

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
&
Nevada Department of Wildlife
60 Youth Center Road
Elko, Nevada 89801

NOTE: This meeting will be conducted via a telephone conference

Committee Members: Commissioners Tom Cavin (chair), Scott Raine and Pete Mori

Commissioners: Tom Cavin, Scott Raine and Pete Mori

NDOW Employees: Mike Cox, Maureen Hullinger and Gabe Pincolini

Members of the Public: Judi Caron, Mel Belding, John Zenz, Dianna Belding and Tim Humes

Thursday, August 06, 2009 - 2 p.m.

1. **Call to Order – Chairman Tom Cavin**
2:04 PM
2. **Approval of Minutes – Action**
Minutes are from the June 25, 2009 Heritage Committee meeting.
First motion by Raine and second motion by Mori, all in favor, approved.
3. **Member Items**
Committee members may present emerging items. Any item requiring committee action will be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.
Raine asked if letters were sent out to vendors, both successful and unsuccessful. Hullinger said letters were sent out.
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.

None

5. **Discussion on the Potential Biological Conflicts with Heritage PIW and Auction Tags - Chairman Cavin – Possible Action**

The Heritage committee will discuss a petition filed by John Zenz concerning biological conflicts with the Heritage PIW and auction tags. Zenz petition wanted to reduce PIW tags from 3 to 1 for sheep and bring to attention that the Silver State tag and Dream tag would affect the statewide tag distribution on premium tags as well.

Cox stated an over harvest could occur due to PIW and Heritage premium tags. Also, NDOW does adjust the quota size based on kill and ~~heard~~herd size each year, using the last 6 to 7 years to keep a good balance.

Hullinger identified that PIW has 4 sheep tags, 3 Desert and 1 California and the Heritage program has 2 Desert sheep tags.

Caron mentioned a foundation is being set-up now for the Dream tag and Cavin said the program could start possibly in 2011. Cavin also stated the Silver State tag might start in 2011.

Cavin mentioned that the PIW tags were passed for 2009 & 2010 and the Heritage tags were passed for 2009 only.

Raine asked if we have had problems like this in the past and is it a problem now. Cox stated he didn't have enough data with him currently to answer that question.

Humes went through a breakdown of the past 4 years concerning sheep that were taken by location and percent taken of the total quota allowed.

Cavin said PIW tags could be reduced. Mel Belding said he wasn't sure that people knew there are 3 PIW tags available.

Humes suggested giving the Silver State program 2 tags and a longer season while stopping the PIW tags.

Caron suggested moving the PIW tag draw to the front of the draw than having it at the end on the draw.

Hullinger mentioned the Silver State tag ~~would~~could be drawn first and then the main draw second would occur, followed up by the PIW draw.

Caron stated the Dream tag is just like the PIW tag season and weapon, while the Dream tag is for areas-hunts with 50 tags or more.

Mel Belding mentioned that if PIW tags are stopped and more tags are added to the Heritage program with the longer season, then the bigger sheep might be taken before the regular tag draw hunter arrived to hunt.

Humes suggested breaking the sheep map into only three areas. Cox stated maybe a sheep tag distribution could work, but wasn't sure a three area breakdown would work well to keep big and small sheep distributed evenly.

Mel Belding asked if we artificially reduce a prime quota area, what would that do to the hunter who received a tag from the regular draw.

Cox stated 8 to 11 tags were taken away from the regular hunter, due to next year's reduced quota.

Cavin suggested a rotation for all seasonal tags.

Mori asked what if biologists didn't adjust tag quotas due to special tags and let the hHunters regulate themselves.

Mel Belding suggested to not publish the scores and locations of a taken sheep, but instead just say it was a mature sheep.

Raine stated he looks at the sheep result listing and they tend to even things out. Raine also didn't like the idea of closing an area after a certain harvest limit is met. Raine suggested for the total number of premium sheep tags, come up with an amount that is reasonable, since more premium tags will reduce their value.

Cavin clarified that closing a unit only to premium tags holders when the harvest is full.

Cox stated they need to figure out the total number of special tags and seasons they want and then figure it out from there.

Hullinger mentioned each year you can increase or reduce PIW or Heritage tags.

Zenz suggested giving each premium tag a special month they can hunt.

Cavin mentioned taking 2 PIW tags away.

Raine mentioned that Don Sefton stated the PIW draw had to be at the end of the draw, that the problem was the \$10 application fee.

Caron mention that the Silver State tag should ~~come from~~have the Heritage tag quota and season. The Dream tag should ~~come from~~have the PIW season and quota.

Humes suggested putting the Heritage tag season later in the year.

Cox said he would get tag information together for the time period of 2000 to present.

Cavin thought this issue might be handled by getting the season and limits, as well as any background information available. Hullinger stated all this can be handled at the regulatory level and can make the decision ~~by~~at February, 2010 seasons setting commission meeting.

Cavin stated at the upcoming Las Vegas meeting, he will make a report on this issue. Cavin wanted the CWAB's to have all season and tag type information, so they can make a clear decision on how they feel this issue should be handled. Then the CWAB's can send their ideas to the Heritage Committee. Then once the Heritage Committee has the CWAB information, they can make a recommendation to the Wildlife Commission at the February, ~~2009~~2010 meeting.

Maureen was tasked with contacting the County Wildlife Advisory Board and requesting their comments/suggestions on reducing overharvest. This included providing support data to assist the CAB's.

6. **Future Committee Meeting - Chairman Cavin - Action**

The committee will set a date, location, and time for the next committee meeting.

A future meeting date was left open, but a meeting would happen by at least December, 2009