

Approved Minutes - June 27, 2008
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
Nevada Department of Wildlife
1100 Valley Road
Reno, NV 89512

Attachment A – 2008 Quotas

Friday, May 9, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order and Roll Call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Bentley

Approval of Minutes – Action - Commission meeting minutes from March 21 and 22, 2008.

Approval of Agenda – Action

Member Items

County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items

Public Comment Period

- 1 Correspondence – Director Ken E. Mayer - The Commission will review and may discuss written items sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting.

Workshop on Regulations – Informational

- 2 Commission General Regulation 348 – R053-07 – Mooring/Anchoring Vessels – Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann - The Commission may make changes to NAC 488 designating a certain area of Lake Tahoe for mooring vessel; prohibiting a vessel from anchoring or placing a temporary mooring buoy within that area; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- 3 Commission General Regulation 355 – LCB File No. R027-08 - Unit Boundaries – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici - The Commission may revise the boundaries of certain management areas for antelope, deer, mountain lion, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and furbearing mammals; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- 4 Commission General Regulation 356 – R020-08 – Chapter 488 Revisions – Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann - The Commission may make changes to NAC 488, expanding the list of acts that constitute reckless or negligent operation of a vessel; revising the standards for safe loading capacity of a vessel; increasing certain reimbursement amounts paid to the Department of Wildlife; revising the list of waters on which vessels with electric motors are permitted; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- 5 Elk Damage Payment to Double U Livestock – Chief of Game Russ Mason- Informational - The Department initiated payment of \$15,864 to the Double U Ranch. The amount is the sum of a \$4,050 payment for fence construction material, and two payments of \$6,689 and \$5,125, totaling \$15,864 for damage to standing crop.
- 6 Approval of the White Pine County Elk Management Plan – Chief of Game Russ Mason – Action - The Commission is being asked to approve the revised White Pine County Elk Plan that was presented as an informational item at the February 2008 meeting.
- 7 Duck Stamp Contest Sponsor – Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark – Action
The Commission will be asked to select a sponsor for the 2009 – 2010 duck stamp contest in accordance with Commission Policy 50.

- 8 Wildlife Heritage Projects – Chairman Bentley – Action - The Commission’s Heritage Committee will provide recommendations to the Commission for approval of projects submitted for funding in fiscal year 2009.
- 9 Big Game Herd Status, Harvest Analysis and Quota Development – Mike Cox – Informational - The Commission will hear a report on big game population status, harvest information, and quota development. (Please note that the Big Game Status book will be available online at ndow.org).
- 10 Expansion of Mountain Goat Hunter Choices – Commissioner Jeffress – Action - The Commission will hear a report from the last Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) meeting and be asked to take action on a recommendation from the TAAHC Committee to change the number of hunter choice numbers for mountain goat from one to five.
- 11 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Budget Requests – Daralyn Dobson – Action - In accordance with NRS 501.320 the Commission will be asked to approve budget requests for the 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife.
- 12 Reports - Informational
 - A Department Budget and Audit Report – Director Ken E. Mayer
 - B Department Activities Report – Director Ken E. Mayer
 - C Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Nhu Nguyen
 - D 2009 Legislation Update – Management Analyst III Kim Jolly
 - E Clark County Shooting Park – Commissioner Lurie
 - F Quagga Mussel Update – Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins
 - G Izzenhood Acquisition Update – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam
 - H Wildlife Management Area Operations Budget Summary – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam
 - I Overton Wildlife Management Area 2008 Canada Geese Management Plans – Chief of Game Russ Mason
 - J Wilderness Delamar/Warner Mountains – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam

Saturday, May 10, 2007 – 8 a.m.

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, Call to Order and Roll Call of CABMW Representatives - Chairman Bentley

Member Items

Public Comment Period

Regulations – Action

- 13 Commission General Regulation 348 – R053-07 – Mooring/Anchoring Vessels – Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann - The Commission may make changes to NAC 488 designating a certain area of Lake Tahoe for mooring vessel; prohibiting a vessel from anchoring or placing a temporary mooring buoy within that area; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- 14 Commission General Regulation 355 – LCB File No. R027-08 - Unit Boundaries – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici - The Commission may revise the boundaries of certain management areas for antelope, deer, mountain lion, elk bighorn sheep, mountain goat and fur-bearing mammals; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- 15 Commission General Regulation 356 – R020-08 – Chapter 488 Revisions – Staff Game Warden Messmann - The Commission may make changes to NAC 488, expanding the list of acts that constitute reckless or negligent operation of a vessel; revising the standards for safe loading capacity of a vessel; increasing certain reimbursement amounts paid to the Department of

Wildlife; revising the list of waters on which vessels with electric motors are permitted; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

- 16 Commission Regulation 08 – 01 - Big Game Biologist Mike Cox – Action - The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, for the 2008 – 2009 hunting seasons.
- 17 Future Commission Meeting – Director Ken E. Mayer – Action - The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2008, in Reno, and the Commission will review potential agenda items for that meeting and may take action to add Saturday, June 28, 2008, to the schedule. The chairman may adjust committee assignments and may create new committees. The chairman will designate a Commission representative to attend the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' annual meeting in Rapid City, South Dakota, July 10 – 16, 2008.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for two day meeting:

Chairman Clint Bentley	Vice Chairman Jack Robb	Pete Mori
Commissioner Jeffress	Ron Lurie	Scott Raine
Bevan Lister	David McNinch	Dan Swanson

Director Kenneth E. Mayer
Nhu Nguyen, Deputy Attorney General

Suzanne Scourby, Recording Secretary

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel present:

Game Division Chief Russ Mason	Deputy Director Doug Hunt
Big Game Biologist Larry Gilbertson	Administrative Services Officer Daralyn Dobson
Administrative Services Officer Dave Prather	Management Analyst III Kim Jolly
Chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards	FFS Officer Gabe Pincolini
Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici	Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann
Dave Pulliam, Chief of Habitat	Aaron Meier, Conservation Education

Others in Attendance:

William Miller, White Pine CABMW	Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW
Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW	Bud Sonnentag, self
Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW	Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Don Sefton, SCI	Colleen Hemingway, Deputy Attorney General
Ron Pierini, Douglas County Sheriff	Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Dan Heinz, self	Jim Jenne, Lyon CABMW
Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt CABMW	Floyd Rathbun
Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW	Gerald Lent
Michael McCormick, Asst. District Attorney	Pete DiGrazia, Zephyr Cove Properties Association
Thomas C. Wilson, Washoe CABMW	William Miller, White Pine CABMW
Kevin L. Strozzi, Nye CABMW	Bob Cook, Douglas CABMW
John Valley, Carson CABMW	Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW
Robert McMillan, self	Judi Caron, Washoe CABMW
Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW	John Valley, Carson CABMW
Tom Cavin, self	Fred Church, NV Bowhunter's Association
Rick Smith, Washoe CABMW	Joe Mortensen, Lyon CABMW
Gary Lawry, Churchill CABMW	Stephen Marich, White Pine CABMW
Gerald Lent, self	Don Sefton, Systems Consultants Inc.
Michael McCormick, Douglas Co. Asst. DA	Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt CABMW
Shane Boren, White Pine CABMW	

Friday, May 9, 2008 – 8:30 a.m.

Note: A technical problem occurred with the “For the Record” software of this meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. which resulted in no audio being recorded.

Chairman Bentley called the meeting to order, and took roll call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW).

Approval of Minutes - March 21 and 22, 2008, meeting.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH MINUTES AND MOTION SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approval of Agenda –

MOTION TO APPROVE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Member Items – Discuss and formalize

County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Members –

Chairman of the Clark CABMW Tracy Hammond said no one from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) staff was present at their meeting to discuss the Overton Wildlife Management Area 2008 Canada Geese Management Plans, and he reported that his board is not being reimbursed for their travel to statewide Commission meetings by Clark County.

Carson City CABMW – Chairman Gil Yanuck of Carson CABMW presented a letter from the Bi-State Planning Team on lands bill issues affecting sage grouse and its habitat.

Lyon CABMW – Depredation tags and incentive funds concerns.

White Pine CABMW – Sportsmen participation.

Public Comment Period –

- 1 Correspondence – Director Ken E. Mayer
Correspondence included in the Exhibit file: Letters from Chairman Bentley to Mary Jo Rugwell of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Assemblyman Jerry Claborn of the Nevada State Assembly; Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for Mr. Todd Eckhardt; letter to Director Mayer dated May 9, 2008, from Bud Sonnentag; and email correspondence from Jeff Loflin to NDOW staff.

Commissioner Raine had received correspondence from the University of Nevada, Reno, on a wildlife related survey and asked for a presentation at the next meeting on the survey.

Workshop on Regulations – Informational

2 Commission General Regulation (CGR) 348 – Mooring/Anchoring Vessels – Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann

Staff Game Warden Messmann presented the CGR 348 as contained in support material, and answered questions from the Commission as he proceeded.

Several Commissioners were concerned with the language of the regulation being difficult and convoluted.

Deputy District Attorney McCormack, from Douglas County agreed with the Commission that the language in the regulation is convoluted but asked that the Commission pass it and then go to Legislative Counsel Bureau to draft it in understandable language. He said he shares the Commission's concerns and told the Commission if they don't pass the regulation as permanent that they have removed a tool in their toolbox from them.

Douglas County Sheriff Ron Pierini said the intent of the law is clear and good, and would suggest leaving the interpretation up to the attorneys. He urged that the Commission approve this regulation as they approved the temporary regulation previously, as summer is already here and the regulation worked very well last year.

Commissioner Lister said philosophically that it is unfortunate that lawyers write laws.

Commissioner Lurie said he will support the regulation with recommendation that it be rewritten so that it is understandable.

DAG Nguyen said she sees no benefit to redrafting the regulation as the language is already there and that is what you reference.

3 Commission General Regulation (CGR) 355 Unit Boundaries – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said this regulation addresses a unit boundary change between management units as denoted in the regulation contained in support material. He said White Pine CABMW is supportive of the change.

4 Commission General Regulation (CGR) 356 – Chapter 488 Revisions – Staff Game Warden Fred Messmann

Mr. Messmann said this regulation was submitted in support material along with a digest of revised proposed regulation changes, some of which include cleanup on Coast Guard language and putting it in the correct chapter; a change to make it illegal to sit on the seat back, and he reviewed the other changes in the regulation.

Commissioner Robb said it is safer to sit up there on the seat back than run someone over, and the consensus of the Commission was for Mr. Messmann to take out (f) of Section 2.

Commissioner Lister and several other Commissioners were bothered by the language that while operating a personal watercraft (PWC) that both feet have to be on deck during operation, they are against that, as it would prevent some children from riding with their parents.

Mr. Messmann told the Commission that they have had children in the U.S. where they get on the PWC and driving with an adult holding them and then getting seriously injured. He said he would provide the Commission information later today to read so that they can understand the purpose.

Commissioner Raine asked that the definition be changed for flat wake if an adult wants to take a young child out.

Mr. Messmann said on the PWC change it is because the PWC's have horsepower and the ability to tow tubes with five to six people on them and the intent of this part of the regulation is to prevent reckless operation.

Commissioner Lister said staff should delete from Section 2 #5 C off the list, because Schroeder Reservoir does not exist anymore.

- 5 Elk Damage Payment to Double U Livestock – Game Division Chief Russ Mason said the payment fell below \$10,000 and it is not necessary for the Commission to approve the claim.

Commissioner Lurie requested a spreadsheet from NDOW staff showing payments on crops and fencing for elk damage.

- 6 Approval of the White Pine County Elk Management Plan – Chief of Game Russ Mason – Action
Game Division Chief Russ Mason asked for formal approval of the plan which was previously discussed by the Commission at its February meeting.

Chairman Bentley asked for public comment, and hearing none, brought the discussion back to the Commission for comment.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED WHITE PINE COUNTY ELK PLAN AS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION IN FEBRUARY. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 7 Duck Stamp Contest Sponsor – Chief of Conservation Education – Kelly Clark
Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark presented the proposal from Nevada Waterfowl Association requesting sponsorship of the contest for the years 2009 – 2010 and 2010 - 2011.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED TO SELECT NEVADA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION AS THE SPONSOR. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Tom Wilson said as president of the Nevada Waterfowl Association that his organization is concerned with the future of the duck stamp contest, and hunters and sportsmen express interest as collectors, and this is a good money maker for his organization.

VOTE ON MOTION: UNANIMOUS.

8 Wildlife Heritage Projects – Chairman Bentley – Action

Chairman Bentley said the committee met yesterday and there were 28 Heritage proposals requesting \$900,000; however, available funds totaled \$650,000 or so and of the 28 projects the committee only had two projects with no recommendation for funding due to the projects not meeting the criterion. One project was for Animal Ark and the other was for a electrofishing boat in the Southern Region. Of the remaining proposals, there were eight projects that the committee is recommending at a reduced rate, 09 – 05, 09 – 7, 09 - 28, 09 - 09, 09 – 19, 09 – 20, 09 - 24, 09 – 06, and 09 - 17, and the committee recommended \$10,000 and the balance will be paid by Fraternity. Chairman Bentley said for proposal 09 – 07 on Mojave National Preserve they requested \$40,000 and committee is recommending \$30,000, 09 – 28 funds to promote Departmental participation at conventions, request for \$10,000 recommended amount is \$7,000 and for clarification that money is to facilitate Rocky Mountain Elk banquet and Southwest Expo that has Mule Deer Convention and FNAWS at same time; 09 – 09 factors regulating wood duck they requested \$37,000 and committee recommendation is \$20,000; the Hoover Dam bypass monitoring request was for \$68,000 and the recommendation is for \$35,000; 09 – 06 characterizing mountain lion distribution in relation to ungulates from the University of Nevada, Reno requested \$60,000 and the Committee recommendation is \$40,000; 09 - 17 wildlife habitat restoration request is for \$54,000. He said the remaining projects are recommended for full payment 09 – 18; 09 – 22, rebuild of helicopter for \$80,000; 09 – 11, Shantytown rehab project for \$8,000; 09 – 01 maintenance of existing guzzler projects for \$5,350; 09 – 02 maintenance of existing projects; 09 – 03 maintenance for \$5,000; 09 – 04; 09 – 13 Ely fuels improvement habitat project; 09 -14; 09 – 15; 09 – 20; 09 -21; 09 – 16; 09 – 08; 09 – 27; 09 – 23; and 09 – 12. Chairman Bentley said the recommendations would spend the total amount available.

Mr. Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW, said there was a project last year for Overton Wildlife Management Area that did not get taken care of and would ask that it be included next year.

Director Mayer said there is a letter pending for him to sign to get a project done on Overton, and the fire guys down there have not acted. Director Mayer said staff will have to follow-up on the answer to that one.

Commissioner Swanson said it was approved last year, but it did not get done.

Chairman Bentley said he would like a letter sent to each person that no administrative costs are charged to these projects.

Commissioner Jeffress said the letter should also include that any equipment purchased with Heritage Funds be returned to the Department.

Public Comment -

Mr. Floyd Rathbun asked if the landowner had been contacted that this study would be done on his land.

Mr. Giovanni Giaordano, Humboldt CABMW, said the landowner had been contacted and is having lots of problems with mule deer on cultivated lands.

Commissioner Raine asked about one project relative to sheep transplants and that it was not specifically addressed.

Commissioner Jeffress said project 09 -16 handles transplanting and the two projects go in synch together.

Wildlife Health Specialist Mark Atkinson said his project is 09 -16 and historically samples have been submitted but not in a way that you could access the historical information. The database is being created to build pictures of health status of different populations.

Commissioner McNinch said many entities have stepped up to contribute and fund projects.

Director Mayer said relative to sage grouse, all funds are being leveraged to obtain maximum results.

Commissioner Robb said eight projects funded short and the Heritage Committee made sure that the projects did not die because there were folks in the audience who spoke up to make up the differences. Commissioner Robb said the rough numbers that he put together is about \$2.5 million with leveraged dollars.

Commissioner Raine asked why the helicopter repairs are coming out of the Heritage fund.

Chairman Bentley said he asked the same question as did others, and this is not the first time Heritage Funds have been used for Air Operations because three years ago \$80,000 was used, and the question has been asked numerous times. There are no funds available anywhere else, and we have the same situation today and NBU is stepping up and providing another \$80,000.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED TO APPROVE THE LIST THAT CHAIRMAN BENTLEY PROVIDED AS THE RECOMMENDATIONS. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Raine said he is not opposed to most of the projects, but in the future he would like to see more game specific Game Division projects and he had anticipated seeing a list of less big ticket items and the list was disappointing, but in general he is not opposed.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Lister requested that once a year that an annual report be submitted to the whole Commission on Heritage Projects.

9 Big Game Herd Status, Harvest Analysis and Quota Development – Mike Cox – Informational

Big Game Staff Biologist Mike Cox said he would show a series of slides, with one being the species population, the other the harvest, and provided detail as he proceeded. The Big Game book is in the exhibit file for viewing of slides.

- 10 Expansion of Mountain Goat Hunter Choices – Commissioner Jeffress – Action
Commissioner Jeffress said the TAAHC Committee recommendation is to apply for all areas that are open just like other species, and apply for any unit up to five choices. He said the change will require an amendment to the Nevada Administrative Code and the programming costs should be zero.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO CHANGE HUNTER CHOICE NUMBERS FROM ONE TO FIVE. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 11 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Budget Requests – Administrative Services Officer II Daralyn Dobson

Administrative Services Officer II Daralyn Dobson said the counties are requesting \$21,245, and she reviewed each county's individual budget. Clark CABMW is having a problem reimbursing members, and Kim Jolly and Daralyn Dobson are going to be contacting Clark County officials.

Commissioner McNinch said the first step should be getting the counties to attend before pulling the money back, and if a letter is sent, is to get a letter to the various county commissions.

Commissioner Robb agreed with Commissioner McNinch.

Chairman of Carson CABMW Gil Yanuck said next year they are going to budget for printing costs and need local counties to realize that they have to be relieved of the out of pocket expenses to drive to the local CABMW meetings. He heard comments that some CABMW members drive 60 miles each way to a meeting, and they can't be helped for attending local meetings, just the statewide meetings.

Chairman Bill Miller White Pine CABMW said they have an ending balance that is not accurate because they have costs that are not taken out yet.

Chairman Bentley said it is clear that the counties are behind and have two meetings ahead still, and we don't want to be here in six months augmenting their budgets or try and guess now.

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR \$21,245.30. COMMISSIONER ROBB SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER LISTER MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO INCLUDE LETTER DRAFTED BY STAFF TO EACH COUNTY COMMISSION OUTLINING THE PROBLEMS AND ASKING FOR TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT TO CABMW MEMBERS. COMMISSIONER ROBB SECONDED THE AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION.

Commissioner Raine said he is concerned about sending a letter to the counties that don't have problems and suggested just sending it to the counties with the problems.

Chairman Glenn Bunch of Mineral CABMW said he agreed with Commissioner Raine because overall he is reimbursed in a timely manner.

Mr. Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said each board should invite the commission to one of their meetings.

Mr. Bill Miller, White Pine CABMW, said he has a county that works and likes the suggestion of targeting the specific counties and inviting commissioners to attend the meetings.

Commissioner Lurie said the ones not complying should get the letter.

Commissioner Raine said the motion maker should specify in the motion not globally.

Commissioner Swanson said initial motion could reflect that.

Commissioner McNinch said understanding the need to get the message out, and the manual being done will be a better opportunity to send a letter and generally the system is working with the exception of Clark County, and that can get dealt with in a timely fashion. He called for the question on the amendment.

Commissioner Lister withdrew his amendment, and the second withdrew.

Chairman Bentley clarified that we are back to the original motion.

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION WAS UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call of CABMWs - Chairman Bentley said he would ask for a call from the counties who were not here earlier: Chairman Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Chairman Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW; and Chairman Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW.

12 Reports – Informational

- A Department Budget and Audit Report - Secretary Mayer introduced the Department's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Dave Prather. CFO Dave Prather said the Department's financial picture is improving with cash flow coming in, and he reviewed the spreadsheets that were provided, and said that \$1.5 million is projected for the Reserve Account.

Commissioner Lurie said he participated in the Department's Fiscal Analysis Team (FAT) and they addressed issues on their agenda, and everything seems to be on track and moving in a positive trend.

- B Department Activities – Director Ken Mayer said the regional offices are meeting monthly and the teams are struggling to get away from daily reports and are moving towards discussions and problem solving.

Deputy Director Hunt said that Leadership Team members are attending the regional meetings either in person or by telephone.

- C Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Nhu Nguyen said nothing further to add to the report submitted in support material.

- D 2009 Legislation Update – Management Analyst III Kim Jolly said she had prepared the Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) and they have been submitted. This year the Department was told that there is no double dipping and as for funding bear work the Department is hoping that the legislators who are keen to get it through on their own get a BDR done.

Director Mayer said he is asking the Nevada Mining Association to get legislation through on mining claim stakes.

Mr. Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW, said the Silver State Tag BDR had two problems – the connection to the Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) will not be allowed because only one PIW draw is allowed, and Assemblyman Goicoechea is going to bring the legislation forth and will call it the Silver State Tag, and the last he heard was that with two bills going forth and Assemblyman Goicoechea will get a co-sponsor such as Assemblywoman Debbie Smith to draft language and give the Department the authority to give out a tag. The other change is set the fee and what it would cost to apply for the Silver State tag, and fees will be set in regulation by the Commission instead of the State Legislature.

- E Clark County Shooting Park - Commissioner Lurie said a \$40 million bid has been awarded to build the infrastructure, and Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority has contributed. A brochure has been developed for naming sites within the park, and letter to be signed and sent by Clint Bentley to the Clark County Commission supporting the construction of the park. He said nearby homeowner's have hired a lobbyist to stop the park and despite that they are proceeding. Commissioner Lurie said he would suggest for the November Commission meeting in Las Vegas to possibly tour the park and in 2009 should be the grand opening.

- F Quagga Mussel Update – Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins said that he is here at the Commission's request to provide an update and he asked where the Commission interest lies.

Commissioner Lurie said he asked because of an article in the paper and he is interested in how they are affecting the hatchery and Lake Mead.

Chief Haskins said scientific researchers are very interested in the quagga mussels, and the impact on the resource. Their reproduction cycle is longer than anywhere else, and he said Director Mayer had sent a letter to Southern Nevada Water Authority to try to tap into their water for the Lake Mead Hatchery because their intake valve on Lake Mead is deeper and they could raise fish right now. He said if this happens and if we get the negotiated rate as we had with Basic Water Company that would be encouraging news, and hopefully by the June meeting he will have more definitive word. In the west many states are hiring staff to inspect every boat that goes in the water and everyone is trying to keep quaggas out by mandatory inspections or denying boating access to boaters from states such as Nevada with quagga mussels. He said it is a struggle with protecting the water resources but allowing recreational boating. This issue is bigger than the state fish and game resources available and we have challenged directors to take this issue to their governor's because it affects every water user and the fish and game agencies cannot bear the financial burden along on this issue.

- G Izzenhood Acquisition Update – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam presented a power point presentation/map on the Izzenhood acquisition (contained in exhibit file) which closed escrow two to three weeks ago, and showed the property on a map which has Area 6

winter range and is also surrounded by BLM land. He said the primary goal will be to improve and restore habitat for mule deer which benefits all sage related species and the Department is at the very beginning stages of planning and staff are also looking at buying the Snowstorm's and Dave's Island properties.

H Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Operations Budget Summary – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam said this item is at the request of the Commission to take a look at operation and maintenance. Elmer Bull supervises the Wildlife Management Areas and briefly reviewed the budget accounts as provided to the Commission (copy in exhibit file) and noted that the budgets are supplemented by duck stamp funds on each area. Upland game stamps have provided limited resources but have done water development projects to benefit upland game populations. He said other funding is directed to the WMAs through grants and also have received FEMA funding on the Overton WMA due to flooding.

I Overton Wildlife Management Area 2008 Canada Geese Management Plans – Chief of Game Russ Mason
Chief of Game Russ Mason said the transplant of several hundred geese will occur in the middle of June with class three goslings. He said they want to study how many geese are taken at Overton and will accomplish that analysis with banding and the help of Chris Nikolai.

Commissioner Lurie asked that Mr. Mason coordinate with Chairman Tracy Hammond of the Clark CABMW so that volunteers can participate.

J Wilderness Delamar/Warner Mountains – Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam introduced Steve Smith of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss wilderness in Ely, White Pine County.

Commissioner Lister asked Mr. Smith what recourse the public has for a NEPA violation and what is the timeline period for the appeal. He said the Big Rocks, Mount Irish, South Pahro Wilderness Management Plan was signed, sealed and delivered in a vacuum. He submitted to him that submitting notice only to the Federal Register is not sufficient.

Mr. Smith said after the final draft of the plan the public has 30 days to file an appeal, and a concurrent 30 days to apply for a stay. Mr. Smith said he presumed the public participated and will check into that as he does not have that information with him

Chairman Bentley said the public comments contained in the handout concern him because of BLM's track record and reacting to the public's comments.

Commissioner Robb said he is concerned about the lack of inclusion of wildlife and maintenance of guzzlers.

Commissioner Raine said he is concerned about access for sportsmen because guzzlers were put in there by sportsmen and with no access it will be hard to manage wildlife. He asked that the next agenda in June have wilderness on it.

Commissioner Lister asked if the Commission should have a role outside of the Department.

Mr. Pulliam said the message is that NDOW needs to be formally invited as a cooperator on any land use plan developed by BLM. Mr. Pulliam said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) includes many of those items and of course the interpretation of the MOU can be interpreted differently. Mr. Pulliam said he will provide a copy of the MOU to the Commission and for the next agenda we will have the BLM NDOW MOU on it for discussion.

Saturday, May 10, 2008 – 8 a.m.

Chairman Bentley called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. and the roll call of CAMBWs present at this time: Carson, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Mineral, and White Pine.

Member Items – Commissioner Lister said he would like a spending report on each NDOW Division.

Commissioner Swanson asked about the Oxbow Nature Study Area wildfire.

Deputy Director Hunt said the park burned with the exception of the interpretive center.

Commissioner Jeffress asked for an overview report on BLM/Forest Service on fire suppression efforts and where they are at as far as funding and a wilderness report.

Director Mayer said he will have staff call on Monday to check that out.

Public Comment -

Mr. Robert McMillan of Virginia City read a letter into the record and provided a copy to each Commissioner and the letter is in the exhibit file, requesting assistance from the Commission and NDOW for a severely disabled hunt to be administered by a nonprofit. He said that he and his wife sent out a flyer to landowners to see if anyone would donate a tag for a disabled man in Washoe County, and were unsuccessful. The goal is to establish a nonprofit that would supply tags to severely disabled hunters such as paraplegics.

Mr. Bob Cook, Douglas CABMW, read a letter into record saying that the Douglas CABMW rejects the efforts of the Governor to remove Commissioners Jim Jeffress, Jack Robb, and Clint Bentley from the Board. They object to the governor removing the knowledge and experience from the board. He said they had a visitor at their meeting named Nate Taylor and presented the board with a restoration plan for the Walker River and he had about a dozen concerns and was concerned that the Douglas, Lyon, and Mono Counties Advisory Boards were not contacted.

Deputy Director Hunt said the Department has been working on this since 2000 and we awarded General Vonderheide of the Nevada National Guard a habitat restoration award for shutting off the valve on the tanker, and we continue to be involved and hope to get more work done on the Walker River. Most of the mitigation money went to California, and the river has been restored to a large degree and is again considered a trophy fishery.

Commissioner Jeffress suggested that the Department conduct outreach to Douglas and Lyon County so they are aware of what is going on.

Regulations – Action

- 13 Commission General Regulation 348 – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said the regulation allows local agencies to keep crowd control on hand at Zephyr Cove and was discussed in yesterday’s workshop.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 348. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 14 Commission General Regulation 355 – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said the regulation was presented and discussed yesterday as well .

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 355. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 15 Commission General Regulation 356- Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said changes made per yesterday’s discussion to the draft regulation, and he showed the Commission a NDOW boating publication that the Department supplies to the public so that they are understandable. Language removed: Relating to sitting on seat backs; added the speed greater than a flat wake for reckless operation; and deleted Schroeder and Spooner Reservoir.

Commissioner Jeffress referenced the letter that Mr. Messmann provided from the Family Coalition and item 6 under B operating a personal watercraft at a speed greater than a flat wake, and keep both feet on the deck, and was brought up that there are youngsters who cannot make the deck, and felt that is a parental decision and trying to regulate for stupidity. He said he sees that as very complicated and brings it up as matter of discussion for today.

Commissioner Swanson asked if there is a catchall for reckless operation that would be better.

Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici said the main area for enforcement of this ordinance would be on the Colorado River where kids fall off and are waiting in the water to be picked up.

Chairman Bentley said he would rather see us address that area specifically because we are making a regulation statewide when it is only one area.

Chief Buonamici said we do have child endangerment laws that the reckless operators could be cited under and could be officer’s discretion.

COMMISSIONER LISTER MOVED TO ADOPT AS AMENDED WITH EXCEPTION OF REMOVAL OF NUMBER 6 OF SECTION 2 ON PAGE 2 WHICH IS TO BE REMOVED. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 16 Commission Regulation 08 – 01 – Big Game Biologist Mike Cox – Action
The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, for the 2008 – 2009 hunting season.

Mr. Mason said the Department received recommendations from every county except Douglas and Esmeralda on quotas.

Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2151

Chairman Bentley said no recommendations on this hunt from the counties.

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2151 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Longbow Archery Hunt 2161

Chairman Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW, said they spoke to NDOW biologist Mike Podborny and he was in agreement with a recommendation for Units 065, 142 – 144, to change from six to nine because of no hunter success in 2007 – 2008.

Commissioner Lister noted that in Units 221 – 223, 241, that tags went from 18 last year to 13 this year, and they wanted to know if that was due to demand/success.

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO APPROVE WITH EXCEPTION OF UNIT 065, 142 – 144, FROM SIX TO NINE TAGS AND UNITS 221- 223, 241 FROM 13 TO 18. COMMISSIONER SECONDED MOTION, AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2181 Antelope – Horns shorter than ears – any Legal Weapon Hunt 2181

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2181 AS DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2251

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2251. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Longbow Archery Hunt 2261

Big Game Biologist Mike Cox said there was a suggestion post Taulman lawsuit to look at the bottom line number regardless if unit open or not to nonresidents, and he was asked this year to make sure at least 10 percent for nonresident hunt units. Except for deer, some hunts lack companion units and next year we need to look at seasons, and it is harder for some species such as bighorn sheep.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2261. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Robb asked if we are okay on the nonresident hunt.

Discussion ensued and Chairman Bentley said he was consulted and that was the direction provided.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4102 Depredation

Commissioner Lister asked staff, if the intent is still there to zero out the Area 10 population.

Big Game Staff Biologists Larry Gilbertson and Mike Cox said there has been a gentleman's agreement to keep that area elk restricted.

Big Game Biologist Larry Gilbertson estimated the population to be between 40 to 70 elk.

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said they concurred.

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk – Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151

Game Division Chief Russ Mason read the CABMW recommendations as per the handout.

Chairman Bill Miller, White Pine CABMW, said he provided the Commission with a spreadsheet on work that he has done and he is not here to deny the information the biologists gather each year and the sample size, but have been told that elk populations have been decreasing. He said he personally felt it was not adequate to just take percentages off and come here and take numbers off, so he got software to use a mathematical structure to come up with their county's recommendation. See exhibit file for copy of two page handout. He said this is all a dynamic deal with weapon groups, and took out incentive tags and nonresident and factored all that in and goes clear into the cow harvest. He is representing sportsmen who have provided input and they are not seeing the animals while out in the field and is trying to compensate for overestimating the population. He said they are also not seeing any problem with elk from agricultural industries and they want the herd managed as a trophy resource although they have a vested interest due to landowner tags, and guides are pushing to find the bulls. Overall population number is where they feel there is a discrepancy.

Commissioner Jeffress said the difference between White Pine and the Department is sightability, and that is what sportsmen are seeing on the ground versus what the Department is seeing from the air.

Mr. Miller said that assessment is correct, and he is representing many sportsmen who have called and said they are just not seeing the animals, and that the population was overestimated.

Chairman Bentley said the projection was run on a harvest of 190 bulls.

Commissioner Jeffress said there is a 1,200 disparity between the Department and the board.

Commissioner Robb said he spent time with White Pine CABMW and sportsmen, and also flew in the NDOW helicopter when it was running. Sportsmen have kept logs and they took him to areas where they had documented what they saw previously and what they are seeing today. He said he has struggled with this and listening to NDOW and sportsmen, and one thing that concerns him is the shift in how people look at elk hunting. He said Nevada had a heyday, and now hears age class and age structure and sent a spreadsheet to Mike Cox. Change in expectation of hunters, and they want big bulls when they have a large amount of bonus points. Because he spent the time in the field he does not doubt the sportsmen nor NDOW, and does not know how to keep it a trophy hunt with the advance of the hunter and technology. Commissioner Robb said several Commissioners have done as he had and he is more confused now than when he started.

Game Division Russ Mason asked Mr. Gilbertson and Mr. Cox to explain what the Department knows about the elk population and structure of the elk herds in White Pine. Mr. Larry Gilbertson said basically they used to use the software that Mr. Miller used and it was a neat program, and believes not enough credit is given to Mr. Cox for developing the software we use now and he has modified it enough for mortalities to be put in and road kills, and it really is an amazing modeling process and deserves to be complimented. Mr. Gilbertson said the Ely elk model is the most contentious and that is due to the elk plans that the Department has committed to, and everyone looks at the model repeatedly because of that. The data that the department has collected such as tooth data validates the model that Mr. Cox uses and sightability is not always accurate.

Mr. Cox said he will show the Commission the common bond and just we are going about it in different ways, and will show the Commission how the Department uses the information that they collect and how they plug in the age data and the ability to understand what is going on.

Commissioner Robb said it is opportunity versus quality, and looks like public is going for quality.

Mr. Cox explained the Department's survey method such as sightability, and takes a lot of different efforts, and he has built a model that caters to Nevada and its landscape and timing of information as best as we can use it and find weaknesses and strengths. We are not hiding anything, and showed a spreadsheet recreating the population based on information we have available, and each year, when certain information is revealed through samples, surveys, harvest by point class, and that allows us to go back and see how good we were, and we are always recalibrating and are following the life of that animal through time. When the biologists flies we plug in the number of bulls, cows, and calves, physically classified during those surveys and that gives us an observed calf ratio. The model goes back to 1975, and the calf has to live every year to be available for harvest, and there are plenty of observability models and biologists are not concerned with ability of populations to grow from x number of animals. He thinks it strengths our ability to understand the herd through time, and showed the Commission,

two columns, that show bull ratio and what the model shows what we should have in reconstructing the herd. The observable ratio is a weakness. The next is harvest and that is where you begin to see number of animals harvested into an age class which is not so critical for cows as bulls. The critical point is the bulls because that is where people are focused but cannot forget commitments to livestock industry and others. He said the Department started collecting elk teeth in 2002 which showed age data and how they proportionalized the raw numbers, and took the 181 bulls and assign them to actual results show additional losses to the herd which show in the population snapshots. Game Biologist Curt Baughman shows as best he can all herd mortalities in his data, and is very consistent, since survival in spring/summer and late fall/winter, broken down by age, survival rates based on such factors as climate, and calf crop shows how the population fared during the winter, and include pregnancy rate for cows, and model will show dropped calves on the ground even though we don't see them. The data used is the best and the biologist has the opportunity to make a slight adjustment, and that is what drives the model along with survival rates, and the model shows what happens to the herd. The model allows the biologists to test it and Mr. Baughman spends a lot of time using his data to evaluate what is happening. The weakest piece of data was bull data and when we fly in January because it is the best ground conditions and the optimal time to fly would be when the critters are together, and would like to ask the hunters to allow the Department to flyover in September and then we would appreciate what is out there. The calf ratio is the key and recruitment and when we fly the herd is segregated because the bulls are recuperating from the rut. Never had a real test, but does not want to overplay the teeth and he would not mind not having to deal with the teeth, but it is a check and balance because it provides the age, and was showing the average age as three, and the first couple of years showed the age as five, and made sizeable adjustments to the harvest page, and ran out of bulls. He said it created many late nights for the biologists. He showed a slide with bull elk teeth data and said there is dwindling response to sportsmen sending teeth in, with only 47 percent sportsmen having sent them in this past year. Mr. Cox said the Department instituted changes on the return card, and did ask for measurements on animals, and received a 95 percent response rate statewide, but had good chunk of data on beam length even without tooth information and were able to generate a proportional age by main beam grouping, and he showed another slide with that data. He said they looked at the bias and calculated that is was a wash and they feel strong that the age was not over or under estimated and that is critical to make a model screen. The age data is invaluable. Mr. Cox said before we got the tooth data, they realized that we had to have more elk because we were killing older elk and staff went back and recalibrated the data and thought we had more elk and made those adjustments. Mr. Cox showed a slide from 1975 to present and he modeled it down to observed bull ratio and the model, close to what Mr. Baughman gets from a survey for a bull ratio, and said that based on harvest and effort in model, NDOW feels that this is an accurate bull ratio – 70 bulls per 100 postseason. He compared the elk herd to sheep in age structure and there is a similarity. Mr. Cox credited Mr. Miller and the White Pine CABMW with the suggestion of having the Department collect tooth data which is stainless steel data, not garbage. Mr. Cox said we have a difference of opinion of what the output of the data is, and how we are forcing ourselves to be the best we can be, and always have the department staff standing up for the silent majority, and have the CABMW members who have traveled from Ely to promote their area as a quality hunting area.

Commissioner Lister asked Mr. Cox if he could make a recommendation on a spreadsheet that would maintain a population and bull ratio and keep it stretched over a larger period.

Mr. Cox said just by cutting tags we will not keep that mature bull segment maintained at a certain level. His idea would be that you may have to look at the group extensively focused on that and manage that subset. He said this is where the social side comes in and we have created a monster and with a limited population objective in the state that we are held to, and a huge number of Nevadans with a desire to harvest.

Mr. Gilbertson said there is Boone and Crockett and not every elk is going to mature into a Michael Jordan bull just like the human population.

Mr. Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW, said in Units 161 – 164 they want the tags to go from three to eight for the early, and 35 tags in Area 16 late and also recommended four tags instead of two for the muzzleloader hunt season. He said they want the increase to provide opportunity for sportsmen and the number of applications for the hunt, and realize success rate is 100 percent, but took seven tags off the late hunt. They asked their biologist and the biologist told them there would be no adverse reaction.

Mr. Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said there were six tags on the early bull season and went to eight and no problem biologically. Their biologist recommended 42 and they cut it to 37 and are concerned with hunter congestion.

Chairman Gary Lawry, Churchill CABMW, said they mirrored Nye CABMW and the high demand, but want it to be the same as last year.

Mr. Joe Mortenson, Lyon CABMW, agreed with Nye CABMW that the opportunity needs to be maintained.

Mr. Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW, said they agreed with the three because of possible Partnership in Wildlife hunters that could kill bulls in that area.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED ON HUNT 4151 TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION EXCEPT UNITS 111 – 115, 221, 222, EARLY 150; AND 125 TAGS FOR THE LATE; 161 – 164 (TABLE MOUNTAIN) EIGHT AND LATE TO 35. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Game Division Chief Russ Mason commented that we are not within the parameters of the elk plans in White Pine County.

Chairman Bentley said it is prudent to note that we are out of the statewide plans in all areas.

Mr. Gilbertson added that NDOW met with White Pine and met in the middle, and by the Legislature in their resolution and the reason for the plans and subplans with Attorney General concerns, and we feel that we have tried to meet White Pine in the middle, and if we try to comply with ratio of 50 – 40 that ratio would have been over 900 tags and usually end up with. He said the Department is compromising and that we have low balled the numbers.

Commissioner Jeffress said as a sportsmen representative that there is a decrease in tags this year from the Department and the White Pine recommendation is a 47 percent drop in the recommendation. He said the conservativeness is built in already with sightability and cannot support that, and would urge them to stay on top of the age classification structure.

Commissioner Raine asked considering the estimates of bull cow ratio and the high ratio we have and reduction of tags creates further competition between the bulls, and he asked Bill Miller if after listening to the department if he changed his mind.

Mr. Cox said Utah has looked at effect on cow survival and the theory is that the more rut behavior could reduce synchronization of birth, and Utah has excessive bull ratios and seen slight reduction in calf recruitment, and have seen antler breakage from too many bulls rutting and impact of slowing calf recruitment down would not be bad.

Mr. Miller said in regard to the elk plans, that he can't swallow the 70 bulls per 100 cows, and he is a sportsmen representative and that is why he put together what he did rather than come before the Commission with a reduction. The decline in bulls has been cited by hundreds of people, and personally would say that we are under the radar as far as the plan, and won't be obvious enough to get in trouble. He believes the biggest loss to the herd is wounding mortalities to the herd. He said he is comfortable with Commissioner Robb's motion. Mr. Miller said they are on the front line and the Department is in the Pentagon, and hopes in the future to share more information.

Chairman Bentley said he appreciates the work on both sides and the final decision to resolve the disparity.

Commissioner Mori said the Commission needs to stay within the elk plans and a good barometer is to go to the landowners who are going to recognize how many are there and the impacts. He said Mr. Miller mentioned no complaints, and asked NDOW what they have heard.

Mr. Mason said it is a complicated picture because as Southern Nevada Water Authority has bought up ranches, it has driven up prices of tags for some landowners, and there are many issues involved.

Mr. Gilbertson said on Steptoe Valley WMA that used to be fenced, and the Southern Nevada Water Authority is buying up lots of ranches, and that is what has changed the amount of depredation/damage claims. He said he was at a meeting with ranchers where a man from Lund called him a liar as well as the Department and was told that the numbers are wrong the other way, such as the Department is underestimating population numbers.

Commissioner McNinch said he agreed more in line with Commissioner Jeffress comments and noted that the Department is conservative, and with all due respect to White Pine CABMW and the time they put into this, and due to the time the issue has been discussed today, he called for a vote on the motion:

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: ROBB AND LURIE. OPPOSED: BENTLEY, JEFFRESS, LISTER, MCNINCH, MORI, RAINE, AND SWANSON, MOTION FAILED 2 – 7.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE EARLY TO GO WITH 161 – 164 FROM THREE TO SEVEN AND 161 - 164 LATE TO 38. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Raine said on 161 – 164 early that he is worried about hitting the rut hunt too hard and that is significant and would like it to be a little bit less. He said he is worried about going over the Department recommendation.

Commissioner McNinch agreed to amend his motion to change the number to five and 40. Commissioner Swanson accepted the amendment to the motion.

Mr. Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said at their meeting that the biologist said there is no scientific reason not to and he told the Commission that not all the elk hunting is on Table Mountain, and as far as the eight bull tags, hunters are harvesting the big elk during the late hunt not the early hunt.

VOTE ON MOTION: COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR – BENTLEY, JEFFRESS, LISTER, LURIE, MCNINCH, MORI, RAINE, AND SWANSON. COMMISSIONER ROBB OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 1.

Deputy Director Hunt asked for clarification on the motion: As the Department recommended but with five tags in Units 161 – 164 early, and 161 – 164 late 40 tags.

Resident Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 4156

Mr. Gary Lawry, Churchill CABMW, recommended for Units 161 – 164 that it be four tags because they said they felt it was too conservative,

Mr. Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW, said they had the same recommendation and felt the need to provide more hunter opportunity.

Mr. Bill Miller, White Pine CABMW, said to be consistent they will go with NDOW recommendations from here on out.

Mr. Shane Boren, White Pine CABMW, said the board asked that in Units 131, 132, that tags be increased to seven.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION EXCEPT IN 104 B, 108, 121, CHANGE TO TWO, AND 161 – 164 CHANGE FROM TWO TO FOUR. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Lister said White Pine had said to increase muzzleloader quota by two to three and take those from the archery hunt.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED TO AMEND HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE THE WHITE PINE RECOMMENDATION FOR UNITS 131, 132 TO SEVEN. COMMISSIONER LURIE ACCEPTED THE CHANGE. VOTE ON AMENDMENT AND MOTION UNANIMOUS, MOTION CARRIED.

Resident Elk – Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 4161

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS WITH EXCEPTION OF UNIT 131, 132, REDUCE TO SIX. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Mr. Fred Church, Nevada Bowhunter's Association, said they would recommend staying with the Department recommendation.

Commissioner Jeffress said he would agree if it was generated by demand/success for those numbers as not that large of a disparity.

Commissioner Robb said he would leave it at eight.

MOTION FAILED.

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO ACCEPT NDOW RECOMMENDATION FOR 4161. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

Commissioner Lister said he would like to know if we are at the cap in these units, and are we maintaining our obligations to the caps.

Mr. Cox said at the regional meeting, the quotas are reasonable, and will maintain our objectives.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4181 AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION, AND MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk – Antlerless Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

COMMISSIONER SWANSON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION ON HUNT 4176. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Longbow Archery Hunt 4111

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4111 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

Chairman Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW, said they recommended 35 in the late and 10 percent of that, and with passing 40, and staying with 10 percent is okay.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED FOR HUNT 4251 TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION EXCEPT UNIT 161 – 164 LATE CHANGE TO FOUR. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Elk – Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 4256

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4256 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 4261

Mr. Fred Church, Nevada Bowhunter's Association, said the nonresidents have asked why there is no nonresident hunt for Units 161 – 164.

Mr. Cox said there are only four resident archery tags and will be using the criteria of nine, it will be a while.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4261 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151

Mr. Gary Lawry, Churchill CABMW, said they recommended in Unit 253 four tags, three tags in Unit 253, the Bares because last year was too conservative, and in 263 they would like eight tags because of hunter congestion.

Mr. Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said was not sure if Churchill CABMW is aware that there are no lambs in the Specters and the Bares and the age class of the rams is lower now.

Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW, said they also questioned lamb recruitment and the age of lambs.

Commissioner Robb said he does not want something similar to what occurred in the Schwabes in the Bares because of being shot out and also because of PIW and Heritage hunters.

Commissioner Raine said we need to lower the tag quota in those areas to anticipate and accommodate the PIW hunter, and asked why the reduction in 282 in an area that had strong lamb recruitment.

Mr. Cox said we are using five or six year lamb recruitment that was not that strong then.

Commissioner Swanson said as a sportsmen representative he does not like hearing of limiting opportunity to accommodate the PIW/Heritage hunters.

Mr. Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW, said there might be a problem keeping it at the high level.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED THAT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT 3151 BE ACCEPTED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3251

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident California Bighorn Sheep – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8151

Chairman Gary Lawry Churchill CABMW said that due to difficult access we could go back to three for additional opportunity.

Chairman Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, concurred with the Department recommendation and believes three tags is too many.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 8151 AS RECOMMENDED. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep – any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8251

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 8251 AS RECOMMENDED. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9151

Mr. Joe Mortensen, Lyon CABMW, said they are concerned with keeping the numbers down for the wrong reasons because it would be a shame for the sheep to die.

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said they struggled with this and asked the biologist if next year would be a good time for an increase in tags before we have a die-off.

Commissioner Raine asked why not four tags and Mr. Gilbertson said you could go both ways because of domestic sheep in the areas, and Mr. Wasley is right that the age class is one year away but you take the risk of a die-off. Mr. Gilbertson said 101 is more dangerous and at risk as there is someone in there with goats and a little bighorn sheep jumped in the trailer with the goats and the ram had to be euthanized.

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE AS NDOW RECOMMENDED FOR HUNT 9151 BUT IN UNIT 101 RAISE IT TO FOUR. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Lister said in his mind the quality of the trophy is in the age not the horns, and average age in Unit 101 was five years and would rather add a tag in 102 because of better age structure of rams in there.

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said he personally had been up there and higher quality is in Unit 101.

Commissioner Mori said he would be inclined to increase it in both to provide opportunity.

COMMISSIONER RAINE CHANGED MOTION TO INCLUDE UNIT 102, RAISE TO FOUR. COMMISSIONER SWANSON ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT. MOTION CARRIED ON THE AMENDMENT AND THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY. (UNIT 101 AND 102 – FOUR TAGS EACH).

Nonresident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9251

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 9251 FOR ONE TAG IN UNIT 101. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7251

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Junior Mule Deer – Antlered – or Antlerless - Longbow Archery, Muzzleloader, or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107

Chairman Bentley said per discussion at previous meeting we had agreed to establish sideboards of not more than 3,200 and not below 2,800, and how did we get to 2,600. He said Nevada is thought highly of west wide for its youth hunts.

Mr. Cox said sideboards were agreed upon but no number was given and based on that he used 20 percent, and he showed different scenarios using different percentages.

Chairman Bentley said he is tired of fighting everyone on the youth hunt everyone wants it but not in their area, and if everyone feels that way, they should disband it.

Chairman Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said his county is requesting an increase.

Chairman Chad Bliss, Eureka CABMW, said they want an increase too.

Chairman Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW, said they had made their recommendation based on no lower than 2,800.

Mr. Shane Boren, White Pine CABMW, said he supports increasing youth tags but not have them hunt in November.

Commissioner Raine said the reason why we are having this problem is because of the failure of the Department to help our state deer population. He said he has asked for mule deer plans to be opened and put on the agenda.

Chairman Bentley said that he would challenge Commissioner Raine to bring the solutions to the Department, and he suggested that he put all of his requests in writing.

Mr. Rick Smith, Washoe CABMW said that he would suggest delete the other mule deer quotas and add 100 to bring it up to 2,800. From a personal standpoint he said he does not like hearing the Commission attack the Department of Wildlife.

Chairman Bentley said he was going to suggest something similar to Mr. Smith, and asked if there would be biological impact. Chairman Bentley asked that we increase the quota recommendation and have it not affect the quotas in the remaining hunts.

Mr. Cox answered Chairman Bentley that we would be safe biologically even if we doubled deer tags statewide.

Chairman Bentley asked that the Commission consider increasing quotas for the youth hunt and not have it affect the remaining hunts.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SAID HE WOULD MOVE THAT WE DO THAT, ADDRESS QUOTA TO THE LOWEST SIDEBOARD (2,826) AND NOT HAVE IT NOT IMPACT THE QUOTAS ON THE REMAINING HUNTS. COMMISSIONER LISTER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Cox read the quotas aloud to verify the motion – quotas are included as part of the exhibit file.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED FOR HUNT 1107 TO USE THE REVISED DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A TOTAL OF 2,826 TAGS. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said Clark County had an increase for Units 071 – 079 and they disagree because that is a burned area and based on biologist's recommendation.

Chairman Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW, said the recommendation is based on one person's recommendation and are passing the recommendation on to the Commission.

Chairman Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said they are concerned with the youth hunt in Unit 51 and that is not reflected in the split as the late hunt is more desirable. He said they wanted 80 to 20 this year and in the future may bump it up to 90/10.

Commissioner Lister said Lincoln CABMW had same discussion and in 221 – 223 should be 95/5 and came out with a number of 421 and 22 due to youth involvement in split hunt and keep it a trophy hunt for the late hunt.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED FOR APPROVAL OF HUNT 1331 CHANGE 051 TO 324 EARLY, 051 LATE TO 80; ON 221- 223 EARLY 421, AND 221 - 223 LATE 22; UNITS 111 -113 EARLY, AND 111 – 113 LATE AT A 90/10 SPLIT. MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND.

Chairman Bentley asked for Mr. Cox to show the units with the quotas.

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE ALL HUNTS IN 1331, WITH EXCEPTION OF 051 EARLY AND LATE TO REFLECT 80/20 SPLIT, AND TO HAVE AREAS 111 -113, 114, 115 BOTH EARLY AND LATE, 121 BOTH EARLY AND LATE, 131 – 134 EARLY AND LATE, 221 - 223 EARLY LATE TO ALL REFLECT A 95/5. COMMISSIONER SWANSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Raine said the record should reflect that he and the Commissioner who made the second accept the numbers as read by Mike Cox and verified by Deputy Director Doug.

VOTE ON MOTION IS UNANIMOUS.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

Chairman Chad Bliss Eureka CABMW said they felt the muzzleloader tags could be increased from seven to 14 as it is a large area.

Mr. Stephen Marich, White Pine CABMW, said they want it dropped back to 55 tags in Units 111 – 113. Units 114, 115 55 tags, Units 131 – 134 25 tags, and Units 221 – 223 30 tags.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION FOR HUNT 1371 WITH THE EXCEPTIONS PRESENTED FOR 111 – 113 FROM 30 TO 55 TAGS, UNITS 114, 115 DOWN TO 55, UNITS 131 – 134 TO 25 TAGS, 151 – 155 TO 14 TAGS, AND 221 – 223 TO 30 TAGS AS STATED AND ON THE SCREEN. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Archery Hunt 1341

Mr. Tracy Hammond, Clark CABMW, said not enough success to affect the herds and are asking for an increase to provide more opportunity to sportsmen.

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said the reason was the fires.

Mr. Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said he does not have a problem with the increase.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1341 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UNITS 111, 113 FROM 45 TO 70; UNITS 131- 134 FROM 18 TO 25; 231- 223 63 TO 65. COMMISSIONER LISTER SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

Chairman Chad Bliss Eureka CAMBW said they have a problem with deer in town, but they felt that 28 does was too high and are asking that in Unit 144 the quota be changed from 28 to 10.

COMMISSIONER RAINE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1181 AS RECOMMENDED WITH EXCEPTION TO UNIT 144 CHANGE QUOTA TO 10 TAGS. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 1101

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1101. COMMISSIONER RAINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Mr. Cox showed the units with the various splits on the computer screen.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HUNT 1331 EXCEPT 051 CHANGE EARLY TO 26, LATE TO SEVEN; 111 - 113 EARLY 34, LATE TWO; 114 -115 EARLY 12, LATE TWO; 121 EARLY 15, 121 LATE TWO; 131 – 134 EARLY 15 AND LATE TWO TAGS; 221 - 223, EARLY 29, LATE TWO TAGS. COMMISSIONER LURIE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Raine said it bothered him that some are being raised due to having a minimum of two tags and why not leave the six areas alone.

Mr. Cox said the slight increase is due to the increase in resident tags.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: CHAIRMAN BENTLEY, COMMISSIONERS JEFFRESS, LISTER, LURIE, MORI, AND SWANSON. FINAL VOTE WAS 7 – 1 WITH COMMISSIONER RAINE OPPOSED AND COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1371 WITH THE EXCEPTION 111 - 113 TO SIX; 114 - 115 TO SIX; 131 – 134 TO THREE; 231 -233 TO THREE. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered Hunt 1341

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HUNT 1341 WITH THE EXCEPTION OF UNITS 111 - 113 FROM FOUR TO EIGHT; AND 114, 115 FROM TWO TO THREE. COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident and Nonresident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation – Either Sex – Hunts, 1115, 1215, 2115, and 2215

Commissioner Lister said the agriculture community supports the program and it assists in providing landowner tolerance. The issue in Lincoln County is not limiting landowner tags it is figuring out better herd management and may involve adjusting seasons and future quotas but no solution for today.

Chairman Bentley said that is a charge for the committee.

COMMISSIONER JEFFRESS MOVED FOR EITHER SEX HUNTS 1115, 1215, 2115, AND 2215 OF 1.5 PERCENT FOR A TOTAL ALLOCATION OF 291. COMMISSIONER ROBB SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Ken Wellington, Elko CABMW, said he would thank the biologists for their hard work, and he told Chairman Bentley that he may not be at the next meeting, and would use this time to tell him that he did a good job running this meeting.

Chairman Bentley thanked everyone present for their time and input put into today's meeting, and he said the Commission appreciates the input from the general public, the CABMW's, the biologists, and everyone involved in the process.

17 Future Commission Meeting – Director Ken E. Mayer – Action

Director Mayer said the next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 27 and 28, 2008, in Reno, and following that Aug. 15 and 16, 2008, in Eureka.

COMMISSIONER LURIE MOVED TO ADD JUNE 28, 2008, TO THE COMMISSION SCHEDULE. MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Bentley designated Commissioner McNinch as the Commission's WAFWA representative.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Note: The minutes are a synopsis of the meeting. At the Department of Wildlife headquarters in Reno is a complete record of the meeting, including recordings; and all the exhibits received/referenced during the meeting. The record is available upon request for review.