

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## **MINUTES**

**Monday ~ January 28, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Regional Emergency Operations Center**  
**Media Room**  
**5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada**

## **MEMBERS**

Rex Flowers, Chair  
Daryl Harwell, Vice-chair  
Michelle Spencer, Secretary  
John Reed  
Sean Shea

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]

Member Reed led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Rex Flowers, Daryl Harwell, John Reed and Sean Shea. Michelle Spencer joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

**ABSENT:** None

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

### **4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 29, 2012, MINUTES** [For possible action]

Hearing no one wishing to speak, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell to approve the November 29, 2012, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried: Members Harwell, Reed, Shea and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Spencer absent.***

### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** [Non-action item] – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) February 1 and 2, 2013, meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada; and 2). March 15 and 16, meeting in Reno, Nevada.*

Chair Flowers will attend the February 1 and 2, 2013, meetings in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Member Shea will attend the March 15, 2013, meeting in Reno, Nevada.

Member Harwell will attend the March 16, 2013, meeting in Reno, Nevada.

### **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** [Non-action items]

**6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Flowers noted that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) had posted notice for Heritage Project applications on their website [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org). Additionally, email correspondence

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(copy on file) was received from Jim Jenne resigning his position with the Lyon County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. Chair Flowers noted that the Heritage Committee would meet Wednesday January 30, 2013, at the Verdi Nature Center.

Member Michelle Spencer and Commissioner Jack Robb joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

**6-2). Overview of the December 7 and 8, 2012, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners** – Chair Flowers noted that a video of the meeting is available on the NDOW website [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org). Chair Flowers noted that the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) had denied the on-line application only process and that the Bear Hunt petition had been delayed due to improper noticing. Additionally, the Sheldon petition was also withdrawn to allow additional discussion by the Department (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and U. S. Fish and Wild Service.

**7. UPDATE ON WASHOE LAKE MITIGATION WETLANDS (Non-action item)** – *An informational update on recent discussions between the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada State Parks (NSP) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) intended to improve the quantity, quality and sustainability of the mitigation wetlands at the south end of Washoe Lake.*

Elmer Bull – NDOW Habitat Division Chief, provided a handout (copy on file), and explained that while there is little progress to report due to the fact that the NDOT representative was unable to make last week's meeting, However, another meeting with NDOT and Nevada State Parks is scheduled for some time in February. Mr. Bull drew attention to the handout noting the location of the surface pump and deep well that are used to maintain the mitigation ponds. During low water level cycles, such as this past summer, the surface pump, mounted on a crumbling concrete vault, is unable to draw water in from Washoe Lake and the wetlands suffer from a lack of water. To compound matters, the concrete vault that supports the surface pump has eroded and the intake portion of the pump has now separated from the pump itself. A 14-inch diameter, 620-foot deep well drilled in 1996 located on the west side does not operate at the optimum pumping rate of 850 GPM (gallons per minute). Mr. Bull noted that NDOW's (Nevada Department of Wildlife) direct involvement with the mitigation wetlands ended in 2006 but that NDOW is now offering to provide assistance in seeking a resolution up to and possibly including the use of Duck Stamp funds as well as other funds to assist in the resolution and remediation efforts. Mr. Bull explained that he is unclear as to how the Corps (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers) enforces wetlands mitigation requirements. The agreement with the Corps requires that 155-acres be maintained as wetlands to offset the impact of road construction that adversely impacted natural wetlands. Mr. Bull will provide a further update after the mid-February (2013) meeting with NDOT, Nevada State Parks and NDOW representatives.

Member Harwell commented that, in his opinion, NDOT should assure that water is maintained in the ponds year round as required in the agreement and pointed out that this area is part of the gateway to the State's Capitol in Carson City (Nevada). Member Harwell

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noted that many individuals might not be aware that the new I-580 extension was funded with grant monies and that he is hopeful that NDOW will get involved to resolve the issue. Member Harwell believes that the mitigation measure would be an appropriate use of Heritage and Duck Stamp funds.

Responding to Chair Flowers's inquiry about the potential for matching funds, Mr. Bull explained that it is unclear whether NDOW funding could be used as a match for other funding. Mr. Bull noted that Director Ken Mayer had been appointed to the North American Wetlands Act (NAWCA) Council with Russell Woolstenhulme as his support. Mr. Mayer hopes that his involvement on the council will help steer some NAWCA funds toward wetland improvement projects in Nevada.

- 8. PETITION – Catherine M. Smith Board Member of No Bear Hunt NV to change NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 503.147 Hunting with a dog. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150) (For possible action) – A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify the request to change NAC (Nevada Administrative Code): It is unlawful to hunt, chase or pursue: Any ~~black bear or~~ mountain lion with a dog except during the open season, in an open management area and under the authority of a hunting license and: (a) ~~A black bear tag if the person is hunting, chasing or pursuing a black bear; or.~~**

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and asked for public comment noting that the only new support material was the results of a poll.

Joel Blakeslee asked that the board recommend denial.

Judi Caron commented that she had testified at the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) meeting and recalled that there had been discussion about opening a dialogue. It is Ms. Caron's belief that there is no flexibility given the petition request to delete specific language and recommended that the board deny the request.

Mel Belding also suggested denial of the petition.

Hearing no further discussion, Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Reed recalled the extensive discussion on the matter previously and believes that the petition should be denied.

Member Spencer noted that depending on where the poll was taken would have a significant bearing on the outcome as would the manner in which the question was asked.

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Member Harwell noted the cost involved in securing, training and use of dogs in hunting and those dogs are a tool used by guides. Therefore, he believes that the petition should be denied.

Member Shea stated that he is not in favor of the petition.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny the Catherine M. Smith Board Member of No Bear Hunt NV to change NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) 503.147 Hunting with a dog. (NRS 501.105, 501.181, 503.150). The motion carried unanimously.***

- 9. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-03, Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Deadline Information** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify language regarding 2013 Big Game Application Eligibility and Deadline Information.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item noting that this revert language adopted for an on-line only application process to its original form. Hearing no public comments, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 13-03 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Deadline Information, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-04, Big Game Seasons** – (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion and black bear, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas, the 2013-2014 nonresident restricted deer tag quotas and seasons, and dates and times for indoctrination courses.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item noting that each species would be taken individuals with an opportunity for public comment for each species.

## **ANTELOPE**

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the recommended changes noting that Unit 043-046 was now believed to have sufficient herd size to

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accommodate the Archery Hunt and that some Doe hunts had also been established in certain areas including Washoe County Units 011 and 015. Mr. Hampson commented that the additional hunts can be supported given the fawn ratios. Mr. Hampson noted that while a significant area had burned in the State of California, Nevada had suffered only minor wildland damage.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 2151, 2251, 2171, 21612261, 2181 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **ELK**

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the proposed modifications.

Chair Flowers pointed out that only bulls were combined in Units 72, 73 and 74.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW, commented that the herd is mixed and tends to move from unit to unit. A review of the harvest and herd distribution/locations led to a recommendation to keep the herd as a single large herd.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted target levels identified in the various management plans are not currently being met and that the depredation hunt is intended to maintain herd populations.

During the discussion concern was expressed about the loss of edible meat if not handled properly during the summer heat. As the discussion continued it was noted that Unit 081 was identified separately as most hunters tended to hunt closer to populated areas. The intent is to get hunters into that particular unit. Other discussion focused on the need for an aggressive depredation hunt to meet elk plan objectives.

Member Shea stated he could support the split season of two (2) ten (10) day hunts.

Larry Johnson noted that it was imperative that NDOW and sportsmen work to maintain the herd elk population goals identified in the elk plans. Mr. Johnson noted that the area west of Highway 93 in the Snake Range is a checkerboard of public and private lands that compound the difficulty in meeting established population goals and it is imperative that NDOW strive to meet the goals agreed upon population goals.

Mr. Gilbertson commented that up to 35 bulls had significantly damaged haystacks causing about \$20,000.00 in damage. A recent survey of the areas indicates that without a successful depredation hunt that the damage could be significantly higher. NDOW is currently working with the land owner to gain access. Mr. Gilbertson explained that the tag

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allocation for the depredation hunt is based on existing policies and procedures using the closest like hunt to draw from unsuccessful hunt applicants.

During the discussion it was noted that volunteers could not be used for this type of hunt based on existing policy and that a change in the regulations would be needed to alter the manner in which an emergency depredation hunt is handled. Other discussion noted that while the fund has about \$500,000.00 to cover crop damage, it is likely that a significant amount will be expended due to the harsh winter thus far. It was noted that a call for applicants for an emergency hunt in the past had resulted in about 1,000 tags being claimed in 15-minutes.

Chair Flowers brought the discussion back to the matter at hand and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 4102, 4151, 42514156, 4256, 4161, 4261, 41814281, 4176, 4111 and 4107 as written.***

Chair Flowers noted that he had attempted to contact members of the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife to no available.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **SHEEP HUNT**

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted the modifications and the Department of Defense concerns about party sizes on the Nevada Training Range and Test site. Mr. Hampson noted that the non-resident tag had been eliminated in Unit 031 since the number of tags allocated is less than five and moved to Unit 034.

Hearing no public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 3151, 3251, 8151, 8251, 9151, and 7151 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

The meeting recessed at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

## **MULEDEER**

Chis Hampson – NDOW, provided an overview of the changes noted that the Youth Hunt in 2013-2014 would end on Sunday October 27 after the Nevada Day holiday, and November 2, 2015, the Sunday after the Nevada Day Holiday on Friday, October 31, 2015. Mr. Hampson then noted that the split season for the Baker Ranch area would put more

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pressure on depredation due to the loss of habitat and winter range due to wildfire in 2012. Other changes are intended to minimize overlap with the buck season. Mr. Hampson pointed out that some early/late seasons had not worked in certain areas and were reverting to a single season. In the Mason Valley Wildlife Refuge the late season has changed to a December hunt due to the number of mosquitos encountered by sportsmen.

During the discussion it was noted that the youth Hunt had been extended to encompass the Nevada Day holiday that was changed to the last Friday of October rather than the traditional October 31 when Nevada became a state. As the discussion continued, it was suggested that the General Hunt be modified to reflect the season dates in the Youth Hunt. It was pointed out that Youth Hunt dates were established by the Commission so that youth could have an opportunity to hunt during the holiday weekend. As the discussion continued it was noted that Washoe County schools would start classes on August 12 and that taking a child out of school was no longer permissible in some school districts. It was suggested that the Archery Hunt be changed so that it starts on August 1 as it has in the past. Discussion then turned to a previous direction to have a split season rather than a single month-long season. Other discussion noted concerns about a hunt during the rut. It was noted that such a hunt is very sought after and provides an excellent hunt. It was pointed out that the number of tags for that particular hunt is very limited and that the recommendation is to keep the status quo. It was noted that the sampling indicates a strong buck ratio and that the quota is sufficiently small that there should be little effect on the population ratio. As the discussion continued, it was noted that interstate shared herd were divided between the states. Other discussion noted a concern about having a rifle hunt in December as herds tend to migrate down the slope near housing development, which could result in the discharges of a firearm in a congested area.

Mel Belding recalled that the split season and units had been in place for nearly 6-years and that he would prefer to have a full 30-day season in 011, 012, 013, 014 and 022. Additionally, Mr. Belding would prefer that the hunt end the first full weekend in November.

Responding to Judi Caron's request for an update on deer populations since the Rush fire, Mr. Hampson explained that the herd population was heavily impacted on the California side and that the Nevada wintering grounds had not been as devastated and that NDOW will continue to monitor how deer respond during the winter months.

Judi Caron suggested that the board recommend that the general hunt season date be modified to coincide with applicable Junior Hunt season dates since it is a family opportunity. Ms. Caron also suggested season dates of October 5 through 31 for 2013 and 2013 and October 5 to November 2, for 2014 and 2015 for Unit 015.

Mr. Hampson noted that a regular season for 015 had not been established since most of the deer hunting occurs in California. In the past the small herd has tended to stay in California in the late season and by the end of the October season the deer are not typically in Unit 015.

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Jack Robb noted that most of the complaints heard relate to hunter congestion rather than season length.

Mr. Hampson recalled previous Commission comments and direction and noted that the Commission approved the early/late seasons for Unit 015. Mr. Hampson explained that NDOW has several years of data for month long hunts and that the recommendations are typically based on a 3-year average and hunter success rates.

Mr. Gilbertson explained that he had discussed the recommendations with Mike Cox previous and that hunter opportunity had come up several times during the discussion. Mr. Gilbertson noted that the recommendation to return to a single hunt included consideration of access and the number of tags that could be allocated. Mr. Gilbertson noted that the Commission had provided additional tags when buck ratios were higher and that once the cushion in the buck ratio was gone buck quotas would be reduced. Mr. Gilbertson noted that fawn recruitment had decreased somewhat.

Mr. Hampson noted that the forecast was for a dry trend through the end of the month and that additional information on herd migration will not be known until the March survey flight is completed.

Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Shea commented that he supports having the general and youth hunt having the same season opening and closing dates.

Member Harwell concurred that the Youth and General Hunt should end on the same day. Member Harwell noted that he would need additional information before making a recommendation on a single or split hunt.

Member Reed agreed that the youth and general hunt should share the same season dates and that he would support moving the archery opening to August 1 to provide an additional opportunity for youth to hunt before school starts.

Member Spencer concurred with Member Reed's comments.

Chair Flowers commented that he did not favor moving the youth archer to August 1 as they have an opportunity to pick and choose their activities. Chair Flowers pointed out that there are five weekends for hunting starting October 10. Of some concern is that the recommendation would affect hunts statewide as rural counties may be somewhat more lenient in allowing time off from school for a hunt. Chair Flowers suggested that the language revert to what was used in the past year.

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Member Spencer noted that in the past children started school in September and that children now get 6-weeks off rather than three months. The intent is to preserve hunting as a way of life for her children and others.

Chair Flowers noted that he understands and can relate to Member Spencer's concerns.

Chair totally understands and related he been through it having 3 grandchildren that have gone through it and 2 that will start this year.

Member Reed pointed out that another major reason to move the hunt opening to August 1 was the average age of those present at tonight's (January 28, 2013) meeting.

Member Reed believes that Clark County may have youth hunt issues similar to that of Washoe County.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 1107, 1101, 1181, 1235, 1331, 1371, and 1341 with a modification to Hunt 1107 Junior Muledeer archery to open August 1 rather than August 10 for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 and extend Youth Hunt and All Legal Weapons Hunt to end October 31 for the 2013-2014 season and Hunt 1331 to end November 2 for the 2014-2015 season so that Hunts 1107 and 1331 mirror each other and give greatest opportunity and all other hunts as written.***

Chair Flowers explained that he could not support the motion.

Member Reed commented that the Commission will have the final authority and that he can think of several positive reasons to support the modifications proposed.

Member Spencer noted that the State of Nevada ranks last in education and that children, in her opinion, need to be in school rather than out hunting. Therefore, it is, in her opinion, prudent to accommodate children's needs if one is to preserve hunting as a way of life.

Member Harwell commented that he can support the proposal.

Member Reed stated that he would not consider an amendment to his motion to bring the general archery hunt to open August 1.

***The motion carried: Members Harwell, Reed and Spencer assenting; Member Shea and Chair Flowers dissenting.***

## **BEAR HUNT**

Chris Hampson – NDOT, noted that the recommendations were the same as 2012.

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Hearing no one wishing to speak, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

Chair Flowers recommended a modification to change the boundary of the closed area to the west side of the Tahoe Rim Trail.

Member Reed noted that there will be opposition to boundary change.

Chair Flowers noted that he believes this to be a compromise position that moves the boundary to the west side of the Tahoe Rim Trail and is only a suggestion.

Member Harwell commented that this may open a “can of worms” and recalled the significant time, energy and discussion already expended on the subject. Member Harwell explained that while he understands the need to draw the line and fight he does not believe this is something that should be part of that fight.

Chair Flowers recalled the actions taken to stop the Bear Hunt initially, including a legal challenge and legislative action. The areas closed were closed due to “public safety issues”. And that instead of being reactive he believes it is time to be proactive. Chair Flowers explained that he had advised both the Carson City and Douglas County Advisory Boards that he would make this recommendation.

Member Spencer commented that this may perhaps make law enforcement somewhat easier for Game Wardens as the Tahoe Rim Trail is easily identifiable as a boundary.

Chair Flowers concurred pointing out that this does not place a boundary in the middle of the Tahoe Meadows area.

Chair Flowers reopened public comment.

Jack Robb noted that a tremendous amount of time has already been expended on this topic and that there are areas on either side of the Tahoe Rim Trail that are closed to the discharge of firearms. Therefore the boundary line established by the Commission is based on easily identifiable landmarks such as property owned by the University System, Thomas Creek and Bellevue Road to define the boundaries. The use of the Tahoe Rim Trail may provide a false sense of security.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

***It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Hunts 6151 and 6152 with a modification to the boundary of Units 192 and 194 to close only those portions west of the Tahoe Rim Trail using language in the 2012 recommendation. The motion failed: Member Shea and Chair Flowers assenting; and Members Harwell, Reed and Spencer dissenting.***

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***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner approve Hunts 6151 and 6251, as written. The motion carried: Member Harwell, Reed and Spencer assenting; and Member Shea and Chair Flowers dissenting.***

## **MOUNTAIN LION**

Larry Gilbert – NDOW noted that NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) stated that Mountain Lion season shall run from March 1 until the last day of February of the following year and that there is no season recommendation required.

## **2013 and 2014 EMERGENCY HUNTS**

Chair Flowers noted that this is the standard depredation hunt and statewide quotas.

Judi Caron suggested that the board recommend that the TAAHC (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) review the wait list for emergency depredation hunts so that those on that list can also be eligible for the emergency draw.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

Member Harwell suggested that some procedure be developed that will allow all sportsmen an opportunity to participate in emergency hunts.

Chair Flowers noted that there are different scenarios that sometimes require that an emergency hunt be opened only to unsuccessful hunters.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW, noted that there are several different tools that can be used to reduce herd size, including authorizing a landowner to “haze” the animals with the use of 4-wheelers, harvest the animal and ask that the meat be donated for consumption or going in and harvesting the animals with the landowner’s permission. The better option is to use a depredation hunt where possible for less than 100 animals.

Member Spencer suggested that perhaps a depredation hunt list might be a viable option.

Chair Flowers suggested that alternatives to the depredation emergency hunts would be better suited to agenda item 15.

Miles Humphries suggested an additional fee for an emergency contact list for emergency depredation hunts.

During the brief discussion it was suggested that a check off box might be a viable method.

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Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Chair Flowers. To recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the 2013 and 2014 Emergency hunts as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

It was explained by Mr. Gilbertson that indoctrination courses are voluntary or written into a specific hunt regulation such as the Bear Hunt.

- 11. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-05, 2013 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas 2013** - (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify 2013 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and noted that the one exception is Unit 252 for Hunt 3151 which include the Stonewalls and Nellis Air Force range.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that the unit is partially controlled by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) as well as the Nevada Test Site and Training Range. Mr. Gilbertson noted that there have been some incursions onto military property and that the intent is to maintain a cordial relationship with the military so that the range is not lost for hunting.

Chair Flowers opened public comments.

Jack Robb noted that the Silver State Tag was set-up as a Governor's tag and that the goal is to have the same season date as the Heritage tag.

Larry Johnson stated that he supports the proposal and concurred that the Silver State Tag was initiated to mirror Heritage tag season dates and asked that that board uphold that intent.

Mel Belding commented that he could not support the hunt of any animal year round.

Chair Flowers noted that he had several individuals had suggested that the season date be the same as the Heritage Tag as it is presently. Chair Flowers commented that the Commission had accepted a petition on closing flying for hunting and scouting and had asked for more review and a presentation by NDOW on the subject.

Mel Belding commented that he agrees that the Silver State Tag should have the same season as the Heritage Tag.

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Judi Caron suggested that there perhaps needs to be more vetting so as to better understand the change to the Heritage Tag.

Chair Flowers closed public comments.

Member Reed commented that the Heritage Tag did not have year a round season previously.

Chair Flowers concurred noting the Silver State Tag was designed to mirror the Heritage Tag.

Member Shea commented that he did not agree with a year round hunt but did agree that the Silver State and Heritage tags were meant to be mirrored.

Member Harwell noted that, in his opinion, the Heritage and Silver State tags should have the same language and season dates but not a year round hunt.

During a brief discussion it was noted that a year round hunt opened the possibility of hunting a ram in the spring. However, it is unclear how this change in season would benefit the Heritage tag since the tag already has an earlier opening and later closing date than the regular draw.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 13-05, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife season and quotas 2013. The motion carried unanimously.***

**12. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-06, 2013 Dream Tag Seasons -** (For possible action) – (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify 2013 Dream Tags seasons.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and commented that he did not believe there were any major modifications.

Hearing no public comment Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 13-06, 2013 Dream Tag seasons, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

**13. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-07, 2014 Heritage Tags Seasons and Quotas -** (For possible action) – (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners*

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*(Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify 2014 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and recalled earlier discussion on big game species. Chair Flowers noted that Unit 252 needed to reflect the same dates established by the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) for Hunt 3151.

Responding to Member Reed's inquiry about the reason for seeking a year round hunt, Jack Robb stated that he had called NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and asked for the change.

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Larry Johnson explained that he supports both the Silver State and Heritage tags but not a year round season.

Mel Belding noted that he could not support a year round tag and reminded those present that this was Nevada, not Arizona or California. Mr. Belding outlined the tag costs in various locations for similar tags ranging from \$30,000.00 in Mexico and \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 in the Tiburon's.

Jack Robb noted that Lincoln County was pushing to fast track a regulation that would discourage the use of aerial flights, use of lights and other means to locate the larger bucks and bulls. Mr. Robb believes this may be a logical way to fast track the regulation.

Mr. Belding stated that he did not agree and that he believes this may actually increase pressure on elk and deer when in velvet.

Chair Flowers closed public comment asked for board discussion or a motion.

Member Reed commented that it may be a worthy goal but existing regulations making it illegal to harass wildlife anytime. Member Reed believes that it may be impossible to enforce since there is a class of aircraft that is designed specifically for low slow flight. Additionally, Member Reed does not believe a year round hunt will achieve the intended goal.

Member Spencer concurred with Member Reed.

Member Harwell noted that he believes this should go back to the original season dates.

Member Shea stated that the Heritage Tag should mirror the Silver State Tag.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Commission Regulation 13-***

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***07 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas seasons that mirror that of the Commission Regulation 13-05 the Silver State Tag for 2013. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-08, 2013-2014 Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits** – (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify 2013-2014 Mountain Lion harvest limit recommendations.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that there was no need to set a season and recommended that a typographical error on the list of “244” be changed to read “245”. Mr. Gilbertson recalled that a previous Commission had favored a very aggressive Mountain Lion harvest based on flawed data. The recommendations being brought forward are based on biological data. It is also recommended that the hunt hours be modified in units having a Bear Hunt.

Mike McCusker - Game Warden, noted that some individuals had used the Mountain Lion hunt in order to hunt bear after hunt hours. The request is intended to make enforcement of the no hunting after certain hours in Units having a bear hunt easier. Warden McCusker noted that there had been several instances of the infraction and that it has also been brought to his attention that there is a similar issue with bobcats and some other species.

Chair Flowers opened public comments.

Larry Johnson – Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, commented that all recommendations should, in his opinion, be based on science. However, he does not favor the request to curtail the hunt in certain areas noting the time and effort needed to harvest a Mountain Lion.

Mel Belding concurred and explained that he believes there may be a better way to address the issue. Mr. Belding suggested that if the person holds only a bear tag then a citation should be issued.

Mr. Gilbertson explained that NODW had maintained a Mountain Lion model for several years and had notified UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) of the error in the original model that had included kittens in the count. It is thought that the original population estimate for adults was about 1,300.

Warden McCusker stated that no citation had been issued during the previous year’s hunt in response to Ms. Caron’s inquiry.

Ms. Caron suggested that during the bear indoctrination class that emphasis be placed on hunt hours rather than add the limitation to the regulation.

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Joel Blakeslee noted that another approach would be to allow the hunting of bears after dark.

Chair Flowers closed public comments.

Member Reed believes that there may be a better way to enforce the hunt hours.

Member Shea explained that he could not support the request noting that he hunts at night with his dogs. Member Shea concurred with other comments that there may be a better way to enforce the no bear hunt after dark.

Member Spencer commented that she could not support the restriction.

During a brief discussion it was noted that the harvest objective was 265 and that 500 tags had been issued the previous year. Other discussion noted that there is a Mountain Lion call in by unit.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 13-08, 2013-2014 Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits, correct open Units to read 241 through 245 rather than 241 through 244, and allow hunting anytime day or night. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 15. TAAHC (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) RECOMMENDATIONS** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to TAAHC on a proposal of three questions for an opinion poll to be sent to all licensed sportsmen for their input and three issues or areas of concern to be addressed by the TAAHC Committee.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and outlined the proposal in the original letter that was received too late for input at the previous meeting. Chair Flowers opened public comments.

Jack Robb commented that there had been discussion about whether the survey should occur before or after the draw notification.

During the discussion it was noted that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) does conduct a client satisfaction survey that was sent to all on-line applicant last year. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that the intent is to have a three (3) question survey that the TAAHC (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) can review.

Mel Belding suggested that the survey include questions on: a tag-along tag for first time tag holders; tiered preferential for deer only; a percentage of tags (e.g. 50-percent) to those

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individuals holding the maximum number of bonus points; and finally a question on the year round hunt. Mr. Belding believes that the decision should be made by all sportsmen rather than only nine (9) individuals and that the survey should be done before not after the draw.

Miles Humphries concurred with Mr. Belding and suggested a question be included about providing an ability to pass bonus points on to a family member.

Responding to Member Reed's questions about how social principles are quantified, Mr. Robb explained that social expectation are often included in regulations, such as maintaining a special area for trophy hunts.

The discussion resulted in the following suggestions: Deer Drawing - tier preferential system or 50-percent of tags to those holding max bonus points; public's perception of hunting 365 days; tag along tags; ability to pass down tags; split seasons versus single seasons; public opinion on season start date versus day; and public input for ways to better recruit youth.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to support the TAAHC's (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) efforts to complete the survey.***

Chair Flowers suggested an amendment that he take the recommendations discussed at tonight's (January 28, 2013) meeting to the TAAHC.

***Member Reed amended to motion to direct that Chair Flowers take the recommendations discussed to the TAAHC. Member Harwell amended the second. The motion carried unanimously.***

16. **WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, March 7, 2013, meeting. **NOTE:** This meeting is scheduled to be held at the Regional Emergency Operations Center on Spectrum Boulevard.*

Responding to Member Reed's inquiry about the letter on the horse Eco-sanctuary, Chair Flowers explained that final action had been taken and that the support material on the NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) website had been informational.

Responding to Member Reed's inquiry about Turkey tags in area 203, Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that there had been a tag in the past but the turkey population tends to move from public to private lands. The low hunter success rate and issues associated with accessing privately owned lands resulted in a closing of the season as the turkeys spent more time on private property.

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Member Shea noted that the State of California had closed the use of dogs and that the States of Idaho and Montana allow non-residents to hunt with dogs only with a permit.

Mike McCusker – Game Warden, noted that the State of Nevada does not currently have a similar regulation.

Chair Flowers suggested that additional information be sought from NDOW since this is a license or permit issue.

No new agenda items were identified.

## **17. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

## **18. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers adjourned the meeting at 10:37 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON MARCH 7, 2013.**