

# NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

## Wildlife Damage Management Committee

Reno Headquarters Office  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

May 7, 2010  
2:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

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Those Committee members in attendance were:

Scott Raine – Committee Chairman (*via Tele-conference*)  
Daryl Capurro – Commissioner  
Charles Howell – Commissioner (*via Tele-conference*)  
Mike Laughlin – Member (*via Tele-conference*)  
Grant Wallace – Commissioner (*via Tele-conference*)  
Kevin C. Lansford – NDOW, Staff to Committee

Also in attendance were:

Glen Copeland – Washoe CABMW (*via Tele-conference*)  
Rex Flowers – Washoe CABMW  
Larry Gilbertson – NDOW, Chief of Game  
Gerald Lent – Chairman, Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
Adam Thomson – Wild West Predator Management Company  
Tony Wasley – NDOW, Deer Staff Specialist

#### **Agenda Items #1 & #2 – Call to Order & Introductions – Chairman (Raine)**

Chairman Raine called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Raine asked all members to introduce themselves and their affiliations.

#### **Agenda Item #3 – Approval of Minutes from the March 18, 2010 Meeting – Chairman Raine – ACTION**

The Chairman asked the Committee if there were any changes to the minutes, there were none.

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IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN FOR THE MARCH 18, 2010 MEETING. THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #4 – Commission Member Items – Chairman Raine – ACTION**

The Chairman asked for public comment for items not already listed on the agenda.

Commissioner Capurro stated that in the information sent to the members prior to this meeting that several projects, including #22, that have additional funds attached to them. Maybe this would be an area where we could make suggestions to augment budgets if the Committee wishes to. Chairman Raine asked what projects he was speaking about. There is a great concern about the sage grouse and augmentation of funds will be discussed for Project #6 when appropriate. Brian Stockton was contacted by Commissioner Howell about this action of transferring funds and this needs to be suggested by NDOW as a unique opportunity. Chairman Raine stating that we could discuss the expansion of some of these projects but the funding would have to come from the Heritage account that requires the full Commission's approval. Chairman Raine asked Kevin if the Committee could vote to expand these projects and approve them with funding attached at today's meeting. Kevin stated that all we have as an action item today is to vote on is what projects we plan to approve and continue next year, but not at the budget level.

Commissioner Capurro stated that Chairman Raine is on the Commission agenda to report on the activities of this committee, and he wants to know if that would include making a recommendation for increasing some of these projects. Commissioner Raine stated that his report is not an action item so the Commission cannot vote on any requests. Kevin stated that this meeting has always been as a courtesy to Wildlife Services (WS) to give them the earliest notification of what we plan to continue in fiscal year 2011.

Commissioner Capurro stated that Commissioner Howell was concerned about the \$212,000 that was not committed on projects approved by the Commission, would be placed back into the sequestered fund as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Raine stated that we could have another meeting prior to the June Commission meeting. The Committee could vote on approving these projects today with regard to the \$212,000. Commissioner Howell stated that the Commission agenda item states that Chairman Raine is listed to make a report on what has happened during our Committee meetings. Mr. Howell stated that possibly if NDOW has some projects they would like to enhance maybe we could talk about it with the full Commission on Friday and vote on it on Saturday. Chairman Raine stated that the agenda item he is speaking of is only informational and no vote can be taken.

**Agenda Item #5 – Public Comment** *(Please limit comments to 3 minutes)*

Chairman Raine next called for public comments for those wished to speak.

Adam Thomson, Wild West Predator Management Co. – Mr. Thomson state that at the previous meeting there were some questions concerning the status of our business license, and the

business is now a fully state bonded, licensed and insured company in the State of Nevada. In next few weeks the company will be doing a campaign with government organizations, private entities and local government for predation needs. A pricing list was developed and presented to the committee (those members via tele-conference will have a list mailed to them). The prices listed are firm with the exception of specific custom jobs where an exact bid can be prepared. The company currently has five employees with a combined total of 150 years of experience.

Chairman Raine asked if, when looking at our current projects, could the company do the control work? Mr. Thomson stated that yes they could do all of the projects with the exception of the Raven control, as they do want to be involved with the chemicals used for this control project. Mr. Thomson stated that they are only looking at new projects and possibly providing assistance to WS when needed.

Chairman Raine asked Kevin about working with a private contractor. Kevin stated that if there is a licensed contractor who can perform the predation work then they can “throw their hat in the ring.” Chairman Raine stated that there is a process to follow when using a private contractor and we need to investigate how to proceed. Commissioner Capurro stated that he felt the Deputy Attorney General (DAG) needs to be involved to ensure the legal processes are met. Also, Mr. Cates (NDOW Deputy Director) could give us some advice on the subject.

Commissioner Howell asked if Mr. Thomson had any contracts pending or work history. Mr. Thomson stated that they have only been in business for six months, so they have not done work so far. He further stated the two of his employees are trappers from Montana, one individual was a guide in Colorado, another employee has 15 years of experience between here and Utah and he has 18 years of experience in Nevada geared toward predation work.

Gerald Lent, Bd. of Wildlife Commissioners, Chairman – How would we have a private company perform control work on mountain lions as a tag is required to hunt them. Kevin stated that WS obtains a depredation permit from the Department to remove lions.

**Agenda Item #6 – Approve On-going Projects for 2011 (Attached) – Kevin C. Lansford – ACTION**

Chairman asked Kevin to present the projects one at a time and they would approve as they go.

**Project 6A – Protection of Bighorn Sheep in the Delamar Mountains** – Project is on-going and two lions have been removed this year, and there has been more predation due to the augmentation of sheep in the area. The local biologist wants the project continued and with discussions with WS we have increased the amount of lion control work and expanded to include identified bobcat predation. The cost is approximately \$15,000 annually.

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF PROJECT 6A INTO FISCAL YEAR 2011, SECONDED BY MEMBER LAUGHLIN.**

Commissioner Capurro wanted to state for the record that we are not approving the budget amount for this project only that we plan to continue it. Chairman Raine stated that all of the

projects list WS and the vendor to do the work and at some point we might need to include outside companies in the description.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENT ON THE PREVIOUS MOTION IT WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project 18 – Washoe County Deer, Hunt Unit #014** – Kevin stated that several coyotes and lions have been removed, and the Committee should consider continuing the project for one more year to gather more data. Currently this it is becoming the longest on-going predator removal project. After one final year we need to evaluation the results of this project.

Commissioner Laughlin asked if there was any past or future data that will show fawn to doe ratios or kids per bighorn sheep? Kevin stated we currently follow our survey protocol, and the project budget amount ensures that this unit will always be surveyed twice a year. Also the survey data is presented in table form in the predation management plan comparing the unit to the Sheldon and the rest of Area One. Commissioner Capurro stated that the area is heavily influenced by the lion migration out of California, and it makes it difficult to determine a starting number of predators there are that will be removed.

Commissioner Laughlin stated that will the removal of approximately 200 horses by the BLM, and the transient lion coming in from other states may have increased the amount of predation occurring on mule deer, and he would like to have this looked into.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE THE CONTINUAION OF PROJECT #18 INTO FISCAL YEAR 2011, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #20 – Virginia Mountains, Bighorn Sheep Protection** – Wildlife Services has been removing some lions, and this project has been going on for three years. Kevin stated that this project should be continued for one more year as the population has been augmented and the sheep are “teetering” right now.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CAPURRO TO CONTINUE PROJECT #20 TO FISCAL YEAR 2011. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #21A – Elko and Lincoln County Sage Grouse** – Kevin stated that there has been raven control around some leks and compounds. Additional leks have been added during the past two years, but we would like to expand the project to include Kings River Valley in Unit #031, Leonard Creek in Unit #032, and North Paradise Valley in Unit #051. Commissioner Raine stated that since those new units should we re-name the it or make a secondary sage grouse project. Commissioner Capurro stated we should re-name the project, increase the budget, and expand it. There much concern and discussion about the importance of this project and the possible listing of the sage grouse as endangered. Kevin stated that the permit issued to WS from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has been increased from 1500 to 2200 ravens can be removed. Commissioner Raine stated that the limitations on the expansion of this

project are the level of ravens that can be removed in the permit from the USFWS and the monies allotted.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE PROJECT #21A WITH THE CAVEAT THAT WITH MONEY AVAILABLE (IF NDOW WILL ASK FOR IT), TO ENHANCE THIS PROJECT ...

Commissioner Howell commented that if we ask the USFWS to increase the number of ravens to be removed on WS's permit and it is denied, we will need to re-submit our request if the sage grouse becomes listed.

Chairman Raine stated he would like to change the name of the project to 'Nevada Sage Grouse Protection'.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE PROJECT #21A CHANGING THE TITLE TO *NEVADA SAGE GROUSE PROTECTION* WITH THE CAVEAT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF MONEY AVAILABLE FROM THE COMMISSION TO ENHANCE, SIMPLY BY A REQUEST FROM NDOW, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAPURRO. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #21B – Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) – Wild Turkey** – This project has been on and off over the past few years. The project has been fairly successful because whenever a new set of ravens move into the area there are fewer of them, however, when resident ravens increase the wild turkey hatch goes down. The WMA biologist contacts Kevin to request some raven control work from WS. Kevin is able to contact WS asking them to direct a technician to Overton to remove ravens, and the process is completed quickly and efficiently. Kevin likes to leave the money in place because the WMA personnel know this project works, even though they don't use it every year, it is always available. Kevin will make a reminder call to the WMA biologists to let them know that the money is available again this year should they need it.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CAPURRO AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE TO CONTINUE PROJECT #21B, OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA – WILD TURKEY. THE MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #22 – Statewide Deer and Multi-Species Enhancement** - Kevin stated that they are impressed with the service and results they are receiving from the contracted helicopter vendor. A large portion of these funds are geared for helicopter flights and the fixed-wing is also well-funded. Much of the credit for establishing and contacting a contract helicopter goes to WS who did the leg work. The use of WS's fixed-wing, much of that credit goes to Mr. Laughlin who pushed for acquiring this equipment some time ago.

Commissioner Capurro stated that this original project was changed and combined with others (Projects #17& 19) to become what it is now. Mr. Capurro would like to see an expansion to utilize funds that are budgeted for this in areas of special concern. This is probably the right time

for suggesting we use some of the left over money in this project in FY 2011, and he would like to see a substantial increase.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF PROJECT #22 WITH THE CAVEAT THAT UPON NDOW'S REQUEST TO THE COMMISSION THERE COULD BE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE THAT COULD BE USED TO ENHANCE THIS PROJECT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAPURRO. MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #23 – Mason Valley Pheasant** – Kevin stated that this was a new project last year. Last fall the personnel released some pen raised chicks and they knew they had some predation problems almost immediately. Kevin was asked for some control work, so a proposal was developed and the work is going on now. Wildlife Services has reported to Kevin that they are setting traps and having some success, and the WMA personnel plan another release this year.

Chairman Raine asked if sage grouse are also in the area and could benefit from this project. Kevin stated that sage grouse are fairly sparse new the management area but he could research a map to be sure. Commissioner Capurro agreed with Kevin's assessment that there were few grouse in the area.

MOTION BY CAPURRO TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF PROJECT #23, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE. MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #26 - Wildlife Services Field Specialist Positions** – Kevin stated that this position has given WS the flexibility they needed to get multiple jobs done. With this money WS hired 2 seasonal lion hunters, which helped to reach the Commission's goals in Policy #22. We also may wish to increase the budget to hire additional personnel as needed. This project did not have a number, so a temporary #26 will be used, the Committee agreed.

Mr. Laughlin felt that this is a excellent project put additional money, citing many examples. Commissioner Capurro seconded Mr. Laughlin's comments, and added that the money WS receives from the State was cut and it actually reduced their staff by four positions.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF PROJECT #26, INTO FISCAL YEAR 2011, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE.

COMMISSIONER CAPURRO MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THE CAVEAT IF THERE IS MONEY AVAILABLE TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE BUDGET FOR THIS PROJECT, SECONDED BY MR. LAUGHLIN

Commissioner Howell and Commissioner Capurro withdrew both motions and they will be restated.

MOTION COMMISSIONER CAPURRO TO APPROVE PROJECT #26, WILDLIFE SERVICES FIELD SPECIALIST POSITIONS, WITH A MIMINIMUM FUNDING OF

\$85,000 THAT WAS APPROVED IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 INTO 2011 AND THAT IT BE AUGMENTED WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS IF THEY BECOME AVAILABLE AND ARE REQUESTED BY NDOW OF THE COMMISSION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

**Project #24 – Predation Management Brochure – Public Outreach** - Chairman Raine stated that this project was a one-time “shot”. but we have not finalized it yet. Kevin stated he has received comments from the Committee and they have been inserted in the draft and the brochure is now in final review. The brochure will be printed and disbursed by July 1. Chairman Raine asked for an email copy of the final draft for additional comments from the Committee members. There will be no further funding requested for this project as it has been completed so no motion was necessary.

**Project #25 – Predator/Prey Study – Grant** – Kevin stated he has just received his review status for the grant from the USFWS. Also all indications are that we will be “a go” on this project and we are working through the compliance issues now. After this the \$25,000 the Committee approved will be matched, so we are only waiting on the final agreement from the USFWS to say we have the money. We also have a Ph.D. candidate at Utah State University (USU) waiting to hear that he has the position, and he can begin the project. Kevin thanked the Committee for the original \$25,000 as it was instrumental in getting this important project off the ground, and in one year from July 1, 2011, the predator control aspect of the study will begin.

Commissioner Capurro asked why we will be hiring someone from Utah to conduct this study, and secondly why a doctoral candidate. Kevin stated that Dr. Conover because he was one of the leading founders of the Berryman Institute, and this institute is the leaders in wildlife damage management. They also do human/wildlife conflicts, in cooperation with the National Wildlife Research Center (sister to USDA-WS), so this is their research branch, and it is what their expertise is. The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) may have had someone, but Kevin felt USU was a better fit because he had a personal relationship with Dr. Conover.

Chairman Raine asked if we will not need to approve any more funds for this project because we will have the matching money. Kevin stated we will need to approve a \$25,000 for the next four or five years to continue to received the \$75,000 from the USFWS. Chairman Raine also asked how would this money would be expended this year. Kevin stated we will need to hire Dr. Conover, buy equipment, outfit him to live here, and the remainder will roll over to next year that can be used for making up our \$25,000 match. Dr. Lent stated commented that when this came up before the Commission the Chief of Game stated that it takes years to get matching funds from the USFWS, and no one knew how to write a grant proposal to match a predator project before now. Because this process was done in less than a year, so for the record, he stated that predator funding can be matched in a short length of time if you have the right people and inclination to do the work. Further, if we are able to get funds for this study we should be able to match other projects as well.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE AND SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HOWELL TO APPROVE PROJECT #25. THE MOTION WAS PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

Chairman Raine asked what the percentage was the administrative overhead. Commissioner Howell stated the total budget expenditures for 2010 was \$557,330. So \$56,100 would be a little less than 10%. Kevin stated that the administrative overhead is only placed on the expenditures of WS for the projects and it is 16.15%. Previously the overhead was included in the total cost, but we have broken out that now and made it an additional line item. Chairman Raine asked if the \$15,000 allocated for project 6A included the overhead, and Kevin said it did not.

Chairman Raine stated we have a budget of \$484,494, asked Kevin if that was correct. Kevin stated that it is if we expend what we have planned on at the end of this year, what we will be starting with, and we are estimating that our income will be amount the same as last year.

Commissioner Capurro stated adding up the project costs plus WS's overhead equals about \$435,000 and there will be approximately \$485,000 to spend, so there is money within here to augment if necessary. Also if not all of the money requested for project is used it could be rolled over into fiscal year 2011. Kevin stated that we always budget with a little bit of padding because that this type of account cannot be 1¢ over spent.

**Agenda Item #7 – Update on FY 2010 Budget Expenditures and 2011 Outlook – Kevin C. Lansford – INFORMATIONAL**

Chairman Raine stated in his view we will expend “every last penny” and last year we were \$74,000 under and will probably be similar this year, is that reasonable? Kevin stated potentially it was, but if every penny is budgeted we will have to make sure we don't over spend, or we could leave a little roll over fund in case every dime budgeted is used.

Commissioner Capurro asked if money could be transferred from one project to another if necessary. Kevin thought that we could probably do this.

Chairman Raine asked if we can get additional money, is there a place to spend it? Kevin stated he can only budget the monies received from the \$3.00 predator fee, but most of the motions today have included the caveat that if additional funds become available they will be allocated to those projects that we would to expand.

Dr. Lent remind the Committee that before Kevin, and many of the Commissioner's time, the Commission recommended to the Director (Terry Crawford) to spend \$200,000 on predators, and that was just before the \$3.00 fee was implemented. So, the Commission in the past has requested \$200,000 from NDOW's budget to do predator work, and so that is not an impossibility providing that the money is in there. Finally, the Department has funded predator work for two years in the past, so if there are additional projects perhaps Kevin could ask the Director about the availability of this money.

**Agenda Item #8 –Discuss 2011 Potential Project Proposals – Kevin C. Lansford – INFORMATIONAL**

Chairman Raine asked Kevin if we only had one new potential proposal for 2011. Kevin stated that when looking at the \$3.00 fee budget there was only \$50,00 extra left , and with the \$70,000

there was the potential to have approximately \$110,000 that could be spent on something else provided we leave a cushion so we don't over-expend. The Area 15 project that was suggested by NDOW to the Heritage Committee is still a viable one. The new biologist is eager to have the project in his area, it meets much of the criteria we are looking for, and it gives us the opportunity to help with the design of it. Commissioner Capurro thinks that this could fit into Project #22, which means we could augment the statewide predator control, rather than a specific project for Area 15. Kevin stated that this proposal has a good monitoring component included in it. Commissioner Capurro stated the money for monitoring could still be spent in Area 15, but it would not be a specific project for one area.

Mr. Laughlin stated that the area has less than 1% of the total deer numbers in the state, and we are proposing a 5-year project spending the \$3.00 fee (sportsmen's dollars) money. The costs for the first year are \$48,500 for aerial surveys, satellite collars, body conditioning, and monitoring for \$40,000, and if you add all these for five years, we will be expending \$240,500 of sportsmen's money. Mr. Laughlin doesn't feel that project is a good use of the \$3.00 fee paid by sportsmen, and stated that the Department could put in a proposal to the Heritage Committee or a new grant be written to fund the project.

Chairman Raine stated that this looks like a research project such as the predator/prey project for which we have received matching federal money. Kevin asked if he was suggesting that we view this project in much the same as the Conover study, and would the Committee be willing to put in some seed money to pursue this through the grant or heritage process. Kevin also stated that the predator fund will always pay for control work and grant money will not, and we have the Conover study is funded for 2011 and the following year we will add it to Project #22 because it will then require active predator management. Also, the difficulty in writing this original grant as every reference about the second part of the study requiring the removal of predators has to include a caveat stating at no point will any of the money be funding the predator control aspect of this project.

Chairman Raine asked if several of these projects have surveys connected with them why can't we apply for matching funds for all? Kevin stated that we can't, but he is still working on the first grant proposal. Commissioner Raine would like to separate all of the costs for surveys out of each project and submit them for a grant as a "pure" research study eliminating as mention of predator control. Commissioner Capurro stated that during testimony before the Legislature that virtually all of the variable federal funds had committed, so therefore how much money is available. Chairman Raine asked Kevin if he could find out how much is still available, and Kevin stated he felt this was a Deputy Director Cates level question. Commissioner Capurro suggested Chairman Raine should approach Mr. Cates with this question, representing this Committee and eventually the full Commission.

Mr. Laughlin does not feel that the sportsmen's should pay for this project through the \$3.00 fee. Commissioner Capurro stated that he does not like taking a project that has been turned down by the Commission and presented for possible funding under the predator control fee. Commissioner Howell is opposed to using predator funds for satellite collars.

Adam Thomson commented that the Area 15 proposed project could be completed by his company for about one-third of the cost and it comes with a guarantee. Adam Thomson state that WS can sub-contract with an outside vendor as long as they are fully licensed and can do the work.

Glen Copeland suggested predator projects with our neighboring states such as California. Mr. Copeland cited Area 015 as an example that it is not a good hunting area anymore because it is such a migratory area. A discussion ensued.

Rex Flowers stated that the Committee should look at a sage grouse protection project in the Mono County (California/Nevada border) areas, as the bird is in danger of being listed as endangered. Kevin stated since we already expanding our sage grouse protection project he will talk with Shawn about adding this area.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Assignments and Agenda Items for the Next Meeting – Chairman Raine – ACTION**

Chairman Raine listed the assignments and who was responsible:

Chairman Raine – Will contract Mr. Cates on various issues.

Mr. Laughlin – Will contact Mark Jensen to discuss permits.

Commission Capurro – Will contact to Brian Stockton.

Commissioner Raine asked Kevin to provide a hard copy of the pre-approved projects to the Commission so they have it for their meeting.

**Agenda Item #10 – Establish Date, Time and Location of the Next Meeting – Chairman Raine – ACTION**

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2010, and Kevin will establish a 3hr. time frame in the afternoon with the Bristlecone Convention Center for the next meeting.

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED THAT THE NEXT MEEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2010 AT THE LOCATION OF THE COMMISSION MEETING AS LATE AS POSSIBLE IN THE AFTERNOON TO ACCOMMODATE A 3 HOUR MEETING. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Agenda Item #11 – Adjourn**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED TO ADJOURN. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Respectfully Submitted  
Dawn Carter  
June 4, 2010

