

MINERAL COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MINUTES
DATE : WEDNESDAY – JUNE 19, 2013 -
PLACE: HAWTHORNE FIRE HOUSE

Present: Glenn Bunch, Chairman
Billie Williams Jr
Wayne Larson
Johnny Peterson
Stephen Gustafson
Marlene Bunch, Recording Secretary

Also Present:
Jeremy Williams
Darren Hamrey
Andy Stinson

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Glenn Bunch, So noted, the meeting was duly posted

Commission Budget for FY 2014. The board will review the Mineral County Budget for FY 2014 as presented for approval by the Commission.

Glenn Bunch explained to the board what the budget appraised of and the balance remaining. The budget amount is as requested with consideration of amount to be remaining in the account to off set the amount requested for 2013-2014. It was explained that there was one meeting missed this year and that left the balance remaining in the county fund.

Trail Camera Usage – Discussion of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife letter dated April 8, 2013 regarding the recommendation to the Commission relative to the use of trail cameras just prior to and during hunting season. The Board to obtain public input relative to the consideration of the use of Trail Cameras.

Glenn explained the history of the letter presented to the Commission. The Douglas County letter was read into record. He reported that he asked Andy Stinson to come back with some recommendations for the County Board to review.

Andy – Stated that this is not just about Andy Stinson but about the sportsman of Mineral County. He said he hasn't put anything on paper.

Discussion of different types of cameras and issues to be considered.

Jeremy- stated that after reading the letter, there are a couple things that he has issue with. Whether it is a trail camera and a "Legitimate Hunter" to be considered is optics. What we have to be careful to what we say and what we want. We can say anything is advanced. Optics are advanced. There have been a lot of changes in the past 20 years. What difference is it than with a camera or a phone camera and walking along, take a picture of an animal and send it by phone?

Wayne- Don't have a problem with the camera with a disc in it. Where he has a problem is with the smart phones with cameras as there can be one sitting on a ridge that takes a pictures and sends it to the person on the ground. That is the one that he has trouble with.

Glenn - Has problems with the ones who has complaints and an ax to grind and whether they own the watering hole or not.

Jeremy -Also, having the consideration of other hunters.

Wayne-The technology is out there as he sees the shows where they sit in their living room and see when they come in.

Glenn – if it is satellite and if it works like the satellite phone then it is very spotty as the satellite comes over and soon it is gone. Connection has to be better than satellite communication.

Darren- Stated he has 12 points of interest regarding trail cameras and read them to the group. (See Attached)
Discussion of items listed.

Glenn-During the hunting season, they are wanting the cameras off the ground.

Darren, I have a deer hunt in November, but does that mean I have to take my camera off in August before the first season?

Jeremy- Do they (Douglas Board) have a problem, do you have a personal issue? When I hear the words “maintain the integrity of the hunter” it is a personal issue. Is this a personal issue with the Douglas County letter? It sounds like it is and it should not be a personal agenda.

If I am not hunting and don't have a tag, do I have to pull my trail camera?

How broad based is our system in the state. I draw a tag and I can set out a camera and in 2 weeks, I can go out and see if there is an animal in the area before I show up. These trails cam do just that. We tell the kids in hunter safety that this is a tool and now they want to take it out of the picture.

Mountain lion is year round.

Next will be Optics they beat them up every year.

Where do you draw the line?

Darren-I agree that you would be able to get a text message at work that there is an animal there where the trail camera is and leave work and go out to bag your animal.

Jeremy-trail camera at a guzzler. Is it any different than sitting up the blind before the season ahead of time so the birds can get used to them. Better off not drawing line.

Billie- the issue is trail camera.

Glenn-the issue is enforcement. There are just so many wardens. So they are relying on you the hunter to turn them in. So how can they enforce it?

Billie- The same issues came up with the trapping. They wanted signs and a lot of other things. They will go after this the same way.

Andy- we have to very selective on how we make the decisions.
We fall into an equal opportunity issue.

Billie moved, Johnny seconded that we that we recommend we do nothing with the trail cameras and leave them as is and not make any changes. Motion carried.

Discussion of remaining item listed on the Commission agenda for June 21-22, 2013 Meeting.

No further items were brought up for discussion.

Public Comments - Discussion of the deer tags allocated for Mineral County

Meeting adjourned 7:30 PM

Attachment

Here are some things to consider when dealing with the subject of trail Cams:

- 1.) What's the reason for outlawing them? Too many trophies? Too many animals harvested? Unethical? If so....what about the use of horses? quads? High powered rifles that shoot 1000 yards? Amazing optics? Or even bow hunting?
- 2.) What about the use of trail cams for Scientific studies?
- 3.) What about the use of them in the classroom?
- 4.) What if a rancher wants to use them to track down an animal that is killing his livestock?
- 5.) What about for water development studies?
- 6.) Putting trail cams out is hard work!!!! And people steal them... how's that for unethical?
7. What about tracking population influx and migration pattern?
- 8.) Predator management?
- 9.) How do you enforce It?
- 10.) Who could still use them? NDOW? BLM? Etc.... so they can benefit?
- 11.) What are the studies saying? Has there been a change since the use of trail cams? What are the facts? Or is this just some guys that don't like the idea?
- 12.) And last but not least....what about mine and your right to use them, which is no different than filming or taking still photos of animals. A trail cam serves the same purpose as a fish finder, and nobody is make a fuss about those!!!!

Please give some thought to these things before a decision is made to outlaw such use of trail cams. The information that can be gained by the use of trail cams is second to none and outlawing them would be a foolish decision.

Darren Hamrey