Agency Overview

Senate & Assembly
Natural Resources

February 12, 2015
Wildlife as Public Trust Resource

• Several key landmark Supreme Court rulings have made it clear the wildlife belong to no one but are to be held in trust by government for the benefit of present and future generations. This Public Trust Doctrine has become the legal bedrock for government to establish regulatory authority over wildlife.

• Federal agencies recognize that “the states possess broad trustee and police powers over fish and wildlife within their borders, including fish and wildlife found on federal lands within a state.” 43 C.F.R. § 24.3.

• Through federally levied excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment, states are able to leverage non-federal funds at a ratio of 3:1 ($3 federal dollars/$1 state dollar) in the name of fish and wildlife management.

• Nevada Department of Wildlife’s statutory authorities and responsibilities are outlined in NRS 501-506 (wildlife) and 488 (boating).
North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

Seven Principles:

- Wildlife is held in the public trust
- Regulated commerce in wildlife
- Hunting & fishing laws created through public process
- Hunting & fishing opportunities for all
- Non-frivolous use of wildlife
- Wildlife is an international resource
- Scientific management of wildlife
Importance of Wildlife & Boating Related Recreation To Nevada’s Economy

Total estimated value of wildlife & boating to Nevada’s economy is $1,631,231,451 each year

The Public Process

- Department of Wildlife (recommendations)
- County Advisory Boards (county appointed)
- General Public

Wildlife Commission (Governor appointed)

Policies & Regulations
The Public Process

Wildlife Commission
(Governor appointed)

- Department of Wildlife (recommendations)
- County Advisory Boards (county appointed)
- General Public
- Policies & Regulations
- Department of Wildlife

Implement & Enforce Policy & Regulations
# Wildlife Commission Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Drew, Chair</td>
<td>Sportsman</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Wallace, Vice Chair</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Esmeralda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Layne</td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Clark</td>
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<td>David McNinch</td>
<td>Conservation</td>
<td>Washoe</td>
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<td>Peter Mori</td>
<td>Ranching</td>
<td>Elko</td>
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<td>Bill Young</td>
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<td>Chad Bliss</td>
<td>Sportsman</td>
<td>Eureka</td>
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<td>Brad Johnston</td>
<td>Sportsman</td>
<td>Lyon</td>
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<td>Paul Valentine</td>
<td>Sportsman</td>
<td>Clark</td>
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Wildlife Commission Duties

NRS 501.181:

- Establish broad policies for wildlife management and boating safety
- Provide guidance to NDOW
- Adopt regulations for wildlife management and boating safety
- Adopt regulations specific to hunting, trapping, and fishing
  - Considering NDOW recommendations, County Advisory Boards and public views at an open meeting
2013 Session Follow-up

- Black Bear Hunt (S.B. 82)
  - Comprehensive Review of Bear Hunt
    - completed and accepted by Commission

- Trapping Regulations (S.B. 213)
  - Trap Registration – regulation completed
    - deferred until after 2015 Session by Legislative Commission
  - Visitation Requirements – regulation completed
    - deferred until after 2015 Session by Legislative Commission
Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDOW Mission Statement

To protect, preserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for its aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefit to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of this state.

NRS: 501-506 (wildlife), 488 (boating), 701 (energy)
Nevada’s Wildlife Responsibilities

- 892 different species regularly occurring in Nevada
  - 456 species of birds
  - 173 species of fish
  - 161 species of mammals
  - 78 species of reptiles
  - 24 amphibian species

ESA – Listing Activities
- Candidates (3) Threatened (10) Endangered (22)
FY 2014 NDOW Operations Funding By Source

- Wildlife Fees & Grants: 86%
- Boat Fees & Grants: 11%
- Other State Funds: 2%
- State General Fund: 1%
Department Structure

- 247 Full-time Employees
- 120 Buildings
- 32 Radio Towers
- 11 Wildlife Management Areas (120,000 ac.)
- 8 Major Facilities
- 7 Unique Divisions
- 4 Fish Hatcheries
- 3 Regions
Director’s Office (Administration)

Director’s Office
(18 positions)

Agency Administration
Wildlife Commission
County Advisory Boards
Fiscal Services
Human Resources
Centralized Costs
Conservation Education Division

Conservation Education
(18 positions)

- Hunter Safety Training
- Hunter & Angler Education
- Wildlife Education
- Media & Public Relations
Game Management Division

Game Management
(31 positions)

- Wildlife Survey & Inventory
- Seasons & Harvest Quotas
- Landowner Conflict Resolution
- Wildlife Health Monitoring
- Research Collaboration
Fisheries Management Division

Fisheries Management
(44 positions)

- Sport Fish Production
- Fisheries Management
- Native Aquatics
- Aquatic Health Monitoring
- Aquatic Invasive Species
Wildlife Diversity Division

Wildlife Diversity
(17 positions)

- State Wildlife Action Plan
- Non-Game Species Management
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Geographic Information Systems
- Tahoe Environmental Improvement
Habitat Division

Habitat
(35 positions)

- Development Project Review
- Mining Industrial Ponds
- Habitat Conservation & Restoration
- Nevada Partners Program
- Water Development
- Wildlife Management Areas
Major Priorities Next Biennium

- Sage-grouse Conservation
- Habitat Restoration – Wildfire Rehabilitation
- Game Management
- Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- Energy and Other Development Reviews
- Urban Wildlife Conflicts
- Public Safety in the Water and on the Land
- Provide Equipment, Support and Training for Personnel Success
Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT)
  • NDOW is an integral part of developing & implementing the state’s plan

Greater Sage-grouse conservation
  • continued coordination with local, state, and federal partners
  • leadership in habitat improvement and protection
  • providing the best science for informed decisions

Bi-State Action Plan
  • discreet population of Sage-grouse
  • NDOW leadership in implementation of plan
  • leading to reconsideration of listing decision
Aquatic Invasive Species
Program Update

- AB 167 – 2011 Session – Authorized Program
  - AIS decal fee for every boater on Nevada waters
  - $445,000 in revenue FY14 – match for federal AIS grants
  - $689,000 spent in FY 14

- State Parks Partnership
  - Inspection/ Decontamination/ Education Stations at Lahontan, Rye Patch, and Wild Horse Reservoirs

- Department Resources
  - Three statewide roving & three Lake Mead NRA inspection/ decontamination/ education stations
  - Game warden outreach & enforcement
  - Public information campaigns – Clean, Drain, & Dry
  - Early detection monitoring for Quagga & Zebra Mussels statewide
Major Budget Initiative: Urban Wildlife Management

General Fund Appropriation: FY16-FY17: $450,000
Sportsmen Revenue Savings: FY16-FY17: <$174,184>

- Emphasis on urban bear and urban coyote issues
- Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife grants do not allow funding of urban wildlife or human/wildlife conflict activities
  - Urban development issue, not a hunting or wildlife management issue
  - Current activity is limited to response to public safety threats
- Education and outreach
  - Information campaigns & seasonal positions
- Equipment and supplies
  - Tools for wardens and biologists
- Fund staff time spent on urban wildlife

February 12, 2015
Other Budget Initiatives

- Question 1 Bond Sales
- Big Game Scientific Database
- Personnel Training & Development
- Web Tools & Videography
- Spanish Outreach & Marketing
- Fiscal Services Personnel
- Consolidation of NDOW Headquarters
- Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Advanced Planning
  - Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area and NDOW HQ
- Vehicles & Equipment
- CIP – Las Vegas Office HVAC
Question 1

- Approved by Nevada Legislature 2001 and voters in 2002
- $27.5 million authorized for NDOW
- Purpose – habitat improvements, property acquisitions, facilities

Current Status:
- $24.5 million bonds sold
- $22.2 million spent since FY 2004
- $2.3 million projected to be spent in FY 2015
- $1 million request to sell additional bonds for FY 2016-2017
Ruby Pipeline Funds

- $8.8 million received from Ruby Pipeline LLC in 2010
- Purpose – Sage-grouse and Pygmy Rabbit Conservation
- Cooperative Conservation Agreement signed by BLM, NDOW, and Ruby Pipeline LLC
  - Applies to three regional BLM districts (Surprise, Winnemucca and Elko) impacted by Ruby Project
    - Includes portions of Elko, Humboldt, and Washoe Counties
    - To be used only for habitat protection, habitat enhancement, research, or property acquisitions and easements
- Project proposals approved jointly by BLM and NDOW
  - Anyone can propose a project, most come from BLM and NDOW
  - Project review by committee of two agencies
  - NDOW administers funds through sub-grants and contracts
- $5.5 million spent, $3.3 million remaining
  - Funds are being matched approximately 2 to 1 from other sources
Department Bills

- AB 78 – Elk Damage Fee
- SB 41 – Electronic Duck Stamp
- AB 35 – Vessel Hull Numbering
- AB 82 – Fiscal Clean-up
Thank you for your time!

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