



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

KENNETH E. MAYER
Director


RICHARD L. HASKINS, II
Deputy Director

PATRICK O. CATES
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 30, 2010

TO: Board of Wildlife Commissioners; Governor's Office; County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Members; Department of Wildlife Employees

FROM: Kenneth E. Mayer, Director 

RE: Leadership Team Reports –February 2010

Leadership Team notes from weekly meetings: Feb. 1, Feb. 8, and Feb. 22, 2010

Director's Office

Deputy Director Haskins said staff have heard nothing definitive on the state's hiring freeze other than a March 1, 2010, deadline; staff went through exercise of defining "core mission" for out of state travel and he asked that the chiefs be judicious in approving travel; agency is in the negative cash flow period and if our General Fund is removed and we are not given a mechanism to make it up we will be in immediate cash crisis; budget process for fiscal years 2012 and 2013 will start after the Special Session and we will have a Division chief meeting to discuss indirect cost rate and other issues related to the budget; federal aid audit meeting is tomorrow; and March 1 Leadership Team meeting will have an agenda item for Department bill draft requests pending the outcome of the Special Session. Game Division received letter on tri-state elk management with Idaho and are meeting with 71 Livestock Association meeting.

Director Mayer asked that information on the auction tag sales from spring conventions be provided to the Leadership Team.

Director Mayer traveled to the Southern Region and met with Southern Region staff; toured with Game Division personnel and checked about 20 water developments; and attended the National Archery Shoot Program tournament for elementary kids in Las Vegas.

Tracy Virens of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) met with staff on audit findings.

Deputy Director Haskins said assignments from the Commission meeting are: Report on the man camp in Washoe County for Ruby Pipeline, Commissioner Capurro requested information on Twin Peaks horse gather; donations to the Department need to be handled internally better as the way they are currently coming in is putting great burden on fiscal services to backtrack and Deputy Director Haskins said to the chiefs that burden is now on them to inform their staff that they need to report to supervisors if they receive a donation or gift.

Heritage projects are due for review by the Leadership Team and ASO III Dave Prather will provide deadline and schedule the meeting. Internal request for in-state and out-of state travel is due tomorrow at noon, and Governor's request for mandatory tasks were due this morning at 8 a.m.

Director Mayer reported that Mark Jensen of Wildlife Services called about letter received from Sierra Club -Toiyabe Chapter regarding the Heritage Projects and Mr. Jensen said his supervisor advised him that the Heritage Predator Projects have to be cancelled at this time.

Deputy Director Cates reported that the NDOW Leadership Team met with Budget Office and Governor's staff and presented the Department's proposed budget cuts, explained the different budget accounts of NDOW, account reserve balances, and have to provide information in response to their requests. The Interim Finance Committee (IFC) scheduled several special meetings to discuss proposed cuts and state revenue forecasts. Additionally a Feb. 13 a concurrent town hall meeting was scheduled in Las Vegas and Reno to hear public input on budget cuts.

Director Mayer had each chief provide a list to Deputy Director Cates on their Division's programs and what activities are mandated by federal law and NRS. This information will be compiled and provided to the Governor's Office.

Director Mayer said a suggestion was sent to Department of Conversation and Natural Resources Director Allen Biaggi and the Governor's Office calling for reorganization of the Department's Air Operations to merge with Nevada Department of Forestry. Chief of Operations Haughian is the lead.

The Legislative Committee chaired by Commissioner Daryl Capurro met on Jan. 7 and Jan. 22, 2010, to review and make recommendations to support or oppose conceptual ideas for Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) of the Department and for non-department ideas. At the Jan. 22 meeting the committee voted to support all the Department's Conceptual BDR Ideas, noting that they wanted additional fiscal information on the snowbird fishing license concept, and want language to clarify the privileges of the juvenile could be suspended not the parent on the juvenile

poaching penalty guidelines for the Juvenile Courts. Although there was significant discussion, the committee did not take action to support or oppose any of the non-Department BDR ideas noting that more discussion and feedback was needed.

Staff participated in several County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) meetings to answer questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) muzzleloader regulation and the Legislative Committee meetings on the upcoming Wildlife Commission agenda.

BDR Research: The Management Analyst 3/legislative liaison spoke with Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel Randy Stephenson of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) regarding his opinion on whether a BDR is necessary to pursue a number of legislative ideas of the Department, or whether there is existing statutory authority.

Snowbird/Colorado River Fishing License, a legislative request would probably be necessary to create a "Snowbird" Fishing license or bring back the Colorado River Fishing License.

Shed Hunting Education and Permit, a legislative request would also probably be necessary to create a mandatory online education class and require purchase of a "shed permit" for commercial shed hunters, and/or to require at least one member in a party of shed hunters to hold a valid hunting license. The connection should be that education and protection would help protect wildlife.

Landowner Damage Compensation Tag Program, a legislative request would not be necessary to increase the fee for the Landowner Compensation Tags to that price. There is existing statutory authority through NRS 502.145 2c ("Be accompanied by the fee charged for the tags pursuant to NRS 502.250") to raise those tag fees simply through administrative regulation. Moreover, that the tag fee probably should have always been the price that is listed in NRS 502.250 (rather than an arbitrary price like \$50) since it is explicitly listed in law. Lastly, LCB Deputy Counsel noted that there is existing statutory authority in NRS 502.145 2c ("and any fee charged for administrative costs") to create a new application fee or administrative fee payable by those landowners applying to the Landowner Damage Compensation Tag Program. This would include requesting staff to come out to determine if there is a damage problem (to count deer, etc.), whether or not that is verified.

Conservation Education

The Free Fishing Day poster contest information was distributed to all fourth and fifth grade teachers statewide. The theme this year is “Discover the Fun of Fishing” and the deadline for the artwork is April 2.

The big game application brochure has been edited and sent to the printer, and the 2010 fishing regulations have been delivered to license agents and state offices this week. The big game bonus point tables are now online.

The Department has a new tradeshow booth display, representatives from the Divisions who attend trade shows provided input and the new display is shippable by common carrier and accommodates changeable graphics. It has a laptop podium and will have a 19” flat screen monitor on the left side, and will have a pop-up brochure rack and graphics to the header panels that say “Nevada” and “Wildlife” added. The current graphics are general Nevada wildlife, and additional graphics packages are around \$800. These interchangeable panels are meant to be customized by division, program, event or show.

Western Region wildlife education (WRWE) staff attended the Elizabeth Lenz Elementary School’s Science Night; met with City of Reno and JBR staff members to discuss a planting and seeding project scheduled to start inside the Oxbow Nature Study Area; and met with a potential interpretive company concerning upcoming work to be done on the Verdi Nature Center expansion.

Staff met with City of Reno and JBR staff members to discuss a possible bank stabilization project at the Oxbow Nature Study Area during the low flow months on the Truckee River.

The inaugural Nevada National Archery in the Schools State Tournament was held in conjunction with the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) tournament in Las Vegas. The NFAA allowed NDOW to use their shooting lines the day prior to their tournament – at no cost. Each of the eight Clark County schools currently participating in the program, plus an additional school from Fallon, participated. A Letter of Understanding and contract was completed that formalized NDOW’s operating agreement with NASP to allow NASP to administer registration fees collected at the upcoming NASP Tournament.

The front page of the agency website at www.ndow.org has been upgraded with new pictures from photographer Tim Torrell.

Staff assisted in the agency booth at the Wild Sheep Foundation.

Dr. Gary Weddle who oversees the City of Henderson's animal control agency contacted the Southern Region Conservation Education supervisor at the request of Councilwoman March. It seems that the councilwoman has been plagued by coyote related complaints from her constituents in the Anthem area. And asked Dr. Weddle to contact NDOW and encourage us to do some education on living with coyotes. Staff explained that NDOW has already been involved in those activities and provided copies of agency-generated articles as well as media contact for which personnel have provided interviews.

The following is an excerpt from residents of MacDonald Highlands in response to a Conservation Education presentation on living with coyotes and other wildlife: "We would like to thank you for the excellent talk about "Living with Coyotes and Other Predators" presented on January 27, 2010 by Margie Klein, Conservation Educator and Karen Welden, Game Warden. The forum addressed and answered the many, many questions we all had regarding the wildlife living among us. The visual aids (pelts, film and brochures) along with wildlife facts and specifications provided a greater insight on how to live safely and together with nature's creatures."

The first hunter education classes were held at the Clark County Shooting Park Education Center and logistics with facility management have gotten off to a rough start but staff is working with park personnel to resolve the issues.

Two proposals were submitted to the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Foundation committee on Jan. 29 seeking funding for 1) developing interpretive displays at the Overton Wildlife Management Area Nature Center and 2) the reprint of the Color Nevada WILD coloring book. The Record Book Foundation grants are funded from receipts of the bighorn sheep license plate.

"The Hunter Education-Exceptions When Issuing a New Card Policy and Procedure" has been rescinded. The rescinded policy and procedure affected only Conservation Education personnel who will no longer issue original Nevada Hunter Education certificates to new Nevada residents who possess out of state Hunter Education certificates. From this point forward the only way a client can receive a Nevada hunter education certificate is to successfully complete a Nevada hunter education course. Duplicate Nevada certificates will continue to be issued without any change in the process. Notification of the policy and procedure rescission was sent out statewide.

NDOW sent an email blast on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management to subscribers to the "hunting" and "NDOW all" subscriber list services. An estimated 5,689 subscribers received the notice that the BLM Ely District Office is preparing a Wilderness Management Plan for the Highland Ridge, Mt. Grafton, South Egan Range and Far South Egan wilderness areas. Units 115, 222, 221 are impacted. The Wilderness Management Plan will provide the preliminary management guidance to the Bureau of Land Management in decisions affecting

these four wilderness areas. Hunters who wish to comment on the proposal, can review a map of the affected areas, on the Ely District website: go to <http://www.blm.gov/nv> and click on Ely District on the map. You can find more information on the BLM website under "In the Spotlight".

Initial cost estimates have been received for the Overton Nature Center with the building estimated at \$1.4 million and the site preparation is estimated at \$1.8 million. Final designs approval has been scheduled on Feb. 12, 2010.

Fisheries Division

The cooling tower at the Mason Valley Hatchery has stopped working. Oxygen levels in the hatchery building have dropped as low as 2 ppm, putting the trout at risk. The fisheries staff biologist visited the hatchery to determine a temporary course of action. An available air compressor will probably be rigged to pump air through numerous lines into the tanks until the cooling tower can be repaired. The fish will be tested to make sure they're not absorbing too much nitrogen into their systems, which could prove fatal. Estimates run around \$65,000 to repair the tower.

Fisheries chief will meet with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss \$20 million dollars they have acquired to help in the recovery of the Lahontan cutthroat trout in Western Nevada, including Lake Tahoe. Money may be available to supplement our Mason Valley Hatchery production costs if we raise cutthroat. There might also be money available for a full time fisheries biologist to be stationed at Lake Tahoe.

A meeting was scheduled with the Washoe County Parks Planning Manager to discuss funding a liner for the completed, but leaking Crystal Peak Park Pond. Estimated installed cost of the two acre pond liner is \$140,000. NDOW has contributed over \$300,000 to the rebuilding of the pond through Question1 appropriations. The pond is located in Verdi and hopefully, will open to fishing by early summer.

At the recent Trout Unlimited (TU) banquet they presented NDOW with a \$4,000 donation for tagging Lahontan cutthroat trout in Marlette Lake. The tagged fish will help us determine growth, longevity and carry-over.

Staff from the Bureau of Reclamation visited the Lake Mead Hatchery to determine if they could fund a study to determine growth rates of quagga mussels on various screen sizes and materials. They will present us with a proposal at a later date.

