

WILDLIFE COMMISSION ACTION REPORT for the Sept. 2011 Meeting

5*12 Commission General Regulation Number 393 - R002-11 - Bear Hunt – Program Officer III Maureen Hullinger and Game Biologist Carl Lackey – Regulation Workshop – Informational – Public Comment Allowed

The Department will present biological information relative to Nevada's black bear and status of the hunt to date, and will present Commission General Regulation 393, Bear Hunt, for workshop discussion. The Commission will consider adoption of permanent regulations relating to 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.

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support x In Opposition
Unanimously approved bear regulation.

6* Senate Bill (SB) 226 Nevada Trapping Regulations for Clark and Washoe Counties – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici and Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly – For Possible Action

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.

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Ask the Department to develop a draft trapping regulation governing trapping in the residential areas of Washoe and Clark Counties;
- 2) Comm. Chair will appoint a 3-member Commissioner Committee of Jeremy Drew, Jack Robb, and David McNinch;
- 3) To hold 2 public committee meetings to review the Dept. draft – one in the North and one in the South focusing each meeting on how the portion of the draft will affect those geographic areas and gather suggestions;
- 4) Staff to modify the draft as needed based on comments/suggestions; and
- 5) Bring the draft regulation before the Commission for action.

(The resulting regulation language would then be submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau and upon return, would be scheduled for the public hearings and adoption by the Wildlife Commission.)

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13 **Commission Regulation Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits 11 - 12 - Chief of Fisheries Mark Warren – For Possible Action**

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

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support* X In Opposition_____

***Other:** Regulation as recommended by the Dept. with the exception to the Dacey Reservoir in Nye County. (which is NO change).

14* **Commission Regulation 07 - 07 Amendment #8 – Chief of Habitat Elmer Bull - For Possible Action**

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).

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support X In Opposition_____

Unanimously approved.

15* **First Reading, Commission Policy #51, Commission Lifetime Commitment to Wildlife Award – Commissioners Robb and Drew – For Possible Action**

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.

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support X In Opposition_____

Other: Declared an Emergency commission policy item, Commission voted to reinstate Comm. Policy-51 to 2003 version the Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award, automatically replacing current P-51 Commission Lifetime Achievement Award 2011. Directed Con Ed staff to solicit nominations immediately.

Commission also voted to ask for input from the CABs on the concept of a Commission Lifetime Commitment Award as different policy and different award for future meeting.

16* **First Reading, Commission Policy #28, Mule Deer Management Guidelines - Commissioners Robb and Drew – For Possible Action**

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.

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support X In Opposition_____

OTHER: Voted to immediately suspend P-28, and send back out to CABs for review and determination of revising it, or repealing entirely at a future meeting.

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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 – For Possible Action

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. *The Commission may also decide to write a letter of its own in support of the comments of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.*

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support In Opposition _____

OTHER: The Commission will generate a letter in support of the Department's comments.

18* NDOW Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project – Chairman McBeath – For Possible Action

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. *The Commission may also decide to write a letter of its own in support of the comments of the Nevada Department of Wildlife.*

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support In Opposition _____

OTHER: The Department is considering the option of pursuing a Stipulated Agreement.

22 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner's Committee Assignments – Chairman McBeath – For Possible Action

The Commission will authorize the creation of new committees, will decide on whether to discharge certain committees, and will authorize the Chairman to appoint members to committees including non-commission members.

MAJORITY VOTED ON ACTION In Support _____ In Opposition _____

OTHER: Discussion only, no action taken.