

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
Approved Minutes (Minutes approved at the June 24, 2017, Meeting)**

Agenda

Main Meeting Location:

Truckee Meadows Community College
7000 Dandini Blvd
Sierra Building - Room 108
Reno, NV

Videoconferencing Location available both days - May 12 and 13, 2017:

Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
HTC, RM 121
Elko, NV 89801

Videoconferencing Location only on Saturday, May 13, 2017:

College of Southern Nevada – Cheyenne Campus
3200 E Cheyenne Ave
Room 2638
Las Vegas, NV 89030

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 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

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for meeting:

Chairman Grant Wallace	Vice Chairman Brad Johnston	Commissioner John Almberg
Commissioner Tom Barnes**	Commissioner Jeremy Drew	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs*
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine	Commissioner Bill Young

*Commissioner Hubbs was absent – May 12, 2017

*Commissioner Tom Barnes was absent – May 12 and 13, 2017

Secretary Tony Wasley
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby

Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton
Administrative Assistant 3 Lynn Walker

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance during the two days Reno Location:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling
Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne	Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee
Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark	Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox
Administrative Assistant 4 Katie Simper	Biologist 4 Tom Donham, Eastern Region
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Jordan Neubauer, Management Analyst 3
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder	Biologist 4 Steve Kimble, Southern Region
Biologist 4 Mike Scott, Western Region	Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger
Game Warden Nicholas Brunson	Staff Game Warden Mike Maynard
Staff Game Warden Brian Eller	Eastern Region Game Biologist Kody Menghini

Staff Game Biologist Cody Schroeder
Administrative Assistant 4 Natalie Pannunzio – Elko

Staff Game Biologist Cody McKee
Administrative Assistant 4 Kathleen Teligades – Las Vegas

Others in attendance at Reno Location:

Emilia Cargill, Nevada Ranches LLC
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW/self
Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW
Andrea Gnnas, Operation Game Thief Board
Bobbie McCollum, self
Don Molde, self
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW
Monty Martin, Systems Consultants
Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Bevan Lister, self
Rob Boehmer, Nevada Operation Game Thief
Furn Winder, Elko CABMW
Philip Gray, Lander CABMW
Mel Belding, self
John Stengel, self
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants
Kathryn Bricker, No Bear Hunt Nevada
Furn Winder, Elko CABMW
Jennifer Simeo
Scott Redlinner

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW
Josie Crim, self
Jerry Cooney, Elko County
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Fred Voltz, public
Eric Bobrick, Lyon CABMW
Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW
Mike Cassiday, general public
Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau
Bill and Denice Brown
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Rex Flowers, self
Jonathan Lesperance, NSDA
Elaine Carrick, self
Joel Blakeslee
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Genelle Richards, No Bear Hunt Nevada
Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW

Mark Peplowski
Jerry Dunn

Others in Attendance Las Vegas Location:

Matt McDonough
Jana Wright

Bruce Hubbard
Jim Evans, Eureka CABMW

Others in Attendance Elko Location:

Bert K. Gurr, Elko CABMW

Friday, May 12, 2017 – 10:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order at 10:43 a.m. Roll call conducted. Seven Commissioners present. Commissioner Hubbs absent all day Friday. Commissioner Barnes is absent for both days.

CABMW Members present at roll call: Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Joe Crim, Pershing; Gene Green, Carson; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Steve Robinson, Washoe; Paul Dixon, Clark; Eric Bobrick, Lyon; Chrissy Pope, Nye; Jim Cooney, Nye; Sean Shea, Washoe; Cory Lytle, Lincoln; Rob Boehmer, Carson; and Furn Winder, Elko.

- 2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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 Drew said during discussion of the Legislative Update he will explain a “friendly amendment” that will assist with the landowner compensation situation.

Secretary Wasley asked if OGT appreciation could be moved up to agenda item #3.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTION THAT AGENDA ITEM 9 D BE AT DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND HUBBS ABSENT.

3 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace–
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 may also be discussed.

Commissioner Drew said he received a telephone call from a gentleman about upland game seasons. After the phone call, the man sent an email that he forwarded to the Commission. Commissioner Drew advised the person to attend the Clark CABMW meeting and the June Commission meeting. Also, he received correspondence from Congressman Amodei's Legislative Director Jason Riederer. Commissioner Drew read Mr. Riederer's email into the record: The Congressman read the Nevada Board of Wildlife's letter regarding concerns with potential land transfers, and in response, Mark had the BLM supply our office with maps of BLM lands identified as potentially suitable for disposal in their existing RMPs in the various BLM districts for Northern Nevada. Please see attached. It is Mark's request to have the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners identify areas of critical hunting habitat or hunting areas within those areas that the Board would be opposed to being transferred. Additionally, he would like the Board to identify any concerns within the BLM's checkerboard lands along I-80. Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Commissioner Drew said he told Mr. Riederer that the Commission could look into the request. He is committed to working with NDOW to have some mapping in draft form for the June Commission meeting. Mr. Riederer confirmed that sharing his email was fine with review of the maps at the June Commission meeting.

Commissioner Young said he received a phone call from an Ely hunter. The hunter told him of situation with a guided hunt that NDOW would not take action.

Commissioner Johnston said he had calls from landowners which he will discuss during agenda item #16. He said the Commission's Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) may need to look at allowing purchase of bonus points for children turning 12 and eligibility. He also received a call and email from the man about upland game seasons that was mentioned earlier.

Chairman Wallace also received a call on the upland game seasons and landowner issues.

Secretary Wasley said the Main Draw will be May 24. An email with the information was sent to the Commission, CABMWs and interested persons. Please call NDOW to RSVP. He said he wants to address an email that referenced his guidance to Paul Dixon and Ken Wellington to pursue a petition regarding access provisions within the elk incentive tag program. He wants the Commission to be aware that he does not recall suggesting a petition. Rather he encouraged those individuals to pursue whatever avenue they felt was needed to resolve their concerns. Chairman Wallace and Secretary Wasley sent memorandum to CABMWs thanking those

CABMW members for their steadfast attendance. The letter encouraged those who have not been attending to send a member. Afterwards, correspondence was received back from CABMW members with suggestions: Have shared database of attendance amongst CABMWs and Commissioners, place blurb in annual hunt guide on how CABMWs seek participation, and an email encouraging two-way communications and involvement between CABMWs and Commission. Secretary Wasley concluded his report with recognition of employees' years of service in conjunction with Public Service Recognition week service: Conservation Educator Kim Toulouse for 30 years, and Staff Game Warden Brian Eller for 25 years.

Operation Game Thief (OGT) Award presented by Chairman Wallace and OGT President Rob Boehmer and Board Member/Secretary Andrea Gnnas to NDOW Game Warden Nick Brunson. Reserve Wardens Jim Gunnell and Jim Cosajenski were both presented with plaques and jackets.

- 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.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said he appreciates the clarification of advice that he and Mr. Wellington received from Secretary Wasley. Mr. Wellington decided on the petition because he had to obtain information through public record requests.

Rob Boehmer, Carson CABMW, said their website provides information on urban wildlife effort in Carson City. They have worked with Carson Sheriff Ken Furlong, and will hold local meetings. Mr. Boehmer requested a future agenda item on invasive species removal in Bassett and Comins Lake.

- 5 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Wallace– For Possible Action
Commission minutes from the February and March 2017 meetings.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE FEBRUARY CORRECTED MINUTES AND MARCH MINUTES. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0 WITH COMMISSIONERS BARNES AND HUBBS ABSENT.

- 6 Legislative Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Drew – For Possible Action
A report will be presented on the committee's recent meeting. The Commission may review bills of interest and any associated amendments, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. (Support materials are as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on May 3, 2017. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/79th2017>)

Commissioner Drew provided a legislative update. It is day 96 of the Legislative Session. The Commission's May 3, 2017, Legislative Committee meeting was cancelled. The Committee Passage of the Second House deadline is May 19, 2017. Three bills need updated positions/platforms: AB101, SB221, and SB511.

AB101: UPDATE (as of 5/12/17): Oppose any limitation of the Commission and public process for development of predator control programs. Any alternative changes to the bill should consider allowing use of funds for predator management for all game and sensitive wildlife species, allow for research of predatory wildlife and associated programs, include habitat projects that have a direct nexus with predation, and maintain annual programs developed under Commissions guidance.

In regard to the first reprint of the bill, strike "and the management and enhancement of big game mammals" and replace section 3, subsections 6 and 7 with the language from Assembly Bill 345 from the 77th Legislative Session in section 2, subsection 4. (VOTE: 7-0, Barnes and Hubbs absent)

SB221: UPDATE (as of 5/12/17): Support the general concepts contained in the first reprint of the bill including the creation and activities of the Nevada Wildlife Public Education Committee. Support the use of Heritage funds as proposed including the proportion changes, funding of the Committee and emergency provisions contained within the bill. Also support the use of Heritage funds for the Committee for a four year period as outlined in the amendment. (VOTE: 7-0, Barnes and Hubbs absent)

SB511: UPDATE (as of 5/12/17): Adopt a platform in support of license simplification. Support the bill as introduced. Support the amendments to recognize indigenous tribal hunting and fishing rights. (VOTE: 7-0, Barnes and Hubbs absent)

UPDATE (as of 5/13/17): Adopt a Platform in support of an amendment changing the landowner compensation tag cap from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent effective immediately upon passage and approval. (VOTE: 5-1, Barnes, Valentine, and Young absent, Hubbs voted no)

Public Comment -

Rex Flowers, representing himself, said regarding the amendment of SB 511 from the Paiute reservation, while NDOW considers it a friendly amendment because it won't break the budget to give up \$5. But thinks the right to hunt on public hunts is worth \$20, even on special licenses. NDOW should stay on track with NDOW's original intent as figure provided was revenue neutral. Stay with \$15. He has hard feelings with people getting special break, and special licenses should have been more to begin with.

Bevan Lister, representing himself, said his comments are on the proposed amendment to SB 511 to raise the landowner tag cap. His is a different perspective as has heard talk this is "a cap or a limit" with potential of reducing number of tags allocated. He sees it differently as guidance to Commission in that there should be appropriate balance between quotas issued in tag allocation process compared to number of animals being seen and using private property. Private property and agricultural lands in Nevada provide tremendous resource to Nevada wildlife. To leave them less than whole will be harmful. Hopes those type of ideas considered as discussion occurs today.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO UPDATE THE PLATFORM ON AB 101 CHANGE "OPPOSE AMENDMENT #7" TO READ "OPPOSE ANY LIMITATION OF THE COMMISSION AND PUBLIC PROCESS." ALSO CHANGE "AMENDMENT 206" TO READ "IN REGARD TO REPRINT #1." COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO RECOMMEND SUPPORT OF SB 221 PLATFORM TO READ: “SUPPORT GENERAL CONCEPTS CONTAINED IN REPRINT #1 INCLUDING CREATIONS AND ACTIVITIES” AND THE REST OF THE STATEMENT WOULD STAY. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT.

Commissioner Drew said a decision is needed by Commission whether to discuss proposed amendment from Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for SB 511 now or after tomorrow’s presentation.

Secretary Wasley suggested discussing the tribe’s amendments. He provided background on the tribe’s amendments which is comprised of three parts. 1) Desire to have the tribe’s hunting and fishing heritage acknowledged completely separate from specialty licenses such as seniors, serviceman’s, etc. It is not pricing or cost, they want acknowledgement of their indigenous heritage. Problematic to the tribe was the actual strike-through. Presently the tribe members currently pay no fees as they have an exemption. NDOW had combined all those privileges with the license which resulted in the strike-through of the exemption, and he noted the action was absent of consultation with the tribes. NDOW agreed with that. NDOW views the amendment as friendly. Another aspect is that NDOW obtains federal monies from license certification. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service certifies number of hunters and anglers in the field which is based on issued licenses; however the license cannot be free to count toward certification. There are 1,200 free Native American licenses that would be charged. The fee would make NDOW eligible for federal dollars to offset the projected \$6,000 difference. 2) Desire for consultation, requiring consultation/notification through Inter-Tribal and Nevada Indian Commission, and 3) means by which they purchase license. Currently they cannot purchase a license through a license vendor. They want same privilege of purchasing license online or through vendor. These amendments are likely to be heard next week.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO CONTINUE THAT PORTION OF AGENDA ITEM 6 SPECIFIC TO SB 511 AND LANDOWNER CAP UNTIL TOMORROW IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEM #18. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS BARNES AND HUBBS WERE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION SUPPORT PROPOSED TRIBAL AMENDMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE TRIBAL HUNTING RIGHTS AND OTHER ASPECTS MORE PERTINENT TO DIRECT CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN NDOW AND THE TRIBES. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS BARNES AND HUBBS WERE ABSENT.

- 7 Presentation of Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson and Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action

The Commission will review with the Department the third and final draft of the Fiscal Year 2018 Draft Predation Management Plan. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented a PowerPoint presentation (exhibit file) on the draft Predation Management Plan. Mr. Jackson said to date NDOW has spent 60 percent of relevant revenues on lethal control.

Commissioner Johnston said he received a call from Commissioner Bliss on Project 40 which is in the Diamonds. Former Commissioner Bliss' comment asked if Project 40 could be expanded further into the entire Area 14 because deer herd numbers have improved due to predator control and pinyon-juniper removal.

Biologist Jackson said that could be done.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2018 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN (FINAL DRAFT) PLAN AS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTION OF CHANGE PROJECT AREA 40 FROM UNIT 141 TO AREA 14. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0, COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND BARNES ABSENT.

Workshop/Regulation – Public Comment Allowed: Persons Wishing to Provide Comment on Regulations are Requested to Complete a Green Regulation Speaker's Card and Present it to the Recording Secretary

- 8 Commission General Regulation 466, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Drawing, Changes to Nonresident Restricted Deer Tag, and Changes to Big Game Return Card Questionnaire Deadline, LCB File No. R140-16 – Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation defines the term "main drawing;" revises the order in which the Silver State Tag drawing, PIW tag drawing and main tag drawings are conducted; authorizes an applicant for a nonresident restricted deer tag to apply for a nonresident deer tag in the PIW tag drawing and the Silver State tag drawing in the same year; and revises the big game return card questionnaire deadline from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

A workshop was held in Las Vegas on March 25, 2017. The Commission requested a second workshop due to questions the Commission had: 1) What are the effects on the applicant and the party if the applicant is drawn for the PIW tag; 2) Why are the predator and/or other fees not collected when applying for PIW; and 3) What is the nonresident process for applying for PIW.

Management Analyst III (MA III) Hullinger reviewed CGR 466 Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) and explained the questions that were asked of the Commission meeting in March.

1. If approved it would be similar to the Silver State Tag, the main draw tag becomes ineligible. If in a party, the rest of the party still goes through, only the successful hunter of the PIW would be ineligible. This would be the same with nonresident.
2. In November 2016 the Department presented two methods were. Method 1 moving the draw forward with same method of application. The only fee would be the \$10 participation fee. However, that language was struck from regulation by Legislative Counsel Bureau. She explained the Department needed to account for the \$10 fee to go to the Heritage fund.
3. Nonresident process is the same as resident since it the PIW.

Commissioner Drew had questions about the difference between Silver State Tags and PIW. How would the hunter benefit or not be able to put in.

MA III Hullinger said that the system would either allow of them to go forward or it will say they were ineligible.

Commissioner Almborg said that at the White Pine CAB meeting the question came up if they are required to have a guide? Or is it no longer a requirement?

MA III Hullinger said that the guided draw is its own separate draw by regulation and those restrictions and mandates to have a guide are only for that draw.

Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe County CABMW, said they were in full support, but want to change Section 6(1) that the wording “must” be taken out. They would like the questionnaire to be accepted by the independent contractor designated by the Department through 5 p.m. BY MAIL and 11 p.m. ONLINE.

Commissioner Drew re-read Section 6 (1). “Unless otherwise provided by an annual regulation of the Commission the properly completed questionnaire issued as part of the big game tag or the information required by the questionnaire must be received by the independent contractor designated by the Department by 5 p.m. by mail and not later than 11 p.m. Jan. 31 online.”

Commissioner McNinch asked about the time (post marked etc.) He is not sure why we would have to differentiate if it was electronic or in the mail.

MA III Hullinger stated that with trouble reading some of the postmarks, the Department went away from that to a “must receive” deadline because it is very solid. She recommended keeping the deadline standardized with NDOW’s other deadlines. The Department is trying to proceeding with more online processes in part due to the license simplification aspects in SB511.

DAG Stockton has some concerns with the “will be accepted” language because it may show that there is some discretion in the collection of the questionnaires. He suggests using “must be received” to be clearer.

Commissioner Johnston said there should only be one deadline and time--11:00 p.m. on the date whether mailed or submitted online.

Chairman Wallace said the regulation will be moved forward to the June Commission meeting for action with no changes recommended from this workshop.

9 Reports – Informational

- A Heritage Committee – Commissioner Wallace
A report will be provided on the recent Heritage Committee.

Chairman Wallace said Heritage Committee meeting was held last night. Guidance provided to staff with no recommendations. He said on behalf of the committee he wants to send big thank you to Nevada Bighorns-Unlimited (NBU) Reno who provided the committee with funds to fulfill every Heritage project request received.

- B Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
Director Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Secretary Wasley thanked Commissioner Drew on behalf of the Department for his dedicated work and presence at the legislature. Secretary Wasley thanked NDOW's legislative liaison Jordan Neubauer for her work at the legislature.

A six-year-old, 350 pound black bear was caught in Spring Valley, near Gardnerville, after NDOW biologists received complaints about it killing chickens. This was the first time this bear had been captured. The bear was collared and underwent an on-site hard release and aversion training. He has now moved north and east away from the area.

NDOW along with the Nevada Department of Transportation was featured in a recent press release by the USFWS Pacific Region for our work on the Highway 93 wildlife safety crossings and the ongoing projects on Pequop Summit for the safe passage of mule deer and other wildlife. The Game Division continues to work with a private contractor on Bald Mountain mule deer monitoring plan. All but three deer have migrated north through the mine area. Long Canyon mine had only one known mule deer mortality as of April 17, 2017, although the cause of death could not be determined.

Fifth year of Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse trapping and translocation effort in cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game concluded during April 11-19, 2017. Twenty-four female grouse were captured in Idaho during the effort and 22 were successfully released into Bull Run Basin, Nevada, Unit 062. The project could not have been accomplished without support and participation from other Divisions. Fisheries and Habitat Divisions went above and beyond to ensure success of the project and USGS will continue monitoring nesting and brood survival over the summer.

The final suspected "super-shedder" ewe in the Snowstorm Mountains was lethally removed on April 28, 2017 from the Owyhee Bluffs. Sheep in the Snowstorms have become very evasive following intensive recapture efforts and getting close enough to remove the ewe without aerial support has been challenging. Samples were collected from the ewe and delivered to Wildlife Health for processing.

The Wassuk Range is experiencing a pneumonia event that is affecting lamb survival. Tim Torrell, NDOW contract videographer, documented lambs with clear clinical signs of pneumonia in mid-April. Observations of local publics, amateur photographers, and NHP officers revealed that lamb ratios of approximately 65 lambs:100 ewes existed in mid-March. On April 28, 2017, Staff Biologist Mike Cox and Game Biologist Jason Salisbury identified sick lambs for possible collection to confirm pneumonia and strain type of pathogen. They classified 62 ewes and 15

lambs in three groups within 100 yards of Hwy 93 for a current, lower ratio of 25 lambs:100 ewes.

The Wassuk bighorn sheep herd continues to use the area in close proximity to Highway 95 above Walker Lake. At least four ewes have been hit and killed so far in 2017 with 20 animals killed over the last two years. NHP officers that work this section have observed that the sheep have become highly habituated to vehicles traveling at high speed and frequently cross the highway at the ends of the guard rail. Meeting with NDOT, NHP, and NDOW at the Walker Lake site is scheduled for June 1 to continue discussions of methods and solutions to reduce animal vehicle collisions and conflicts.

NDOW's Wildlife Health Staff are working with Desert Shores Community in Las Vegas to address an avian die-off event in one of their large ponds. Results of the necropsy are pending. Wildlife Health Staff continue to sample hunter harvest sheep heads and those from known disease events. Wildlife Health Staff conducted a necropsy on a yearling male bear that had been killed by an adult bear near a residence in Incline Village.

Wildlife Health Staff conducted a capture course to review immobilization agent handling for mountain lion and bear immobilizations. Wildlife health staff continues to conduct data entry to update the Wildlife Health database. The majority of capture information for 2016 and 17 has been entered and now the focus is on entering necropsy data. Wildlife Health Specialist met with GIS staff to discuss development of an anesthesia form so that immobilization data can be recorded in the database.

Fisheries Division anticipates a very active summer season for the Aquatic Invasive Species program with many reservoirs in Northern Nevada at capacity and increased opportunities for recreational boating. Many of the inspection stations are fully operating but we are still trying to staff some locations including Rye Patch Reservoir and the new roadside station location in Alamo.

Increased reservoir storage has also allowed us to augment warm-water species fisheries across northern Nevada this year. Approximately 1.4 million walleye fry were stocked into Lahontan, Rye Patch and Chimney reservoirs in late April. We also anticipate stocking additional catfish in urban ponds and reservoirs including South Fork, Wildhorse, Rye Patch and other locations; and wipers (white bass-striped bass hybrids) in Lahontan, Rye Patch and Chimney reservoirs.

The down side of spring flows this year is that river stocking of rainbow and cutthroat trout will be significantly delayed in western Nevada. We may not have low enough flows in the Truckee River to stock rainbows until July or August. Trout scheduled for the Carson River this spring were stocked into Lahontan Reservoir instead which has created an opportunity there for trout angling for the first time in years. We're also looking into the potential for stocking Washoe Lake with warm water species (possibly white crappie) to take advantage of current conditions.

At this time it's unclear if we will be able to get into Marlette Lake for the normal spring spawning for Tahoe rainbow and cutthroat trout. On the positive side, we have taken around 12,000 eggs from Tahoe rainbow at Third and Incline Creeks on Lake Tahoe using the spawning weirs installed there.

In Southern Nevada we've seen the best fishing for black crappie on the Overton Arm of Lake Mead in at least 10 years. The reasons are not clear but may be related to low lake levels that create turbidity from the Virgin and Muddy river inflows, which provides cover for young crappie. A 40 plus pound striper was caught in Lake Mead's Greg's Basin in April.

Habitat Division staff are reviewing and finalizing fiscal year 2018 project funding proposals. The annual funding cycle kicks off with the Wildlife Heritage Committee and its review of Heritage project proposals at the May meeting. Many of the received proposals will be in the Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp reports provided to the Commission for their June meeting. A total of 16 Upland Game Bird Stamp project proposals were received requesting a total of \$345,594, and seven Duck Stamp project proposals seeking a total of \$87,511. Habitat Conservation Fee proposals will be the final funding opportunity and will be awarded by late June.

Habitat Division staff continue to further refine and implement new projects database, which is now being used to submit new project proposals. Eventually completed projects will also be entered into the database to be depicted within a web-based projects mapping tool. Currently, the mapping tool is in a beta form and the locations of recently completed and ongoing projects are being mapped. Once this tool is complete, a viewer will be able to access a map of Nevada and then zoom in and out to see details regarding a project's location, and see the major attributes of the projects.

Habitat Staff met with City of Fernley employees in late April to discuss the renewal of a Cooperative Agreement to facilitate the delivery of treated effluent water onto the Fernley WMA. The Department's water holdings on the WMA are limited which makes Fernley's daily discharge of 1.2 million gallons extremely valuable for wildlife and constituents utilizing the WMA.

Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) has been continuing with the precautionary drawdown of Lahontan Reservoir by utilizing irrigation canals to fill downstream reservoirs and wetlands such as Stillwater NWR and the Carson Lake. Additionally, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and TCID have completed a new "water waste way" just below Lahontan Reservoir to discharge an additional 1,000 cfs through Sheckler Reservoir into the Carson Lake Wetlands. It is expected that TCID will release around 150,000 to 200,000 acre-feet of water during the precautionary drawdown period using the new waste way and existing irrigation canals to minimize residential flooding around Fallon. A recent Game Division aerial waterfowl survey reported substantial water accumulation in the Carson Lake Wetlands, but most levees and roads were still visible with no major damage to infrastructure witnessed at this time.

NDOW's Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (NPCD) continues the process of planning, securing funding, contracting, and implementing habitat improvement projects to benefit wildlife, with an emphasis on projects that benefit sagebrush community species such as sage-grouse and mule deer. Approximately 55,000 acres of reseeding following the 2016 wildfires was finished in early January 2017. With the high precipitation across these project sites, there have been high germination rates and monitoring will occur over the next several years.

A Utah man from Cedar City was sentenced April 14 for the felony killing and waste of a bull elk near Pioche in August of 2015. The man, Zackry Holdaway, was also ordered to pay a \$20,000 civil penalty and \$576 in additional fees. Holdaway will lose all hunting and fishing license privileges for six years, will be given a suspended sentence of 32 months in state prison, and

ordered to serve five years on probation. This was a very lengthy investigation and one of the biggest civil penalties we've ever seen. The case generated a lot of public interest and immense media attention.

Eastern Region wardens are still involved with several long term poaching investigations from prior seasons.

- Sentencing continues for multiple defendants in area 081 elk poaching cases.
- A plea agreement was reached in the killing, by a California man, of a small buck before the season opened in Elko County.
- Arrests were made in Wisconsin on May 2 in connection with the killing of a large bull elk near Ely in November of last year. Much more to come on this case as the proceedings develop.

In late April a new warden trainee arrested an 18-year-old Elko woman for possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. The case was initiated while on fishing patrol.

Spring weather brought the annual increase in urban wildlife calls, including bears, coyotes, and mountain lions, as well as small birds and mammals. Every spring staff tell people not to pick up, feed, or disturb wildlife, but many people continue to "love them to death."

Southern Region wardens worked on two tragic drowning deaths at Lake Mead last weekend. May 5 a presumed drowning with a person last seen swimming out for a drifting buoy float, the person has yet to be recovered. The very next day, in high winds one of our game wardens observed a man trying to swim after a personal watercraft (PWC) that had come loose and was adrift near Las Vegas Boat Harbor. The wind was blowing the PWC away faster than the man could swim and he began to struggle about 100 yards from shore. The warden recognized this danger, and entered the water in a brave attempt to rescue the man. The warden stripped off his duty gear and boots, donned a life jacket, and began swimming toward the struggling man while carrying another life jacket for the victim. The man went down when the warden was only 25 feet from him. When the warden reached the location, he dove down and was able to grab hold of the sinking victim. After getting him up and aboard a rescue vessel, resuscitation efforts were initiated, but eventually failed. Neither of these drowning victims was wearing a flotation device. Secretary Wasley commended Warden Boden for his efforts in trying to save the man.

As is typical for this time of year, Diversity biologists are getting out in the field. We continue our work on Golden Eagles in Dry Lake Valley. Currently monitoring breeding at seven territories, have banded 10 nestlings at 5 nests, installed 4 nest cameras, and retrieved 2 satellite transmitters for possible redeployment on nestlings. In addition, we are still tracking 10 eagles via satellite transmitters in the area. Southern region staff have been assessing occupancy of Peregrine Falcon breeding territories. We have documented 80% occupancy within 25 territories at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and 89% occupancy in 18 territories elsewhere in southern and eastern Nevada. Peregrine falcons were also surveyed in Tahoe to determine what effects climbing activity below the nest may have on the birds. The nest will be monitored weekly throughout the spring and summer.

Other species being actively monitored include Northern Goshawks in Tonopah and in Elko County. Two rounds of surveys at Key Pittman and Overton Wildlife Management Areas have been conducted for secretive marsh birds. Several Ridgeway's Rails, a listed endangered species, have been documented at Overton Wildlife Management Area. In the next few weeks, surveys for the endangered Southwestern Willow-Flycatchers will begin. Short-eared owl

surveys were conducted statewide by both Diversity biologists as well as many volunteers. A Bald Eagle nest in Washoe Valley is being monitored in order to provide guidance to NDF on avoidance measures during fuel reduction work and trail cameras have been established at six Burrowing Owl sites to document breeding phenology and activity patterns.

Spring shorebirds surveys were conducted in the Lahontan Valley with record water. Shorebirds were not concentrated in areas of deeper water at Carson Lake and Stillwater NWR, but rather in the shallower water units that received water last year. Shorebird surveys were also completed in Washoe Valley, which has water for the first time in two years. Aerial surveys for colonial nesters such as herons and egrets will be completed over the next few months.

In the Western Region, acoustic monitoring of bats at 12 big-game water developments will start in mid-May and continue throughout the summer. Monitoring at six of the 12 guzzlers will be paired with monitoring at proximate natural water sources in a pilot effort to participate in a national monitoring effort call NABat. This is the first step in assessing water developments around the northwest region and their importance to non-targeted wildlife such as bats.

Finally, the results from 2014-2016 pika surveys were recently accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Western North American Naturalist.

Director Wasley said he has a report from Conservation Education Division that has so many items going on that there are more pages than he has time to read. In the future when he gets a report that is one to two pages and he can highlight activities he will read it.

C Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton

DAG Stockton said the TCID case will be heard in the 9th Circuit Court during the second week of July. He will not attend the hearing because NDOW's interests are not involved. The hearing is to determine years used in the recoupment of over-diversion.

10 Public Comment Period

Rex Flowers said he attended COT meeting for the Central Nevada Elk Plan held this week in Tonopah. He said a sticking point for him is the land agencies are supposed to provide a habitat monitoring report. At the meeting it was brought up that no monitoring has been done due to lack of staff and money. Found out no habitat monitoring has been done for at least eight years. He said everyone signs onto the plan. The concern for livestock industry as they are at risk because if there is habitat risk they will be blamed. He is wondering if any way the Commission could get involved through a letter to land agencies to get their involvement and ownership of the problem. He knows it is not up to sportsmen or the Department to do this. Not aware of what is happening with other elk management plans, but this is worthy of looking into.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 - 8 a. m.

- 11 Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Wallace

Chairman Wallace called the meeting to order. Roll call conducted. Seven Commissioners present. Commissioner Barnes absent all day. Commissioner Young absent at roll call; arrived at 10:10 a.m.

CABMW Members present at roll call: Bill Gray, Lander; Ray Sawyer, White Pine; Jim Cooney, Elko; Rob Boehmer, Carson; Gene Greene, Carson; Steve Robinson, Washoe; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Paul Dixon, Clark; Sean Shea, Washoe; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Craig Burnside, Douglas; Chrissy Pope, Nye; Joe Crim, Pershing; and Furn Winder, Elko;

- 12 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Wallace – 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 Drew said for persons not present yesterday, the Commission is continuing a portion from the Legislative Update, agenda item #6. The item is specific in relation to landowner program amendment (SB 511).

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS BARNES AND YOUNG ABSENT.

- 13 Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Wallace - 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 may also be discussed.

Commissioner Johnston said he received additional correspondence relative to the quotas. One was an email from a professor at Sierra Nevada College located in Incline.

Commissioner Hubbs said she also received that email from Steven Ellsworth. Also, she received phone a call from Mr. Bud Ogan on standardization of upland game seasons.

- 14 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.

None

- 15 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates –Director Wasley – Informational
The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department’s ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley said staff assembled a presentation in response to a request to understand the process by which the Department generates quotas. The Game Division staff will provide the presentation which is timely because quotas will be set today.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder presented a PowerPoint presentation on the survey and inventory process of big game. Mr. Schroeder answered questions from the Commission (presentation available in exhibit file and website 8:50 a.m.).

- Are survey results published?
Yes, online and available in the tables of the Status Book.
- Are youth hunt successes counted at 100 percent?
Account for success rate which is factored in. The array for youth is different as more complex and they may harvest either a buck or doe.
- Is the model checked after return cards submitted?
Yes, afterwards the return card data is used to calibrate the model.
- What is percent deviation that is acceptable from recommended quota before it creates a biological concern?
Difficult question to answer. In general terms, probably five to 10 percentage points; however when managing for example the mule deer buck ratio and we come in the next year and are off, we can adjust. But if quotas are continually conservative and recommend even lower quota next year buck to doe ratios increase because we are not getting the needed harvest.
- Does Nevada use the same model as other states?
Nevada’s model is different from other models used. Nevada uses deterministic model that generates a specific number. Some other states use stochastic modeling that incorporates predictable variability. Staff is in process of researching different modeling techniques at least for mule deer.
- How often do you test your survey times? Meaning the deviation between if you surveyed at different times of year. How does it affect model?
Have not tested explicitly, but calibration occurs annually to calculate accurate buck/doe ratio. We know from published literature in other states that maximizing peak of rut probably reduces bias. Look at trends and patterns in data. Need to survey by air during peak rut times.

Secretary Wasley said that the word “estimate” was used during the presentation. He knows that at this meeting with setting quotas that CABMWs and public talk about science and people will hear and use the word “estimate” from the Department. He would point out that each one of these years that we do this, the estimate is not independent. The estimate builds upon data

from prior years. The longer these models run, the confidence intervals get smaller and smaller with increases in sample size. Certainly there are assumptions and estimates, but as far as science and data going into the model, we are looking at 35 to 40 percent of population with high confidence on the classification. Secretary Wasley said where the disconnect may occur between CABMWs and the Department has to do with the scale of the survey. If you have an individual guide, outfitter, hunter, who focuses on one side of one range, their experience may be different than the survey data on which the recommendation is based. The temptation is to question the science. Certainly, the public and CABMW's prerogative to have different experience and make a recommendation based on that experience. But he really wants to say how much confidence NDOW has in this process, in the data, and the model. When NDOW brings forth a recommendation, data may be summarized over a differing area with an aerial, objective approach as opposed to individual who may be in one portion of the survey area from the ground.

Commissioner Drew said from his experience he is aware that NDOW's biological quotas are ultra conservative. He asked if Secretary Wasley's and Mr. Schroeders' have the same impression.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder answered that is an accurate statement. Nevada is conservative compared to other states with the exception of Desert bighorn sheep.

Commissioner Johnston asked how wounding loss is accounted for with demand and success formula.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder said 20 percent is used across the board, and this value is incorporated into the deterministic model.

Commissioner Hubbs asked how are you testing the model to insure you are not overestimating the population and misapplying the quotas in the success rate.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder said we have two checks and balances. One is checking the harvest number which is based on the quota number from the year before. Second is the buck management objective. If the buck management objective is off, the model can be checked. Basically, the model and measured buck to doe ratios should be equivalent, which verifies data quality.

Secretary Wasley said to Commissioner Johnston's comment about the wounding loss. Presently, staff estimates wounding loss at 20 percent within the model. Thirty years ago, NDOW used to use 35 percent in the models. When you look at population estimates for mule deer during the mid-1980s which is a time referenced as an all-time high. There were people who experienced the 1950s who said there could be no more deer in the 1980s than in the late 1950s. A key difference is NDOW used 35 percent, there is no way for NDOW to maintain buck ratios at that time and sustain a 35 percent wounding loss without having higher population estimates. There is an aspect of the population estimates in the 1980s that he believes were artificially inflated due to the need for the model to accommodate the 35 percent wounding loss.

Commissioner Valentine asked if migration between states is accounted for in the model.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder answered that in the natural world animals do not respond to state boundary lines. NDOW uses radio collars to track movement, coordinate and collaborate with other states as herds are migratory between states' boundaries. If problem with migration distribution they would change up survey. Radio collars assist with monitoring between Nevada, Idaho and Utah. The telemetry data allows the Department to estimate and allocate the proportion of the population that moves among the states.

16 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action

The Department will provide a briefing to the Commission on the existing Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program, recent history, and management options. The Commission will discuss and may direct the Department to develop a draft Commission Regulation regarding options pertaining to the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.

Administrator Brian Wakeling presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Program. On April 18, the Game Division sent a letter to program participants explaining there would be challenges this year with issuing 360 tags that field counts qualified. The letter's intent was to explain, obtain input, and advise that there may be a legislative remedy this year. Even, if NDOW had the ability to authorize the 360 tags this year, there still may be future challenges ahead.

Commissioner Johnston said NAC has no limitation on how many tags can be acquired, NRS states 1.5 percent. Commissioner Johnston asked if 2016 quotas could be used as base for tags.

Discussion and questions ensued on Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation program.

Commissioner Drew said in the long term we have identified issues. To date we have not had problems until now. The base problem has not been addressed and understands there is not enough money to fence the ranches, and knows depredation hunts can be less than popular. Need to extend these options going forward. It will be a bifurcated process with solving the cap problem, but in the long-term there are issues with the program that the cap has raised that need to be addressed. The long-term will take a longer concerted effort which may mean a work group or committee of the Commission.

Commissioner Hubbs said she must bring up the issue of the private compensation that landowners generate by selling some of these tags. Her concern is there is a mutual understanding between the landowners and Department, and the landowner agrees to provide access to their land to access other areas for hunting which is a positive for the public.

Chairman Wallace said the money received by landowners is for compensating damage on private property. Other option is to use depredation tags which could harm wildlife. One place to improve is documenting damage on private property with photos. The Commission has to discuss this and may need to undertake committee meetings as the 1.5 percent cap has been reached.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, provided a document with proposed regulation changes for both the short and long-term:

LINCOLN CAB

Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program – Discussion / Proposed Regulation Changes

DRAFT 1: 5/9/17 Lincoln CAB Meeting- Backup material

Italics text denotes discussion and action per CAB Meeting on May 9, 2017

Background: NRS 502.145 and NAC 502.424 through 502.468 govern the Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program. A statutory cap is in place where the number of these tags is limited to 1.5% of the total deer and antelope quotas adopted annually by the NBWC. The NBWC can also adopt regulation to carry out provisions of the statute. (Program policy, etc.)

In 2017, the number of landowner tag applications (approximately 360 and based on counts) exceeds the 1.5% cap established in statute.

In terms of deer, landowner tags allocated within Hunt Units in Lincoln County represent approximately 35% of the statewide landowner tags.

Summary: As with any regulation, program or policy, periodic review and potential amendments are necessary to adjust to changing dynamics and other factors relative to the regulation. The Landowner Tag Program is no exception. The program is very successful and has provided a needed benefit to the landowner and wildlife, in addition to provided added hunting opportunity for sportsmen all over the State.

Discussion-Issues and Potential Revisions to Program:

The Short-term: Discussion and Options

1. The 1.5% cap would be legislatively adjusted to address current situation. ***A cap of 2.5% is being discussed as an option and as an amendment to current pending legislation. A quota would be established to address the shortfall on the 1.5%, (approve of the “extra” landowner tags) meanwhile it would be understood that legislation would need to be passed.***
2. Per NDOW suggestions in memo dated April 25, 2017:
 - a) Proportional reduction of tags
 - b) Reduce those who have fewest tags because damage is less
 - c) Make tags available to first come-first served in terms of apps and counts
 - d) Voluntary reductions
 - e) Eliminate counts of deer and antelope during the dormant “non-growing” season
 - f) Estimate proportional use by deer and antelope across seasons
3. Temporary regulation that directs NDOW to use the 2016 quotas as basis for cap, thus reducing the difference between the total number of tags and number of landowner tags. ***It is believed that nothing in NRS or NAC restricts the ability for the NBWC to promptly issue temporary regulation that utilizes the 2016 quotas for deer and antelope in relation to the 2016 landowner requests. The tags would be issued for 2017. The remaining tags in excess of the 1.5% would be significantly reduced.***

4. NBWC approves 2017 deer and antelope quotas above recommendations to address difference. ***This should be linked to #1 above if the 2.5% is a reality. With the recommended reduction in tags, this option seems unlikely, even if some hunts are recommended to have a higher quota.***
5. Other:

- ***In terms of addressing the current situation, the Lincoln CAB recommends using Option 3 above, or some similar temporary regulation. It is understood that between 10 and 20 landowner tags would possibly still need to be cut.***
-
- ***The Lincoln CAB would then recommend Option 1 as a “runner up!”***
- ***Reductions are going to be contentious no matter what manner they occur. Litigation is also a possibility. A direct, short-term fix is better for addressing the issue for 2017, while a review of the program for the long-term should be pursued.***

The Long-term: Discussion and Options

The Lincoln CAB recommends a comprehensive review of the program to make regulatory adjustments where deemed appropriate. Suggestions for consideration and review are listed.

- A. ***Examine the possibility or benefits, if any, of separating deer and antelope in terms of regulation and protocols***
- B. ***In terms of “damage,” establish a calendar system that addresses the “non-growing” versus “growing” season, as it relates proportionally to counts and assessment. (see NDOW memo #2F above) A multiplier (percentage) could be used if counts take place in a non-growing timeframe. This may also mean revisiting the “50-animal” language. This could also benefit certain landowners that have issues with the current count and assessment protocol.***
- C. ***Establish a cap for tags that can be awarded to a single landowner. Base cap upon damage and the intent of the program in addressing the damage. If a landowner feels there is more damage than the number of tags awarded, it would be forwarded to an arbitration panel.***
- D. ***Adjust count or assessment protocols to help ensure that animals are not being counted or assessed more than once.***
- E. ***For certain areas, examine the possibility of harvesting females to address damage.***
- F. ***For deer and antelope, require that a person who validates a landowner tag select a weapon class for their respective tag(s). This would coincide with the Elk Incentive program.***

Mel Belding said he also has a family member who receives tags. He said this is a great program which was hard fought in legislature. Maybe go back to way it used to be and allow hunting within one mile of ranch. Appreciates what was said about animals using land for feed and water, but they also go to ranches for protection. There is substantial damage to cultivated fields. Keep program but need to do things differently.

Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President of Nevada Farm Bureau, said he was involved in submitting amendment to move cap from 1.5 to 2.5 percent at the hearing on SB 511. Nevada Farm Bureau supports a process to provide every eligible landowner with tags that are due. The solution is change to state law and for the NBWC to evaluate program for changes.

Commissioner Drew said he appreciated the Farm Bureau for reaching out to him and Director Wasley to be part of the solution.

Craig Burnside said this challenges us to look at things differently. Suggested using 2016 quota to base numbers on but must stay consistent.

Bevan Lister, vice president Nevada Farm Bureau, said he appreciates Doug Busselman who brought this forth in 1991 before the legislature. His perspective is that the legislature has defined damage as 50 animals and if defined another way would not be affordable. Mr. Lister does not want to return to methods used before 1991 which were depredation hunts. He supports keeping agriculture whole.

Emilia Cargill is present representing Seeno Ranches. She said Mr. Seeno does not sell tags, rather they use the tags themselves, other than giving some to NBU. Seeno Ranches are opposed to an arbitrary reduction, section 3 provides for mandatory issuance of one tag per 50 animals, section 6 qualifies that. She suggested banking tags as a possible solution.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said for full disclosure, he receives four tags and another member of his CABMW Giovanni Giordano receives one. When cap met at 200 previously, the program was run statewide, now has turned to regional program. He thinks they need one person to run program to standardize implementation of program. Program does not compensate him for damage but makes damage bearable.

Scott Redlinner, biologist and sportsman, said this is a topic across the west, interesting focusing on Lincoln County and need to focus where population shrinking. Other thing that bothers him is there are brokers who sell tags which has created own set of problems. Other states have made that illegal. This is a complicated issue; he appreciates Commission sorting it out.

Rex Flowers asked if the use of prior year quota should be addressed in the amendment.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said need to rewrite NAC to make program more flexible; need to take into account wild horse and burro damage; and brokering of tags needs to be addressed.

Public Comment Las Vegas –

Mark Peplowski said he represents property owners in Lincoln and Clark County. Appreciates the comments made. Compensation that ranchers receive should be equal to damage. Simplest solution is getting rid of the 1.5 percent. Cap is arbitrary. If NDOW knew this earlier a Bill Draft Request (BDR) should have been done. Find a rule to suspend 6 a. and legislation could be

proposed. Respectfully disagree with modifying section 3. Section 6 A is specific with "must." Pressure can be put on legislators to help and assist.

Public Comment concluded at 10:36 a.m.

Commissioner Johnston said the count and damage is based on last year. He suggested giving up a tag or two to get us where we need to as may not be able to bank on legislation being changed.

Chairman Wallace disagreed on banking tags.

Commissioner Drew said proposed amendment to increase cap from 1.5 to 2.5 and whether the bill alleviates the short-term problem is not known at this point.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO DEVELOP LETTER STATING INTENTIONS OF COMMISSION GOING FORWARD AND SEE WHERE WE ARE AT DURING THE JUNE MEETING.

Commissioner Young agreed that it is premature to do anything at this point. Sees that as temporary fix and he has issues personally with landowner tags. He has heard from others that the system has been gamed. Commissioner Young said he has issues with guides hired from out of state to guide the landowner tag recipient. He is going to work hard to prevent that, and knows people in southern Nevada who have bought land specifically to get landowner tags. He suggested a Commission committee be established to solve problem.

Chairman Wallace said he agreed with many of Commissioner Drew's comments. He said what is important to him is making the program whole with all getting the tags that they are entitled to. If that can be done through legislative action or through agenda item #18 that would be fine or the Commission can deal with the matter in June.

Commissioner Drew said in response to Commissioner Young, we realize that we have short-term situation with the shortfall with the cap, also realizing that there are long-term issues that need to be addressed in the program. He asked DAG Stockton if the 1.5 percent indexed off of last year's quota or this year's quota can be addressed under agenda item #16 or #18.

DAG Stockton said this agenda item is to provide guidance to the Commission, and should be handled under agenda item #18 as this item is to provide guidance.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO WORK WITH THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP CORRESPONDENCE TO LANDOWNER COMPENSATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS THAT INCLUDES: 1) COMMISSION'S INTENT TO SEEK OPTIONS TO PROVIDE ALL TAGS THAT HAVE BEEN QUALIFIED FOR THIS YEAR. 2) THE COMMISSION INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE PROGRAM LONG TERM AND MAKE APPROPRIATE CHANGES FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAM LONG-TERM. 3) ASK IF ANY OF THE QUALIFIED LANDOWNERS ARE WILLING TO VOLUNTARILY SEEK ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO COMPENSATION TAGS THIS YEAR. 4) IF RESOLUTION CANNOT BE FOUND FOR THIS YEAR'S QUOTA, THE COMMISSION WILL PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT IN TERMS OF HOW TO EQUITABLY REDUCE QUOTAS TO MEET STATUTORILY ESTABLISHED CAPS AT THE JUNE MEETING.COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Johnston said will have to see what happens in legislature. This puts landowners on notice as how to reduce tags in compliance with statutory cap

Commissioner Young asked if committee would look at manipulation of program because he wants everyone to have a fair deal.

Commissioner Drew said intent of motion is to establish proper committee and the charge of committee is Chairman's prerogative. Look at the committee holistically and NRS. Nothing is off the table including points made by him and others. Discussion today shows different ideas and areas.

Chairman Wallace agreed with Commissioner Drew.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

17 Commission Regulation 17- 13, 2017 Big Game Quotas for the 2017-2018 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Pat Jackson – For Possible Action

The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2017-2018 seasons.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson provided a presentation on bears and the Department's recommendations. The Department is recommending changes to the harvest structure. Staff is recommending three sub-quotas: Six tags for Area 19; six tags for Area 20 and an additional eight for Area 291. If six bears were harvested in any of these areas, then the hunters would need to move to any of the remaining areas.

Commissioner McNinch said he has a hard time finding the percent of adult females taken in the female harvest. In management book it defines the female that is five or older. Commissioner McNinch said we are out of our plan and we should be modifying how we proceed. Feels we are reaching noncompliance with the management guidelines. His concerns are with the females since they are the ones that carry the offspring.

Pat Jackson said two females were field aged as 4-years-old, but not yet confirmed with the lab. The mean was eight-years-old.

Commissioner Hubbs wanted clarification of the harvest statistics presentation regarding heavy harvest.

Brian Wakeling Game Division Administrator said two of the six bears that were harvested were under the objective harvest age, but the mean was above.

Commissioner McNinch wanted to know what the percentage is since the start of the hunt. Believes we are still showing we are in heavy harvest more than usual. The percentage is rising each year. He also sees the importance of detecting a swing in the increase in the female population.

Commissioner Hubbs wanted to know if any of the bears harvested were lactating. Administrator Wakeling said no.

Administrator Wakeling reviewed the data from the last three years. The average age of the bears was reported and the average age meets the guidelines.

Public Comment –

Las Vegas –

Jana Wright voiced the opposition to the bear hunt. She feels this is not a management tool, only an opportunity to kill a large mammal. Glad to see the limits have been lowered, but needs further review. She has issue with the taking of the females. Does appreciate the efforts NDOW took for Jasper.

Elko – None

Reno –

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said that Carl Lackey shared the hunts that are being done with hounds. There are a larger number of boars being taken than sows. Whether this is due to the treeing of the bear or not, but they feel that the hunter can then make the decision to shoot or not shoot. Douglas is requesting the harvest limit for bears remain at 20 and increase the tags to 51 with 45 being resident tags, five being non-resident tags, and one being a Heritage tag.

Elaine Carrick responded to Commissioner McNinch, the harvest the last two years for the females is heavy. To Hubbs, says that the Department cannot tell whether the bear is pregnant or is carrying an embryo. She has been attending meetings the last seven years. She said at the first bear hunt meeting there were over 100 people. These people that came were not anti-hunters, just opposing the black bear hunt. Hundreds of people cannot believe we are hunting bears. The public continues to be opposed to the hunt. There has never been a real reason or sound science as to why we hunt them. The public continues to be opposed to the black bear hunt. The public questions how many bears do we really have since they are not as easily counted as the ungulates. Believes we should change it back to no hunt. She requested the Commission vote zero for the quotas.

Katherine Bricker, No Bear Hunt Nevada, addressed Commissioner McNinch's statement. If referring to the mortality report dated Nov. 1, 2016, there was a 3-year-old female bear that was harvested. The bear was sadly commemorated on YouTube that one of the houndsmen shared his video on social media. This video of the treeing of this bear is haunting for her. One biologist said there are very few people that may hear the vocalization that this bear displayed while she was treed. It is very rare to hear a bear vocalize as she did and said the bear is in deep despair and fear of her life. Is the heavy harvest over other states or just ours? She would assume there are different ratios with other states and their numbers of bears. Nevada bear population has been noted as two to one male to female. They are opposed to any bear hunts.

Jennifer Simeo said she sent a letter to the Commissioners and asking that there be a zero quota. If the quota is set please consider any reduction in the hunts and quotas as well.

Joel Blakeslee representing himself says there is no biological reason not to have a bear hunt. In the Legislature the public has spoken about these hunts and the bill did not pass.

Rex Flowers said over the last three years success rate has been under 32 percent. This historically would call for an increase in tags. Quoted how many more tags would be needed to allow more people to participate in this hunt. He supports increasing the bear quota.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, has the largest advisory board with the largest county. Appreciates the diverse board that Clark County has and the board still supports the hunt. Breaking up the hunt units would not allow over harvesting.

Caron Tayloe opposed to the black bear hunt and if there is a hunt have quotas set at zero. She thanked NDOW for trying to save Jasper.

Bobbie McCollum shared a quote from an NDOW member that there has been a 70 percent decrease of complaints from 2015 to 2016 and could decrease in 2017. The bear population of Nevada bears is unknown. She feels that the Commissioners responsibility should be protecting wildlife not selling tag applications.

Fred Voltz is troubled by the report backing up the quotas numbers of the Big Game Status Book, note pages 124-127. There is no number count of "guestimated" bears by year. This should be a fundamental piece of information. Using guestimates should not be used. Where is the collaboration with the transportation departments where bears reside toward mitigating bears being hit by cars that represent a portion of the bear deaths? Killing quotas have not been adjusted. He is opposed to the bear hunt.

Genelle Richards, No Bear Hunt Nevada, is adamantly against the hunt and would like a zero quota. Feels there is no reason other than a trophy or to have a bear rug.

Sean Shea Washoe, CABMW, said his CABMW wants to raise tag quota to 48 for residents and five nonresident tags.

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, said they voted to support the quota as NDOW proposed. His board had lengthy discussion regarding splitting the Pine Nuts and Carson range. Pine Nuts 291 has the most access. He said in hunters are harvesting less than 1 percent of the population. The Carson CABMW supported the quota being proposed, but not the harvest restrictions being proposed in 192, 191, 195, 196, 201, 202, 204, 206, and 291. With the very low harvest rate in all units in previous years, this carve out is not necessary and could potentially cause increased hunter pressure and conflict in these areas given the restrictions.

Josie Crim is a young hunter who would like the opportunity to get a bear tag. Hunting is her passion and she would be very excited to receive a bear tag.

Commissioner McNinch said he views hunting as a viable tool to manage wildlife, however, there are some implications that are driving his comments on biological concerns. Has reason of concern biologically for the bear hunt.

Commissioner Young has been on the board five years. He said he feels the bear hunt is a waste of time. He does not agree with the amount of resource the Department uses to have the hunt. Commissioner Young agreed with a zero quota. All the anger that is created by this hunt should be addressed.

Commissioner Hubbs has been listening and empathizes with those that are against the hunt and not being able to make much headway. She will continue to listen and do what she can to lower the hunts and/or have a zero quota. Commissioner Hubbs agreed with Ms. Bricker's statement that hunting has a big legacy to our state, however the bear hunt is not what the state and/or hunters need in this state.

Commissioner Johnston has not applied for a bear hunt, but he is not prepared to state that he will not support a hunt just because he is not putting in for a tag. There is a dichotomy that keeps being made with the bears. He expressed that there are numerous emails from other countries, not necessarily here in Nevada. The emails question the "public outcry". As he sees it, he will support it and further increase the tag numbers, but keep the quotas at 20. It is an anti-hunting agenda not an "Anti-Bear Hunt" agenda from what he has received in his emails. He also knows we have a population that will sustain the hunt as well as give opportunities to hunters.

Commissioner Almberg has had a bear hunt, and applies for a bonus point. He asked the DAG if that creates a conflict while being on the Commission.

DAG Stockton said that no conflict exists where you share the same opportunity as the public, only conflict if there are some favorable hunts available only to you.

Commissioner Valentine said he is bothered by the female numbers harvested. He would consider a reduction of the female quota.

Commissioner Drew asked the Department staff if there is a biological concern by harvesting females.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson pulled up harvest data on all bears that have been harvested since the beginning of the bear hunt. He has the Matson's Laboratory tooth data for 20 bears. Six of the twenty bears were classified as 4-years-old and younger. Fourteen are classified as 5-years-old and older. Thirty percent are sub-adults and 70 percent are adult females since inception.

Chairman Wallace asked the Department if they have any issue with lowering or raising the quota.

Commissioner McNinch wanted to know how this number plays out. His radar is going off even more this year since there has been a heavy harvest over two years. Concerned that the Big Game Status Book states the 10 year average, the over harvest is too late, now, not at the 10 year mark.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said that he agreed that there is no biological issue. It is a sub population, when you look at small sample sizes it needs to be for a longer period of time. He explained why the 10 years is in place. A smaller sample is much harder due to the sheer size of the sample. As we get more data, the ability to estimate and determine good management of the wildlife increases. Biologically, we are not having a negative impact of the hunt.

Commissioner Drew asked about the female harvest limit.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling does not have any concern of the female hunt. The ratio of females in the harvest is higher than we would like it to be, but that could be due to random encounter. If we choose to look at the age of bears, they can get much older, around six years of age. A female harvest limit may create a rush by hunters to hunt in areas that are more desired, (291) and may be less selective when harvesting an animal.

Commissioner Almborg agreed with Commissioner Valentine with a reduced limit of female hunts but not with changing the quota. Commissioner Almborg wants an overall reduction.

Commissioner Hubbs agreed that a reduction of the number of females taken would be a good place to start.

Chairman Wallace supports the Department's recommendation since they are the biologists.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 RESIDENT QUOTA BLACK BEAR EITHER SEX ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 6151 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: INCREASE FROM 41 TO 45. ALSO APPROVE THE NONRESIDENT QUOTA BLACK BEAR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 6251 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: INCREASE FROM 4 TO 5. ALSO APPROVE THE BLACK BEAR HARVEST LIMITS COMBINED RESIDENT HUNT 6151 AND NONRESIDENT HUNT 6251 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 20 TAG TOTAL - 8 IN UNIT 291, 6 IN AREA 20 AND 6 IN AREA 19. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Drew asked MA III Hullinger if a tag number of 50 triggered the need for a Dream Tag.

Management Analyst III Maureen Hullinger said there is no mandate for bears.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ALLOW SPECIFIC HARVEST LIMITS OF FEMALE BEARS IN EACH OF THOSE UNITS. AREA 19 - THREE FEMALES, AREA 20 - TWO FEMALES AND AREA 291 - THREE FEMALES FOR A TOTAL OF EIGHT FEMALE BEARS OUT OF THE 20 TOTAL QUOTA. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 5 - 3. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: CHAIRMAN WALLCE, COMMISSIONERS JOHNSTON, ALMBERG, DREW, AND VALENTINE. COMMISSIONERS OPPOSED: HUBBS, MCNINCH AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

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

Staff Specialist Schroeder presented the status on antelope. Antelope have been on an upward trend for past decade.

CABMW and Public Comment Reno –

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they agree with the Department's recommendations for 043-046, the east side of Pershing County. For the west side, Units 041 and 042, they want an increase of 15 tags. They disagree with any increase in tags across the board for the west side and would like to keep them at last year's numbers.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt County CABMW, said they would like to adjust hunt Unit 032, 034 down to 100 tags from 120.

Bevin Lister said increasing quotas increases opportunities for families to go out to hunt.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, provided their recommendation for Hunt 2161 Archery: Unit 115, 231 and 242, from three tags to six; Units 132, 134, 245 increase four to five; Units 221, 223, 241, from three to six. Adding a total of seven tags to the archery hunt.

Ray Sawyer said White Pine CABMW's recommendation for Units 115, 231, 242, increase from three to 10. They would be comfortable with what Lincoln CABMW proposed as well.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, recommends Hunt 2251 area 205-208 increase to three for nonresident horns longer than ears – any legal weapon hunt and for the resident horns longer Archery hunt 2161 Units 205 - 208 increase to 14.

Mel Belding, Washoe County, is adamantly against horns shorter than the ears in 013 and 014 opposed to horns shorter period, wants to see the herds rebound, he strongly feels the habitat is well equipped for the growth.

Rex Flowers, Unit 012-014, antlerless hunt. The season is set but would like to see two. Does not feel there is any reason to give 25 tags in those areas.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, is good with all antelope NDOW recommendations.

Commissioner Johnston asked about the need for 25 tags in the new hunt Units 012-014 Resident Antelope – Horns Shorter any Legal Weapon?

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said the 25 new tags were based on season and quota development discussed in January. The population numbers can readily support a 25 tag quota. Establishing the season was based on the philosophy developed through the Harvest Guidelines process, although they have yet to be adopted by the Commission. The season was established in January and the population can support a limited harvest as recommended by the Department.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if what Mr. Lister said about the 1.5 percent of calculation for compensation tags was based on population of that year. Chairman Wallace said that the 1.5 percent is based on the quota amount set, not the population.

Commissioner Drew said that if we increase the tags, it will solve the 1.5 percent, however does not want to lose sight of the bottom line.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNTS 2151 AND 2171 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 032 - 034 GO TO 105 TAGS; UNITS 041, 042 LATE, CHANGE TO 65 TAGS; UNIT 205 - 208 GO 25 TAGS; HUNT 2171 WOULD BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE ARCHERY HUNT 2161 AND 2181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES AS NOTED, HUNT 2161 UNIT 032-034 WOULD BE 30 TAGS; 131,115, 231 AND 242 WOULD BE 8; 132-134 AND 245 WOULD BE 5; 205-208 WOULD BE 14; 221-223, 241 GO TO 6; AND NO CHANGE TO HUNT 2181. MOTION SECONDED BY MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7 - 1 WITH COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON OPPOSED. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSENT.

Commissioner Johnston does not like approving the quota associated with Hunt 2181 that was based on the Harvest Guidelines.

Lengthy discussion ensued about the new hunt.

Hunt 2251 Nonresident Antelope – Horns Longer than the Ears – Any Legal Weapon and Hunt 2261 Nonresident Antelope – Horns Longer than the Ears – Archery

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they agreed with the Department's recommendations for 043 - 046, the east side of Pershing County. However, the west side, units 041 and 042 has an increase of 15 tags. They disagree with any increase in tags across the board for the west side and would like to keep them at last year's numbers.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS ANY LEGAL WEAPONS HUNTS 2251 AND NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS ARCHERY HUNT 2261 AS PRESENTED, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO HUNT 2251 UNDER 032-034 FROM 15 TO 12; 041-042 EARLY AND 041-042 LATE FROM EIGHT TO SEVEN EACH; 205-208 FROM TWO TO THREE. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSENT.

Bighorn Sheep Hunts

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox made a PowerPoint presentation showing the distribution of bighorn sheep. He introduced the Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151 and Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3161.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, approved the Department recommendation. He said there is a mistake that needs correction for nonresident hunt in Unit 263 there are two extra days for nonresidents to hunt. The hunt should end on Dec. 20 not Dec. 22. He wants to know why there is a doubling of the quota in Units 183 and 263.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, is recommending the same quota as last year for Units 205 - 208.

Elko – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3151 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, EXCEPT HUNT 3251 IN UNIT 207 CHANGE FROM ONE TAG TO TWO TAGS AND APPROVED HUNT 3181 AND 3281 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

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

CABMW and Public Comment -

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said they do not disagree with the Department about the quotas. However they do have issues with giving nonresidents more tags while decreasing resident opportunity. Douglas would like to take one tag from the California bighorn sheep hunt in 032 and give it back to a resident.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, agreed with Douglas CABMW to drop the quota from three to two for the nonresident, and increase the resident quota from 11 to 12.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THREE HUNTS ON CR 17-13 PERTINENT TO CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT 8151 WITH ONE CHANGE IN UNIT 032, INCREASE FROM 11 TO 12; HUNT 8251 FOR UNIT 032 FROM THREE TO TWO; AND HUNT 8181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

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

CABMW and Public comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 9151 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151 and 7251 Nonresident

CABMW and Public Comment -

Reno –

Craig Burnside forgot that once a hunt is established there needs to at least be one tag, therefore they will change their recommendation from zero to one tag for the nonresident. The Douglas CABMW voted to increase the tags in Hunt 7151 in Unit 102 from six to seven and reduce the quota to zero for hunt 7251 in Unit 102.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT ANY GOAT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7151 AS PRESENTED, AND THE NONRESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7251 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Elk

Staff Specialist Cody McKee presented the elk quota. He said there has been a 1 percent increase in antlered elk; 20 percent decrease in antlerless elk. Over the last three years NDOW has issued 11,000 tags. There has been a steady decrease in success rates. He went into further detail about the outcome for the hunter due to such a wet winter and the chances of harvesting good size bulls and went over statistics for elk. Mr. McKee also introduced the depredation hunts for antlered and antlerless elk. Hunt 4107 is a new hunt instituted this year with a quota of 20 tags.

4102 Depredation Hunts Resident Antlered and 4107 Depredation Hunts Resident Antlerless

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they agreed with all elk hunts. However, there was discussion that when the antlerless hunts start to go down that strictly the antlerless hunts are not whacked as bad as the management hunts because that was a secondary management tool that was applied. If one hunt goes down it should be the management hunt.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they recommended changing Unit 081 first season to 75 tags; Unit 081 second season to 10 tags; Unit 081 third season to 75 tags; and Unit 081 fourth season to 40 tags. Their recommendation is due to seasons overlapping (rifle and archery) and trying to make the safest choice.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, said her board agreed with the new hunt in Unit 251 for hunt 4107.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 SPECIFIC TO RESIDENT ELK ANTERLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4102 AND RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4107 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 081 FIRST SEASON TO 75; UNIT 081 SECOND SEASON TO 10; UNIT 081 THIRD SEASON TO 75; AND UNIT 081 FOURTH SEASON TO 40. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee said there is a new hunt for Unit 051 Late which was an addition this past season setting to help better regulate unexpected elk growth in the Santa Rosa range and surrounding areas. There is also the Table Mountain rut hunt in Units 161, 164 and 171-173 early, the Department has recommended 10 tags.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, said they want to see the rut hunt changed, reducing tags down to five tags.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said for Hunt 4151 Elko CABMW had alternatives: Unit 065 from four to two; Units 076, 077, 079, and 081 Early from 100 to 85 tags; Units 076, 077, 79, 081 Late from 80 down to 70 tags.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said in regard to the resident tags being lowered in those areas for antlered elk, and elk muzzleloader tags decreasing by 43, yet the nonresident tags increased. Why is there an increase for nonresidents. They don't agree with nonresidents being given more tags than residents.

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, for Hunt 4151 in Unit 101-105 Early from 110 to 104. In Units 111 - 115 Late from 90 to 84; Units 221 - 223 from 75 to 71 Early; and Units 221 - 223 Late from 65 to 61. They would like these 20 tags put into the muzzleloader units. For Hunt 4156 in area 111-115 that would be from 15 to 27 and in Units 221 - 223 changing from 10 to 18.

Rex Flowers says that on the rut hunt in Unit 16 there have traditionally been 10 tags. Believes the rut hunt will be more selective hunt for hunters.

Elko –

Burt Gurr, Elko CABMW, said for Unit 065 the bull hunt, it seems that four would be a really good number. Go with the Department's recommendation.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT ANTLERED ELK ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNITS 076, 077, 079, AND 081 EARLY CHANGE FROM 100 TO 85; UNITS 076, 077, 079 AND 081 LATE FROM 80 TO 70. UNITS 111 - 115 EARLY FROM 110 TO 104; UNITS 111 - 115 LATE 90 TO 84; UNITS 161- 164, 171-173 EARLY FROM 10 TO FIVE; UNITS 221 - 223 EARLY FROM 75 TO 71; UNITS 221 - 223 LATE FROM 65 TO 61. FOR THE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4156 AS PRESENTED EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNITS 111 - 115 INCREASE FROM 15 TO 27; UNITS 221 - 223 INCREASE FROM 10 TO 18; AND INCLUDE RESIDENT ANTLERED ELK ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Spike Elk hunt 4651 Units 072, 073 and 074

CABMW and Public Comment –

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said for Hunt 4651 only change they recommended is for Unit 061, 071 Mid to lower tags from 50 to 25. Hunters did not report seeing any spike elk last year.

Elko – None

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT ELK SPIKE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4651 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNITS 061, 071 MID FROM 50 TAGS TO 25 TAGS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER YOUNG. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Resident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

CABMW and Public comment –

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said there is a decrease of tags, but nonresident increased. There should be a corresponding decrease for the nonresident.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said for Hunt 4181 they has two changes: Units 076, 077, 079, 081 Early from 140 to 160 tags; and Units 076, 077, 079 and 081 Late, reduce tags from 95 to 75.

Elko – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT EXCEPT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES WITH UNITS 076, 077, 079, 081 EARLY FROM 140 TO 160; UNITS 076, 077, 079, AND 081 LATE FROM 95 TO 75. RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181 WILDERNESS ONLY AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist McKee explained the reason for the resident-nonresident splits that have been brought up. In keeping with Policy 24 to keep resident and nonresident opportunities they have tried to keep nonresidents at 10 percent for each weapon class. However, there are no antlerless elk hunts for nonresidents statewide. By reducing the resident quota, it does not have any effect on the nonresident quotas either. He assured the Commission that the break down for residents far outweighs the nonresidents.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1331 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist McKee reminded the Commission that the quotas for the management combo options, that some of those are tied to the deer quota as well. For example, Unit 061 Hunt 4481 Any Legal Weapon Hunt is tied to the deer quota.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED FOR RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1331 THAT THOSE UNIT GROUPS THAT ARE THE SAME AS COMMENSURATE 1331 HUNT BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY PENDING ADJUSTMENTS ON MULE DEER QUOTAS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

CABMW AND Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 PERTINENT TO FOUR HUNTS: RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4176, RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MANAGEMENT HUNT MUZZLELOAD 4476 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1371, RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ARCHERY HUNT 4111, AND RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ARCHERY HUNT 4411 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1341, AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH DIRECTION TO

THE DEPARTMENT TO ADJUST THE OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNTS FOR ANY UNITS TIED DIRECTLY TO THE MULE DEER QUOTAS COMMENSURATE WITH ANY CHANGES TO THOSE SUBSEQUENT QUOTAS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. ALSO ADJUSTING THE COMPANION MULE DEER HUNTS WITH THEM ACCORDINGLY. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Biologist McKee presented a new Resident Junior Elk Antlerless Elk Management Hunt with option for Mule Deer.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIDENT JUNIOR ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT HUNT 4407 OPTION FOR RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER HUNT 1107 AS PRESENTED WITH DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE QUOTA BE ADJUSTED BASED UPON ANY ADJUSTMENTS MADE ON THE COMMENSURATE OR CORRESPONDING JUNIOR MULE DEER HUNT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DREW. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Biologist McKee provided calculations to apply similar reduction to the hunts that were reduced in the Hunt 4151 process. For 076, 077, 079 and 081 the Early tag quota would be 13. The Late would be nine. The quota for 111-115 would be unchanged from 10 Early and nine Late. Unit 221 - 223 quota would be eight Early and seven Late. These are the only hunts that can be reduced. For the Nonresident Elk Antlered Elk Muzzleloader Hunt 4256 the quota for Units 111-115 would go from one tag to three. For Hunt 4256 in Units 221-223 the quota would be two. The Department did not make changes to the archery quotas.

CABMW and Public comment on Hunts 4251, 4256 and 4261 –

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, said now that the quota has been dropped below 10 for the rut hunt, how about the nonresident quota remaining at one.

Chairman Wallace explained that it needs to stay at one due to the fact that hunt has already been offered. There needs to be at least 1 for the quota.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF CR 17-13 NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4251 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 076, 077, 079 AND 081 EARLY 15 TO 13, THE 076, 077, 079, 081 LATE 10 TO 9, 111-115 EARLY FROM 10 TO 9, 111-115 LATE FROM 10 TO 9. THE NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4256 AS PRESENTED WITH THE CHANGES FROM 111-115 INCREASE FROM 2 TO 3. UNITS 221-223 INCREASE FROM ONE TO TWO. NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ARCHERY HUNT 4261 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Biologist McKee advised there were no changes to the Nonresident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon hunts for 4281.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 17-13 NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4281 AND NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON 4481 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1331 WITH

OPTION TO ADJUST IF NEED BE, NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4276, NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ARCHERY HUNT 4211 PRESENTED AS IS BY THE DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Doe Hunt 1181 and Resident Junior Mule Deer – Antlered – or Antlerless – Archery, Muzzleloader, or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they wanted one change to Unit 015 from 10 to 15.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said they would like to see the quota go from 10 to 20.

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, said they would like Units 111-113 and 131-134 to be same as last year's recommendation of 125 tags.

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said they are glad that the opportunity is going up for youth. They are always concerned about recruitment.

Jim Evans, Eureka CABMW, said they have recommendations for modifications associated with the quotas for areas 13 and 14 and as a result of those recommendations they anticipate a reduction in junior hunt tags in Units 131-134 and 141-145. He said for Units 131-134 they recommend 130 and for Units 141-145 they recommend 155.

Commissioner Drew asked about Area 11. There was a good jump. In the hunt book it sounded like there was a good survey this year. Can you please explain the big jump?

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said the Department came in with a higher quota. There were changes to the model. The buck ratio was quite a bit higher last year. This is part of the calibration process that was discussed earlier. With the junior hunts you have to take into account the doe harvest as well, not just the bucks. The Department does that on a unit by unit basis on a three year scale. That unit did have a higher percentage of does.

Biologist Kody Menghini said last year there was an observed buck ratio of 38 in the fall in Units 111-113, which is the highest buck ratio ever recorded. It was on 3,000 deer sampled, which is the highest survey sample size since 2000. The quota are recommended based on a post season buck ratio of 34, so the Department is trying to get back to 30, but we are not trying to do it all in one year.

Commissioner Johnston received a phone call from former Commissioner Bliss on Area 13 and 14. He does not want to see the increase yet. He wants to keep the numbers from last year. In Units 111-113, White Pine CABMW does not want to increase the quota for the Junior Hunt, but on the adult hunt they want to go from 150 to 164.

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, said that is correct. They are asking for a reduction in the tags in the late hunt. They are concerned with the late hunters.

Commissioner Johnston asked White Pine CABMW to clarify.

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, said they are concerned about the late portion of that hunt. It is not going to break anyone's heart if it does not happen. They are just concerned about the quality of animals.

Commissioner Johnston said kids might just be really excited that they went out and got a nice buck on a junior hunt. He said he sees it both ways. He just likes having the junior opportunity. Commissioner Hubbs said she thinks there is a consensus with the junior hunt that when and where possible the Commission should allow the youth to get out and hunt. The trend is showing that some youth are going to be disappointed because there are more applicants than tags. She would be hesitant to reduce the numbers.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER, OR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1107 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 015 INCREASE FROM 10 TO 15; UNITS 131-134 DECREASE FROM 150 TO 130; UNITS 141 - 145 DECREASE FROM 170 TO 155; AND UNITS 202, 205 - 208 INCREASE FROM 10 TO 20. CHAIRMAN WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Johnston said the reason he was willing to decrease quotas in Areas 13 and 14 was because the CABMWs were also asking for the decrease in any legal weapon hunt. They wanted to go back to the 2016 quotas.

THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0, COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

CABMW and Public Comment -

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they voted to increase Units 101, 102, 109 to 250 tags.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they would like to keep Units 043 – 046 the same as last year, 25 tags, because they think because of all the water this year the feed will be great and the herd will do better.

Rex Flowers said he is opposed to the antlerless hunt completely. He thinks the quotas should be cut as much as possible. Deer herds in this state, since 2012, have declined 20,000, which is 18 percent. We need to stop the bleeding. With 60 percent success rate on the doe harvest 400 plus more animals will be killed. When the youth hunt is factored in we are going to be hitting up near 700 or 800 animals off of the landscape. When you factor in the fact that there is a carryover on the fawn recruitment the number keeps escalating.

Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW, said the recommendation makes a lot of sense when you see how many does are killed on the highway in Spring Creek. They listen to the biologists. Even the ranchers and people who didn't want to doe hunt suggested we ought to have one this year. He is in favor of the recommendations.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the cut in half from last year for Area 10.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said there are several reasons. Some of the herds are decreasing. They have made some model adjustments. He said they are now at a maintenance level on some on these. The drought has had some impacts on the deer herds.

Commissioner Hubbs asked about Units 101, 102, 109. How does the Department feel about the increase recommendation.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said the Department would be fine with that. It is a small percentage of the total population.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNITS 043 - 046 DECREASE FROM 55 TO 25 AND UNITS 101, 102, 109 INCREASE FROM 100 TO 250. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0, COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said there is a new hunt in Unit 115. It is a late hunt. Otherwise the Department is recommending a decrease.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Jim Evans, Eureka CABMW, said they are recommending retaining the quotas approved last year for all deer hunts in Units 141-145 and Units 131-134. He explained the reasoning behind retaining the 2016 quotas.

Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW, said he wanted to thank the Department and Commission for the videoconferencing to Elko.

Phillip Gray, Lander CABMW, said they recommend a decrease from 200 to 100. They discussed the declining deer population for the past three years. The estimated deer count was 150 lower than the 2016 count and the biggest part of the deer population is in the southern part of the county. The bulk of the hunting occurs in the northern part of the county. They feel that they need to decrease in tags until they can discuss splitting the area in half.

Chairman Wallace asked to clarify the unit group.

Phillip Gray, Lander CABMW, said it is Unit group 151-156, only want a change to the early season.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said for Unit 011-013 Early they want to decrease tags from 55 to 40 tags, Units 011-013 Late they want to decrease from 15 to 10 tags, Unit 015 they want to decrease it from 40 to 30 tags, and Unit 021 they would like to decrease from 50 to 40 tags.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said they would like Units 202, 205-208 to be same as last year at 55.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said for Unit 041 - 042, which is on the west side of Pershing County, they are in agreement with Department's recommendation across the board, but on the eastern side, for Units 043-046, they do not agree. They would like go back to last year's quotas for resident and non-resident.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said for Unit 043 - 046 they agree with Pershing CABMW. For Unit 035 they would like to keep last year's recommendations. Unit 051 they recommend 230 tags.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said for Unit group 241-245 they would like to go back to last year's quota from 100 back to 90.

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, said they are asking to take the quota from 450 in Unit 111-113 to 464 and 111-113 late to change it from 65 to 51.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, said they had issues with Units 171 - 173 Early and Units 171-173 Late. Sportsmen showed up to their CABMW meeting and it is a hard unit to hunt. There is frustration and some say there are not any deer. They recommend going back to the 2016 quotas.

Commissioner Johnston said there are a lot of CABMWs asking for reductions. Does the Department have any issues with the recommended changes from the CABMWs?

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said most of the changes are reasonable. There are a few that will make a difference. The recommendation for Unit 035 is a drastic reduction. Also, Units 051 and 043 those are big cuts. He pointed out that these numbers were cut last year. In some hunt units we are above objective on the buck ratio. This will put us further in a hole. Unless the Commission directs the Department to changes the management objective from 30 bucks per 100 does we are going to keep coming back every year with this recommendation. Some of the Washoe CABMW recommendations are probably okay. In Area 15, there is very strong data in that area. The cut back would affect the numbers. Winter mortality was not seen in Area 15. The Lincoln CABMW recommendation is reasonable. The Area 11 recommendation is modest.

Commissioner Drew said the recommendation that stands out is Unit group 043 - 046. It might be the highest in the state.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011 - 013 EARLY DECREASE FROM 55 TO 40; UNIT 011 - 013 LATE DECREASE FROM 15 TO 10; UNIT 015 DECREASE FROM 40 TO 30; UNIT 021 DECREASE FROM 50 TO 40; UNIT 035 DECREASE FROM 90 TO 70; UNIT 043-046 EARLY DECREASE FROM 250 TO 200; UNITS 043 - 046 LATE DECREASE FROM 110 TO 80; UNITS 051 DECREASE FROM 250 TO 230. UNIT 111-113 EARLY INCREASE FROM 450 TO 464; UNITS 111-113 LATE DECREASE FROM 65 TO 51; UNITS 131-134 EARLY DECREASE FROM 300 TO 275; UNITS 141-145 EARLY DECREASE FROM 350 TO 325; UNITS 151-156 EARLY DECREASE FROM 200 TO 150; UNITS 171-173 EARLY DECREASE FROM 375 TO 350; UNITS 171-173 LATE DECREASE FROM 120 TO 100; UNITS 202, 205 - 208 INCREASE FROM 35 TO 55; AND UNITS 241 - 245 DECREASE FROM 100 TO 90. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McNinch said he will support the motion. He understands what is going on in Eureka. He said he has a feeling that some want to take advantage and bank a few bucks. He thinks there is a high potential to be talking about this with a little more urgency next year.

THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0, COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 1371 and Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Archery Hunt 1341

CABMW and Public Comment –

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, said there are deer in Carson City. They share borders with other units. He said the Department is proposing significant reductions in both hunts. The report didn't indicate the need for the reduction. The U.S. Forest Service does not support hunting in Unit 192 because the gate that runs from Spooner Summit to Kingsbury Grade closes every year on Nov. 1. For Hunt 1341 they would like to increase tags in Unit 192 Early from 10 to 20. For Hunt 1371 they would like an increase from five to 15. They would like Hunt 1341 quotas to match the quotas that were approved last year: Unit 192 Early they would like 20 tags, Unit 192 late they would like 20 tags, Unit 194 early they would like 15, Unit 194 late they would like 15, and Unit 195 they would like four. For Hunt 1371: Unit 192 they would like 15 and Unit 194 they would like six.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said for Hunt 1371 they didn't have any recommended changes. For Hunt 1341 they would like Units 061, 062, 064, 066-068, go back to last year's quota of 300. Unit 101-109 early they would like to go back to 250. Part of that cut they would like to bring back for the Unit 101-109 late to 20 tags.

Sean Shea, Washoe County, said they wanted changes in Hunt 1371: Unit 011-013 decrease from four to two and Unit 014 decrease from seven to five.

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, said they don't have any specific recommendations. He just wanted to make a point that tags are going down for residents and up for nonresidents.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said for Hunt 1371 they would like to increase to 10 tags and for Hunt 1341 they would like six, the same as last year.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, said for hunt 1371 Unit 171-173 they would like to go back to 70, which is last year's quotas. She said she is going to dig into this a little more with the local sportsmen. She does not want to see Nye County get into a pickle with upcoming years.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1371 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011-013 DECREASE FROM FOUR TO TWO, UNIT 014 DECREASE FROM SEVEN TO FIVE, UNIT 171-173 DECREASE FROM 85 TO 70, UNIT 192 INCREASE FROM FIVE TO 15, UNIT 194-196 INCREASE FROM THREE TO SIX, UNIT 202, 205-208 INCREASE FROM TWO TO 10. ALSO MOVE TO APPROVE RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ARCHERY HUNT 1341 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 061, 062, 064, 066-068 INCREASE FROM 200 TO 300, UNIT 101-109 EARLY DECREASE FROM 300 TO 250, UNIT 101-109 LATE INCREASE FROM 10 TO 20, UNIT 192 EARLY INCREASE FROM 10 TO 20, UNIT 202, 205-208 LATE INCREASE FROM TWO TO SIX. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON

SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0, COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331, Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 1371 and Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Archery Hunt 1341

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 17-13 NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331, NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1371 AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ARCHERY HUNT 1341 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE AMENDMENTS PRESENTED: HUNT 1331: UNIT 011-013 EARLY DECREASE FROM THREE TO TWO, UNIT 015 DECREASE FROM THREE TO TWO, UNIT 035 DECREASE FROM SEVEN TO FIVE, UNIT 043-046 EARLY DECREASE FROM 20 TO 16, UNIT 043-046 LATE DECREASE FROM 10 TO SEVEN, UNIT 051 DECREASE FROM 15 TO 14, UNIT 111-113 EARLY INCREASE FROM 35 TO 36, UNIT 111-113 LATE DECREASE FROM SIX TO FIVE, UNIT 131-134 EARLY DECREASE FROM 25 TO 23, UNIT 141-145 LATE DECREASE FROM THREE TO TWO, UNIT 151-156 EARLY DECREASE FROM 15 TO 11, UNIT 171-173 EARLY DECREASE FROM 25 TO 23, UNIT 171-173 LATE DECREASE FROM 8 TO 7, UNIT 202, 205-208 INCREASE FROM TWO TO THREE, UNIT 241-245 DECREASE FROM EIGHT TO SEVEN; HUNT 1371: UNIT 171 - 173 DECREASE FROM FOUR TO THREE, UNIT 192 INCREASE FROM TWO TO THREE; HUNT 1341 UNIT 061, 062, 064, 066 - 068 INCREASE FROM 20 TO 30; UNITS 101 - 109 EARLY DECREASE FROM 35 TO 29; UNITS 101 - 109 LATE INCREASE FROM TWO TO FOUR, UNIT 202, 205-208 LATE INCREASE FROM TWO TO SIX. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said he found a slight error in the math. For the Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Archery Hunt 1341 Unit 202, 205 - 208 Late should have a quota of three.

COMMISSIONER DREW AMENDED THE MOTION ON HUNT 1341 UNIT 202, 205-208 LATE WILL HAVE A QUOTA OF THREE. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0, COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

- 18 Commission Regulation 17-14, 2017 Landowner Deer and Antelope Compensation Quotas – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
Landowner deer and antelope compensation quotas are set annually, according to NRS 502.145, at 1.5 percent of the total deer and antelope quotas. The 1.5 percent is generated from the total deer and antelope quotas, which are established in CR 17-13. As a result of this cap being established the deer and antelope damage compensation tag allocations for the 2017 season may exceed the 1.5 percent statutory cap. The Commission may vote to adopt a regulatory model that changes the allocation of the tags to meet the statutory cap.

Administrator Wakeling shared that based on the quotas that have been set thus far; the 1.5 percent will be substantially below the 360 tags eligible based on the field counts.

Commissioner Drew would like to propose the maximum amount of compensation tags allowable by law.

DAG Stockton supported use of the 2016 count numbers as the count occurred in the same year as when the count occurred. Probably complies with intent of statute. He believes it is in substantial compliance of the requirements of the statute.

Chairman Wallace wanted to know the numbers currently with the 1.5 percent and with the adjustments the Commission has made to 2017 quotas.

Administrator Wakeling said that the maximum number of landowner compensation tags would be 301. If using 2.5 percent based on the 2017 quotas, that number would be 502. If SB 511 is enacted, this will increase the cap from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent. Once this is in place it would increase the number of landowner tags and not jeopardize noncompliance with requirements of the statute. If we use the 2016 quotas and the emergency doe seasons implemented last fall, the maximum number is 329.

Public Comment Reno -

Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau, said he is in support and wants to work on legislation to try and tie the actual number of tags available to the highest level earned under the landowner program. He said we will be able to solve the problem.

Bevan Lister, of Nevada Farm Bureau, said he appreciates the Commission's consideration with trying to get this resolved. He is more than willing to sit in and give his help and participation to work this out.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2017 DEER AND ANTELOPE COMPENSATION QUOTA CR 17-14 AS FOLLOWS: TO APPROVE THE MAXIMUM PERCENT ALLOWABLE BY LAW AS OF JULY 15, 2017, OF THE TOTAL 2016 DEER AND ANTELOPE QUOTA FOR LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS WITH DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT GOING FORWARD THAT WE WOULD BASE THE CAP PERCENTAGE ON THE QUOTA OF THE YEAR WHEN THE COUNTS ARE COMPLETED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH.

Commissioner Johnston wanted to be sure we were not committing to how we would determine how compensation tags were to be dispersed in this motion. Commissioner Drew explained that there would be a letter sent to the landowner participants on how we are going with this. At the June Commission meeting, we will know if legislation has moved on SB 511 and what the effective date will be. If we need to adjust disbursement of compensation tags, it could be addressed at that meeting.

MOTION PASSED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Commissioners Young and Valentine left at 6:04.

Chairman Wallace opened discussion for SB 511.

Commissioner Drew said as mentioned yesterday, a formal amendment has been offered for SB 511 that would raise the cap from 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent. There is obvious urgency in making sure that there is language that this provision be effective upon passage, he will be supportive of that amendment and effective date.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Bevan Lister said in his experience with the Commission, its influence legislatively is a powerful recommendation. Mr. Lister said this is a great opportunity to move forward and take care of this issue.

COMMISSOINER DREW MOVED TO ADOPT A LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM IN SUPPORT OF AN AMENDMENT TO SB 511 TO INCREASE THE LANDOWNER COMPENSATION CAP FROM 1.5 PERCENT TO 2.5 PERCENT EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE AND APPROVAL. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH.

Commissioner Hubbs said she has reservations regarding the increase from 1.5 to 2.5 and will not be supporting the motion.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN WALLACE, COMMISSIONERS JOHNSTON, ALMBERG, DREW, AND MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 5 - 1 WITH COMMISSOINER HUBBS OPPOSED. COMMISSIONERS BARNES, VALENTINE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.

- 19 Future Commission Meeting and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 23 and 24, 2017, in Las Vegas, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting.

Secretary Wasley reported on what agenda items are slated for the June meeting:

CGR 466 PIW Draw “For Possible Action;” set Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons CR 17 – 15 Amendment; Heritage CR 17 – 06 for vendors and approval of projects; NDOW/NBWC letter to participants in the deer and antelope landowner damage compensation program; and update on conclusion of 2017 legislative session.

Commissioner Drew said as requested by Congressman Amodei would be an agenda item on maps.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Fred Voltz reminded the Commission of commitment made to have pitfall traps on an agenda after the March Commission meeting field trip.

- 20 Public Comment Period

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said he appreciates all the help from NDOW staff who provide the CABMWs with materials.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, said she is thankful to be part of the process. She thanked the Commissioners for all they do on the board.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are only a summary of the meeting. A complete record of the meeting can be obtained at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters Office in Reno.