

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, NV 89512
Conference Room

Committee Members: Commissioners Gerald Lent (chair), Scott Raine and Charles Howell

NDOW Staff Present: Gabe Pincolini, Patrick Cates, Maureen Hullinger, Katie Simper, Kelly Clark, Tony Wasley, Kevin Lansford

Public Present: David Thain, Scott Carone, Joe Bennett, Pat Laughlin, Brett Jefferson, Mark Jensen, Mike Stremmer, Mel Belding, Rick Smith (WCAB), Commissioner Darrel Capurro and Commissioner Pete Mori

Thursday, May 13, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order – by Chairman Gerald Lent**

Meeting started at 10:08 a.m.

2. **Approval of Minutes – Action***

Minutes are from the April 12, 2010 Heritage Committee meeting.

Chairman Lent asked every one if they have had a chance to read the minutes from April 12, 2010, all said yes. Commissioner Howell motion to approve, Raine gave the second motion, all in favor, motion passed.

3. **Member Items**

Committee members may present emerging items. Any item requiring committee action will be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. Chairman Lent asked if there was any public comment on any items not on agenda.

4. **Public Comment Period**

Persons wishing to speak on items not on the agenda should complete a speaker card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes for individuals and six minutes for persons representing groups or organizations. Persons are invited to submit comments in writing on the agenda items and or attend and make comment on the item at the committee meeting. Any item requiring committee action could be scheduled on a future committee agenda.

Gabe Pincolini asked everyone to sign the sign-in sheet located in the back of the conference room. No further public comment.

5. Staff Report – Gabe Pincolini – Action

A current status report on the approved Heritage projects from FY2010. If any FY 2010 applicants have asked for a project continuance into FY2011, the applicants request will be discussed and voted on by the committee members.

Gabe Pincolini went over the 2010 project's progress, completion dates, and requests to be carried forward.

In progress (completion end of FY10):

10-01, 10-02, 10-03, 10-07

10-08 – Commissioner Lent asked on the status of the overpass. NDOW Biologist Tony Wasley confirmed overpass built and that the delay was due to cold weather and completion put off for appropriate weather conditions. Wasley also stated that 24 cameras were in place, documenting 1,300 deer crossings and a lot of data. Biologist Mike Cox confirmed that even with the contractor's delay project should be done in June. Additionally, JBR Environmental is monitoring efforts looking at the behavior and the number of deer. Cameras will be pulled after the month migration is over and the fence buttoned up. Also, four other contractors are starting three
10-10, 10-11, 10-12, 10-13, 10-14, 10-25, 10-28.

Completed Projects:

09-09 Second year of project, this project has been completed.

10-04, 10-05, 10-06, 10-15

10-18, 10-19, 10-20, 10-21 (guzzler maintenance projects)

10-22, 10-29.

Carried Forward:

10-09

10-23 Letter sent to Commissioner Lent requesting extension for next FY.

10-26 1st yr of project requesting carried forward to FY11

10-27 1st year of project requesting extension

10-30 Year 3 of project completion by September because of study season

09-08 Project extended from FY10 project gone over two years.

Chairman Lent requested that Gabe give a final report at the Heritage meeting scheduled after the July 1st deadline. Gabe replied that he could have the final report to the Committee at the end of September, after the 90 allowed time to complete the report.

Howell made the motion and Raine seconded the motion. All in favor, motion approved.

Public Comment on projects carried forward:

David Thain spoke for the UNR project# 09-08. We have been reviewing notes since 1998 on the ongoing concerns of mortality to deer and malnutrition issues. Since our lead-man on the project, Mark, left we are revamping the project and would appreciate another year extension. Commissioner Lent asked how long till you think the project will be finalized. Mr. Thain replied that if they get the answers needed this year we could possibly complete the project June 2011; however since we are chasing a copper deficiency issue this is a unique situation. Gabe Pincolini stated that if this money isn't allocated for the extension it goes back into the fund. Commissioner Lent stated that he would like to see these projects extended so they can be completed.

Mel Belding asked Gabe if it is written in the plan that if the money is not used is it to be returned to the Heritage account. Gabe answered if the money in one fiscal year does not get spent the Committee can reallocate the money to other projects; also, if the money not spent goes into the fund unusual circumstances exists for extensions. Gabe read NAC 501.500 and 501.340.

Chairman Lent closed public comment and suggested they vote on the extensions. Commissioner Howell motion to approve extension requests, Raine gave the second motion, all in favor, motion passed.

6. Commission Regulation CR 10-01/ Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendors- Review Heritage tag vendor proposals submitted for auction during fiscal year 20011 – Chairman Lent - Action

Commissioner Lent opened up to public.

No public comment.

County Advisory Boards Comment:

- Gabe Pincolini reported one from Rex Flowers and read their recommendations. Also noted that Flowers wrote letter on his own behalf. Maureen Hullinger spoke on request from Rex Flower, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation cost of holding auction being an issue. The issue, explained by Maureen, is that a lot of bidders use credit cards therefore merchant fees can be costly have to be absorbed by the Vendors. RMEF has requested that the Commission consider a future policy to allow for holdbacks of a % decided by Commission and Committee. Chairman Lent stated that they should have the Policy*

Committee look at this. Commissioner Raine asked: shouldn't there be a seller's premium on all items at X amount in our policy that should be allowed? Hullinger answered yes, they look at all auction items the same way. Chairman Lent stated that RMEF gets double historically for their tags; we would really like to see them back with at least an elk tag.

- *Rick Smith (Washoe Co.CAB) stated that he had spoke to some vendors that were going to start charging a percentage for credit card purchases. Chairman Lent asked can they do that? Mel Belding replied that it is legal just like stores.*

Vendor Comment:

- *Scott Crone speaking for SCI, Southern Nevada and North Nevada Heritage Tag preference is: Turkey, Mule deer or Elk.*

Director Mayer addressed Chairman Lent and Gabe Pincolini, asking if there are conditions for submitting projects late. Gabe confirmed yes there is. Maureen Hullinger asked for clarification on late requests asking for deer antelope or elk. Chairman Lent asked what does department think about that. Director Mayer replied we like to give out the tags; it is up to the Committee. What do they want to do? Chairman Lent replied we like to stress no late applications but this year OK, up to committee. Mayer stated that it is not fair to the ones that get them in on time. Lent asked the Committee what they want to do. Commissioner Raine suggests they go over the rest of the projects first then decide if we have left over.

- *Wild Turkey – 5 tags – 4 requests*
 - *Brad Jefferes with NBU declined acceptance, would rather give to turkey clubs.*
 - *Raine motion made to give 2 turkey tags to SCI, 1 to Silver Sage NWTF & 2 for LV Struters. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion. No opposed, motion passed.*
- *California BHS – 1 tag, 4 requests from SCI-NN, WSF, WSF-Mid West & NBU.*
 - *Commissioner Howell motioned to give tag to WSF-Mid West Chapter, they recently donated a BHS Trailer to the Department. Raine second, motion passed.*
- *Nelson Bighorn Sheep – 1 tag – 4 requests from SCI-NN, WSF-MWC, WSF & BHU.*
 - *Chairman Lent stated that last year WSF got a tag and was auctioned at \$135,000, way higher than others. Raine addressed Chairman Lent stating we need to spread out remaining tags amongst the other groups. Raine made a motion that WSF receive the tag. Howell second, motion passed.*
- *Mule deer – 2 tags – 4 requests from NWTF-Silver Sage, NBU, SCI-NN, MDF.*

- *Chairman Lent stated we need a motion to except late bids*
 - *Director Mayer suggested vendors present express their opinion.*
 - *Chairman Lent they are not going to like it and late vendors not present to give reason for being late.*
 - *Commissioner Raine suggested that they give the MDF one tag only since they have supported us in the past and motioned to except late application from MDF. Howell second motion, motion passed.*
 - *Commissioner Howell moved to give tags to SCI-NN and MDF. Raine second, motion passed*
- *Antelope – 2 tags – 4 requests from SST, Pershing Co. Chuckars Unlimited, NV Waterfowl Assoc. and MDF*
 - *Chairman Lent went over past auctions and amounts of each club.*
 - *Commissioner Raine motioned to give 1 tag to NWFA and 1 tag to Pershing Co. Chuckar. Motion second by Howell and passed.*
- *Rocky Mountain Elk – 2 tags – 4 requests from MDF, NNSC, SST & NBU.*
 - *Commissioner Howell motioned to give tag to Sierra Club International - NN and NBU-Reno Chapter. Raine second motion, motion passed.*

7. Review Heritage Project Proposals submitted for funding during FY2011 – Chairman Lent – Action*

The Heritage Committee will provide recommendations for project funding to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners at their May meeting.

Public Comment:

- *Cecil Fredi, Hunters Alert amended request*
- *Fred Jefferson, BHU-Reno Chapter, recommended funding 11-01 fully.*
- *Steve Siegel, NDOW, 11-21 through 11-24 what we are asking from Heritage Trust does not reflect actual cost of each project. Supports 11-18 will be able to provide detailed info placement of guzzlers. Also support 11-25.*
- *Kelly Clark, NDOW, supports 11-10 Interpretive Exhibit at Overton WMA which will provide info to public about the value of hunting and fishing. Meets objective by stating the importance of hunting as a management tool. Also supports, 11-11 the video of Wildlife Management it benefits public and wildlife and will be used statewide.*
- *Commissioner Lent, for the record – all proposals meet the criteria. I have read letter from Director Mayor supporting projects 11-20, 11-26 & 11-19.*

- *Mike Scrambler – project 11-17, rancher in area and stated that there is little hunter pressure because of remoteness no roads and is even hard to hunt on horses. I have been told by biologist that lions are killing a lot of sheep in this area.*
- *Mel Belding, 11-01 should be funded fully, 11-02 should be fully funded, 11-04 fully funded, 11-21 through 11-25 fully funded with emphasis put on mule deer projects.*

CAB Comment:

- *Rick Smith, WC-CAB, stated that it is hard to have members attend on Thursday meetings.*
- *Carson City CAB – 11-01,11-04,11-06,11-07,11-10,11-13*
- *Clark CAB – 11-01, 11-06, 11-07, 11-18, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24,11-25,11-26*
- *Elko CAB – 11-02,11-03,11-06,11-20*
- *Washoe CAB – 11-01, 11-02, 11-04, 11-06, 11-07, 11-08, 11-25, and balance of 37,000 put into 11-21 through 11-24*
- *White Pine CAB – 11-01, 11-02, 11-03, 11-04, 11-14, 11-15, 11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24, 11-25*
- *Every CAB and Public comment supports Project 11-01*

Committee Comment:

- *Chairman Lent stated that we can only fund 40% of the requested projects. There are more requests from NDOW than what we have and we can't please everybody. Everyone was asked to prioritize projects. The following lists the committee's comments on the projects, in the order of priority designated by the committee.*

11-01 – 2010-2011 big game capture, transplant & monitoring program.

- *Chairman Lent requested they cut funding for this project to \$100,000.*
- *Commissioner Raine stated he was happy with antelope numbers could cut back on their transplants.*
- *Mike Cox, NDOW, stated that we would have 0 transplants.*
- *Commissioner Howell made motion to support this project for \$100,000.*
- *Chairman Lent wanted to include \$43,000 if they have any money left.*
- *Final motion was to award \$127,446. Raine motion second, motion passed.*

11-16 – Kelly Creek Water and Wildlife Protection Project (KCWWPP)

- *Chairman Lent stated project gave good itemization and is not a high dollar amount.*
- *Commissioner Raine stated he was disappointed in NDOW's support in area where there is water issues and that he felt it was a good project.*
- *Commissioner Howell moved to approve \$9,269, Raine second motion, motion passed.*

11-14 – Scientific data analysis of factors influencing Nevada Mule Deer population over time: Population enhancement study.

- *Chairman Lent read letter regarding project.*
- *Tony Wasley, NDOW, spoke on this project and NDOWS concerns.*
 - *Misleading title. It is not a "Population Enhancement Study". There is nothing in the proposal that suggests enhancement.*
 - *This is NOT the first in-depth study of recent changes in Nevada's mule deer populations. This proposal overstates its value, purpose, and intent while simultaneously failing to recognize the complexity of mule deer management, Nevada's ongoing efforts, and the Department's abilities.*
 - *Of the \$30,000 proposed for this project, one half is budgeted for "statistical analysis". Our relationship with UNR allows us to statistically test hypotheses for free.*
 - *Under the question regarding, "what publicity do you have planned for this project?" it states, "No distribution can occur without written consent of Maxell Global Technologies." Hardly seems appropriate given the source of funding.*
 - *Project appears to make the assumption that harvest is a potentially significant driving influence in mule deer population dynamics. In the absence of significant antlerless harvest and Nevada's conservative buck quotas, this is highly unlikely and arguably impossible.*
 - *Project appears to propose use of harvest level as an indicator of population size, neither accurate nor scientifically defensible.*
 - *Project proposal states that while helpful, "consultation with NDOW...is not required to achieve proposal objectives." Although possibly not achievable, I believe consultation with NDOW would be essential in accomplishment of the objectives.*

- *Chairman Lent stated that he felt that we don't have a handle on deer and this project could offer interesting data and any data on deer is helpful.*
- *Commissioner Raine commented that there was on labor listed.*
- *Director Mayer, we need to know that funding is contingent that data is available.*
- *Commissioner Raine, need to confirm that any information from this study is owned by the State of Nevada including licenses and software.*
- *Commissioner Howell, if approved contract would be written so no caveat would be needed.*
- *Commissioner Howell motioned to approve for \$30,000. Commissioner Raine second, motion passed.*

11-26 – Jackson Mountains Mule Deer Protection (Hunt unit 035)

- *Chairman Lent asked Director Mayer that if WLS can't do work in this location could the project be moved to a different unit.*
- *Director Mayer asked Gabe Pincolini how we could do this.*
- *Pincolini replied we could work off an estimate.*
- *Director Mayer stated that prior to contract we could have an option a and b, etc. and have Committee re-approve.*
- *Commissioner Raine, project goes forward as stated, if cannot be done in unit 035 it would go to another unit that is mutually agreed upon by proponent and the Department. Howell second motion, motioned to approve project for \$106,103.*
- *Chairman Lent motioned to reduce funding by \$20,000 bringing the total funding for this project to \$86,103. Motioned passed.*

11-20 – Sage Grouse nesting survival wildlife management areas 6 and 7

- *Chairman Lent and Commissioner Howell both agreed that this project was a priority.*
- *Director Mayer talked about the 19 factors for the listing of Sage Grouse, and also stated that we need this tool available to us.*
- *Commissioner Raine looking at the original writing of this proposal like to motion to approve this project for \$50,000. Commissioner Howell second the motion, motion passed.*

11-17 – Lion depredation in East Range, Tobins, Stillwaters, Clan Alpines and Fish Creek Mt. Ranges

- *Director Ken Mayer cautioned the Committee, you will be paying a bounty here, no kill no pay. Wildlife Services can go on public and private ground with insurance policies set up to do this.*
- *Deputy Director Patrick Cates stated that they would need to be licensed and be able to post the bond.*

- *Commissioner Howell, he is a licensed sub-guide already would that qualify him?*
- *Mike Stremmer commented that they could put project under Jersey Cattle Company, LLC.*
- *Commissioner Raine commented that if there are no lions there you will not get paid. Also, Raine asked if when harvesting Lions is a GPS used and that this should be mandatory.*
- *Director Mayer asked are you going to be taken the lions under a State tag?*
- *Mike Stremmer answered whatever would be easiest.*
- *Commissioner Raine stated that if project was approved there could be no double dipping.*
- *Mike Stremmer stated that he would give the lion hides to the Department.*
- *Director Mayer stated that this is unorthodox, never been done before and he would prefer using a State contractor (permitted person) such as USFWS.*
- *Gabe Pincolini said Mike should check into the tax purposes.*
- *Director Mayer asked what they would be charging for lions.*
- *Mike Stremmer replied he would get \$18,000, if it takes 1,000 hrs to get 1 lion I get pd. \$1.80 an hr.*
- *Commissioner Howell stated that if approved it still has to go through the state contract,*
- *Commissioner Howell then moved to approve in the amount of \$18,000. Commissioner Raine second, motion passed.*

11-25 – Monte Cristo #1 – Rebuild with Rail Fence

- *Chairman Lent stated this project would cut back on helicopter use, good project but don't agree in funding fully. Raine motion was made to approve for \$20,000. Howell motion to second, motion passed.*

11-21, 11-22, 11-23, 11-24 – Survey and Maintenance of existing Big Game projects with limited access in (11-21 – Meadow Valley, Mormons, Arrows, Muddy and Virgin Ranges) (11-22 – Las Vegas, Sheep, Delamar, Pahrnagats and Hiko Ranges) (11-23 – Last Chance, Devils, Spectre and Bare Ranges) (11-24 – Spotted, Pntwater, Deser and Sheep Ranges)

- *These four projects were looked at all together, Raine made the first motion, Howell the second motion, all in favor and was approved for \$1,000 to each project.*

11-19 – Guideline for effective placement and use of wildlife water developments in wildlife management area 6

- *Pat Laughlin stated that they would be willing to work with NDOW and involve predator committee and Biologist Kevin Lansford to design something they would be more comfortable with.*
- *Director Mayer stated that he was opposed to the way it is written, but willing to work with Mr. Laughlin.*
- *Chairman Lent stated that he did not think they should spend that much money on this project, recommended cutting it back.*
- *Director Mayer requested they look at other locations.*
- *Commissioner Howell motioned to approve for \$65,000, Raine second under condition that a letter from the Director to move project out of area 6 if needed. All in favor, motion passed.*

11-07 – Regional Mountain Lion Tracking Collars

- *Commissioner Raine stated that he like that this project utilizes funding to capture lions and the use of free labor by utilizing volunteers.*
- *Chairman Lent asked Kevin Lansford (NDOW) why do we need to collar for depredation hunting, and what are we doing with this information?*
- *Kevin Lansford stated he had received requests from the field guys could be a valuable tool for them and would be nice to be able to distribute the collars between them. It is hard to express everything we would gain. There are a lot of things about one collared lion that we could apply to the rest of the range. Everything we learn about lions may support good information for lion predation.*
- *Commissioner Raine asked how long the collars are good for.*
- *Lansford answered these will be reusable. A couple readings a day last about a year.*
- *Commissioner Howell we already have a project in sheep range with collared lions.*
- *Kevin Lansford, there is a study underway, also test site and with UNR.*
- *Commissioner Raine asked Kevin where they planned to put the collars.*
- *Kevin Lansford stated that the original intent was to put a couple collars in each region.*
- *Commissioner Raine stated that he thought the data can be beneficial. Raine motioned to approve \$12,500. Howell seconded the motion. Howell and Raine voted for and Chairman Lent opposed. Motion passed.*

11-03 Dease Monitoring for the conservation of terrestrial big game species in Nevada

- *NDOW Wildlife Health Specialist, Peri Wolff, talked to the Committee regarding this project. Peri stated that the BHS issue this year proves we need to be looking at the log range.*

- *Chairman Lent asked Peri, what is the least amount you can function with; this project was a priority but not for the full amount.*
- *Peri Wolff stated that there is a new test out there that has been instrumental, technology has changed and the costs are tripled. I utilize money here to help with costs for disease monitoring on all other species, Sage Grouse is an example.*
- *Commissioner Rained moved to approve for the amount of \$10,000.*
- *Peri Wolff stated that just investigating disease cost \$25,000. There is no money for disease monitoring unless it comes out of my budget.*
- *Commissioner Raine stated that this should be budgeted through NDOW's budget for this position to be able to do the job.*
- *Director Mayer replied that in a perfect world you are right, the reason money is here is to fund trap and transport.*
- *Commissioner Howell moved to approved \$25,000, Chairman Lent second, motion passed.*

Chairman Lent asked Deputy Director Cates if there was any money left. Cates confirmed they were done.

8. *Future Committee Meeting – Chairman Lent – Action*
 - *Next meeting to be set by Chairman Lent*
 - *Motion to adjourn – 2:18 p.m.*