



LINCOLN COUNTY

ADVISORY BOARD to MANAGE WILDLIFE

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NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

September 25 and 26, 2009; Las Vegas

AGENDA ITEM #8, Saturday, September 26, 2009

Input Concerning Methods of Restoring Nevada's Mule Deer Population-Action

County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife 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.

SUMMARY:

The LCABMW held their regularly scheduled public meeting on September 17, 2009. At the meeting, several items were discussed in regard to the Agenda Item #8, Methods of Restoring Nevada's Mule Deer Population. A variety of recommendations in regard to Lincoln County's Mule Deer Population was discussed. Among the recommendations were projects ranging from habitat improvement and enhancement to predator and wild horse management. Many notable projects were mentioned, including the current Predator Control Program in Areas 22, 23, and 24, some recent controlled burns and vegetative projects, various Wild Horse gathers, and water development projects.

-LCABMW Members present: Dahl Bradfield, John Tibbetts, and Cory Lytle

-NDOW Representatives present: Mike Scott-Big Game Biologist, and Mark Beckstrand-Fish Biologist

-Other members of the public:

Kyle Teel: BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Station Fire Ecologist, Sportsman

Robert Rowe: BLM Ely District, Caliente Field Station Engine Module Leader and Sportsman

Gary Elmer: Sportsman

Matt Elmer: Sportsman

-Also noted: Dahl Bradfield, Cory Lytle, Mike Scott, Kyle Teel, Robert Rowe, Gary Elmer, and Matt Elmer are all Mule Deer Foundation-Meadow Valley Chapter Members.

The recommendations for Lincoln County consist of (3) primary proposals. The proposals identify short-term projects as well as long-term planning and management strategy.

1. Perform much needed installation of water developments (guzzlers) within Lincoln County.
2. Perform vegetative maintenance to various identified "chained areas" or "seedings" within Lincoln County.
3. Form a long-term Mule Deer Working Group comprised of LCABMW Members, NDOW Representatives, BLM representatives, Landowners, Sportsman, and other interested individuals to address current Mule Deer-related issues and develop future projects as well as a sustainable plan for Mule Deer in Lincoln County.

PROPOSAL #1: Installation of Water Developments or "Guzzlers" for the benefit of Mule Deer

Currently, there are approximately (30) Water Development Projects located within Lincoln County; many of which greatly benefit Mule Deer. Years have passed and the installation of these water developments has come to a "stand-still." Several issues including, Lincoln County's logistical location,

how funding is allocated toward specific water developments, and NDOW Guzzler Crew coverage, have contributed to this lack of production.

Approximately (10) of these projects are specifically a “re-build” or “replacement” of existing water developments. Approximately (20) are new sites for development. All environmental approval has been obtained through the Bureau of Land Management. In addition, all of the components have been purchased.

Lincoln County is proposing that funding be provided to complete identified water development installations that will benefit the Mule Deer population. This could be accomplished within the department or contracting an outside source. Volunteer organizations would also be able to assist with this proposal.

PHOTOS HERE!(with photos attached, message will exceed 12MB)

June 6, 2009- Mule Deer Foundation-Meadow Valley Chapter Volunteers along with local Boy Scouts reconstruct an existing guzzler site. This development has yet to be completed.

PROPOSAL #2: Vegetative maintenance to identified “chained areas” or “seedings” for the benefit of Mule Deer

Several “chained areas” were identified in Unit 231 that require certain levels of maintenance or treatment. A few areas were treated or “chained” in the 1990’s while others date back as early as the 1960’s and 70’s. Data on the older areas is difficult to obtain. Primarily, the encroaching Juniper and Pinyon trees have begun to dominate the treated areas and the preferred vegetation is slowly being “choked out.”

Currently, Mike Scott, NDOW Big Game Biologist is seeking funding from the Bureau of Land Management and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation totaling approximately \$50,000 to perform maintenance on the “Burnt Canyon Chaining” in Unit 231.

Lincoln County is proposing that funding be provided to perform maintenance on identified “chained areas” in Unit 231. The identified areas are all utilized by Mule Deer. It is likely that two separate forms of maintenance are required. The first form of maintenance could be performed upon the somewhat recently chained areas and would simply involve “stumping” the pinyon and juniper with a chainsaw, cutting the young trees into sections of 3-4 feet, and leaving the “slash” for seed retention and erosion control. These are the “Upper and Lower Reed Cabin Chainings” and the “Wood McCullough Chaining.” The second form of maintenance would involve the most suitable form of mechanical treatment. These areas are the older chaining where the Pinyon and Juniper trees are somewhat large and mechanical treatment would be the most cost effective. Depending upon desired conditions, additional seeding may be necessary. These are the “Taylor Chaining” and the “Horsethief Chaining.”

PHOTOS HERE!(with photos attached, message will exceed 12mb)

The “Wood McCullough Chaining” located in Unit 231. Pinyon and Juniper trees in this chained area are relatively young and vary in size from 2 to 7 feet in height with stumps between 1 and 4 inches in diameter. Low impact “stumping” utilizing a chainsaw would provide maintenance and allow for continued growth of desired vegetation.

PROPOSAL #3: Form a Mule Deer Working Group to address current Mule Deer- related issues and develop future projects as well as a sustainable plan for Mule Deer in Lincoln County.

The Mule Deer Working Group comprised of LCABMW Members, NDOW Representatives, BLM representatives, Landowners, Sportsman, and other interested individuals would collaborate as an “advisory team” to address current and potential Mule Deer- related issues.

The Mule Deer Working Group would examine various aspects of Mule Deer Populations, (Management, Habitat, Predation, etc...) and develop specific goals and objectives to address Mule Deer

issues. The working group's purpose would focus on a combination of planning, project development, and ongoing program monitoring for the benefit of Mule Deer.