

CABMW RECOMMENDATIONS for the 9/23 and 9/24, 2011 Wildlife Commission Meeting

Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting results

Submitted by Chairman Evans via Eureka County Natural Resources Department
To the Wildlife Commission, c/o Executive Assistant to Director Suzanne Scourby, sscourby@ndow.org

1. Action Item 6: Senate Bill (SB) 226 Nevada Trapping Regulations for Clark and Washoe Counties – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici and Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly

SB 226 was passed in the 2011 Legislative Session which requires the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations by December 31, 2012, governing the trapping of furbearing mammals in residential areas of a county whose population is 100,000 or more. Department staff is asking for Commission recommendations in drafting regulations to meet this requirement.

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Mike Taylor and seconded by the Dale Hornickle, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported moving forward with drafting of a regulation for a bear hunt. The board reserved making final decision on their support for the regulation after the regulation has been drafted for review. The board discussed some general topics that they would like the Commission to keep in mind when drafting the regulations.

- The regulation should apply to urban areas only. For example, there could be a county that has a population over 100,000 but has many rural areas far removed from the major city where strict regulations should not be the same. Please consider targeting the regulations to cities or municipalities of large populations rather than expansive counties.
- The local municipality should have a heavier weighted voice in the specific regulations for their respective area. For instance, the regulations necessary in Washoe County may have local demands or wishes different than the regulations that would be necessary in Clark County. A blanket regulation for all areas with large populations may not be the best.
- Please keep in mind that all traps are not equal. For example, live traps, box traps, or other traps that pose no threat to human or domestic pet safety should be treated different and accordingly.

2. Action Item 12: Commission General Regulation Number 393 – R002-11 - Bear Hunt – Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger

The Commission may adopt permanent regulations relating to revising provisions governing a black bear hunt. The need for and purpose of the proposed regulation is: Regulate aspects of the bear hunt, including, without limitation, the eligibility and application process for a bear tag, inclusion in the bonus point program, weapons restrictions, the fee for a bear tag, reporting requirements, and prohibitions regarding baiting big game animals, sale of bear gall bladders, use of dogs to hunt and the killing of bear cubs. If the Commission does not approve CGR 393-R002-11, the Commission will consider amending CR 11-07 to close the bear hunt on Nov. 1, 2011 to coincide with the expiration of the temporary regulation. Note: See support material for agenda item #5.

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Mike Taylor and seconded by the Jim Evans, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported moving forward with and adopting the regulation. There is enough scientific data and biological information to justify a bear hunt and the CAB supports efforts to get a hunt in place.

3. **Action Item 13: Commission Regulation Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits 11 - 12 - Chief of Fisheries Mark Warren**

The Commission will establish fishing seasons, bag and possession limits for the period of March 1, 2012, to February 28, 2014.

Recommendation

In Support _____ In Opposition _____ **NO RECOMMENDATION X**

The Eureka CAB had supported the previous dates and limits and had no further recommendation.

4. **Action Item 14: Commission Regulation 07 - 07 Amendment #8 – Chief of Habitat Elmer Bull -**

The Commission may adopt amendments to recommend changes to Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands for Key Pittman Management Area (youth hunting days).

Recommendation

In Support X In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Jim Evans and seconded by the Mike Taylor, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported adoption of the regulation amendment.

5. **Action Item 15: First Reading, Commission Policy #51, Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award – Commissioners Robb and Drew _____**

The Commission will have a first reading for proposed changes to Commission Policy #51. The Commission shall consider whether to retain the “Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award” as currently set forth in Policy 51 or to reinstate the “Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award” of the former version of Policy 51 (August 8, 2003). The Commission may make changes to either version or may eliminate the “Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award” in its entirety.

The Commission may also take the steps to create a new policy for either award.

Recommendation

In Support X In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Dale Hornickle and seconded by the Mike Taylor, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported reinstating the “Wayne E. Kirch Nevada Wildlife Conservation Award.” The CAB felt that Mr. Kirch was a great proponent for wildlife conservation and should continue to be recognized for his lifetime commitment. The CAB also discussed their general support in having multiple interests involved in the decision on who should receive the Kirch award. The CAB supports reinstating the committee interests as they were before to allow a balanced mix of Wildlife Commissioners, sportsman, wildlife conservations groups, and CABs.

6. **Action Item 16: First Reading, Commission Policy #28, Mule Deer Management Guidelines - Commissioners Robb and Drew**

The Commission will have a first reading for proposed changes to Commission Policy #28. The Commission may choose to retain Policy 28, modify all or part of Policy 28, or to eliminate Policy 28 in its entirety. The Commission may also take action to immediately suspend Policy 28 pending final action on revisions to Policy 28.

Recommendation

On a motion made by Mike Taylor and seconded by the Jim Evans, the Eureka CAB unanimously voted to immediately suspend Policy 28 and take time to craft a Mule Deer Management Guideline policy that is workable and takes into better consideration the local perspectives of CABs and the management actions that NDOW and the Commission have authority over or the ability to affect.

7. Action Item 17: NDOW Comment on the Future Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge – Commissioner Drew

The DEIS for the Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge is scheduled to be announced in the Federal Register on Sept. 9 which will trigger a 60 day comment period. The Department shall give the Commission an update on the CCP for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and the potential impact on wildlife natural resources. The Commission may provide policy direction to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on all such matters and may take action to direct the Department to provide written comment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service DEIS.

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Dale Hornickle and seconded by the Mike Taylor, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported the Commission sending a letter in support of the comments of NDOW regarding the CCP for the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge. The CAB discussed some of the specific comments by NDOW and were pleased with the comments regarding opposition to wilderness initiatives on the Sheldon, the removal of feral horses, and the addition of campgrounds (especially where some campgrounds are proposed to be removed due to resource issues).

8. Action Item 18: NDOW Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project – Chairman McBeath

The Department shall give the Commission an update on the SNWA Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project and the potential impact to wildlife water resources in the vicinity of the Project. The Department shall also give the Commission an update on its status in SNWA's pending hearings before the Nevada State Engineer – Nevada Division of Water Resources – including the Department's status as a protestant to SNWA's pending applications in Spring Valley, Cave Valley, Dry Lake Valley, and Delamar Valley. The Commission may provide policy direction to Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on all such matters and may take action to direct NDOW to provide written comment to the BLM DEIS. The Commission may also provide policy direction to NDOW on NDOW's protests to SNWA's pending applications including any settlements to withdraw such protests.

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____

On a motion made by Dale Hornickle and seconded by the Mike Taylor, the Eureka CAB unanimously supported the Commission sending a letter in support of the comments of NDOW regarding the SNWA project DEIS. No discussion or recommendation came forward from the CAB related to ideas for policy direction to NDOW on NDOW's protests and potential settlement issues.

9. Action Item 20: Request for Opinion from Nevada Attorney General – Chairman McBeath

The Commission will consider the July 25, 2011, letter request for opinion made by former Chairman Raine, to the Nevada Attorney General as well as Chairman McBeath's August 19, 2011, letter to the Nevada Attorney General requesting withdrawal of the request for opinion. The Commission will take action to either approve or not approve the request for opinion of the matters set forth in former Chairman Raine's July 25, 2011, letter.

Recommendation

In Support _____ In Opposition_____

NO RECOMMENDATION. The Eureka CAB has confidence in the Commission on their decision to be made and had no recommendation.

10. Action Item 21: Request for Opinion from Nevada Attorney General – Chairman McBeath

The Commission will consider the undated letter request for opinion made by former Chairman Raine, to the Nevada Attorney General, as well as current Chairman McBeath's September 2, 2011, letter to the Nevada Attorney General requesting withdrawal of the request for opinion. The Commission will take action to either approve or not approve the request for opinion of the matters set forth in former Chairman Raine's undated letter.

Recommendation

In Support _____ In Opposition_____

NO RECOMMENDATION. The Eureka CAB has confidence in the Commission on their decision to be made and had no recommendation.

11. Action Item 22: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner's Committee Assignments – Chairman McBeath

The Chairman will designate and adjust committee assignments, including the creation of new committees, the consolidation of existing committees, and/or the elimination of existing committees, as necessary. The Commission will take action to approve the revised committees and committee assignments as proposed by the Chairman.

Recommendation

In Support _____ In Opposition_____

NO RECOMMENDATION. The Eureka CAB had no recommendation regarding committee assignments.