Biologist, has done an outstanding job setting up and coordinating the meeting. The Director will provide the opening remarks and Game Chief will chair a session on capture, immobilization and welfare.

NDOW is in the process of creating a new Staff Specialist Position – one specifically designed to resurrect a statewide program for mule deer management and research in Nevada. The incumbent will be expected to work closely with the big game staff biologist (to reduce the excessive workload and to complement that position), regional supervising biologists and all the field biologists and will make statewide management and research recommendations to the Director, Deputy Director and Game Chief regarding mule deer management (based on experience, data acquired in the field, research and scientific inquiry). The mule deer staff specialist will also provide information to all interested parties including the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, the public and the scientific community. Through the Game Chief, the mule deer staff specialist will work closely with the Director's office and the Commission to develop

policy in the area of mule deer management in Nevada and will represent us all at regional and local meetings, and at national and international symposia.

Game Division has scheduled its statewide annual coordination meeting for July 28-31. The meeting will take place in White Pine County.

The Elk Damage Management Committee chaired by Commissioner Wallace is scheduled to meet prior to the June Commission meeting. Agenda items and other details of the meeting are being discussed.

Law Enforcement

Southern Region Game Wardens participated in Career Day at a local elementary school focusing on educating kids on boat safety and the importance of properly fitted life jackets. Game wardens and boat safety personnel spoke in front of approximately 300 children.

The Division is working with Safari Club International to develop a program where hunters can donate big game meat to charitable organizations.

An Elko man was fined \$500 and assessed a \$1000 civil penalty for mistakenly killing two doe antelope while shooting at a buck during the 2008 season. Wanton Waste charges were dropped in a plea agreement. If it were not for an alert witness, this would have been another "walk away" situation.

An Elko area guide is filing a second level appeal with the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding consideration of re-instating him as a guide in the Ruby Mountains. In documents filed with the appeal by the guide's attorney, the guide alleges that the USFS was unduly influenced by NDOW in reaching their decision. The guide has extensive criminal history with NDOW and was revoked for a period of time.

A boat accident on Lake Mead Sunday kept Southern Region game wardens busy with investigations. One operator was arrested for felony Operating under the Influence (OUI) - resulting in substantial bodily harm. There were four injuries two teenagers and two young children were taken to the hospital.

Wildlife Diversity

Ruby Pipeline meeting: Wildlife Diversity and Habitat Division personnel will be participating in a two-day workshop this Wednesday and Thursday (May 20-21) for federal and state agencies involved with the Ruby Pipeline Project. The meeting (State-Federal Interagency-Applicant Workshop on the Development of a Comprehensive Ruby Pipeline Project Conservation and Mitigation Strategy) is being hosted by the project applicant and has several objectives including: (i) identification of outstanding issues and desired outcomes, (ii) developing objectives for a multi-state interagency-

applicant comprehensive conservation and mitigation strategy, and (iii) providing an opportunity for discussion of remaining routing alternatives.

Wildlife Linkages Working Group: Division personnel met with John Tull and Gregg Tanner, both currently of the Nevada Wilderness Project, to discuss establishing a statewide Wildlife Linkages Working Group that would work on initiating development and implementation of a wildlife connectivity assessment in Nevada. This would help guide land use planning decisions in the face of expanding development, transportation and energy networks, and climate change. At this stage, we are identifying possible partners, funding opportunities for the planning effort, and a detailed timetable for moving forward.

Climate Change Meeting: Division staff are working on synthesizing notes from the Climate Change Workshop breakout sessions and hope to have a post workshop summary document ready to send out to participants within the next couple of weeks.