

Heritage Committee Meeting
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada 89512

Meeting Location: Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
Conference Room

Committee Members: Commissioners Gerald Lent (chair), Hal Shrum and Charles Howell

NDOW Staff Present: Gabe Pincolini, Patrick Cates, Maureen Hullinger, Katie Simper, Bob Haughian, Mike Cox, Peregrine Wolff, Tony Wasley, Shawn Espinoza, Brian Stockton (DAG)

Public Present: Rick Smith (WCAB), Darin Elmore (NBU Reno), Cliff Gardner (Great Basin Consulting), Marjorie Matocq (UNR), Mark Jensen (USDA – WS), Alyson Andreasen (UNR), Sabrina Morano (UNR), Cody Schroeder (UNR), Erik Blomberg (UNR), Walt Gardner, Kelly Stewart (UNR), Mike Stremmer (Rancher), Don Alt (Rancher), JJ Goicoechea (Rancher)

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 – 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Thursday, May 12, 2011 – 8:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call – Chairman Gerald Lent**

Meeting called to order at 8:20 A.M.

2. **Approval of Minutes – Action***

Minutes are from the May 13, 2010 Heritage Committee meeting.

Howell motioned to approve the May 13, 2010 minutes, Shrum seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

3. **Member Items**

Chairman Lent read emails that went back and forth between him and Patrick Cates concerning this heritage meeting.

4. **Public Comment Period**

Lent instructed the public that this was the time to speak on anything on agenda.

Rick Smith, Washoe CAB, disappointed no public comment on individual projects.

Rick Smith gave the Committee the Washoe CABMW's vendor and project recommendations. They approved project 12-01, 12-02, 12-03, 12-05, 12-06, 12-10, 12-19, 12-20, 12-21, 12-22, 12-32 and 12-37.

Vendor turkey tags to NWTF – Silver Sage Reno (1), NWTF – Las Vegas

Strutters (2), MDF (1) and WSF – California Chapter (1). Antelope tags to NWA (1) and PCCU (1). Mule deer tags to NBU (1) and MDF – national (1). Elk tags to RMEF (1) and NBU (1). California Bighorn Sheep tag to NBU. Nelson Bighorn Sheep tag to WSF – national.

Cliff Gardner, Great Basin Consulting was not familiar with process and wanted to know when they could talk about projects. Gardner also informed the Committee that he would like to see more on predator control and recommended project #12-23.

Darin Elmore, NBU Reno, supported the following heritage projects 12-01, 12-18 and 12-22. He also stated that whoever applied for each vendor tag should have the first chance at it.

5. Staff Report – Gabe Pincolini – Action

Pincolini gave the balance in the heritage account at \$6,021,511.27. A current status report was given on the approved heritage projects from FY2011. These projects are still in progress, completion end of FY11, 11-01 requested extension, 11-16 requested extension, 11-14 requested extension, 11-26 requested extension, 11-20 requested extension, 11-17 requested extension, 11-19 requested extension, 11-25 will be completed, 11-03 will be completed, 11-21 completed, 11-22 completed, 11-23 completed, 11-24 completed and 11-07 completed.

FY10 heritage project extensions into FY11 update, 10-09 will be completed this year, 10-27 will be completed this year, 10-23 will be completed this year, 10-26 will be completed this year, 10-30 completed and 09-08 requesting extension into FY12.

Lent regarding 09-08 commented that they have had three years to complete this project. Lent also asked, will this project fall away and do we know what has been done?

Gabe stated all FY10 projects will be completed, so no extensions needed. FY09 project we can discuss but no action, since the fiscal year isn't listed on the agenda for action.

Lent requested a copy of the current final list that Pincolini read from for the committee.

Lent confirmed that the following list had extensions, 11-16, 11-17, 11-26, 11-19, 11-20, 11-14, and 11-01

Howell moved to approve extensions and seconded by Shrum, all were in favor, motion passed.

6. Commission Regulation CR 11-06 Amendment #1 Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendors - Review Heritage tag vendor proposals submitted for auction during fiscal year FY2012 - Chairman Lent – Action*

Lent reviewed vendor proposals submitted by species and asked if everyone had seen the letters sent out.

Maureen Hullinger, NDOW, instructed the committee that the deadline for proposals was April 18th. We received a late one on the May 9th.

Maureen Hullinger - Commission Policy 10, Heritage Policy, states that if a vendor is late they cannot be considered for the record. Also Maureen went over the heritage tags by species and organization list, reading the 2011 amounts received for tags. She explained to the committee that they can use this tool to consider the highest value received.

A new vendor this year was the Wild Sheep Foundation, California.

Committee's Heritage tag recommendations by species are as follows:

2 Deer tags - Howell motioned to give the two tags to NBU and MDF, seconded by Shrum, all were in favor, motion passed.

2 Antelope tags – Howell motioned to give Pershing County Chukars Unlimited 1 of the antelope tags, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

Came back to vote on the 2nd Antelope tag – Howell moved to give 2nd Antelope tag to NBU - Reno, seconded by Shrum, Howell and Shrum were in favor, Lent opposed, motion passed.

2 Elk tags – Howell motioned to give RMEF 1 tag, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

Came back to vote on the 2nd Elk tag – Howell motioned to give 2nd Elk tag to WSF – California Chapter, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

1 Nelson Bighorn Sheep – Howell motioned to approve WSF main chapter for the Nelson Bighorn Sheep tag, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

1 California Bighorn Sheep – Howell motioned to give this tag to WSF main chapter, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

5 Wild Turkey Tags – Howell motioned to give one turkey tag to each vendor that requested one, 2 tags to the Las Vegas Strutters, 1 tag to the National Wild Turkey Federation, Silver Sage, 1 tag to the Mule Deer Foundation and the last tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation, California Chapter, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

Hullinger (NDOW) will update CR so it is current and will give to the commission for their upcoming commission meeting.

7. Review Heritage Project Proposals submitted for funding during fiscal year FY2012 - Chairman Lent – Action*

Lent read several emails into the record that occurred between himself and Patrick Cates. The emails dealt with getting the heritage applications out for review earlier than the required April 15 deadline and commission/committee budget issues relating to requested meetings dates.

Lent asked for any comments, none.

Lent turned things over to the committee to go over, in order, their highest priority heritage projects.

There is \$403,078 to spend in FY12. Roughly 20% of the projects will be funded, while 80% of the project will not be funded.

Lent recommended 12-30. Marjorie Matocq (UNR), discussed this project and the benefits from it. The time line is 6-8 months. Lent motioned \$30,000 for project 12-30, Shrum seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Howell recommended 12-01. Mike Cox, NDOW Biologist, came up to discuss this project. Howell asked if he could take off the FY11 extension amount from what was requested for FY12 (the \$30,000 that will carry over from last year). Lent requested tracking to show accountability, also asked about deer project in Ruby Mountains. Mike Cox answered it is statewide project. Project 12-01 does not mention deer and he didn't see these funds to be used for any other projects. Lent asked if transplant projects are funded through the Department or would they be funded by Heritage only. Cox replied these expenses were paid with special funds, like outside donations for capture cost, preparation, monitoring, post capture and all other associated costs. This is a level B project and they are not primary mission of the agency.

Lent suggested to not fund this project right away but to come back to this one towards the end of the meeting.

Howell motioned that they fund 12-01 in amount of \$90,000, no second, motion failed.

Public comment taken for 12-01 by Rick Smith, Washoe CAB, this is the most important project they will look at today. This is where the money needs to go.

Shrum recommended project 2-10 to fund for full amount \$3,500. Howell motioned to approve, Shrum seconded the motion, all in favor, motion passed.

Public comment, Darin Elmore, NBU, sees this project could be done otherwise with a lower amount. Believes recommending this project would be irresponsible.

Lent recommended project 12-11. Bob Haughian, NDOW Chief of Operations, discussed this project and need for the funding. Lent asked if they can get by with less and still complete mission. Haughian, through the purchasing process, 2 vendors with specs were looked at. Patrick confirmed no money in budget for vehicles for FY12. Shrum discussed if option packages on vehicle was needed.

Public comment - Walt Gardner thinks there are other things on the proposal list that are more important. Chairman Lent felt 12-11 critical to support transplant program.

Patrick Cates amended his comment that the Department had no money for vehicles and if Heritage funding came up \$1,000 dollars short, NDOW could cover that shortfall.

Lent motioned to approve funding 12-11 for full amount of \$47,893, Howell seconded the motion, all in favor were Howell and Lent, Shrum was opposed, motion passed.

Howell recommended project 12-05 for \$4,000 and project 12-06 for \$8,000. Howell stated Washoe CAB recommended this one. Howell motioned to fund these two projects, seconded by Shrum, all were in favor, motion passed.

Shawn Espinosa, Smith Creek ranch does allow hunting on ranch.

Lent recommended project 12-40. Additional funding with RMEF and Department stands behind it, as well as the Lincoln CAB got involved to recommend it.

Public comment – Steve Siegel, NDOW Habitat Specialist, gave background, chaining typically needs to be done every 20 to 25 years and this has not been done.

Howell motioned to approve 12-40 for \$60,000, Shrum seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Howell recommended project 12-18. NBU & NDOW supports this project. Lent stated that he was also in support of this project. The Fraternity of Desert Bighorn has an outstanding record for completing their projects, asked for what funding they could get by with and FDB stated they would cover any amount less than the amount requested. Howell moved to approve this project at \$20,000, Shrum seconded the motion.

Public comment – Cliff Gardner, Ruby Valley rancher, public policy has eliminated the cattle industry in the US and 90% of the sheep industry.

Ranchers put out water development projects with no money support. Suggest that the Committee should not fund these types of projects. Look at free enterprise in the livestock industry and get water developments for free.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Lent recommended projects 12-19, 12-20, 12-21 & 12-22. Lent recommended funding each project for \$1,000 each. Lent suggested the committee holds off on these projects and see where we are at later.

Howell recommended project 12-25 – Howell motioned to fund for full amount at \$21,600 and Shrum seconded the motion.

Public Comment – Mike Cox, NDOW, asked how many lions were taken. Howell answered 7. In addition while guiding Mike Stremmer took a few more and his son took 3. Mike Cox stated if this project is for the benefit of mule deer, most growth in last 5 years has been in area 4. That work did not benefit the deer, those deer growing leaps and bounds without predator control. Mike asked the Committee to evaluate if this project is a true benefit and recommended they focus on one specific unit.

Rick Smith, Washoe CAB, stated you have three other requests for predator projects, challenge you and strongly urge you to look at 12-37 to get the data before making these assumptions and look at where the best area for this money should be spent. Need factual data.

Brian Stockton, DAG, concerned that Mr. Stremmer hasn't completed the science part of his original project.

Walt Gardner, I disagree with Mike Cox. I have guided on lions and they eat a lot of deer and need to be controlled.

Cliff Gardner stated there is a tremendous amounts of research regarding the effects of predator control. We do not need more studies because there are already plenty of studies out there. Historically, all species benefited from predator control. Encourage putting all money into predator control.

Howell stated that he would like to amend the original motion because Mike Stremmer had already asked for an extension on a last year project. Howell amended his motioned to fund only \$18,000, Shrum seconded the motion, Howell and Shrum approved, Lent was opposed, amended motion passed.

Shrum recommended project 12-31 and gave a motion to qualify, no vote.

Mr. Lent brought up project 12-27

Mike Cox, NDOW Biologist, maintain some objectivity. Initial proposal didn't need biologist help, and now they are coming back asking questions every day. I question his ethics. We are paying a guy to come up with the obvious.

Rick Smith, Washoe CAB, our CAB voted against this project. Committee has already motioned to extend last year's project. Let them finish what they started last year before funding more with the current proposal.

Lent stated that he feels population modules need to be reviewed. Thinks project needs continuation in conjunction of the original one. Lent supported what they are trying to do.

Howell moved to approve project 12-27 for the \$47,400, seconded by Lent, all in favor, motion passed.

Howell suggested going back to project 12-01. Howell motion to approve project 12-01 for \$90,000, seconded by Shrum, all in favor, motion passed.

Howell moved to approve projects 12-19, 12-20, 12-21 and 12-22 for \$2,500 for each project. Lent seconded the motion, Howell and Lent approved, Shrum was opposed, motion passed.

Howell brought up project 12-23.

Public comment was by Cliff Gardner, Great Basin Consulting. There are two problems I see: 1) we need more predator control and 2) habitat. Would like to monitor and have controls on two different sheep herds. First portion of this project is expected to cost \$35,000 to \$40,000. Howell asked if they could do it for \$30,000. Lent stated that he thought this should be an agricultural project, not for heritage funding. Howell asked to table this project for now.

Lent brought up project 12-35.

Dr. Sabrina Morano, UNR, discussed the benefits and reasoning for this project. Really need to replace the 12 GPS collars, but is willing to take what she can get. USDA grant requires we publish our findings.

Peri Wolff, NDOW, Wildlife Health Specialist, I have been working with Sabrina on this project. This is an issue that has been plaguing this area for awhile, specifically the Humboldt area. I believe we have been able to get more information in shorter time than we have in the past. Feel this is a very worthwhile project to support.

Cliff Gardner, Great Basin Consulting, regarding mule deer coming down into alfalfa fields, he felt that there will always be a problem if hunters continue to hunt the deer in the fields rather than in the mountains.

Howell motioned to approve project 12-35 for \$24,285 for only 12 collars, Lent seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion passed.

Public comment on what has been discussed so far:

Rick Smith, Washoe CAB, ask to look at projects 12-02, 12-03 & 12-32 for remaining funding.

Darin Elmore, NBU Reno, there is still several projects not discussed related to predator management. Ask the committee to look at project 12-37 in particular.

Lent moved to recess the heritage meeting until 8:15 tomorrow.

Meeting on May 12, 2011, called to order at 8:18 am.

Lent, Howell and Shrum were present.

Lent opened the meeting with public comment period:

No public comment

The balance remaining for FY2012 heritage funding is now down to \$40,000.

Howell discussed project 12-29, would like to take another look at this project, he feels there is a need to protect sage-grouse or they will be listed. He would like to allocate the remaining \$40,000 to this project.

Lent asked about project 12-02 which was also funded last year and will it be completed by FY11.

Peri Wolff, NDOW, explained the purpose and benefits of funding project 12-02.

Patrick Cates, NDOW Deputy Director, instructed the Committee that the program funding has shifted and grant funding is exhausted therefore the Department is not budgeted to do this type of work. This project ranked # 2 on the Department's list. With changes in funding we would be very hard pressed to fund this type of work in FY12.

Howell asked Peri if she is getting any feedback or support from the State Veterinarian. Peri answered yes. Her office is located at the Department of Agriculture's office so she works directly with them. But we pay for our wildlife testing that is done.

Project 12-37, Allyson Andreasen from UNR, discussed the purpose and benefits of her project.

Project 12-04, Shawn Espinosa, NDOW Biologist, discussed the benefits of this project and the main purpose of this project is to increase the sage-grouse population on the mountain. The decline is due to fires, power lines and large scale wind development projects in these units.

JJ Goicoechea, Goicoechea Ranch, representing Caleb McAdoo regarding project 12-03. JJ discussed the purpose and benefits of this project. Prime area to put habitat back in to benefit the sage-grouse and mule deer populations. This is a good project and will take any funding they can get.

Mike Stremmer, Jersey Valley Cattle Company LLC, projects 12-24 & 12-25. Mike discussed the past number of lions taken from the previous year's project. He would like to continue the lion project and felt one year not enough time. Lots of coyotes in little Humboldt, should approve that project.

Kelley Stewart, UNR, project 12-33. Kelley gave a report of effectiveness concerning U.S. highway 93 overpass for mule deer. Funding would be used for cameras and batteries for monitoring overpass effectiveness.

Howell motioned to give the remaining \$40,000 to project 12-29, Shrum seconded the motion, Howell and Shrum approved, Lent was opposed, motion passed.

Summary of FY12 Heritage funding

Project #	Amount Funded
12-30	30,000
12-10	3,500
12-11	47,893
12-05	4,000
12-06	8,000
12-40	60,000
12-18	20,000
12-25	18,000
12-27	47,400
12-01	90,000
12-19	2,500
12-20	2,500
12-21	2,500
12-22	2,500
12-35	24,285
12-29	40,000

8. **Future Committee Meeting - Chairman Lent - Action**
The committee will set a date, location, and time for the next committee meeting.

Lent recommend the next heritage meeting 90 days after July 1st to review FY2011 heritage project 90-day completion reports.

Open up to public comment: no comment.

Howell motioned to adjourn the meeting, Shrum seconded the motion, all were in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:33 A.M.

**Support material sent/posted on the NDOW web site.*

Note: In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the website www.ndow.org, and at 4 locations including the principal office of the body (Department of Wildlife offices: 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89512, 380 W. "B" Street, Fallon, NV 89406; 60 Youth Center Road, Elko, NV 89801; 4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108).

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