

**Approved Minutes**

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting

Clark County Government Center

Commission Chambers

500 S. Grand Central Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89155

*Amended Agenda 01/27/14*

*Added Agenda Item #6. I Department Activity Report*

Public comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item, and is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech.

Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

NOTE: Public comment allowed on each action item and regulation workshop items and at the end of the meeting

Friday, January 31, 2014 - 11 a.m.

- 1 Call to Order, Introduction and Roll Call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Robb
- 2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Robb – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.
- 3 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - Chairman Robb - Informational  
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley will also be discussed.
- 4 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational  
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.
- 5 Request for Desert Bighorn Sheep from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox – For Possible Action  
The Commission will be asked to approve a request from the State of Utah for desert bighorn sheep for release in Utah.
- 6 Reports – Informational
- A Mid-Winter Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference Report – Secretary Tony Wasley and Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent mid-winter conference held in Corpus Christi, Texas.
- B Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 15 Predation Management Plan – Staff Specialist Pete Bradley  
The draft FY 15 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review and input.

- C Muzzleloader Smokeless Powder Definition – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici  
The Commission will hear and consider conceptual alternatives to the current muzzleloader regulation (NAC 503.142). This agenda item is a result of a petition to amend NAC 503.142 to allow for Blackhorn 209 as a legal powder for muzzleloaders. This petition was withdrawn by the petitioner. The Commission will provide direction to the Department as to the potential development of a regulation, specifically amendments to NAC 503.142.
- D Sage-grouse Update – Secretary Wasley  
Secretary Wasley will provide an update on the status of sage-grouse.
- E Trapping Committee Report – Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent Trapping Committee meetings.
- F Bear Committee Report – Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent Bear Committee meeting.
- G Heritage Report – Deputy Director Cates  
A report will be provided on and the funds available (interest and principal) for expenditure from the Heritage trust account in the upcoming year.
- H Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton

Added Agenda Item - 1/27/14

- I Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley  
Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.
- 7 Commission General Regulation - Workshop - Public Comment Allowed
- A Commission General Regulation 416, Shed Antlers, LCB File No. R155 - 12 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY  
The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to shed antlers; requiring a permit for the commercial taking of shed antlers from the field; authorizing a person to take shed antlers from the field for a noncommercial purpose during a certain period or at any time of the year upon completion of an educational course for the noncommercial taking of shed antlers; prohibiting the sale, trade or barter of shed antlers taken for a noncommercial purpose; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.  
  
The need for the shed antler regulation is to reduce disturbance of big game animals, by shed antler hunters, during the critical time of year when these animals' energy reserves are at a low. The need for such a regulation was initially expressed by the White Pine County Advisory Board with support from the Lincoln County Advisory Board.
- B Commission General Regulation 430, Guide License Changes, LCB File No. R053 - 13 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY  
The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to guides; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or subguide permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a subguide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the State on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a subguide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or subguide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.  
  
The need for the guide regulation is to update the existing guide regulations that were requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association. The changes are designed to streamline the guide license application process and address other changes requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Board.

- C Commission General Regulation 442, Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R140-13 – Chief Jon Sjöberg – Workshop  
The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to fishing: removing the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line, from the waters restricted to use only artificial lures with single barbless hooks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

NDOW proposes to change the special fishing regulations (use of artificial lures and single barbless hooks only) for the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line. This change will make fishing regulations consistent for the entire river, helping to alleviate tackle confusion among anglers and allowing greater angling opportunity. In conjunction with the recently modified, reduced possession limit of three fish for the Truckee River this regulation change is expected to have a neutral effect on resident sport fish populations in the affected reach.

- D Commission General Regulation 443, Wildlife Grants Program, LCB File No. R141-13 – Deputy Director Patrick Cates – Workshop  
The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to establish a grant program to provide funding to facilitate wildlife restoration activities and research; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the grant program regulation is to consolidate, clarify and streamline the Department of Wildlife's process to award funds for special projects. The Department of Wildlife currently uses a variety of granting and contracting processes for special project funds. This regulation will facilitate consolidation of these processes into a unified granting processes to clarify rules for applicants and to streamline administrative processes.

8 Public Comment Period

Saturday, February 1, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.

- 9 Call to Order, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Robb

10 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Robb – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

11 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - Chairman Robb - Informational

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley will also be discussed.

12 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items - Informational

CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

13 Commission Regulations – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

A Commission Regulation 13 - 04, Big Game Seasons, Amendment #1 – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder - For Possible Action

The Commission will consider amending the 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, physical characteristics, legal weapon requirements, and hunt boundary restrictions, for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat; emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas; dates and times for indoctrination courses; establishing the 2014 (2014 - 2015) antlerless elk landowner hunt structure and statewide quotas; and establishing the 2014 any legal weapon resident and nonresident pronghorn hunts 2151 and 2251 seasons that were not previously set.

- B Commission Regulation 14 - 03, 2014 Big Game Application Deadline and Information - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application deadline and information.
- C Commission Regulation 14 – 04, 2014 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility Information - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application eligibility.
- D Commission Regulation 14 – 05, 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.
- E Commission Regulation 14 – 06, 2014 Dream Tag Seasons - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Dream Tags seasons.
- F Commission Regulation 14 – 07, 2015 Heritage Tags Seasons and Quotas- Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.
- G Commission Regulation 14 - 08, Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adoption of 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal gender, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.
- H Commission Regulation 14 - 09, 2014 (2014-15) Mountain Lion Season Open Units and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of 2014 (2014-15) mountain lion hunting season harvest limits, hunting hours, and special regulations. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.
- I Commission General Regulation 442, Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R140-13 – Chief Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action  
The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to fishing: removing the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line, from the waters restricted to use only artificial lures with single barbless hooks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Note: See support material under agenda item #7C.
- NDOW proposes to change the special fishing regulations (use of artificial lures and single barbless hooks only) for the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line. This change will make fishing regulations consistent for the entire river, helping to alleviate tackle confusion among anglers and allowing greater angling opportunity. In conjunction with the recently modified, reduced possession limit of three fish for the Truckee River this regulation change is expected to have a neutral effect on resident sport fish populations in the affected reach.
- J Commission General Regulation 443, Wildlife Grants Program, LCB File No. R141-13 - Deputy Director Patrick Cates - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider a regulation relating to wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to establish a grant program to provide funding to facilitate wildlife restoration activities and research; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- The need for the grant program regulation is to consolidate, clarify and streamline the Department of Wildlife's process to award funds for special projects. The Department of Wildlife currently uses a variety of granting and contracting processes for special project funds. This regulation will facilitate consolidation of these processes into a unified granting processes to clarify rules for applicants and to streamline administrative processes.

- 14 Future Commission Meeting and Commission Committee Assignments - Secretary Tony Wasley - For Possible Action  
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 21 and 22, 2014, in Reno, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The CABMW workshop is scheduled for this meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.
- 15 Public Comment Period

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for two day meeting:

Chairman Jack Robb	Vice Chairman Jeremy Drew	Commissioner Chad Bliss
Commissioner Karen Layne	Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Pete Mori
Commissioner Michael McBeath	Commissioner Grant Wallace	Commissioner Bill Young

Secretary Tony Wasley  
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby

Deputy Attorney General David Newton

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel present:

Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici	Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger	Chief of Habitat Alan Jenne
Chief of Fisheries Jon Sjoberg	Chief of Game Larry Gilbertson
Chief of Conservation Education Teresa Moiola	Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox
Administrative Assistant 4 Kathleen Teligades	Conservation Educator 4 Doug Nielsen
Administrative Assistant 3 Joanne Trendler	Game Division Specialist Pete Bradley

Others in Attendance/Two Day Meeting

Chairman Paul R. Dixon, Clark CABMW	John Reed, self and Washoe CABMW
Director Brett Jefferson, Wild Sheep Foundation	Clint Bentley, self or Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Sheep
Jim Hollinger	Mike Reese, Southern Nevada Coalition for Wildlife
Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW	Chairman Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Catherine Smith	Larry Johnson, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited/Coalition for NV's Wildlife
Jana Wright, Clark County	Walt Gardner
Henry Krenka, NV Outfitters and Guide's Association	Gina Greisen
Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW	Don Molde, self
Fred Voltz, general public	Stephanie Myers, Mt. Charleston
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Chairman Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Eric Clifford, Churchill CABMW	Kensen Lee, self
Chairman Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW	John Hiatt, Red Rock Audubon Society
Gordon Warren, Nevada Firearms Coalition	Paul Anderson, Nevada State Assembly AD 13
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants Inc. (SCI)	Monty Martin, SCI
Robert Gaudet	Trish Swain, Trail Safe
Trevor Walch	Walt Gardner, NOGA
	Mitch Buzzetti, Elko CABMW and Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association (NOGA)

Friday, January 31, 2014 - 11 a.m.

- 1 Call to Order, Introduction and Roll Call of County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Robb

Chairman Robb called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.; all nine Commissioners present.

CABMW Roll Call: Tom Barnes, Elko; Cory Lytle, Lincoln; Eric Clifford, Churchill; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Paul Dixon, Clark; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Joe Crim, Pershing; John Reed, Washoe; and Rex Flowers, Washoe.

- 2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Robb – For Possible Action

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - Chairman Robb - Informational

Commissioner Layne said an article appeared in the Albuquerque Journal reporting that New Mexico's Wildlife Commission chairman recently won a coyote killing contest in Elko County, Nevada. She said the article stated that a total of 307 coyotes were killed and she would like the Commission to possibly look at these kinds of contests to determine whether those kinds of contests are okay and should be done.

Commissioner Drew said the Commission received correspondence on various items on the agenda of which the majority was forwarded to the Commission through the Director's office.

4 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said the Elko County Commission recently met and the board took action to declare ravens a nuisance species to assist the raven problem regarding sage-grouse as the board wanted that in the Elko County Land Use Plan. He provided the resolution to the Commission (copy in exhibit file).

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said as a member of the Finance Committee he would remind the CABMWs that CABMW budgets will be due soon, and a letter will be sent to the CABMWs from the Department.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said for the record, CABMW action reports are sent to the Commission before its meeting, and he is requesting that when Commission committees meet that actions taken by the committee be shared with the CABMWS within 48 hours. A concern was raised at their meeting regarding the harassment of wildlife and laws we have and this person would like an informational agenda item to educate the public; and also the Clark CABMW is requesting new signage at urban ponds on fishing rules to aid in cleanup of things like fishing line removal and placement in proper receptacles. Much of the signage that was there has been removed or destroyed and the signage needs to be replaced.

Chairman Robb said he understands the comment on the action reports and the Commission will work on transmitting to the CABMWs actions taken at the Commission's committee meetings.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they had same suggestion for committee action report and to include that in Commission Policy #1 and also may be time to review the duck stamp policy and financing duck stamp prints in the future.

5 Request for Desert Bighorn Sheep from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox – For Possible Action

The Commission will be asked to approve a request from the State of Utah for desert bighorn sheep for release in Utah.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox introduced the Bighorn Program Manager for Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Dustin Shively who showed a power point presentation on desert bighorn sheep and restoration in Utah. He said Utah is requesting a total of 100 desert bighorn sheep over the next three years from Nevada (request letter - exhibit file).

Chairman Robb asked Mr. Shively if the potential for Utah to take more sheep is there.

Mr. Shively answered yes and they recognize the challenges Nevada faces with population objectives.

Public Comment -

Larry Johnson representing Nevada Bighorns Unlimited said this is a golden opportunity for both states and we should take advantage of it to the fullest and he suggested going back in the past and using drop nets.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the Commission action today is to define the number of sheep and the time period.

Chairman Robb said he is not sure of providing actual numbers as the Commission will consider the Department's recommendation for a ewe hunt later today and with that possibility, he thinks that the number of sheep should be left up to the Department due to the situation we are in. He will support Utah receiving as many sheep as they can afford to take, as sportsmen have stated, that the hunt should be the last step.

Commissioner Bliss agreed with Chairman Robb and said this is a good program and working relationship between states. As a sportsman he is proud of what the Department and sheep organizations have done for Nevada and this is not the worst problem to have.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO DIRECT NDOW TO WORK WITH THE STATE OF UTAH NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION ON THEIR REQUEST TO TRANSFER AS MANY SHEEP AS POSSIBLE TO HELP UTAH WITH THEIR SHEEP RESTORATION EFFORTS. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6 Reports – Informational

- A Mid-Winter Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Conference Report – Secretary Tony Wasley and Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent mid-winter conference held in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Secretary Wasley said the mid-winter meeting was held in Corpus Christi, Texas, and main issue discussed was state coordination with federal partners - direction of priorities of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). USFWS Director Dan Ashe attended and it was beneficial to glean insight from USFWS on their views and to articulate the states' position and concerns, and he attended the "states' only" meeting where strategies and philosophies were discussed to unify state's positions to challenge the federal government where the differences exist.

Commissioner McNinch said a big topic was sage-grouse, as the decision deadline nears, and there is concern and doubt if everyone is lined up where they need to be, and concern is that there is much to be done in a short-time period and will take extraordinary effort from this point forward. He said other issues discussed were: Colorado's and Montana's pending legislation to ban drones in relation to hunting and fair chase; technological advances to be a topic at the next WAFWA Commissioners' meeting; human dimensions and view of experiences; one state discussed reducing price of tags on leftover tags to meet harvest objectives; and Arizona presented its conclusions on use of video streaming for Commission meetings which they found disconnected them from their constituents.

- B Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 15 Predation Management Plan – Staff Specialist Pete Bradley  
The draft FY 15 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review and input.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Pete Bradley said in conformance with the timeline in Commission Policy 23, he is presenting the Fiscal Year 15 Predation Management Plan and he read sections of the plan and provided the Department's recommendations: Project 21, Project 22 and Sub-project 22-14, Project 25, Project 29, and Project 30 page 4 and 5. He said no new projects are proposed for FY 15 with \$558,266 available from the \$3 fee in Fiscal Year 15.

Commissioner Drew said he had received questions regarding the source of match and suggested that the matching source be included in the table.

Chairman Robb allowed public comment on the informational item:

Public Comment –

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said the CABMW reviewed this and with Project 18 cancelled this year, their recommendation is to move money to Project 22, increase it from 110 to 150 and in order to do that they suggest that NDOW review Project 21, subproject 21-02 and Project 30, to all be funded same as fiscal year 2014. The extra money needed could come from the Upland Game Stamp, and suggest reducing Project 22-14 from \$90,000 to be funded at \$75,000.

Don Molde said on raven killing Projects 21 and 22 he sees nothing in narrative relating to Condition D of depredation permit from USFWS as being honored. He said Condition D that NDOW has signed onto is boilerplate language which he read aloud and he sees no indication in project descriptions that Condition D is being required. He is not sure who should do it but in NDOW permit states NDOW will do it but since NDOW subcontracts with Wildlife Services and some might argue it is their job.

Jana Wright requested that no money be allocated to Project 21 and she read statement from progress report given to Commission in December which states on page 27 that grouse populations are affected more by annual precipitation trends and by quality of security cover than any other environmental factors including predators. She said it does not appear to be working, so she does not understand why you would give more money to poison eggs, and remove predators when it is not working.

Trevor Walch speaking on behalf of Predator Control Corporation said throughout the draft plan for raven management that the avicide "chloro-p-toluidine hydrochloride (DRC-1339)" is used as verbiage and due to recent changes in EPA registrations for avicide poisoning effective September 2013 there is a second registered avicide and would like the wording changed to say "avicide."

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said they had a 3 - 2 split vote, and the Clark CABMW recommended that FY15 Predation Management Projects 21 and 21- 02 not be funded even though they believe sage-grouse need to be protected as the money from the \$3 fee cannot be used for that, and instead that money should be from the Upland Game Stamp.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said speaking for himself that we are taking selective amount of ravens from selected area and all the reports he has seen from the Governor's Sage-grouse Council suggest that predation and removal of this small amount of predators is having little impact and his question is since we are looking at things such as cleaning up garbage at dumps and removal of carcasses to change behaviors is whether populations are increasing, and has there been an impact after spending the money.

Chairman Robb returned discussion to the Commission and no comments were made on the plan by the Commission. He said the public comments were heard by Director Wasley and is sure some of this will be addressed so that the Commission can answer the questions properly at the right time.

C Muzzleloader Smokeless Powder Definition – Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici  
The Commission will hear and consider conceptual alternatives to the current muzzleloader regulation (NAC 503.142). This agenda item is a result of a petition to amend NAC 503.142 to allow for Blackhorn 209 as a legal powder for muzzleloaders. This petition was withdrawn by the petitioner. The Commission will provide direction to the Department as to the potential development of a regulation, specifically amendments to NAC 503.142.

Chief Buonamici reviewed the power point presentation as submitted in the meeting's support material.

Commissioner Mori asked for clarification: Does Option 2 allows use of Blackhorn 209.

Chief Buonamici confirmed that it does.

Commissioner Drew said Option 2 seems the cleanest way to go as he stated at the last meeting.

Commissioner Young asked if Chief Buonamici is recommending Option 2 as to ease of enforcement.

Chief Buonamici said from a law enforcement perspective, Option 2 meets criteria and is supported by NDOW for enforcement purposes, and from sportsman's request.

Chairman Robb said although this agenda item is informational he will allow public comment.

Public Comment – None

Chairman Robb said the Department has seen which direction the Commission would like to take and requested a regulation be drafted.

D Sage-grouse Update – Secretary Wasley  
Secretary Wasley will provide an update on the status of sage-grouse.

Secretary Wasley said in the sage-grouse arena there are two big issues, one of which is development of the state's conservation credit system (CCS) and the state has selected a vendor. Environmental incentives and the pieces are being put together for the CCS. The CCS will operate as a mitigation bank system to where users of the land can earn credits by doing

good things for habitat and sage-grouse, and in turn earn the privilege to take some of that habitat through their activities. He said a number of groups are providing input to the continued development of the CCS, such as the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, the Sagebrush Technical Team (SETT), the Science Work Group, and a whole host of interested and affected parties are providing input on development of CSS. Another product recently unveiled was Pete Coates' Resource Selection Habitat Model, that developed a habitat distribution map for sage-grouse in the state and the product was partly funded by Question 1 dollars, it was a significant undertaking that cost \$850,000 through U.S. Geological Survey and is a powerful and useful tool that is enabling us to have a predictive model to look at habitat suitability and conditions on the landscape and will be used partly in evaluation and development of CCS. A draft was unveiled last week and it validated much of NDOW's habitat suitability mapping efforts and may have actually expanded maps generated by NDOW. The deadline was this week for comment on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and that is probably the biggest single item in our fight to preclude a listing. The BLM has so much federal land that the state has since put most of its energies and efforts in developing alternatives in that EIS that provide the necessary regulatory assurances and mechanisms for USFWS to demonstrate that federal lands will be managed in such a way that it will preclude the need to list. He said he knows that NGO's, the SETT, NDOW, and others provided their comments, which were due on Wednesday and NDOW submitted theirs along with that process. BLM will begin to compile the comments and take parts and pieces of alternatives to develop a single alternative which will then be evaluated by USFWS which will be a huge part in their decision as whether or not to list.

Commissioner Drew said he would add that as far as CCS that a subcommittee has been established to look at different pieces and components and it will be a huge undertaking. He said he was appointed to the subcommittee and the contractor is very capable and there will be many intricacies involved in how it all comes together from developing credits and the debit side when actually doing a project in sage-grouse habitat. There are two meetings scheduled: Feb. 4 and Feb. 10, both are from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Carson City and further information is available at the website: [sagebrusheco.nv](http://sagebrusheco.nv). The next Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting is scheduled for Feb. 13 and 24, 2014, and those meetings will likely focus on developing and providing further input to CCS. He said the Coates' model and mapping provided at the last meeting was very interesting and validated what NDOW had put together and they developed four different mapping criteria for going forward from state's perspective on how we will manage. He said there is a "core area," "high priority area," "general area," and "non-habitat" across much of the upper two-thirds of the state that was a significant undertaking and all came to a head at the last meeting. Commissioner Drew said those are the big pieces and mentioned that the proposed Bi-State Rule from USFWS has a comment period through Feb. 10 if anyone is interested in commenting on the proposed threatened or proposed critical habitat rule.

- E Trapping Committee Report – Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent Trapping Committee meetings.

Commissioner McNinch reported that the Trapping Committee met this morning, and worked through terminology left by legislature such as "heavily used areas" and "close proximity." The area discussed was in Southern Nevada and the committee took no action on proposing anything to the Commission. Commissioners Robb and Layne will work on Southern Nevada overlay map, next meetings will be scheduled in Reno and Elko on March 7 and 8, then back to Southern Nevada to address heavily populated areas in Clark County.

- F Bear Committee Report – Commissioner David McNinch  
A report will be provided on the recent Bear Committee meeting.

Commissioner McNinch reported that the Bear Committee met recently and during the meeting reviewed: Senate Bill 82, the Department's three year analysis, regulations, and the committee took action to recommend to the Commission that the bear season be shortened by one month. The next Bear Committee meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21, 2014, with the following items slated for the agenda: Premise for the hunt, human dimensions, four or five NAC's for discussion, sows accompanied by cubs, edible portions, hunting with dogs, attachment of tag, and relevant weapons to the hunt.

Commissioner Layne said she received comments from many people and as a Commissioner does not know how to respond to them because from Commission standpoint as we are discussing seasons and yet we have not received this report from NDOW that was supposed to be provided. Her understanding is that if we approve the season tomorrow there will be a bear hunt. She said for the non-consumptive user this is difficult for them to understand and is important, as the perception out there, is that decision was already made regardless of what report states as there is going to be a hunt. She understands the timing issue for the Commission and is suggesting that sometimes the Commission may need to provide better explanations to non-hunting public about why things are done in the fashion that they are done, because most of people do not understand the issue in terms of timing of seasons.

Chairman Robb said he fully understands Commissioner Layne's comment as many times what happened in a meeting is not portrayed correctly.

Commissioner Drew said at the meeting they discussed timelines for the Department and looked at NAC to see if the Committee felt any changes were warranted, and the biology will be looked at and if there is a big red flag there is the possibility of an emergency closure, and those discussions were had in the committee and nothing rose up signaling that.

#### Public Comment –

John Reed, Washoe CABMW representing himself, thanked the Bear Committee for taking on the issue and wanted to point out that the discussion on human dimension's science was brought up specifically as Ms. Bricker had convinced Senator Ford that needs to be brought in with all the other science that we use to manage wildlife in the state and having taken many engineering, math and science courses, that this does not resemble science at all. He said it is being included to force a look at demographic and political issues and probably we should look at those issues, but don't put them under the guise of science because they are not.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said they had comment from public regarding science behind decisions on bear hunt. He said the real scientific side of things was apparently missing and did not convince public that the decision was based on biological information and we have not seen that regarding the bear hunt, unfortunately.

Fred Voltz said the four principles of the scientific method should have been used one year ago for three year review and begs the question why that was not done. He said this should not be rushed and does not suggest good management; if you are really science based it should be used for all hunts as that is not being done presently.

Don Molde said there is no science that tells you whether to hunt and kill an animal or not, it is purely a value judgment and has nothing to do with science. You may call it human dimensions or whatever you like.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said he believes differently than previous testimony as all kinds of data presented at Bear Committee meeting showing that Nevada collects more data per bear than any other state, and conclusion has been reached by professional biologists that bear hunt had no adverse impact on existing bear populations and the biologist was asked that several times and was very clear.

G Heritage Report – Deputy Director Cates

A report will be provided on and the funds available (interest and principal) for expenditure from the Heritage trust account in the upcoming year.

Deputy Director Cates provided a brief overview of the Heritage Trust Account. Tags are administered through the Application Hunt process and the proceeds are deposited in the account, statute allows 75 percent of the proceeds and interest to be expended on wildlife projects. The account balance is \$558,628.29, which is up from last year with the increase mostly due to Heritage tag auctions. This year's Heritage project deadline is March 1, 2014, and projects meeting the criteria will be submitted to Commission for review with proposals reviewed and approved at the May Commission meeting.

Chairman Robb asked if the Commission can determine where the funds are invested as disconcerting to have the account's principle of \$6.5 million sitting there and earning little interest as compared to 2010.

Deputy Director Cates said the State Treasurer's Office oversees the state's cash assets and investments and is up to them where they invest and investment revenue is proportioned across the state's accounts.

H Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton

Deputy Attorney General David Newton said since the litigation report was submitted the Gutierrez matter has been dismissed.

I Department Activity Report –

Secretary Wasley said recent activities of the Department include the Diversity Division continuing to deal with the closure of Desert Tortoise Conservation Center which has raised many challenges as to what will happen to unwanted captive desert tortoises; Wildlife Society meeting attended in Reno; Operations Division facilitated headquarter's move back to Valley Road and a new phone system installed which has had challenges; Law Enforcement Division held in-service training for one week in Southern Nevada and law enforcement has high profile cases that are being worked in addition to several regulations being developed. The Habitat Division took the lead on comments submitted on Greater Sage-grouse BLM Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and staff are looking at mining assessment program to develop program based more on cost recovery. Also evaluating Level B proposals, and working closely on Boulder City bypass for underpasses for bighorn sheep, fencing, and one overpass. Fisheries has been dealing with fish die-off at Sparks Marina due to low oxygen levels, staff assisted with development of Fishing Regulations Guide, recently hired native aquatic fish coordinator in Reno, and signed range-wide conservation agreement for redband trout. Game Division prepared for this season setting meeting and attended the Wild Sheep Foundation

Convention and also contributed to DEIS comments on sage-grouse, conducted elk surveys and recently one bear cub euthanized due to poor health as appeared separated from mother. The Department's webpage has been modified to link to Operation Game Thief site and live information form to be completed online. At the Western Section of the Wildlife Society meeting which he mentioned earlier that was held in Reno, NBU was awarded Wildlife Conservation Award, and Shawn Espinosa was recognized as Wildlife Professional of the Year, Jim Sedinger awarded Wildlife Researcher, and Don Klebenow senior received Lifetime Achievement award. Secretary Wasley said from the director's office internal policies are worked on, continue to provide input and attend Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meetings, and have met with Division Administrators to glean issues and challenges. The Department has been requested to bring forth big policy initiatives to the Governor's Office. One initiative is having licenses available on smartphones and get away from dependence on license agents and paper, and simplify reconciliations. At the March Commission meeting is the CABMW workshop and if anyone has agenda items to please submit them to the Department this week. Lastly, Game Division Chief Larry Gilbertson is retiring effective March 7, 2014, and he thanked Larry Gilbertson for his service and noted that this is his last Commission meeting.

7 Commission General Regulation - Workshop - Public Comment Allowed

A Commission General Regulation 416, Shed Antlers, LCB File No. R155 - 12 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to shed antlers; requiring a permit for the commercial taking of shed antlers from the field; authorizing a person to take shed antlers from the field for a noncommercial purpose during a certain period or at any time of the year upon completion of an educational course for the noncommercial taking of shed antlers; prohibiting the sale, trade or barter of shed antlers taken for a noncommercial purpose; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the shed antler regulation is to reduce disturbance of big game animals, by shed antler hunters, during the critical time of year when these animals' energy reserves are at a low. The need for such a regulation was initially expressed by the White Pine County Advisory Board with support from the Lincoln County Advisory Board.

Chief Game Warden Buonamici said the Commission was designated authority over shed antlers in 2011 by the legislature which paved the path for a regulation. The regulation in the support material was developed in August 2012, and he reviewed each section in detail and answered questions from the Commission.

Commissioner McBeath noted this regulation allows collection all year, but education is needed for critical time periods when animals are stressed, and he asked what the reason was for deciding that.

Chief Buonamici said they initially decided that because during testimony at the legislature in general was to allow pick-up of sheds during hikes with no intent to ticket individuals, rather was meant for commercial collectors. He said there are so many who enjoy collecting and that is not viewed as a commercial enterprise, but they do sell the sheds at times and just the presence of people can be problematic and impacts the resource.

Commissioner McBeath said if you get commercial permit there is no mention of education, and is it assumed that permit will stipulate how commercial collector is to operate.

Chief Buonamici said at the time if for commercial purpose you would not be able to collect during that season and referenced Section 2, which states non-commercial purposes from April 1 to Dec. 31.

Chairman Robb said all the surrounding states have a shed season, and because of that the out of state collectors come to Nevada and pound our resource, before their home state season opens. Chairman Robb asked how do we get to having a shed season clearly defined and have our season mirror our neighboring states to prevent that influx of people and to protect Nevada's wildlife as shed collectors come to Nevada after their state's season closes. Chairman Robb said that is the intent rather than regulating commercial or non-commercial.

Chief Buonamici suggested that the regulation be changed based on these comments, resubmit the regulation to LCB and that he would contact them between now and the next meeting to see what their decision is, as to whether or not the regulation has to be resubmitted. He said Section 2 could be changed to a straight season.

Commissioner McBeath said the proposal would be to strike Section 1, and the regulation would be Section 2.

Chief Buonamici said yes, in essence, and Section 2 would read: A person may take shed antlers from the field from April 1 to Dec. 31, inclusive.

Chairman Robb said he is concerned with the start date as other states start April 15 or April 30 which would start their circuit in Nevada and that is what we are trying to avoid. He would like to push the date back to prevent the influx and does not want to come up short and be in same exact situation.

Public Comment on CGR 416 LCB File No. R155-12 -

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said they did not support the regulation as written and support a season starting at least after April 15 because weather is still tough on the animals especially in Elko County, and with permits and education, you will still have people out there which is a critical time for the animals to not have any more pressure on them.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said his CABMW sent several documents with back-up material (exhibit file). He said that the shed antler collection problems have grown over the years and the sport has changed with days in the field increasing due to its popularity and need to consider the impact of shed hunting in relation to multiple use. He said we talk of impacts of other uses on the range and shed antler hunting is right there and perception is real where he lives and right now there are people looking for sheds due to the mild winter.

Lincoln CAB 1/24/14 General Findings:

1. We have wildlife resources, (mule deer and elk- males primarily 😊) that produce antlers which are shed every year during their life cycle. This presents a complex scenario where a "part" of a big game animal is now detached and "on the ground."
2. Antler collection, (hunting) has become an extremely popular recreational activity.
3. Antlers are very valuable for a variety of reasons and are extremely marketable.

4. Late winter and early spring is the most difficult time for these animals. This is also the time that they “shed” their antlers.
5. Most shed hunting is done during the late winter and early spring where the majority of animals are found on winter ranges and in preferred habitat.
6. The animals are in certain "preferred" areas for a reason. The increase in activity in these areas tends to move the animals to less desired locations.
7. As shed hunting activity increases the impacts to other resources also increases.
8. The balance of shed hunting and its impacts must be considered with other multiple uses within Nevada.
9. There is a very high population of non-residents that shed hunt in Nevada. In some areas, such as Lincoln County, the impacts from non-residents far exceed those of residents.

It can be argued that:

1. There are more “field days” spent by many sportsmen hunting shed antlers than any other form of outdoor activity.
2. Because of the high value and marketability of shed antlers, there is a tendency by many to be less responsible and more careless in regard to lawful and ethical collection and hunting.
3. When considering the trophy characteristics of mule deer bucks and bull elk, energy reserves and stress play a key role. The fact remains that new antlers begin growing pretty much as soon as old ones are shed off. During this period, which is generally late winter and early spring, events which continually stress or cause disturbance to these animals can have a significant negative impact to new antler development.
4. When considering female deer and elk, energy reserves and stress play a key role at this critical time of year. In addition to other negative effects, continual stress and disturbance can lead to unborn fawns and calves being aborted.

Lincoln CAB Proposal:

Non-Commercial /Commercial Collection:

1. The majority of shed antler collection is non-commercial in nature, even though the potential for financial gain is present. Allow the buying, selling, trading and bartering, etc... for non-commercial purposes.
2. Commercial collection TBD.

Educational Course:

1. Require an annual educational course on lawful and ethical shed hunting, winter, habitat, and other resource impacts, etc...- (ONLINE). Completion of the course would include a printed and signed completion certificate with tracking number, etc...

Permit or Certificate:

1. Require a valid Nevada hunting license and education certificate for collection and possession of shed antlers from January 1 to April 30. License and printed education certificate would serve as the "Shed Permit" for this time period.
2. No restrictions from May 1 to December 31.

Permit and License Fees:

1. Resident / Non-resident, **commercial** shed antler permit fee, TBD.
2. Resident / Non-resident, **non-commercial** collection- Hunting License requirement, (\$33 / \$142 ages 16-up; no fees 15-under)
3. Resident / Non-resident, Shed Antler Special Permit, **non-commercial** collection, (\$10 / \$100, ages 16 and up; no fees 15-under)  
\*January 1 to April 15- Youth 15 years of age and under shall be accompanied by an adult with a valid shed permit, (hunting license and certificate).  
\*Hunting license renewal February.  
\*No restrictions May 1 to December 31.

Shed Hunting Dogs:

1. Restrict the use of dogs for the purpose of hunting sheds.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said his CABMW discussed but took no action, and his comment is his personal opinion is that Chief Buonamici's suggestion of only having a straight season and putting that in place would perhaps curb issues Lincoln CABMW mentioned, and items discussed in regulation can be done in the future. He said having a straight season and setting boundaries as to when people can be in the field goes back to his original wildlife harassment concept. If the shed antler regulation goes forward with a season, then we need a strong wildlife harassment enforcement policy, so if someone is cited, it is for harassment of wildlife with a sizable penalty.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said he prefers season approach with hunting license as a prerequisite. He suggested that the season end in January because chukar hunters are out and should be able to pick up a shed antler. The beginning date should be around April 30 because of sage-grouse breeding on leks and would not want interference during that period.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Guides and Outfitters, said they realize the problem with harassment of wildlife, but don't want to see any more regulations enacted.

Jim Hollinger supported educational course but does not support requiring hunting license and not sure if another regulation needed.

Walt Gardner said he is glad the Commission is taking off commercial license because under federal law that would require a permit and he does not support that.

Commissioner McBeath said he is leaning toward supporting requiring license as majority of people will already have those licenses and will add others who are participating in that activity.

Chief Game Warden Buonamici said the hunting license requirement is doable however the hunter education requirement may be an impediment for some.

Commissioner Young suggested having the child licensed under adult license holder.

Commissioner Wallace said he could support a hunting license if the hunter education course included shed hunting as you have a captive audience in the class.

Commissioner Layne said she supports a fee and is not in favor of license due to getting around approval of a fee and thinks that is saddling people with unnecessary effort and that is her perspective as a non-hunter.

Commissioner Bliss supported license requirement and hunter education as hunter education includes conservation and value of the resource we have, and is a good time to teach adults and young kids that are new to hunting and this can fall under the education portion.

Commissioner Drew asked procedurally if there will be a Commission recommendation on how to proceed.

Chairman Robb said the Commission can provide direction to the Department so that it can be provided to LCB, and he thinks we are overdoing this one as every other state has a season and they know Nevada does not, so they come here first. Chairman Robb said he also sees it as our wildlife resource and may be calling it the wrong thing with a hunting license as license allows you to take wildlife no matter what the means of take and is not looking to make money rather to educate people that are participating in the taking of our wildlife resource. He asked staff for further comment.

Chief Buonamici said definition of hunting states sheds are not wildlife but he believes they are because the legislature granted the Commission authority over sheds because they are considered part of wildlife.

Chairman Robb said the Department can ask the question of LCB as to the authority and seeing where we are headed. He asked if Chief Buonamici had enough direction to proceed.

Chief Buonamici answered yes.

- B Commission General Regulation 430, Guide License Changes, LCB File No. R053 - 13 – Chief Game Warden – Rob Buonamici – WORKSHOP ONLY
- The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to guides; revising provisions relating to the issuance and renewal of a license as a master guide or subguide permitting a master guide to use the services of another master guide or a subguide licensed under another master guide in certain circumstances; removing territorial limitations imposed by the State on the operation of master guides; revising the grounds for denying an application for a license or for revoking or suspending a license; extending the period within which a master guide must notify the Department of Wildlife after terminating the employment of a subguide; revising provisions governing the licensure of habitual violators and the submission of records relating to the clients of a master guide; expanding the circumstances under which a client must physically accompany the master guide or subguide during the entire pursuit and taking of an animal; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the guide regulation is to update the existing guide regulations that were requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association. The changes are designed to streamline the guide license application process and address other changes requested by the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Board.

Chief Game Warden Buonamici said staff met with Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association (NOGA) numerous times and he reviewed each section of CGR 430 and noted LCB language changes and NOGA recommendations (exhibit file).

Commissioner Young asked if there was consensus between the Department and NOGA.

Chief Buonamici said there were some differences which he will note as he proceeds.

Justification for NOGA wanting these changes

/ 3 /

Page 2 There is no Handbook of Nevada boating laws

Page 6 This would make these dates consistent with (2), (b) on next page

Page 8 July would be consistent with the 60 day grace period on page 9

Page 10 The highlighted text was supposed to be replaced with the blue text

Page 12 Add trapping to the list

Page 13 We believe this is a gray area, there have been licenses denied for violations that are over 20 years old. We would feel more comfortable if it read within past 7 years

Page 14 By switching February to May 31 and March 31 to July 1, we make these dates consistent with other dates and deadlines in these regulation changes

Public Comment –

Henry Krenka, president NOGA, said they agree with NDOW and except on page 6 with date change to a December 31 date, which would allow hiring of subguides if needed; page 8 change of date to July 31 for the grace period to be consistent with other grace periods for simplicity; another change is delete top three sentence on page 10 “removing 10 days;” and page 12, add “trapping” to the list.

Walt Gardner, NOGA, said on page 13 they want timeframe such as five or seven years for convictions that are allowed and he cited an example of the Department denying someone due to a conviction in 1981; and all February dates to be changed to July 1. Mr. Gardner said other than those changes they are in agreement with NDOW.

Commissioner McNinch asked if NOGA would be okay with five or seven year period.

Walt Gardner, NOGA, said they are okay with seven years as long as not back in youth and you have 20 years without another violation.

Commissioner McBeath asked what is the difference with hunter being able to re-enter the system in three years and having a different standard for guide.

Chief Buonamici said the rationale is that the guides hold themselves to a higher standard and when guides are licensed by the Department their client has an expectation as the agency approved them as a guide and that they must be of good moral character or how would they obtain a license. If convicted of big game poaching the Commission has authority to revoke them up to 10 years, and in regard to three year suspension, that is dependent on conviction, and have to meet public expectations.

Commissioner Young supports Chief Buonamici's position as he knows per NRS that the criminal record for a juvenile is a blank slate at age 18 to allow a fresh start with the exception of homicide. On the other hand from personal experience he knows that some people screw up in one state and will go to another state to start over and need process in place to prevent them from going to another department and supports the Department's statement. He said he knows NOGA does not want sub-guides that are bad guides but there needs to be some levity.

Commission discussion on violators and licensing – (4:42 p.m.)

Commissioner Mori said it seems this is the only portion of disagreement and asked if there is common ground such as increasing number of previous years that would make the Department buy-in.

Chief Buonamici said willing to discuss and another point is language of "may" and "habitual violator" and if we went back 20 years and individual in a seven year period was convicted of a violation for fishing without a license he would hope that be taken into consideration as opposed to someone who poached three elk on three separate occasions. He said the Department does have some discretion and did work hand-in-hand with the guides on this and he hopes there is trust.

Mr. Gardner said this is not make it or break it deal for them it is just something they are uncomfortable with and would like it more tied down and knows Chief Buonamici feels the same.

Mitch Buzetti, NOGA, said he can live with it, as this has taken three years to get to.

Chairman Robb said he is not in favor of grace periods as it is an artificial deadline, and prefers firm deadline. He would rather strike the "grace period" and state the deadline.

Chief Buonamici concurred with Chairman Robb the grace period ending is the new deadline, and has no problem with making end of grace period the actual deadline.

Henry Krenka, NOGA, said NDOW has worked with them all along and with regard to grace period they are comfortable with dealing with Chief Buonamici and if guaranteed someone like him is there to work with but if he is not around they are concerned with what could happen.

Chief Buonamici said he agreed with their date changes except for the date the client records are due, but could live with that as rare that we use it but nice when we need it.

Further discussion with workshop concluding at 5:04 p.m. and concurrence that one more workshop would be held prior to action by the Commission.

C Commission General Regulation 442, Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R140-13 – Chief Jon Sjöberg – Workshop

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to fishing: removing the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line, from the waters restricted to use only artificial lures with single barbless hooks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

NDOW proposes to change the special fishing regulations (use of artificial lures and single barbless hooks only) for the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line. This change will make fishing regulations consistent for the entire river, helping to alleviate tackle confusion among anglers and allowing greater angling opportunity. In conjunction with the recently modified, reduced possession limit of three fish for the Truckee River this regulation change is expected to have a neutral effect on resident sport fish populations in the affected reach.

Chief Sjöberg presented the regulation which he said removes the existing fishing tackle restrictions on the Truckee River in Washoe County which currently exist from I-80 bridge upstream through Crystal Peak Park to the California state line which required the use of artificial lures with single barbless hooks, reverting that portion of the river to the same as the remainder of the Truckee River and Storey County. He said this is a continuation of possession limit change that was made in September 2013, both changes originated from petitions submitted by Dave Stanley and Darin Elmore, and also from the CABMW. This change required a NAC change, and a survey was conducted by NDOW staff of registered master guides (93) in the state by NDOW staff two responses received indicating that they could see no impact to small businesses.

Public Comment –

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said they had comment at their meeting that the trophy section of the Truckee River should remain at possession of two.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said the board wants to see this regulation approved and would make the tackle requirement the same.

Commissioner Drew said he received two items of correspondence opposing the change, and asked if the persons attended the Washoe CABMW meeting.

Mr. Flowers responded that no one attended in opposition.

D Commission General Regulation 443, Wildlife Grants Program, LCB File No. R141-13 – Deputy Director Patrick Cates – Workshop

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation and also take public comment pertaining to the impact of this regulation on small businesses relating to wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to establish a grant program to provide funding to facilitate wildlife restoration activities and research; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The need for the grant program regulation is to consolidate, clarify and streamline the Department of Wildlife's process to award funds for special projects. The Department of Wildlife currently uses a variety of granting and contracting processes for special project funds. This regulation will facilitate consolidation of these processes into a unified granting processes to clarify rules for applicants and to streamline administrative processes.

Deputy Director Cates said this is an extension of a regulation passed last year for the Heritage program which established a granting process so the Department does not have to contract with persons awarded Heritage funds and this extends that process to other funding sources. He said authority is in the State Administrative Manual (SAM) to issue grants and sub-grants and this provided clear definition of the applicable programs. He reviewed the regulation and noted there was a recommendation from Washoe CABMW suggesting change in Section 3 from language, instead of private, non-profit organization, to add "501(c)(3) corporations and private universities." He said he does not think that is necessary as the generic language encompasses those entities.

8 Public Comment Period

Mr. Fred Voltz asked if videoconferencing will be available for the next Commission meeting.

Deputy Director Cates said it is unlikely that videoconferencing will be available at the March meeting, and he explained that setbacks have been experienced such as State Purchasing lacks videoconferencing vendors and that the first estimate for equipment was \$200,000 which was over-budget. Also, he said over the past few months the Reno office has been having difficulty with its internet bandwidth and the routers are maxed EITS is working on a system. He said staff are working on this and are running to ground using other existing systems and the best option at this point is the university system but parking will be an issue. Deputy Director Cates said he would hope to have something by May but cannot say for sure since his previous commitments to a firm date have been incorrect.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, asked if the Commission would consider filing a amicus brief in conjunction with NACO's wild horse complaint asking BLM to comply with the law in regard to wild horse management. He said in regard to funding for sage-grouse that after comments made to Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, that there are multiple groups meeting studying this and one obvious issue is the shortage of funding. He said next is to tackle the Reid/Heller bill and potentials there as well as conservation credit system. He said Ken Mayer put together a letter detailing sportsmen contributions to sage-grouse two years ago and it was in excess of \$130 million and that only one individual's salary is paid by sportsmen on science team and any cost recovery system as mentioned by Director Wasley needs to note that ranching, mining, non-consumptive users, off-road vehicles are absent as are others, sportsmen willing to dig even deeper but only willing to do so if others step up.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked that the status of Barrick Gold mitigation plan be provided as it has been over a year since the tour and the ad hoc committee has not been kept informed.

Secretary Wasley said a final decision has not been made by Barrick or BLM, and NDOW staff is still engaged discussing design, feature changes and mitigation plans with them. He said staff could provide update.

Commissioner Drew said a subsequent meeting has not been scheduled due to waiting for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Chief of Habitat Jenne said the draft EIS may be ready by the May meeting and will try to have that out earlier for review.

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said they keep getting asked for turkey draw statistics at their meetings and if results could be provided.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Saturday, February 1, 2014 - 8:30 a.m.

- 9 Call to Order, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Robb

Chairman Robb called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.; all nine Commissioners present.

CABMW Roll Call: Eric Clifford, Churchill, Paul Dixon, Clark; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Tom Barnes, Elko; Cory Lytle, Lincoln; Mike Reese, Clark; Rex Flowers, Washoe; and Joe Crim, Pershing.

- 10 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Robb – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda.  
The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 11 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - Chairman Robb - Informational  
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley will also be discussed.

Commissioner Wallace said he is the Commission's designated member of the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) which is planning to meet and he will provide a report to the Commission after the meeting.

- 12 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items - Informational  
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Mr. Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said the Elko CABMW did support the recommendation for the 2014 elk landowner hunts as their submitted recommendation denoted their vote incorrectly.

- 13 Commission Regulations – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- A Commission Regulation 13 - 04, Big Game Seasons, Amendment #1 – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider amending the 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, special hunt eligibility, animal gender, physical characteristics, legal weapon requirements, and hunt boundary restrictions, for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat;

emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas; dates and times for indoctrination courses; establishing the 2014 (2014 - 2015) antlerless elk landowner hunt structure and statewide quotas; and establishing the 2014 any legal weapon resident and nonresident pronghorn hunts 2151 and 2251 seasons that were not previously set.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox said he will start with main amendment than proceed through the season related Commission Regulations (CRs). He said last year the Commission approved most of the seasons for 2013 and 2014 and this is a series of amendments. Mr. Cox said both resident 2151 and nonresident 2251 are for possible action.

### Antelope

The Wildlife Commission did not set the Hunt 2151/2251 2014 seasons for buck antelope any legal weapon resident and nonresident hunts last year, so we are recommending the same season dates for 2014 as approved for each respective unit groups in 2013.

For Hunt 2181, doe (horns shorter than ears) antelope, we recommend combining a portion of Unit 144 with Units 065 and 142 to mirror the unit grouping for buck antelope hunt. The need for a separate hunt for Unit 144 to address depredation issues is no longer needed.

For Hunt 2181, adding central Nevada unit group (131, 145, 163, 164) that is large enough to provide doe hunting opportunities.

Commissioner Wallace asked why the different dates in 211 – 215 zone where you have a Aug. 22 – Sept. 5 season and next door in 205 - 208 the season is Sept. 25 – Oct. 4. He said the later season is better for taking care of the meat.

Mr. Cox answered that Mineral CABMW requested the season date to accommodate muzzleloader antelope hunters and same happened with late western Pershing County unit group trying later September date. He said the Department had no objection, and noted that Nevada is only state that has an antelope hunt pre-rut.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said there is Las Vegas to Reno race usually the third or second weekend in August and his board received complaints from sportsmen having to compete with racers on the Friday.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2151 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION UNIT GROUP 211 TO 213 TO MAKE THAT SEASON MIRROR 205 – 208, SEPT. 25 TO OCT. 4, AND TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HORNS LONGER THAN EARS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2251 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Cox said we had no other alternative recommendations for any other antelope buck hunts, and proceeded to Hunt 2181 Any Legal Weapon, where portions of Unit 144 from a separate hunt were moved into pronghorn unit group 065 and 142, and added a hunt on the bottom for Central Nevada. He said there is a correction to 131 unit group that the intention is to only have Unit 131 and 145 for that hunt, eliminating 163 and 164.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS SHORTER THAN EARS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REMOVING HUNT 163, 164. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ANTELOPE HUNT 2161 LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT AND NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS 2261, AND MUZZLELOADER HUNT 2171 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Public Comment - None

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### Elk

As presented at the December Wildlife Commission, we are recommending several of the hunt/harvest strategies designed to increase elk harvest to meet population objectives at the same time recognizing concerns over hunter congestion.

- For Hunt 4102, split up the long single season into three seasons to spread out hunting pressure throughout the fall and accommodate more hunters with multiple openers.
- Adjust Unit 091 interstate bull rifle season to coincide with Utah's dates.
- Shift bull muzzleloader Area 6 hunts earlier to allow for a cow rifle season in late September resulting in higher hunter success and harvest than a muzzleloader hunt.
- Shift bull and cow archery seasons for Area 6 earlier to accommodate shifting the bull muzzleloader seasons earlier.
- Institute spike bull rifle and archery hunts in all Area 6 unit groups with same season dates as cow seasons for each weapon class to increase bull harvest without added pressure on the mature bull segment to meet population objectives.
- "DELK" hunt allows a successful mule deer applicant the chance of also receiving a cow elk tag for the same season dates and within the same unit group as the deer hunt. This hunt strategy is an attempt to increase cow elk harvest in areas where mule deer hunters often encounter cow elk. The "DELK" tag should help increase cow elk harvest without additional hunters and added hunter congestion. The unit groups and weapon classes where this antlerless elk management or DELK hunt was recommended are herds that our biologists need additional harvest to meet population and management objectives.
- "BELK" hunt allows a successful bull elk applicant the chance of also receiving a cow elk tag for the same season dates and within the same unit group as the bull elk hunt. The thought is that some bull elk hunters may hold out for a trophy-size bull all season but may be willing to harvest a cow elk at the end of the season if they end up not harvesting a bull and only having a five-year waiting period to apply again for a bull tag. As with the DELK tag, the BELK may allow for a few more cow elk to be harvested without additional hunters and added hunter congestion.
- For Hunt 4181, cow elk rifle hunt in Area 6 unit groups, we propose as stated earlier to swap out the late September cow elk muzzleloader hunt for a more successful rifle hunt to harvest more cow elk. This hunt will run through first week of October. We also propose to combine the two early October cow elk rifle hunts into one season because of the extended late September season into October. We will recommend a larger quota for the cow elk hunt in late September and lower quota for the October cow elk hunt to reduce hunter congestion with the October mule deer rifle hunt.

- All late cow elk rifle seasons were extended to January 15 to allow for more elk harvest and to be consistent across the entire state.
- The Area 10 and 14 cow elk hunts (Hunt 4181) were more appropriately placed under the “Depredation” Hunt 4107 to help send the message to the applicants that these hunts are challenging and hunter success is low.
- Separate “Wilderness Only” cow elk rifle hunts were established in units where past lack of hunting pressure into the wilderness areas has reduced overall cow elk harvest and to force hunters (backpack and horse) into these remote areas to increase cow elk harvest to meet population objectives.
- The cow elk muzzleloader hunt for Unit Group 062 – 068 is to be shifted earlier to accommodate the cow elk rifle season in late September. This hunt in Unit Group 061, 071 is proposed to be closed to reduce congestion with the bull muzzleloader hunt in 061, 071 that will likely have a sizeable bull elk quota in 2014.
- For Hunt 4107, cow elk depredation, multiple seasons were recommended for Unit 121 and Units 144, 145 to extend more hunting pressure on the elk throughout the fall and allow for more tags to be issued with multiple openers. The Area 10 cow elk hunt was condensed into a single long season due to extremely low hunter success from the previously held four separate seasons.

Mr. Cox began with the Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181.

Commissioner McBeath commented for all of the elk hunts that last year Lincoln CABMW requested to move Unit 223 for the elk hunt back into 224 Unit Group in general, and he will be proposing that change for all elk hunts: Moving 223 into 221 – 222 groups. For this cow hunt he would propose to add 223 to 222 as that makes the most sense as they are contiguous.

Public Comment -

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said for 061, 071, and 062, on early hunts cause the bump in the antlered muzzleloader and antlered archery hunts as those hunts have to go way forward and archers are concerned that they are put in mid-August and consideration needs to be given.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said he is speaking for himself, and he concurred and supports Commissioner McBeath’s comment on the 223 unit groups as that makes perfect sense to meld the unit.

Larry Johnson, representing himself, said in regard to statewide elk management that sportsmen need to keep in mind keeping their word in these areas with established elk population objectives.

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said generally speaking on the elk hunts that when you start looking at season dates it gets very complicated and he thanked the Department for the tremendous effort in getting seasons together which is why they supported the hunts.

Commissioner Drew said a footnote should be added explaining the new “delk” and “belk” hunts to educate the public.

Mr. Cox said the License Office has redesigned the format for the application hunt guide to assist the public with the new management hunts.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181, AND THE ONLY CHANGE IS TO MOVE UNIT 223 FROM UNIT GROUP 231, 241, 242, EARLY, MID, AND LATE, TO BE INCLUDED WITH UNIT 222 EARLY, MID, AND LATE HUNT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181 Wilderness Hunt (must only hunt in wilderness areas)

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS HUNT 4181 WILDERNESS ONLY HUNT TO AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4281 AS SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner McBeath said he will be making the same comment for all elk hunts to move Unit 223 to be included with 221 and 222 for all elk hunts.

Resident Elk Antlerless Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4176 AS PROPOSED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING UNIT 223 FROM 231, 241, 242 UNIT GROUP TO INCLUDE WITH 221 AND 222. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk Antlerless – Longbow Archery Hunt 4111

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4111 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING UNIT 223 FROM 231, 241, 242 UNIT GROUP TO INCLUDE WITH 221 AND 222. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Delk Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481

Mr. Cox reminded the group that this is an elk hunt that will occur with the exact same season dates as the deer hunt, and have made it for the exact same geographic unit groups that deer hunters will be hunting, to minimize confusion.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE DELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING UNIT 223 FROM 231, 241, 242 UNIT GROUP TO INCLUDE WITH 221 - 222 EARLY AND MID UNIT GROUPS. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Delk Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Muzzleloader Hunt 4476 AND Delk Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Longbow 4411 Hunt

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE DELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4476 AND DELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT LONGBOW HUNT 4411 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bull Elk/Cow Elk Combination Hunt – Belk Tags for All Three Weapon Classes for Limited Unit Groups – Belk Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481, Hunt 4476 for Muzzleloader Weapon and 4411 for Longbow Archery

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE BELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481, BELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4476 AS WELL AS BELK RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT LONGBOW HUNT 4411 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Resident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4107 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 4161

Public Comment –

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they suggested moving archery and muzzleloader seasons back same as last year even though they overlap with deer season, as archers would rather be near the rut, then the middle of August.

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said they understand growing pains and would rather stay with Department recommendation and have adjustments made later.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ANTLERED ELK LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MOVING UNIT 223 FROM 231, 241, 242 AND ADD TO UNIT GROUP WITH 221 - 222 AND TO INCLUDE NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4261 ALSO AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF MOVING 223 TO UNIT GROUP 221, 222. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk – Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 4156 and 4256

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4156 AND 4256 AS PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF MOVING 223 FROM 231, 241, 242, UNIT GROUP TO UNIT GROUP 221 - 222. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk – Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151 and Nonresident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

Commissioner McBeath said Unit 223 seems to have been left off as an oversight and would propose to add Unit 223 to the 221 – 222 unit group for early and late for both resident and nonresident.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151 AND NONRESIDENT ANTLERED ELK ANY LEGAL WEAPONHUNT 4251 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF ADDING UNIT 223 TO 221 - 222 UNIT GROUPS EARLY AND LATE FOR BOTH RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk Spike Hunts Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK SPIKE HUNT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4651 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk Spike Longbow Archery Hunt 4641

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK SPIKE LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4641 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Elk – Antlered any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4102. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Bighorn Sheep

- Split the desert bighorn hunt on Lone Mountain, Unit 212 to reduce hunter congestion and improve the overall hunter experience as tags have increased over the last few years. We continue to evaluate other unit groups to split large-quota bighorn hunts if hunter complaints are received or if we are recommending sizeable increases in tags.
- Due to concern over the possibility of ram mortalities from known diseases detected in some herds in the fall 2013 and lower than expected ram densities observed during the 2013 bighorn hunting season, Nonresident hunts in Unit 262 (Spring Range) and 266 (North Eldorado Mountains) are recommended to be closed with likely reduced quotas in 2014.
- Closure of nonresident California bighorn hunt in Unit 033 due to reduced bighorns surveyed on aerial surveys and observed by hunters.
- Closure of the Rocky Mountain bighorn hunt in Unit 091 (Pilot Range/Leppy Hills) due to limited number of mature rams. The interstate agreement with Utah allows for the tags to be rotated between the 2 states when ram numbers don't allow for both states to have concurrent hunts. It is Utah's turn to have a hunt in 2014.
- Bighorn ewe hunts are recommended for the following herds: Lone Mountain (Unit 212), Monte Cristo Range (Unit 213), Muddy Mountains (268), and Sheep Creek Range (Unit

068) because their current population estimates exceed the reasonable management levels as determined by field biologists based on habitat (water and forage) limitations, short-term drought conditions, and risk to disease transmission and epizootics. Recent assessments made by the Game Division for desert bighorn herds statewide, showed an excess of 500 desert bighorn among 5 herds of the total statewide estimate of 8,800 based on current water and forage limitations and acceptable levels of risk to disease events. Reviewing acceptable transplant opportunities for 2014 including 100 possibly to state of Utah, we may be able to capture and transplant an additional 120 instate, leaving over 200 bighorns above established management levels under current habitat and disease constraints.

- For the 2015 Heritage California Bighorn Tag, recommend excluding Unit 041 as we expect to propose an open season for Unit 041 in 2015 and feel to sustain an open season for multiple years, we should only harvest a single ram each year.

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

Eric Clifford, Churchill, recommended to extend season date for north because of winter conditions and no justification for season different than for the California bighorns.

Mike Cox said there may be effect to trap and transplant program because of weather conditions affecting the animals and that seasons have been designed for a window for captures, and if captures are started earlier than November ambient temperatures are high. He said he does not have a problem with earlier season for central Nevada units as long as cut-off by November 5.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3151 HUNT AND NONRESIDENT NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3251 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Any Ewe – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3181

Mr. Cox said there is a serious situation with some of the herds throughout the state and the biologists considered where most critical bottleneck is to create sustainable management level, whether that be too many sheep on water development or winter range limitations, densities, forage limitations, and what should we be managing to sustain the herd long-term and to sustain the herds through the bad times. Herds were identified in Esmeralda County, the Muddy Mountains, Bares, and will possibly transplant sheep from those herds and think we are overdue to reduce those herds as not enough viable release sites in Nevada or surrounding states to get those populations closer to sustainable management levels.

Public Comment –

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said his board had a majority vote not to support the ewe hunt would rather have one more year of trap and transplant.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they opposed ewe hunt as they are hoping for an augmentation of herd that they have now.

Larry Johnson, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, said it was a long time getting to this point and have always rejected it and understands this is different because if you look at data there are logistic issues to pulling 200 sheep out of the Muddy's and can't do what is necessary. He said Utah should get their sheep from the Muddies and Monte Cristos. NBU supports the ewe hunt, and prior to the quota setting meeting will have better handle on capture and moving to other states, and will be starting guzzler program in Garfield Hills ready for sheep. Always support science and NDOW in their conclusions as what is necessary for healthy sheep.

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3181.COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident and Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunts 8151 8251

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNTS 8151 AND 8251. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident California Bighorn Sheep Any Ewe – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8181

Public Comment –

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they support ewes being transplanted.

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8181. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 9151 WITH UNDERSTANDING 091 UNIT IS CLOSED FOR 9151 AND SEASON DATES CONCURRENT WITH UTAH. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Mountain Goat Any Goat Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 7151. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mule Deer

Mule Deer Staff Biologist Cody Schroeder presented the mule deer season recommendation beginning with Hunt 1101. He said the Department is proposing a change for Baker Ranch to end its season on Dec. 12 to provide flexibility to hunters.

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

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT MULE DEER – ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 1101 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH FOLLOWING CHANGE FROM ENDING DEC. 7 TO DEC. 12. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 2. (COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG ABSENT FOR VOTE).**

Public Comment – Mule Deer

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they would like Hunt 1235 to end on Nov. 5.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they are opposed to doe hunt in 043 – 046 in Humboldt County.

Mr. Schroeder said no biological reason not to have season end on Nov. 5 and supports Washoe CABMW recommendation. With respect to antlerless hunt, long term data shows that population increasing and the doe hunt is a tool in the toolbox and NDOW recommends keeping the hunt as an option as the ongoing drought could impact the fawn ratio and more will be known after the spring surveys in advance of quota setting.

Discussion on season end dates.

**COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIDENT MULE DEER – ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT DEPREDATION HUNT 1181 AS WRITTEN BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED THE MOTION AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING HUNTS AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT RESTRICTED NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1235, RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331, RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT ANTLERED MULE DEER MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1371, RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 1341. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Resident Junior Mule Deer Antlered or Antlerless Longbow Archery, Muzzleloader, or any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS LONGBOW ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER, OR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1107 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2014 Antlerless Elk Landowner Hunt 4781

The Antlerless Elk Landowner Tag Program was developed to complement the existing emergency depredation elk hunts and to be more effective and proactive in managing unwanted elk associated with agricultural fields and stored crops. Where large tracts of private lands involving multiple landowners exist and small numbers of elk are beginning to show up, this program encourages landowners to work closely with NDOW. The landowner will identify

hunters that he trusts and knows they can successfully and safely harvest elk that NDOW agrees inhabit areas that will only create more and larger problems in the future.

Discussion on Hunt 4781 -

Public Comment –

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said the Elko CABMW supported this hunt.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE 2014 ANTLERLESS ELK LANDOWNER HUNTS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B Commission Regulation 14 - 03, 2014 Big Game Application Deadline and Information - Program Officer 3 (PO 3) Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application deadline and information.

PO 3 Hullinger said CR 14 – 03 is the annual regulation for the applications and changes are:

- The layout changed and no longer includes the application eligibility information which is now in CR 14-04.
- New this year application eligibility for “management hunts,” these hunts are offered online only.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14 – 03, SILVER STATE TAG DRAW AND BIG GAME TAG DRAW AND REMAINING TAG APPLICATION DEADLINE REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C Commission Regulation 14 – 04, 2014 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility Information - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of language regarding 2014 big game tag application eligibility.

PO 3 Hullinger reviewed the changes in CR 14 – 04 and new this year is the layout has changed by breaking each species into a separate topic:

Silver State Tag application eligibility. There are no changes regarding the application eligibility for Silver State tags. The eligibility is stipulated in NAC.

Antelope - No change to the antelope eligibility from last year. Applicants will have to choose one category of antelope hunt and can only obtain one tag through the draw.

Elk - The new elk application eligibility is displayed. The outcome of the last several Commission meetings regarding the elk strategies was as follows:

- NAC authority for management hunts was approved in December. (See season tables regarding recommendations on antlerless elk management Hunts 4481, 4476, 4411. For deer tags with an antlerless elk management hunt option and bull tags with an antlerless elk management hunt options).

- Clients will be allowed to apply for more than one antlerless elk tag. But can only obtain one antlerless elk tag.
- Spike elk application eligibility is included in the CR as there is a spike elk hunt recommended by the Department.
- Clients in a waiting period for antlered elk (bull) will be eligible for spike elk.
- Clients will be allowed to apply for antlerless elk and spike elk.
- Clients will not be able to apply for both antlered elk and spike elk.
- Clients will only be able to obtain one antlered elk and one antlerless elk.

The new sheep eligibility is displayed in the CR

- Authority for a ewe hunt was approved in the December NAC amendments.
- With so few ewe hunt seasons being recommended the application eligibility for applying for ram/ewe hunts is “OR”. In other words an applicant will have to choose between applying for a ram or applying for a ewe.
- The applicants will be able to apply for each subspecies of ewe if the hunt recommendations are approved at the commission meeting.

Mountain goat – No change to mountain application eligibility from last year.

Black bear – No change to black bear application eligibility from last year.

Mule deer – No change to mule deer application eligibility from last year. Applicants can only apply for one category of mule deer and can only obtain one tag through the draw.

Other tags – Heritage tags, antelope and deer landowner damage compensation, elk incentive tags and antlerless elk landowner tags are tags that a person can obtain in addition to the draw tags.

Commissioner McBeath said in the wording for elk the word “tag” is included and asked if it needs to be in there.

PO 3 Hullinger said the word “tag” could be removed to be consistent.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 04 – 14 2014 NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTION TO REMOVE WORD “TAG,” AN ELGIBLE PERSON MAY APPLY ONCE FOR EACH TYPE OF HUNT CATEGORY OF ANTLERLESS ELK, ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT AND ANTLERLESS ELK DEPREDATION IN A DRAW APPLICATION PERIOD. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D Commission Regulation 14 – 05, 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife Season and Quotas - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action

The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas.

PO 3 Hullinger provided the following information for CR 14 – 05 Silver State hunts:

These hunts have ties to the 2014 Heritage tags approved last year which are currently being auctioned. Pursuant to NRS the total tags available for Silver State and Heritage cannot exceed

15. There were nine big game tags for 2014 Heritage, (two deer, two elk, two antelope, one Desert bighorn sheep and one California bighorn sheep).

The species, quota, unit and season recommendations are the same as last year.

NAC stipulates that the quotas cannot exceed the following.

- Mule deer - resident 22, nonresident three.
- Antelope resident only – five
- Elk resident only – three
- Mountain Goat resident only- one
- Bighorn Sheep tags resident only – four

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cox said NDOW did not recommend a change in season dates for the Silver State (SST) hunt to correspond with change in Heritage season dates as he did not think that was Department's purview.

Commissioner Bliss said during the process of developing the SST there was intent and understanding that SST dates would mirror the Heritage auction tags with these set in to control the number of tags limited to 15, but another way to distribute the same exact tag for the average hunter.

Commissioner McBeath said he had the same recollection as Commissioner Bliss on SST dates mirroring the Heritage.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said in regard to Dream tags, he discussed with local biologist on opening the California bighorn tag in 014 on bi-annual basis and want to put one tag in there and allow Heritage in that unit to hunt as harvest objective is one animal per year. If the hunt is every other year that allows tag holder to have the one tag every other year plus allow Heritage and would meet our objective of one animal per year. He said their recommendation was to not allow the PIW tag in for future hunt, not this year but for next year.

Chairman Robb said the unit that Mr. Crim referenced is where the biggest lesson was learned as the unit was shot out due to the PIW, Heritage, and regular hunters in there. He said it is the SST and PIW tags causing the problem and a prior Commission arrived at solution of they are only allowed to hunt every other year on sheep tags. He said he still thinks that is broken and need to look at small units as that does not work in all of the units such as the Muddys.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they supported NDOW recommendations and understand SST would follow what Heritage does this year and they feel the eight month season is too long.

Mr. Cox said this year all five special tags were harvested from the Bares, and that was not the intent to have that happen. He agreed that this needs to be re-visited to spread the wealth. He said that when we devised and approved/implemented the SST and Dream tags some of us were under the impression that we were trying to improve the average persons' opportunity to receive those tags similar to a Heritage tag, and PIW was the former program to do that too, and with five special tags for desert bighorn, need to ask if there needs to be a PIW tag for desert bighorns as that exacerbates extra ram harvest.

Chairman Robb said these ideas do need to be sorted out at another time to not have the five in one year and none the next.

**COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14 – 05 SST AND PIW HUNTS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE CHANGES THAT THE SEASON DATES FOR SST MIMIC EXACTLY THE 2014 HERITAGE TAGS THAT ARE BEING AUCTIONED NOW, WHICH HE BELIEVES ARE JULY 1 TO FEB. 28; AND THE QUOTAS ARE ONE FOR MULE DEER, ONE FOR PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, ONE FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK, ONE FOR DESERT SHEEP, AND THE QUOTA FOR PIW BE AS THE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDED. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- E Commission Regulation 14 – 06, 2014 Dream Tag Seasons - Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2014 Dream Tags seasons.

PO 3 Hullinger said: NRS stipulates the species and quota, therefore those items cannot be changed; the unit and season recommendations are the same as last year.

**COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14 – 06 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- F Commission Regulation 14 – 07, 2015 Heritage Tags Seasons and Quotas- Program Officer 3 Maureen Hullinger and Big Game Biologist Mike Cox - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas.

This regulation is to establish the Heritage Auction tags for 2015 in order for the Department to get the vendor proposal packets out to the vendors by March 1.

PO 3 Hullinger said for CR 14 – 07, Heritage tags, that the species, unit, season and quota recommendations are the same as the 2014 Heritage. NRS stipulates that the quotas for Heritage and Silver State cannot exceed 15 big game tags and five turkey tags.

Commissioner McBeath said a recommendation was received from Clark County to open the Heritage turkey season one week prior to make the tag more special as currently the season opens on the same date as regular season.

Chairman Robb said one problem is the turkey season dates are during the banquet/auction season and that is right in the middle of the hunt.

Public Comment –

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said for mule deer, antelope, Rocky Mountain elk and Nelson desert bighorn sheep seasons, that they want those seasons to reflect what the Department recommended for the 2014 hunt, and for California bighorn sheep they want that to open on Saturday the week preceding the opening of the California season, and end on last day of November and go with recommendation for turkey by the Department. He said they feel a eight month season is too long.

**COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO SUPPORT CR 14 – 07 2015 WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAGS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF THE TURKEY TAG TO ALLOW THAT TO START THE SATURDAY PRIOR TO OPENING OF FIRST TURKEY SEASON. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- G Commission Regulation 14 - 08, Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adoption of 2014 (2014-15) hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal gender, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley provided the recommendation for the resident and nonresident 2014 black bear season per the Bear Committee recommendation: Sept. 15 – Nov. 31. He said that recommendation is different than what was provided in the support material, and there were no other different recommendations.

Commissioner McNinch reviewed what was reported previously: Three-year comprehensive review of the bear hunt has commenced, and regulation review. He said season length discussed and concluded with a split vote to recommend to the Commission to modify the bear hunt season end on Dec. 1 instead of Dec. 31. He said it was reported that a total of three bears were harvested in December over the three years of the hunt.

Commissioner McBeath asked for the biological reasons to move date from Dec. 31 to Dec. 1, and when the Commission originally set the season for this hunt he does not recall that being a concern given the limited number of tags issued and does not see that as a substantial impact on the bear resource.

Mr. Bradley said literature in the Biological Bulletin states that Dec. 1 is when most females go underground.

Chief Gilbertson said the committee made the recommendation not to include December and the Department recommends continuing the hunt in December and have made the hunt ultra conservative from the start.

Commissioner Drew said the season mirrored California's season and had data as to how many days hunted.

Chairman Robb said the season date discussion was contentious, and in 2012 the season opening date moved to Sept. 15 and moved season boundary unit and he recollects the move was due to user group conflict but others recollected that the weather was too warm for use of dogs (hounding). He actually reviewed the agenda item on video and saw that only one comment had been made about dogs and heat and that was from a non-hunter. He said dogs and heat played no part in moving the hunt start to Sept. 15 and the purpose was to avoid user group conflicts. At same meeting talked about boundaries at Tahoe basin and held off that, until following meeting, when boundary change occurred. Chairman Robb said changes occurred in same season and he wanted that on the record that use of dogs/hounds was not part of the discussion.

Commissioner Drew said he asked Biologist Lackey if he sees anything in harvest numbers or distribution that causes you consternation or concern for the overall long-term viability of the population or even smaller portions of the population, and although on the record of the committee meeting, he would ask that again to make it part of this meeting's record as that is important to him during these discussions.

Chief Gilbertson said the Department's answer is no, nothing has been seen in harvest data or the total mortality data, or bears handled data that would indicate there has been a sex/age ratio change in the population or anything denoting negative impact on the bear population that would require changes at this point.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Pete Bradley showed a map of historic range of black bears in Nevada.

Commissioner McBeath asked if NDOW plans to provide any additional biological black bear information prior to the May quota meeting.

Chief Gilbertson said staff prepared their annual report in advance of black bear quota and season setting meeting. He said staff looked at hunting of bears causing change to bear population and total mortalities. Bears average 35 bear mortalities per year during the last three years of the hunt and previous five years to the hunt it also average 35 bears per year and now have had an average of 35 bear mortalities for the past eight years without seeing a change in that data. In management plan we identified that we would look at harvest from a three-year standpoint as individual year is a small size, and three years gives a better picture, and he said we do that for all species. Mr. Gilbertson said it was mentioned in public comment yesterday that we look harder at bear population than any other species. He said bears are the only animal that staff go out and look at every mortality to obtain age/sex data and look at all the data to assess age and sex structure.

Commissioner Layne said in Northern Nevada bear mortalities are covered by newspapers as opposed to no coverage when an elk gets hit by a car. She said the question is, if you are seeing orphaned or abandoned bear cubs as you talk of mortalities, as she would be interested to know.

Mr. Bradley said Mr. Lackey has not seen an uptick in abandoned young following the hunt.

Commissioner McNinch asked if shortening season has measurable impacts on NDOW's bear management goals.

Chief Gilbertson said he discussed the matter with Biologist Lackey and he had no concerns with December not being available to hunters as the hunters will take advantage of November. He said the actual harvest was small and one CABMW commented that is a loss of opportunity that they would like to maintain.

Further discussion on bear season –

Public Comment -

John Reed, Washoe CABMW, said the legions of general public don't exist and at these meetings we always have the same 10 or 12 people and we know what is going on. He said shortening the season appears to him to be another appeasement. He said those people were emboldened and he provided a math estimate of pressure that bears have on them and does

not see that as a big deal personally. He said a constituent told him three years ago that this is all about bears, and at the committee meeting was told it is all about the hounds/hunting. He recommends that if you get rid of 30 days you will still have same people who did not harvest and suggested opening up May for a spring bear hunt.

Mike Reese, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said in 2012 when user groups discussed, it was unanimous that every board voted not to change the boundaries, and Commission changed the boundaries. Mr. Reese said nothing raised by NDOW other than keep the status quo, and California has had a bear hunt in December and none of those issues have come up. Mr. Reese said other species are hunted post-rut and there is nothing wrong with a spring bear hunt.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said at his meeting they had good discussion, and his CABMW asked for an action type report from the committee to know what happened at the committee meeting and from the information provided they saw no need to change season hunting dates.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they voted for Dec. 31 as per the Department recommendation as they saw no reason to change the date. The hunt is about opportunity as for every game species that we hunt. No report saying detrimental to hunt bears in December.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, voted to support Department recommendation as denoted in support material – Sept. 15 to Dec. 31.

Stephanie Myers, Mount Charleston, said data and science are two different things. She said it is purely a trophy hunt, and is not science to say that we have bears, let's hunt them. Before season defined should be moratorium on bear hunt and answer questions – hunter opportunity and convenience should not be a factor in this review.

Fred Voltz, speaking and representing Political Action for Animals Committee for Nevada, read a statement regarding agenda item 13G, Proposed 2014 Bear Hunt: Premeditated human killing is a major transgression against society. Why, then, is there a cavalier attitude toward killing wild bears who have not killed other bears or people? Do we reflexively kill humans who unlawfully break and enter buildings or cars to take food? Those same humans supposedly have language and reasoning skills incomprehensible to bears. Yet we do not kill the humans for such actions, but we do kill the bears. Gratuitous killing is not conservation but permanent destruction, and no amount of subjective rationalizations can justify the killing. Yet this Commission and its committees continuously promote wildlife killing, as witnessed this morning, not for the best interests of those wildlife species, but to maximize wildlife killing opportunities for a small handful of humans who visibly have an irrational blood lust. Because they can dominate animals unequipped with GPS, night goggles, trail cameras or sophisticated weapons, it is hardly a fair matchup. We only have scattered data points, seat-of-the pants thinking and conclusory justifications for another year of bear killing, but no hard scientific evidence filtered through the prism of the formal scientific method. Less than one year ago, we were told this state had between 400 and 700 bears. Now, miraculously, that number has been changed to "around 600" after public criticism. This less-than-statistically accurate number has been used to make the questionable claim that our state has bear overpopulation and the only solution is to kill the non-existent surplus. Do we kill surplus human beings? NRS 501.105 clearly states this Commission and NDOW are responsible for protecting, not summarily killing, wildlife species. With the ongoing drought, bears and every other wildlife species are under particular stress to survive. These challenged bears do not need the additional stress or peril posed by gun-toting killers with packs of uncontrollable dogs delivering terror. There is no plausible explanation or justification for a 2014 bear hunt. The empty claim that more bears are killed by cars than

hunters does not justify more killing; the two events are totally disconnected from each other. If the Commission and NDOW were acting proactively and constructively, steps would be taken to encourage greater driver vigilance and better enforcement of speeding laws. Where are those actions to protect bears rather than slaughter them? Remember Commissioners and NDOW, you exist in your public positions to represent all residents of this state, not the small handful of wildlife killers you license and who pay only a small fraction of your operating expenses. You are not chartered to run a private hunting club. Public opinion has been strongly and consistently opposed to these bear hunts, which did not occur for 80 consecutive years. Where is the representation of that overwhelming opposition in your policies and actions? Stop the serial bear slaughter and cancel the 2014 bear season, which NRS 501.181 does allow. More gratuitous bear killing will only bring this Commission and NDOW more bad public relations beyond what you have already created. Because humans can do something destructive isn't a sound argument for consciously engaging in destructive activities. If you are one of the death-targeted animals dismissively referred to as 'resources,' it has an impact.

Larry Johnson, representing Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife and NBU, said he is a Native American whose tribe hunted bears, and he said these comments are offensive. He said he was told by NDOW staff that hunting in December had no adverse impact. He said the Commission does not need to invent reasons to reduce hunter opportunity when one of the best bear biologists in the west recommends a season of Sept. 15 – Dec. 31. Mr. Johnson said we have conceded and made attempts at appeasement, and appears now that we are polarized as they want the hunt to go away and we want to continue our hunting tradition for the betterment of the species. Mr. Johnson said sportsmen are the first to say let's close a season as witnessed in bighorn sheep areas, limiting sage-grouse hunting due to its decline, and are the first to be conservative and do what is necessary to preserve our wildlife. In this case there is an increasing bear population and have not reached hunting quotas which are safe estimates of animals that can be removed from population on annual basis and no reason to shorten the season.

Cathy Smith, Reno, said she understands we have to discuss season setting despite the three-year review of the bear hunt that is still underway. She is anxiously awaiting the broader picture of the three year review, including the psychosocial aspects. She hopes it is well understood that the recommendations may change again, once the review is complete, and strongly appreciate the committee recommendation of the season change. Our bears are stressed due to arid conditions. We allow hounds to further stress the bears by robbing them of needed calories during this sensitive period. It has been confirmed that hounds also put stress on non-target animals, including deer in some studies. Now some have recommended night hunting to accommodate lion hunters who break the law. We would be the only state to allow bear hunting at night. Chris Healy was quoted earlier this year as saying, "the drought has diminished the bears' natural food supply of nuts and berries. The bears are staying awake because they haven't eaten enough to sustain their hibernation." There is data on brown and polar bears demonstrating increased cub mortality, decreased reproduction, and decreased fitness with physiological stress. She is happy to hear the Department and Commissioner McNinch are concerned about stressing other big game animals when, and I quote, "their energy reserves are low." How and why are the bears different? Where is the data to support it, beyond to small hounding studies involving less than 20 bears? Why are ungulates favored so strongly over our bears? Unfortunately, the limited data we get from our bear hunt does not meet statistical significance. So, denning behavior, den disturbance, etc is almost meaningless as scientific information. There are many studies confirming occurrences of den abandonment when dogs and/ or people come within 1km of their dens. As far as seeing more bears hit by cars, I would love for the department to comment on how bear home ranges change in times of drought

searching for food. I found it interesting that one of the themes of the recent wildlife society meeting was citizen science. They discussed the need to broaden the base of wildlife management to increase interest out of necessity. There is human dimension research from multiple other states that confirm bear hunting in general is thought of differently than ungulate hunting. Previous studies have demonstrated around 80 percent approval of ungulate hunting. However, a 2002 study in Utah that was published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin revealed that there is little public support for bear hunting. Only slightly more than half of hunters approve of black bear hunting, only 23 percent of anglers approve of it, and only 22 percent of non-consumptive users approve of it. Only 44 percent of hunters approve of using hounds to hunt black bears, only 16 percent of anglers, and only nine percent of non-consumptive users approve. CO recently passed a regulation against disturbing bears in their dens. This regulation was passed to maintain and increase public support for wildlife and wildlife management by emphasizing safety and fair chase. I hope that this commission takes public support into account when they make future decisions with respect to the bear hunt.

Jana Wright said at the Clark CABMW meeting she testified that she appreciated the Department's report, but it did not address that even if you can, should you be hunting the bears. She said she is asking for a three year moratorium on the hunt, continue to allow Bear Committee to ask the questions, and have comprehensive report, and then come back to the Commission which by then you will have six years of data to make informed decision as to whether you should have a hunt or not.

Mitch Buzetti, Elko CABMW, said his CABMW voted to support Department recommendations and saw no problems.

Walt Gardner, NOGA, said we have stable and or growing bear population and sees no reason not to continue the hunt and if season changed, would prefer spring bear hunt with pursuit.

Henry Krenka, NOGA, said they recommend leaving bear seasons the way they are.

Don Molde, Reno, said he struggles to understand constant concern with hunter opportunity and it trumps everything else and should rename the Department, the "Department of Human Opportunity to Kill Wildlife" since that seems the golden standard to be considered. He said to him the issue is moot, because he understands this is boilerplate to have something in place for the next season should it occur, due to inflexibility of process, and we all know three-year review is being undertaken and he does not have much heartburn with committee recommendation as that does not have much to do with final outcome so he does not care much what you do.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said they voted to follow Department recommendation and go with Dec. 31.

Chairman Robb asked Secretary Wasley if science on other hunts is equal to what the bear hunt is based on.

Secretary Wasley said as per Mr. Gilbertson comments, the level of scrutiny and conservatism on top of conservatism for bears is unmatched for other species.

Chairman Robb said the committee recommendation for Dec. 1 closing date was from a split vote which he pushed and he also pushed issue of Tahoe Basin and taking the Tahoe Basin out, and some of the points being made that California has done that for year. He said he had

good reason for Tahoe Basin and Sept. 15, but is struggling with Dec.1 date without supporting documentation that Dec. 1 is better than Dec. 31 and will defer to science and biology.

Commissioner Drew said his dissenting vote at committee meeting when recommendation was made is that he had no epiphany moment to change from Dec. 31 and default is to be consistent as we are in process of three-year comprehensive review.

Commissioner McNinch said he will not support recommendation as provided and made comments about the legislature's Senate Bill 82 and no one getting what they wanted from it. He said everyone should think about is that they may be right and have an open mind no matter what side you are on.

Commissioner Young said he has listened to this bear issue over the last year and one-half, and commented that the Commission spends a lot of time on hunting but spends very little time on fishing. The fishing has been wiped out in Southern Nevada, and there are other things the Commission could spend time on. The bear hunt is like capital punishment with no right answer. Everyone has a personal value and judgment which is something he listened to while working in law enforcement. He respects and appreciates all the folk's opinions but there is no right answer, as we will never come to agreement as human beings. He said history is on the side of hunting historically, but from a broader issue he would like the Commission to think of other things besides hunting and killing bears, and think of things that would help constituents in Southern Nevada as with the fishing decline they have lost a lot economically, and the Clark CABMW member resigned as no one listened to his concerns with fishing.

Commissioner Layne said she will not support recommendation and certainly does understand where Commissioner Young is on this issue as her very first Commission meeting was establishment of bear seasons. She said her problem is that she is that part of the public that just does not see hunting bears and also has to do with hounding issue. She said she is willing as we go through three-year review to look at issues and does not want to be one of those people that we talked about this morning that sees overpopulation of species coming and does not want to deal with it. If we continue to hunt bears maybe there are other things we can do or methods, and she is waiting for the review and is not comfortable right now. She has voted against this as most know, and will not be supporting the recommendations at this time.

Commissioner Mori said earlier today there was discussion that in managing some of these species we have been conservative to a fault, and that point was made by Mr. Gilbertson that on the bear hunt we have been ultra-conservative and Director Wasley said extra effort made to be transparent. He said during three-year hunt bears have not been harvested to quota level that were set and for those reasons it makes no sense to drop season back to Dec. 1, and he is leaning to supporting Department recommendation through Dec. 31.

Commissioner Wallace said he agreed with the hunt mirroring California's which he still agrees with and it was always said the Commission would conduct a three-year review and is glad that is being done. He said we have been conservative and supports the Department recommendation.

Commissioner Bliss said many good points brought up by all that he could repeat but the main thing that makes up his mind is the science and the biology. The Department is the true professional in gathering information and he would have a hard time going against the Department recommendation to shorten season.

Chairman Robb said he heard the word appeasement during today's discussion and does not think any action he has taken on Commission is appeasement as he knows better, and there is no such thing as appeasement on this issue on any side and that is where we are at.

**COMMISSIONER MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14 – 08 2014 BLACK BEAR SEASON, SPECIFICALLY SEASON DATES OF SEPT. 15 – DEC. 31 FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTS 6151 AND 6251. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: ROBB, DREW, BLISS, MCBEATH, MORI, WALLACE AND YOUNG. VOTE: 7 – 2. COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND LAYNE OPPOSED.**

H Commission Regulation 14 - 09, 2014 (2014-15) Mountain Lion Season Open Units and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider the adoption of 2014 (2014-15) mountain lion hunting season harvest limits, hunting hours, and special regulations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pete Bradley presented the Department recommendations.

Public Comment -

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said his board supported the recommendations.

John Reed, Washoe CABMW, said 033 has been requested by a constituent to be separated with a zero quota due to issues that have to be worked through with the state and federal agencies.

Chairman Robb said he received same correspondence and may be something to think of in future and issue will need to be reviewed thoroughly; he doesn't believe that request could be accommodated at this time.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said hunters expressed concern over area specific harvest, and they supported recommendation overall. It seems like they continually question certain units and trends occur and realize things on administrative side and would like more information on some of the specific units.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14 - 09, 2014 (2014-15) OPEN MANAGEMENT UNITS MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AND HARVEST LIMITS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLISS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

I Commission General Regulation 442, Remove Truckee River Fishing Tackle Restrictions, LCB File No. R140-13 – Chief Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action  
The Commission may adopt a regulation relating to fishing: removing the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California state line, from the waters restricted to use only artificial lures with single barbless hooks; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

NDOW proposes to change the special fishing regulations (use of artificial lures and single barbless hooks only) for the Truckee River and diversion ditches and tributaries above the I-80 bridge which is upstream from the Crystal Peak Park to the California

state line. This change will make fishing regulations consistent for the entire river, helping to alleviate tackle confusion among anglers and allowing greater angling opportunity. In conjunction with the recently modified, reduced possession limit of three fish for the Truckee River this regulation change is expected to have a neutral effect on resident sport fish populations in the affected reach.

Chief Sjoberg CGR 442 said as mentioned yesterday in the workshop this regulation was part of recommendation from September Commission meeting and removes existing tackle restriction on a portion of the Truckee River. The Department conducted a survey and received two responses and no impact foreseen.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 442, REMOVE TRUCKEE RIVER FISHING TACKLE RESTRICTIONS, LCB FILE NO. R140-13 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCBEATH. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

J Commission General Regulation 443, Wildlife Grants Program, LCB File No. R141-13 - Deputy Director Patrick Cates - For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider a regulation relating to wildlife; requiring the Department of Wildlife to establish a grant program to provide funding to facilitate wildlife restoration activities and research; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Note: See support material under agenda item #7D.

The need for the grant program regulation is to consolidate, clarify and streamline the Department of Wildlife's process to award funds for special projects. The Department of Wildlife currently uses a variety of granting and contracting processes for special project funds. This regulation will facilitate consolidation of these processes into a unified granting processes to clarify rules for applicants and to streamline administrative processes.

Deputy Director Cates said this regulation establishes a granting process for several of the Department's funding sources for projects that are on the ground projects for wildlife and habitat restoration and wildlife research. This establishes and codifies the granting process as the mechanism to transfer funds to federal, state, and local government, as well as non-profit organizations that work with the Department to implement those projects.

Commissioner McBeath asked if it applies to any grant, pursuant to a Heritage project to an individual.

Deputy Director Cates said individuals are not included in the language, and has to be government organization and does include Heritage program and did not include an individual.

Commissioner McBeath said there were historical instances in the past where an individual put in for a project. His question is whether individuals are barred from applying for a Heritage project or other fund, and if not would propose that it be added.

Deputy Director Cates said there was no intention to bar individuals, he just did not consider that and it could be amended to include that.

Further discussion of granting/contracting process -

Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, speaking for himself said he was concerned in the past with funding individuals and supports Commissioner Wallace's comment that we should not lower this to the individual level and if individual has great idea he should be tied to an organization. He said he filed a lawsuit as he saw abuses of the system and changes made as to how we do Heritage fund distributions and he would hate to see this go back to that.

Commissioner McBeath said to be clear, is that he does not think the regulation deals with the issue of who is eligible to get a grant. He asked if there is a bar for an individual or for profit-corporation to apply for a grant whether it be discriminatory argument, in other words what are the eligibility requirements.

Public Comment -

Rique Robb, Department of Health and Human Services, said as a grant and contract manager, that whatever the stipulations that are written in your code are followed. She said it is not typical to grant to an individual specifically or a for-profit, normally they are co-joined with a non-profit agency.

Commissioner McBeath said his goal is to make sure process is sound and all applicants subjected to requirements, and is not satisfied.

**COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 443 COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 443, WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM, LCB FILE NO. R 141-13. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

14 Future Commission Meeting and Commission Committee Assignments - Secretary Tony Wasley - For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 21 and 22, 2014, in Reno, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The CABMW workshop is scheduled for this meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

Secretary Wasley provided items for the March meeting:

CABMW workshop

Shed antler regulation workshop

NOGA regulation

Black powder workshop

License revocation appeal

Wildlife harassment law information item to include drones

Legislative committee

Item about joining or filing an amicus brief on wild horse lawsuit

Commissioner McNinch said he will be absent at the March meeting; Chairman Robb assigned Commissioner Bliss to Heritage Committee.

## 15 Public Comment Period

Don Molde said on predator management projects that the Commission has spent around \$800,000 to kill 1,251 animals which is about \$650 to kill each individual animal. The same amount needed to trap and transplant ewes. The last item about grants reminded him that the mountain lion data he has examined since 2008, he found that in 2008 starting with one animal and increasing to last year, Wildlife Services turned in 26 mountain lion carcasses so mummified and decayed as to be essentially useless. The last comment off the sheet from biologist, determined that lion was killed by coyote snare, and was left in trap for at least six months. He said he brings that up because NDOW was fired from Wildlife Services which is a rogue agency and if you get back in business with Wildlife Services the Department needs to be more vigilant.

Fred Voltz said after hearing of the snafus yesterday in regard to videoconferencing that he would suggest the Department explore options such as using Public Utilities Commission videoconferencing equipment and other private enterprise equipment be utilized as they may have videoconferencing equipment.

Stephanie Voltz thanked Fred Voltz, Trish Swain and Don Molde, for the comments and that they traveled on their own dime to this meeting. She said videoconferencing allows attendance at meetings as she can't afford to travel and is not fair not to.

Chairman Robb said the reason the Commission travels statewide is to insure public participation and the Commission tries to accommodate the public as much as it can.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, thanked Maureen Hullinger for the regulation summaries as it really assists the CABMWs.

Meeting adjourned 3:45 pm.

**NOTE:** The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at [ndow.org](http://ndow.org), and the minutes are a summary 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.