

MINUTES – Approved (8/15/14)

The videotape of the meeting is available at NDOW.org

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting

May 9 and 10, 2014

Agenda

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

Videoconferencing Locations:

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

Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
High Tech Center Building Room 137 (May 9)
High Tech Center Building Room 123 (May 10)
Elko, NV

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

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

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

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

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

DRAFT MINUTES

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for two day meeting:

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

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel/two days:

Acting Chief Game Warden Paul Dankowski	Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox	Biologist 4 Steve Foree, Eastern Region
Chief of Habitat Alan Jenne	Biologist 2 Lindsey Lesmeister
Chief of Fisheries Jon Sjoberg	Administrative Assistant 4 Katie Simper
Administrative Assistant 4 Kathleen Teligades	Administrative Assistant 3 Joanne Trendler
Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly	Game Warden Don Klebenow

Game Division Supervisor 4 Ken Gray
Supervising Biologist 4 Mike Dobel
Kim Jolly, Management Analyst 3
Maureen Hullinger, Program Officer 3

Game Division Supervisor 4 Steve Kimble
Big Game Biologist Carl Lackey
Liz Obrien, Administrative Services Officer 3
Caleb McAdoo, Biologist Region II

Chairman Paul R. Dixon, Clark CABMW
Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW
Catherine Smith, No Bear Hunt Nevada
Jana Wright, Las Vegas, Clark County
Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW
Fred Voltz, general public
Chairman Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants Inc. (SCI)
Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW
Miles Humphreys Jr., Washoe CABMW
Chairman Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Chairman Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW
Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association
Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW
Steve Kellars, Reno, self
Mike Cassiday, self
Elmer Dupsky Jr., Sun Valley, Nevada
Sam Monteleone, self
Gerald Hunt, Nevada Hunters' Association
Genelle Richards, No Bear Hunt Association
Stephanie Myers, self
Desiree Seal, Nevada Cattleman's Association

Others in attendance/two days:

Chairman Doug Martin, Carson CABMW
Chairman Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW
Furn Winder, Elko CABMW
Don Molde, self
Stephanie Myers, Las Vegas, Mt. Charleston
Chairman Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW
Gerald A. Lent
Bob Cook, Douglas CABMW/self
Joel Blakeslee, self
Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Miles Humphreys, Washoe CABMW
Mel Belding, Washoe County, self/Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU)
Jeff Turnipseed, NBU
Trish Swain, Trail Safe
Monty Martin, Systems Consultants
Trevor Walch, Predator Control Cooperation
Josh Vittori, Washoe County
Lloyd Peake, No Bear Hunt Association
Mike Reese, Southern Nevada Wildlife Coalition

Friday, May 9, 2014 – 10:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Robb called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

All nine Commissioners present: Chairman Robb, Commissioners Drew, Bliss, Layne, McBeath, McNinch, Mori, Wallace, and Young.

CABMW Members Present: Gil Yanuck, Carson; Joe Crim, Pershing; Paul Dixon, Clark; Brad Johnston, Lyon; Lester Porter, Eureka; Ray Hodson, Eureka; Bob Cook, Douglas; Rex Flowers, Washoe; and Glenn Bunch, Mineral.

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

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Commissioner Layne said the Commission has previously heard about waterfowl injuries occurring at Sunset Park in Southern Nevada. A local group has been trying to work with local government agencies to try to solve the problem and they were told by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services that they do not have

personnel available to assist. She thinks the problem will be ongoing and will need to be addressed, and she requested that the Commission, the Clark CABMW and that the Department all look at this to resolve the issue there.

- 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.

Lester Porter, chairman of Eureka CABMW, said he is providing his CABMW recommendation as he will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. He said Eureka sportsmen do not feel the deer numbers are good in Area 14 and since there are predator and habitat projects underway in that area they would like the tag quota to stay the same as last season. Sportsmen that he spoke to are in agreement that in Area 13 the herds are doing well and sportsmen he spoke to support waiting a year or two to draw that tag and have a quality hunt.

- 5 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Robb - For Possible Action
Commission minutes from the Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2014, meeting.

Commissioner McNinch noted that on page 31 the person who made the motion was not denoted.

Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby said she could not discern which Commissioner's voice was on the recording.

Commissioner Layne noted a duplication of a sentence on page 44, third paragraph and suggested deleting the sentence "She it is not typically for profit or an individual."

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE NOTED DELETION FROM COMMISSIONER LAYNE. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 6 Reports – Informational

- A Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) and Mule Deer Hunting and Management: Survey Results – Chairman Robb, Operations Division Administrator Bob Haughian and Professor Edwin E. Krumpe
A report will be provided on the results of the recently concluded survey of 1,200 randomly selected tag applicants regarding their views on various aspect of mule deer hunting in Nevada. At the request of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the survey was conducted by the Department of Conservation Social Sciences, College of Natural Resources at the University of Idaho. Resident and nonresident tag applicants were asked to respond to questions regarding mule deer hunting opportunity, season structure, predation management and other variables affecting resource management decisions and hunting decisions made by clients.

Professor Krumpe presented a power point presentation with the survey results. The presentation is available on the NDOW website and he answered questions from the Commission concerning the survey results.

Chairman Robb said he often states that the public does not understand how the Commission process works and their answers in the survey validated that. He said the survey stated that the hunting public is satisfied with management of the mule deer resource and the process the Department does matches that expectation. He said the survey is both enlightening and confusing at the same time.

Secretary Wasley said the desires and expectations of the public are impossible to accomplish considering the limited mule deer and habitat resource. He said this is the third survey conducted of hunters and the survey has validated and supports management actions taken by the Department.

Chairman Robb thanked NDOW staff and Professor Krumpe for attending the meeting and said the survey has provided the outline with which to work on.

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

Commissioner McNinch reported that in excess of 100 people attended the last meeting on April 5, 2014, in Las Vegas. The large volume of public comment received overwhelmed the meeting which lasted over nine hours with not all of the agenda items covered. Subsequently the public in attendance were frustrated which has been expressed in emails by some participants. He said the outcome was that, although education and other components have a place, the discussion of those items is slowing down the process to get to Senate Bill (SB) 213. He said it is safe to say that with the public comment received that the tone of comments has changed with personal experiences being relayed and tied to the agenda items and the ideas coming from the public are far and few between. The next meeting will be May 29 in Reno with a mid-morning start time and the intent is to have input on what is being proposed relative to mandate from Senate Bill 213 with the recognition that other issues still need to be discussed.

Commissioner Layne, Trapping Committee member, said the agendas need to be reviewed better because she received so many complaints from persons who stated that the items they wished to hear were at the end of the agenda and the length of the agenda. She said she is very frustrated with process right now because we are so polarized that the Commission will not be able to move forward which is very disconcerting.

Commissioner McNinch said he shares that frustration and the agenda items were there in response to committee direction and recommendation. He said two agenda items at the end where not even considered and believes there was seven hours of public comment during the nine hour meeting.

Commissioner Layne asked for clarification on decision that 96 hour trap visitation statewide is off the table and not sure when that decision was made.

Commissioner McNinch said at previous meeting the DAG told them that 96 hour was not.

Commissioner Drew said it was more of an issue of how the item was agendized on the committee agenda by regions to specifically address those areas.

Commissioner McNinch agreed that it is not off the table for the future; however, the DAG did restrict the discussion and motion passed to stay with 96 hours outside of Clark and Washoe Counties.

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

Commissioner McNinch said three year review underway as denoted by legislature, and recently the Department staff have not been able to staff this committee and as a result, the last agenda for the Bear Committee was challenged and rather than risk an Open Meeting Law (OML) violation the decision was made to cancel the meeting. He said the public is using OML to slow down meetings, and is frustrating to see staff put time and effort into these agendas knowing that within three days of meeting they will be challenged which is an obstructionist attitude and he advised that everyone needs to be honorable.

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

Commissioner Wallace said the next Heritage Committee meeting will be held before the Tonopah Commission meeting. He said the committee reviewed 17 projects and the entire fund balance was allocated, with one project rejected.

Chairman Robb noted that no NGO's requesting Heritage tags attended the committee meeting for Heritage tags and the committee requested clarification from organizations on the buyer's premium before the committee's next meeting.

Commissioner Wallace reviewed the committee's motion: Mule deer to Mule Deer Foundation and Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN); antelope tag to Nevada Waterfowl Association and one antelope tag to Pershing County Chukars; elk tags to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) and Northern Nevada Safari Club International (NNSCI); Nelson bighorn sheep tags to NBU and the Wild Sheep Foundation; California bighorn sheep tag to NBU Fallon; two wild turkey tags to SCI; one wild turkey tag to Pershing County Chukars; and two wild turkey tags to WHIN. Commissioner Drew asked what project was rejected and Commissioner Wallace answered that the rejected project was 15 – 07 refurbishing Bell Jet Ranger.

Deputy Director Cates said by the next meeting staff will clarify the issue of buyer's premium, and in the past justification was to cover credit card fees, and staff plan to add the question of whether a buyer's premium is added to the application in the future.

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

Secretary Wasley reported that the bi-state U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-opened the comment period for bi-state sage-grouse until June 8. The final listing decision has been postponed to April 2015 and the groups have an aggressive meeting schedule and actions in hopes of precluding a listing. He said in regard to the Greater Sage-grouse the state continues to work aggressively through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and most effort is now being spent on developing the Conservation Credit System (CCS), trying to take into consideration expectations from the federal agencies as far as areas of maximum allowance and disturbance as well as areas of exclusion. The state's mitigation strategies need to be better than what federal agency is expecting.

Commissioner Drew said there is a lull right now as far as Council concerned due to the federal documents being prepared. The SEC is catching up on editing the state plan, and credit system in testing stage. Next meeting is Tuesday and if anyone interested please see the website which has the agendas and information. Another comment in regard to the bi-state is the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM may reopen their planning processes as well and there may be new programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

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

Secretary Wasley reported on the Department's activities: Game Division and Law Enforcement administrator's both retired as did the predator staff specialist and along with those vacancies are other key vacancies in other divisions including Fiscal Services. Divisional updates are as follows: in Fisheries the drought has necessitated regulations drafted to be heard at this meeting to remove limits in Eastern Region, hatchery planning underway to utilize stock with high temperatures. Habitat staff conducting sage-grouse work projects and interaction with federal agencies. Game Division staff prepared the Department's big game quota recommendations and attended CABMW meetings. Law Enforcement staff are working on regulations in advance of the June 30 deadline for permanent regulations because the temporary regulation period begins after that due to the upcoming legislative session. Wildlife Diversity has raptor surveys underway, and in Operations maintenance issues are being worked on around the state. Lastly, Conservation Education has been busy preparing publications such as hunt book, quotas, messaging underway for quotas and ewe hunts.

- G Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Harry Ward

Report provided in support material, and DAG Ward had no further additions.

7 2015 Nevada Department of Wildlife Legislative Concepts – Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly – For Possible Action

The Department will provide its draft legislative concepts for review and the Commission may vote to support, oppose or remain neutral or provide suggestions on the Department's proposals.

MA 3 Jolly reviewed the Department's legislative concepts as denoted in the support material: The growth of Nevada's elk herds has provided significant increases in elk hunting opportunities. However, as a consequence of this growth, some areas may on occasion incur damage to private agricultural property. When damage occurs, the elk damage prevention and mitigation program provides monetary compensation to private landowners for damages, or fencing to exclude elk and prevent damage. The cost to build fences to prevent damage to private property by elk is expensive and has increased in expense in recent years. Additionally, new fence designs substitute metal posts for wood posts and are intended to improve durability and decrease future maintenance costs. It is expected that several large fencing projects will need to be constructed in the near future to prevent elk damage to private agricultural property. It is anticipated that in the near term, the current revenue source will be unable to adequately fund needed activities related to the elk damage and mitigation program. Currently the fee for processing an elk tag application in NRS 502.350 Sec 4 is capped at \$15, of which \$10 goes to processing the application and \$5 goes to fund the elk damage and mitigation program. The solution is to amend NRS 502.350 Sec 4 to increase the maximum amount which may be charged for the processing of an application for an elk tag. The proposal is to increase the application fee for an elk tag to \$20, of which \$10 would be reserved for the elk damage prevention and mitigation program and the other \$10 for administrative costs.

Commissioner Bliss asked about the fee increase and effect on Silver State tags (SST) and the cost.

Commissioner Drew asked if it would be better to have flexibility with the fee then to keep the fee divided between the elk damage program and the administrative costs, and if \$5 bump is enough.

MA 3 Jolly said flexibility is more important and you would have to wait until the next session to change it.

PO 3 Hullinger said Commissioner Bliss was looking for clarification on SST fee and if adjusting regular application fee as opposed to specialty tags, language could be drafted that specialty hunts excluded. She said the maximum of \$10 has been reached, and SST is segregated in NRS 502.350

MA Jolly 3 said the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) administers the vessel registration and titling regulations for the State of Nevada in compliance with United States Coast Guard (USCG) rules. Vessels have a hull identification number (HIN) that is individual to each vessel, similar to a vehicle identification number (VIN) on a vehicle. The USCG, under the authority of the Department of Homeland Security, has amended its regulations regarding the verification of HINs. By January 1, 2017 the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) must have a method in place to determine whether a vessel has a HIN meeting the requirement before taking any action to issue, renew, or update the ownership information for a certificate of registration. If the existing HIN is noncompliant, NDOW must take action to bring the HIN into compliance prior to issuing a certificate of registration and verify annually that the vessel owner has permanently affixed the HIN to the vessel in compliance with the Code of Federal Regulations. At present, the planned methodology to comply with the USCG regulation changes will consist of two components. First, a physical inspection of that group of noncompliant vessels by NDOW staff will be required. And then on an annual basis vessel owners will be required to sign an attestation confirming that the HIN on record is permanently affixed to the vessel. In researching our records in an effort to determine the magnitude of registered vessels with noncompliant HINs, we estimate that approximately 1,000 such vessels (of approximately 46,000) were registered in Nevada in 2012 and 2013. NRS 488, as presently written, does not allow NDOW to take the required action to meet the requirements of the USCG's regulation changes. The is to amend NRS 488.065 to allow the department to assign an appropriate state issued hull number if there is not one or if the builder's hull number does not meet the United States Coast Guard hull number requirements. Subsequently we will also need to amend related Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). To meet the federal compliance deadline of January 1, 2017, the amended NRS must be effective July 1, 2015. Regarding fiscal impact, there are no recognized direct

costs specific to the proposed language change to NRS 488. However, NAC changes will be required, and programming changes for our Nevada Wildlife Data System (with associated costs) will be required resulting from the NAC changes. Because of the anticipated administrative burden required to annually verify that the HIN has been affixed to the vessel, it is our intent to implement programming changes to NWDS so we can begin to voluntarily bring vessels into compliance beginning as soon as possible, pending the NRS changes. With the passing of the Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service began inviting states to participate in the E-Stamp pilot program, allowing selected states to sell the electronic Federal duck stamp online through the state's existing automated licensing system, and issuing a printable receipt to be used until a physical stamp is mailed to the purchaser. The program was anticipated to enhance the ability of the public to obtain the Federal stamp through the use of electronic technology. Eight states were selected to participate in the pilot program, and total electronic duck stamp sales increased from 56,000 stamps in 2007 to 430,000 in 2013. In February 2014 the Service invited all remaining states to submit applications for selection of up to 15 additional states to participate in the expanded program beginning in 2014, 2015, and 2016. As such, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) submitted an application to the Service requesting that if selected, NDOW not begin sales of the E-Stamp until late 2015. Our application was submitted in anticipation of legislative approval of NRS changes. In Nevada both a Federal Duck stamp AND a State of Nevada Duck stamp are required to be in the possession of a licensed hunter while hunting waterfowl. NDOW has an electronic license sales system, so the State stamp is generally sold electronically through our various sales sources (at our customer service counters, via our website, and at our statewide license agents (i.e., Wal-Mart's, etc). Through this electronic sales process, the State stamp appears as a stamp "privilege" printed on the license. However, the Federal Duck Stamp (in its physical form) is traditionally and currently sold at US Post Offices and at NDOW's customer service counters. Presently our license agents generally do not sell the physical Federal stamp. If Nevada is selected by the Service to participate in the E-Stamp program, NDOW clients will be able to purchase the Federal stamp "privilege" from any of our sales sources, to include our license agents, and the Federal stamp "privilege" will appear on the printed license pending the mail delivery of the physical stamp from the Service. While the above federal law language may be recognized as authoritative language over state law, NRS language must be amended to allow the NDOW to participate in the E-Stamp program. The solution is to amend NRS 503.135 to add an exception before the first sentence, Except as otherwise authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in front of the portion requiring a stamp validated with a signature. This would then provide an option for the Commission in the near future to add a provision in NAC allowing the e-stamp in anticipation of our selection by the Service to participate in the E-Stamp program as early as 2015. There are no recognized direct costs specific to the proposed language change to NRS 503. However, NAC changes are anticipated. Furthermore, programming changes for our automated licensing system (with associated costs) will be required.

Commissioner Layne said she recognizes need for the two housekeeping pieces of legislation but wonders what will be done with trap registration for SB 213 and seems to her that should be one of the top bills that the Commission should be looking at as would be nice to have Commission or Department present the bill rather than have someone else present it.

Commissioner McBeath said the drafters of SB 213 should do that as they created the problem.

MA 3 Jolly said although the two housekeeping BDRs may seem unimportant to layman but the agency must implement them due to federal law.

Public Comment -

Warden Pfiffner said hull change started in 1972 in response to the Coast Guard and NDOW receives one-third of funding and if change not done we will lose \$800,000 to \$1 million in federal funding and this is very important to the agency.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO GO WITH THREE PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED.
COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Bliss requested that the SST be exempted from the elk fee program.

Commissioner Young said he would like to know the fiscal impact.

Commissioner Drew said the fee is a maximum in NAC and the Commission will set that, and an exemption may complicate the Bill Draft Request (BDR) and stall the BDR moving forward. His understanding is if fee set at a maximum the Commission will decide how much to increase and would all be lumped together and Commission would set the fee.

Discussion on SST NAC fee –

Commissioner McBeath asked if NRS sets maximum - nothing in there that states max applies to all tags in a species and if Commission could amend NAC to break that out.

PO 3 Hullinger said set the fee is at NAC level and elk is separated but not at NRS level.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 Wild Horse Issues Update – Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne and Chairman Robb

A Wild Horse Update – Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne – Informational
In accordance with the Commission's request Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne will provide an update on the status of the wild horse issues pending in Nevada.

Chief of Habitat Alan Jenne summarized the BLM activities concerning wild horses. Mr. Jenne said no large gathers are planned and the gathers planned will have specific criteria. He said the situation is dire with the drought and horses above AML with limited holding facilities available if at all.

Public Comment - None

B Discussion of Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Wild Horse Lawsuit– Chairman Robb – For Possible Action
The Commission will discuss the NACO wild horse lawsuit and lawsuit and may take action to develop a letter of support for those portions of the lawsuit that are consistent with Commission Policy #67 regarding Federal Horse and Burro Act

Commissioner Drew said the SEC adopted a component of the state's Sage-grouse Conservation Management Plan to manage wild horses and challenge is that state does not manage wild horses and it is the federal government. NACO requested support for their lawsuit concept and SEC was not totally comfortable supporting the entire lawsuit and the result was a letter from SEC that they support those components of lawsuit that meet what they outline in their plan specific to wild horses. He said the Commission has something similar as the Commission has a policy specific to wild horse and burro management and that tact is something he could support.

Public Comment:

Jeff Turnipseed, president of NBU, said at their recent meeting they voted to join the lawsuit to step up the game.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said the CABMW discussed this at length and voted unanimously to support the NACO lawsuit from NDOW where it relates directly to wildlife.

Don Molde said this is another ploy by livestock industry to euthanize horses as 300,000 cattle and sheep on the range compared to 25,000 to 30,000 horses. Wildlife damage hard to quantify as by Department's own admission big game populations are doing well and at record high numbers, and believes the damage claim is blowing smoke.

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said this matter was discussed at their CABMW meeting and they supported NACO lawsuit unanimously. From personal standpoint he asked what Commission what will be achieved by lawsuit, as there needs to be consideration if Commission/Department can intervene or file amicus brief as friend of court and does not know if letter of support will go far enough. He has experience from brief he brought forth on behalf of Coalition of Nevada's Wildlife for Calico Complex lawsuit. BLM is not following the law and would ask the Commission to go further than letter and have the laws enforced as written by Congress.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said he believes Commission should be involved although it has not been agendaized by his CABMW for a time that position represents their previous discussion on wild horses. He said it can be shown that animals are suffering on the range and nothing we can do with wild horses.

Commissioner McBeath said prior NDOW director made statements to Commission that should NACO file lawsuit and former director informed Commission that governor did not want state agency to be lead but nothing against being intervener in a lawsuit and asked for update with respect to that issue as at one point in time we were going to be intervener.

Secretary Wasley said conversation with governor's office has been ongoing with this politically charged issue and as mentioned earlier the state's SEC took their tact due to specificity in lawsuit and whether it was or was not consistent with direction of SEC and safer to support it where it is consistent with policy direction. He just read the commission policy and is specific and we are not in accordance with the wild horse and burro policy. He said he thinks that to act as intervener there would need to be wholesale buy-in with the lawsuit and there would be some disconnect.

Commissioner McBeath said this situation is due to Congress not funding the BLM to deal with wild horse issue and what the Commission would do as intervener is request that the BLM be forced to follow the law and does not see where our position would be any different than county and does not understand disconnect between what county is doing and what we are doing.

Mr. Johnston asked to answer a procedural question...

Chairman Robb said no to Mr. Johnston as he thinks the Commission is exceeding the scope of the agenda item and redirect to discussion of support letter and if further discussion will need to agendaize.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO WITHDRAW ANY CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT LETTER AS BE BELIEVES WE NEED TO DO FAR MORE AND REAGENDIZE FOR WHAT THE COMMISSION NEEDS TO DO WHICH IS CO-JOIN THE LAWSUIT OR FILE OUR OWN LAWSUIT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Drew said it does not hurt to draft letter and will need more information as intervener.

Commissioner McNinch asked DAG Ward for clarification on the legal terms being used.

DAG Ward explained what status an intervener has and amicus brief, and he agreed with Chairman Robb that the item must be agendaized properly to have the discussion on whether to join the lawsuit.

Commissioner Young said the BLM could care less about letters and cited Cliven Bundy case where 20 years passed without action by the BLM to illegal activity.

Commissioner McBeath said we are past letter writing stage and need to act, and make recommendation to governor as lawsuit has been filed and opportunity is here. He supports Commissioner Young's motion as doing a letter shows that we are not ready to step up to the plate.

Chairman Robb said he will not support the motion and thinks the letter shows we have a horse in the race and then decide on action, and thinks doing nothing today sends the wrong message.

Commissioner Wallace supports letter being written and reagendaing for further discussion at the Tonopah Commission meeting.

Commissioner Layne said taken aback by what is being proposed, and she will abstain on the motion. She said the lawsuit is going forward regardless of what this Commission does, and just to say they need to do because we all know they need to do take action but not convinced all damage is being done to the range by feral horses.

Commissioner Young said his motion is to put the letter aside and see if the Governor's Office would support other options than a letter that the Commission can do because he thinks letter means squat to BLM. Commissioner Young said co-joining or filing as amicus would help propel this lawsuit further and a letter is just not strong enough and if letter done that is the end of what the agency would do.

Chairman Robb said he will make a commitment to talk with Governor's Office and Attorney General's Office, and best course of action is to have letter and will take research to get done.

VOTE ON MOTION: FAILED DUE TO TIE VOTE.

Commissioner McNinch said the motion would suggest no action as clear something stronger desired than letter from today's discussion and if we were to move forward with letter someone would have to be designated before June meeting.

Commissioner Young said if we were to do a letter we would only be able to authorize letter and action consistent with Commission Policy 67 and would need that for someone to intelligently vote on.

Chairman Robb said the Commission has commitment that he will proceed with providing language for June meeting agenda item.

- 9 Fiscal Year 2015 Final Draft Predation Management Plan – Commissioner McBeath – For Possible Action
The final draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Predator Management Plan will be presented and the Commission may take action to provide final recommendations for modification of the Final Draft Plan.

Commissioner McBeath said the committee met this morning, and reviewed the draft Predation Management Plan, the project form and had a presentation from State Director Mark Jensen of Wildlife Services. His presentation was titled Predation Management Strategies and variables of predator projects. He said Mr. Jensen had concerns with Project 22 - 14 and how that project was put together. Commissioner McBeath said this is the first time that Wildlife Services provided input to the plan although Policy #23 was written to coordinate with Wildlife Services. He said from the last "predation management meeting" the projects were approved in concept with open item on sub-project 22 – 074, status of Rocky Mountain bighorn herd, and they decided to go forward on that project. He said the budget for the projects were approved and discussed with some project amounts changed: Project 22 from \$10,000 to \$40,000, Project 22 – 14 from \$50,000 to \$60,000, and reduce the amounts of Projects 30, 32, and 33. The recommendation was to fund all of the projects proposed in the plan on page 3 for \$338,000. The motion was unanimous to increase Project 22 from \$10,000 to \$40,000, and Project 22 – 14 from \$50,000 to \$60,000 and that increases the total from \$338,000 to \$378,000, and the committee supported the 2015 Predation Management Plan at those levels. In addition the project reporting form was supported unanimously, and on Project 22 the wording "mule deer and other big game protection statewide" included in the motion the suggestion that the word "big" be struck so as not limit work to big game animals and allow predation projects for other species. He said a committee member reminded him that the committee was to make recommendations on the FY 2015 Predation Management Projects, page 3, of final draft FY 2015 NDOW Predation Management Plan.

Public Comment -

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said they wanted to see an increase for funding of Project 22 – 14 and also an increase of funding for Project 22 – 074. He said Elko supports money on the ground for predator control.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said they had discussed the predator program and at the last Clark CABMW meeting Member Reese said he likes the predator plan and understands the fee, but he said he just can't get behind Project 25 the coyote study of eating habits, and subsequently had a lengthy discussion about Project 25 which ended in a vote to support all the projects except Project 25.

Don Molde said he will make periodic reminder that over the last 10 years mule deer numbers are flat and the population is almost the same as 10 years ago and over that 10 year period the Commission has spent close to \$5 million doing "predator control." He said the fact is that statewide mule deer numbers are unchanged despite several million dollars spent, and in regard to Project 22 – 14 it is worst example of project, as over 1,000 horses removed, and pinyon-juniper is removed and what else going on, and any change in numbers given that will be impossible to sort out to decide what impact did what. With respect to this particular budget which is for \$50,000 increment of payment to Wildlife Services to kill coyotes, and it costs Wildlife Services about \$650 to kill a coyote, and giving them \$50,000 is approximately 77 coyotes, and this is spending \$60,000 of sportsmen money to kill 70 – 80 coyotes in an area where all those other management activities are happening and hopes there is a benefit but suspects it won't and even if it does you will not have a clue as what accounted for it and to spend \$60,000 is absurd.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said his board supported the plan.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION SUPPORT NDOW'S 2015 FINAL DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: PROJECT 22 INCREASE FUNDING FROM \$10,000 TO \$40,000, PROJECT 22 - 14 FROM \$50 TO \$60,000. THAT WILL INCREASE THE TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET FROM \$338,000 TO \$378,000, IN ADDITION ON PROJECT 22 THE COMMITTEE SUGGESTED REMOVING WORD "BIG" FROM IT, TO MAKE CLEAR THAT FUNDING IS FOR ALL GAME PROTECTION INCLUDING RAVENS. IN ADDITION THE MOTION INCLUDES APPROVAL OF THE REST OF THE NDOW ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET WHICH IS AN ADDITIONAL \$162,360; ALSO SUPPORT THE CURRENT FINAL DRAFT OF THE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PROJECT REPORTING FORM. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MORI. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 10 Commission Policy #50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Second Reading – Conservation Education Division Administrator Teresa Moiola – For Possible Action
The Department will conduct a second reading of Commission Policy #50 with the proposed updates from the March 21, 2014, first reading. The Commission may take action to approve the policy.

Commission Policy #50 presented by Chief Moiola and there was no public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION POLICY #50 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0 AS COMMISSIONER YOUNG WAS ABSENT FROM THE ROOM.

- 11 Duck Stamp Contest Sponsor – Division Administrator Conservation Education Teresa Moiola – For Possible Action
In accordance with Commission Policy #50 the Commission will be asked to select a sponsor for the 2015 and 2016 duck stamp contests.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO DESIGNATE NEVADA WATERFOWL ASSOCIATION AS THE SPONSOR FOR THE DUCK STAMP CONTEST. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0, COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT FROM THE ROOM.

- 12 Commission Meeting Videoconferencing – Deputy Director Patrick Cates – For Possible Action
The Commission will discuss videoconferencing for the remaining calendar year 2014 and 2015 Commission meetings. The Commission has set its meeting locations for 2014 and 2015 and if the Commission's decides to videoconference those Commission meetings, the Department is requesting direction and the possible change of some 2014 and 2015 meeting sites to accommodate videoconferencing.

Deputy Director Cates provided an overview on videoconferencing: March was first time using videoconferencing equipment and saved NDOW money. He said the \$80,000 budgeted turned out to be not enough to configure rooms at NDOW Valley Road. He described the limitations: Scheduling meetings at the college may be difficult if meeting date conflicts with classes, the backend of downloading and uploading the videos has been time intensive; Commission meetings based outside the network and outside of two urban venues will be a challenge to find rooms large enough at the rural locations will be a challenge. The committees will be a challenge, as the Commission's use of committees, have greatly expanded and he said there have been 24 committees meetings since the fiscal year started. Each committee has administrative burden of 20 to 40 hours of clerical support for each meeting which does not include travel or the actual meeting and at this time he cannot see videoconferencing as a possibility for committee meetings due to staffing, and concern with possibility of OML violations. This year has turned out to be the most expensive year for the Commission due to travel costs for Commissioners and that there are members of committees who are not CABMW nor Commission members, and also that the geographic locations have been all over the state. The recommendation is to base meetings in Reno and videoconference to Elko and Las Vegas as we are today, and as backup could use the Legislative buildings in Carson City, and would suggest reducing use of committees and bring that business to the full Commission. He realizes how big the issue of bears and trapping are, and if needed an additional date could be added to Commission meeting or add two more meetings and that would end the duplicative process of notice, agendas, and minutes. Another suggestion is to make changes to website and allow public input on comments on the website and would streamline process. Dep. Director Cates said he knows the value and desire of traveling to rural areas and would suggest that once a year the Commission could travel to rural area tour sites, meet public and take input without action, and there would be less anxiety on public's part in speaking. This would allow videoconferencing and technology to be used, minimize travel costs for Commissioners and the public. He said today a schedule change for the Fallon and Eureka meetings needs to be considered as neither site had videoconferencing capability.

Commissioner Layne said she appreciates that most Commissioners travel long distances and won't complain about travel to rural areas; however, the Commission does spend the whole time in its meeting. She said it makes more sense to allow more people to participate with videoconferencing, and asked if all the meetings should be in Reno and have one or two meetings in Las Vegas.

Chairman Robb said he sees downside to videoconferencing because it is going backwards and believes the Commission still needs to visit rural areas as that allows the Commission to meet people all over the state and does not see videoconferencing doing that.

Commissioner Wallace said he agreed with Chairman Robb that the Commission would be going backward and does not think we will lose public comment and supports moving around the state and getting public comment. If this has to do with costs with committees, he would suggest no committee meetings at rural locations as that would help on costs of travel costs with staff.

Commissioner McNinch agreed and commented that at a WAFWA meeting Arizona mentioned centralizing their meetings and the loss of contact. He agreed with Commissioner Layne's comment about not seeing anything in the rural areas when meetings are both days and he said the Commission used to go out and see things and that comes with bigger commitment of taking another day. As to Deputy Director Cates' concern with committees, that if we continue to use committees the Commission could

maybe go back to having three commissioner committees. Having representation on the committees by non-Commission members has resulted in criticism, and also could organize the committees to be held with regular Commission meetings as many parts are interconnected. He said he supports meeting in rural areas.

Commissioner Mori agreed with previous Commission comments and as a member of rural community they see services dwindling all the time in name of cost-saving, and as we try to save money we lose aspect of getting to know people in rural communities. People in Elko really appreciated having a Trapping Committee meeting in their town and earlier today heard results of survey where people stated they wanted to get involved with process.

Commissioner Drew agreed with comments on travel to rural communities. He suggested that when the Commission meeting is scheduled in a rural area with no videoconferencing available that it be indicated thus on the schedule.

Commissioner McNinch said in reference to the committees he understands the burden on staff.

Commissioner Layne said nine people on Commission and represent two million people and once videoconferencing gets underway she would expect more participation, and she suggested revising agenda to have bigger issues on agenda when meetings are in the urban areas. She said she was frustrated when she was not a commissioner with only being able to attend the three Las Vegas meetings.

Commissioner McBeath said he does not support moving Commission meetings out of rural area, and the one issue to discuss with the committees is analyzing costs because you have to take into account the benefit of the meetings on the issues. He suggested getting additional funds and does not support videoconferencing taking the place of the rural meeting sites.

Public Comment –

Fred Voltz said when people choose to live in rural area they give up conveniences when they choose to live there, and if you want to get in touch with someone there is a mechanism to stay in touch such as telephones if really interested in issue. The question was asked if rural areas should be videoconferenced and he asked if private company equipment would be available. He supports the town hall meeting with three members going to rural areas and getting input.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said that every year when certain issues are discussed they have the meeting in Overton, and those particular meetings are well attended. As we start to educate people you will have more people weigh-in and is a two-edged sword and getting out to rural areas is beneficial. The Clark CABMW schedules meetings in Henderson and Overton.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said when he was first appointed he was assigned to attend rural Commission meetings and those folks are what Nevada is.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, chairman said it would be a huge mistake for the Commission to not visit small communities. He said he has hard time to get folks to attend meetings, and has invited many Tonopah persons to attend the next meeting.

Brad Johnson, Lyon CABMW, said survey data showed 40 percent of respondents are out of urban area. He said they too move their meetings around in Lyon County and would hate to lose rural county meetings.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, supported videoconferencing but did not believe in not meeting in rural areas.

Bob Cook, Douglas CABMW, said speaking for himself, that he supports what everyone said and important for CABMW members to get out too, and five years ago visited Shooting Park and would like to see it again.

Don Molde said he likes to go to rural areas as he can afford it but he knows there are folks that can't afford to travel. He said the discussion on how to modify the archaic inflexible system and to look at other possibilities that Deputy Director Cates suggested such as doing a better job with shrinking resources is the first time he had heard that.

T.W. Landis media specialist for the University system – NSHE – said he would like to clarify a few points: NSHE has over 200 sites available. This is an “and” not an “either or” as no one is looking at hinterlands. He offered that the Commission try doing whistle-stop tour and have barbecue instead of passing people on their way to the restroom as in this meeting. He said he has been operating videoconferencing equipment since 1994 and Elko and Las Vegas are able to attend with other rural sites available and time to think outside of the box.

Jana Wright said she has requested videoconferencing for the past year or so and understands that she can send emails and said that live video streaming would be better than nothing and hopes videoconferencing is continued and suggested when rural areas are visited to check the attendance to see if meeting attended.

Commissioner Young agreed with continuing to travel to rural areas and would agree with Commissioner Layne that there was only one opportunity to see anything outside in the last two years and the Commission deals with much minutiae and he would suggest a day and one-half in rural areas to allow the Commission time to visit something/get out of weeds and see points of interest.

Commissioner Drew said he would suggest that the Commission calendar denote whether videoconferencing will be available.

13 Commission General Regulation – Workshop – Public Comment Allowed

Commission General Regulation 445, Black Powder Definition, LCB File No. R045-14 – Acting Chief Game Warden Paul Dankowski – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation relating to hunting; revising provisions relating to hunting a big game mammal with a muzzleloading rifle or muzzleloading musket; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Acting Chief Game Warden Paul Dankowski presented regulation CGR 445, black powder definition, which originated from a withdrawn petition. He said the proposed language is in support material and stated the following: The current regulation refers to two specific “name brand” black powder substitutes for muzzleloader only big game mammal hunts. There are over 100 “name brand” black powder substitutes. Having only two specific “name brands” within the language is confusing to sportsmen. Removing “name brand” black powder substitutes should reduce confusion on the type of powders allowed during muzzleloader only big game mammal hunts.

Public Comment –

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said one issue first came up public comments at their CABMW that muzzleloading season set up separately from other weapons and concern was for technological creep and public opposed. The proposed change, as we read it, would allow for the use of any “black powder substitute” without limitation. Consistent with prior positions the Lyon County CAB has taken in opposition to expanding what is permitted for black powder substitutes they oppose the proposed regulation.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, muzzleloader hunter said he personally has experience with blackhorn and provided no difference in shooting accuracy just was easier to clean, and does not see the technology creep.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, speaking for himself said this is same as controlling what is reloaded and thinks changing regulation as proposed today makes life easier.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW said CABMW supported this regulation.

Workshop concluded 4:42 p.m.

14 Public Comment Period

Bob Cook, speaking for himself, said when buying duck/federal stamp there is only one month for Department to send physical stamp and asked if box could be added so that the stamp is sent and would ask for that to be sent. He said registering boat and paying for AIS stamp and having the multiple transaction fees is not fair.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said with the hunter survey and results presented today relative to public knowledge of CABMWs, he would suggest publicity campaign to general public to educate them and obtain participation.

Don Molde said you could make argument other way for CABMWs that they don't do anything as both sides say something and most of mule deer guys don't know them. He said after Mr. Cate's presentation he is serious about dumping CABMWs and now with the date it appears not to be reflective as he always suspected as much.

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said they brought up tag and fee increases and support increasing license fee increases for those in the 18 – 64 age groups recognizing the needs of the Department.

Fred Voltz read statement:

For some time the Commission has claimed it doesn't know and has no reasonable way of knowing how state residents want public wildlife treated—killed for transitory fun and personal profit, human/wildlife coexistence with minimal interference by people, or some hybrid balance of the two. Wildlife killing is the ultimate target behind virtually every policy and action this body takes. Our wildlife need fear the human predator far more than natural perils and predators.

It is tragically telling when government bodies invoke ignorance, lack of money and lack of time as excuses why they can't take action, but somehow find flimsy justifications, money and time when they have an untenable, unjustified whim they wish to pursue. Remember, two of the primary charters of this body are to represent the interests of all state residents and protect wildlife. The state's wildlife largely lives on public lands and legally belongs to all state residents, not just the wildlife killers.

Where are the good-faith efforts to create wildlife policies reflective of all state residents' preferences, rather than effectively running a private hunting club with public funds?

What a contradiction of reality and balanced policy making when \$48,881, not the originally stated \$25,000, was found to conduct a satisfaction survey of just Department-licensed mule deer killers. With only 638 survey respondents, the cost per respondent worked out to a whopping \$76.62 per person. What did we collectively learn? That people who are already killing mule deer want to continue to do so for any number of feel-good reasons unrelated to any methodology employing the scientific method. Sound science, incessantly invoked as the supposed basis for Commission decisions, has nothing to do with this study. Attaching 131 pages of subjective, visceral opinions from deer-killing respondents further fails to objectively enlighten any of us.

When will this Commission begin to determine what 98%^{of} state residents want for their wildlife rather than regarding just 2% of the state's population with hunting and trapping licenses as the only clients they need serve?

Where are the Commission-sponsored surveys of the general populace rather than statistically insignificant and unrepresentative microcosms of wildlife killers?

Paul Dixon speaking for himself said Mr. Voltz does not represent all 98 percent people that do not hold hunting fishing or fishing licenses in the state.

Meeting Adjourned 4:54 p.m.

Saturday, May 10, 2014 - 8:30 a. m.

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

Paul Dixon, Clark; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Doug Martin, Carson; Rex Flowers, Washoe ; Joe Crim, Pershing; Sean Shea, Washoe; Miles Humphreys, Washoe; Brad Johnston, Lyon; and Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW.

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

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Commissioner Wallace said he attended a PARC meeting and the business conducted was election of a chairman and the next meeting is June 3, 2014.

- 18 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

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

- A Commission General Regulation 445 – Black Powder Definition, LCB File No. R045-14 – Acting Chief Game Warden Paul Dankowski
The Commission will consider the adoption of a regulation relating to hunting; revising provisions relating to hunting a big game mammal with a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket; and providing other matters properly relating thereto. Note: See support material for agenda item #13.

The current regulation refers to two specific “name brand” black powder substitutes for muzzleloader only big game mammal hunts. There are over 100 “name brand” black powder substitutes. Having only two specific “name brands” within the language is confusing to sportsmen. Removing “name brand” black powder substitutes should reduce confusion on the type of powders allowed during muzzle-loader only big game mammal hunts.

Acting Chief Game Warden said regulation is result of petition submitted and withdrawn and the regulation was heard in workshop yesterday.

Furn Winder, Elko CABNMW, said the CABMW supported the change.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 445 – BLACK POWDER DEFINITION, LCB FILE NO. R045-14, AS PRESENTED, COMMISSION WALLACE SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B Commission Regulation 13 - 14 Amendment #1, Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs – Division Administrator Fisheries Jon Sjöberg – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider a regulation authorizing unlimited take of game fish species from Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs in Elko County through Feb. 28, 2015.

Due to extremely poor winter precipitation, drought conditions and irrigation demands, Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs are expected to decline to 20 percent or less of capacity by late summer. Based on past history of these conditions in the reservoirs a significant to possibly near total die-off of trout populations is likely, with significant impacts also possible to warm-water game fish species. This regulation will maximize the opportunity for angler harvest of trout and other game fish species in the reservoirs prior to conditions likely to cause the fish kills. Public comment allowed.

Division Administrator Sjöberg said Commission Regulation 13 - 14 Amendment #1 is being presented due to drought conditions which will affect Wildhorse Reservoir as it will be below minimum pool due to irrigation demands and anticipate significant impact to trout and warmwater fisheries this summer. This CR amendment will allow anglers to maximize harvest. He said Willow Creek Reservoir is in similar situation and is currently at 25 percent of capacity and will be at 10 percent or less by the end of the summer. He requested to remove Wilson Sink from the CR as submitted because staff have learned that storage levels will be maintained adequately over the summer due to discussions with owner.

Public Comment -

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, supported the regulation change.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 13 – 14 AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF REMOVING WILSON SINK. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C Commission Regulation 14 – 10, 2014 Big Game Quotas for the 2014 - 2015 Seasons - Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder – For Possible Action
The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and black bears for the 2014-2015 seasons. Note: Support material sent separately.

**2014 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
BIG GAME QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS**

Only Alternative Recommendations to those Proposed by NDOW are listed

Counties that forwarded recommendations to NDOW were: CC, CH, CL, DO, EL, ES, EU, HU, LA, LI, LY, MI, NY, PE, ST, WA, WP

Resident Black Bear - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 6151

CC: Voted to raise the combined harvest objective to 45 to equal the quotas.

DO: Increase the total resident and nonresident to 55; include shotguns; remove boundary restrictions; and no conditions on the use of dogs.

EU: Supports hunting bears with hounds.

WA: Add Unit 204 back into unit groups.

Nonresident Black Bear - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 6251

DO: Increase the total resident and nonresident to 55; include shotguns; remove boundary restrictions; and no conditions on the use of dogs.

EU: Supports hunting bears with hounds.

WA: Add Unit 204 back into unit groups.

Resident Antelope - Horns longer than ears - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2151

DO: Too many tags in Unit Group 032, 034, 035 (HC 388)

Resident Antelope - Horns longer than ears - Muzzleloader Hunt 2171

Resident Antelope - Horns longer than ears - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2161

Resident Antelope – Horns shorter than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2181

DO: Too many tags in Unit Group 141, 143, 151-156 (HC 471).

HU: For Units 041, 042 recommend a quota of 38.

PE: 041, 042 antelope – Hunt 2181 proposed 8% of the doe population or 101 tags. PE Co. wants 3% of the doe population or 38 tags.

Nonresident Antelope - Horns shorter than ears -Any Legal Weapons Hunt 2251

Nonresident Antelope - Horns longer than ears - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2261

Resident Elk - Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

CL: It was recommended these hunts be sold as over the counter youth hunts.

EL: Increase 101-103 late from 50 to 75 tags.

EU: For Units 144, 145, the CAB recommends 5 tags for the Early hunt, 5 tags for the mid hunt and 10 tags for the late hunt.

Resident Elk - Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151

EL: Reduce 076 and 077 Early to 100, late season to 98.

NY: Change unit 161-164, 171-173 Late from 54 tags to 45 tags.

WP: Reduce tags in Units 111-115 Early to 109 and reduce Units 111-115 late to 78.

Resident Elk - Antlered - Muzzleloader Hunt 4156

EL: Increase 076, 077, 079 and 081 to 28.

NY: Change unit 161-164, 171-173 from 13 to 22.

WP: Increase tags in Units 111-115 to 18 and increase Units 221-223 to 18.

Resident Elk - Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunts 4161

Resident Elk – Spike – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651

Resident Elk - Spike - Longbow Archery Hunt 4641

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107

EU: For Units 144, 145 the CAB recommends 10 tags for the 1st hunt, 5 for the 2nd hunt, and 5 for the 3rd hunt, and 10 for the 4th hunt.

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

NY: Change Units 161-164 early from 137 to 117 and 161-164 late from 165 to 135.

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181 - Wilderness Only

NY: Change unit 162 from 34 tags to 64 tags.

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 - Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4151

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 - Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1331

EL: Increase 061-064, 066, 068 Late to 51. Increase 101-103 Mid to 200.

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

NY: Change unit 161-164 from 20 tags to 40 tags.

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Elk Management Muzzleloader Hunt 4476 - Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4156

Resident Elk - Antlerless Elk Management Muzzleloader Hunt 4476 - Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1371

Resident Elk - Antlerless - Archery Hunt 4111

Resident Elk - Antlerless Elk Management Longbow Archery 4411 - Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4161

Resident Elk - Antlerless Elk Management Longbow Archery 4411 - Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1341

Nonresident Elk - Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

WP: 10% of hunt 4251 resident recommendation.

Nonresident Elk - Antlered - Muzzleloader Hunt 4256

NY: Change unit 161-164 from 1 tag to 2 tags.

WP: 10% of hunt 4256 resident recommendation.

Nonresident Elk - Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 4261

WP: 10% of hunt 4261 resident recommendation.

Nonresident Elk - Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep-Any Ram-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151

CC: Also adopted a recommendation that higher quotas could be achieved if better coordination with BLM occurred when they plan events such as they approved in Unit 253.

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

DO: Jerad Lees wants to make all three HC areas one tag only. Member Turnipseed believes some yearling rams will be taken because they will be mistaken for ewes.

LY: As a result of this public input, the Lyon County CAB unanimously moved to convey this sentiment to the commission and ask the commission to evaluate the proposed quota accordingly.

WA: Due to divided opinions and lack of full board – no recommendation

Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep-Any Ram-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3251

Resident California Bighorn Sheep - Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8151

WA: Unit 012 Quota from 6 to 8.

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

DO: Jerad Lees wants only one tag in Unit 068 (HC 685).

WA: No quota. Originally thought to be hunt for Unit 066 where pathogens are present.

Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep - Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8251

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

Resident Mountain Goat - Any Goat - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

EL: Increase 101 to 5 tags.

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

Resident Mule Deer - Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

EL: Decrease 061, 064, 066, 068 to 800. Decrease 101, 102, 109 to 1000.

EU: The Eureka CAB disagrees with Units 152 and 155 recommendations. Numbers need to be adjusted down.

PE: For Units 043-046 PE Co. interested in 2% of the doe population or 59 tags, 1% of the doe population is 29 tags.

Resident Mule Deer - Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

CH: Churchill CAB would like to see a 30% reduction in tag quota in Unit 181-184, from 171 (department proposed) to 120 (Churchill CAB proposed).

DO: Jerad Lees – 141-145 Early reduce tags from 394 to 350

EL: Decrease 101-109 Early to 1350. Decrease 101-109 mid to 1240. Decrease 101-109 Late to 290.

EU: The Eureka CAB disagreed with NDOW quota recommendations for Areas 13 and 14; it was recommended to keep last year quotas for both Areas 13 and 14.

MI: Unit 202, 205-208. Department recommendation of 37, increase to last year's quota of 60.

ST: Recommends 20 tags in Unit 195.

WP: Recommend to increase tags In Unit 011-013 Early to 298; reduce tags in Unit 011-013 Late to 16; reduce tags in Unit 221-223 Early to 300; & reduce tags in Unit 221-223 Mid to 100 & reduce tags in Unit 221-223 Late to 21.

Resident Mule Deer - Antlered - Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

EU: The CAB disagreed with Areas 13 and 14 quotas. It was recommended to keep last year quotas in both Areas 13 and 14.

MI: Unit 202, 205-208. Department recommends 4; we would like last year's quota of 6.

Resident Mule Deer – Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 1341

CC: Recommend Units 171-173 quota be 150 residents and a proportional increase for nonresident as appropriate.

CL: In Unit 231, reduce quota from 55 to 40.

EU: The Eureka CAB disagreed with NDOW recommendations for Areas 13 and 14; it was recommended to keep last year quotas for both Areas 13 and 14.

LI: In unit 231, reduce quota from 55 to 40.

Nonresident Mule Deer - Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

CH: Churchill CAB would like to see a 30% reduction in tag quota in Unit 181-184, from 12 (department proposed) to 8 (Churchill CAB proposed).

EL: Adjust to match resident numbers.

EU: The Eureka CAB disagreed with NDOW recommendations for Areas 13 and 14; it was recommended to keep last year quotas for both Areas 13 and 14.

ST: Recommends 2 tags in Unit 195.

WP: 10% of hunt 1331 resident recommendation.

Nonresident Mule Deer - Antlered - Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

EU: The Eureka CAB disagreed with NDOW recommendations for Areas 13 and 14; it was recommended to keep last year quotas for both Areas 13 and 14.

WP: 10% of hunt 1371 resident recommendation.

Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Archery Hunt 1341

CL: In Unit 231, reduce quota from 6 to 4.

EL: Adjust to match resident numbers.

EU: The Eureka CAB disagreed with NDOW recommendations for Areas 13 and 14; it was recommended to keep last year quotas for both Areas 13 and 14.

LI: In Unit 231, reduce quota from 6 to 4.

WP: 10% of hunt 1341 resident recommendation.

Resident & Nonresident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation – Either Sex – Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115, 2215

CL: The Clark CABMW would like NDOW to disclose the number of landowner tags by unit.

DO: Should have to choose weapon and hunt separately.

Other Recommendations:

DO: Public comment taken on times individually and those comments are listed as part of the recommendations.

Mike Cox said the quotas will start with black bear and the quotas and harvest objectives are the same as last year.

Public Comment –

Don Molde said he does not understand the difference between the quota and the harvest objective as last three years there was cut-off at 20 bears. He said not clear if same situation and action seems premature as discussion about season lengths as have not even completed the three-year review and setting a quota implies there will be a hunt. This is a bit of a sham and silly that this has to occur.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said his board passed this on a 2 to 1 vote; and want to make sure that Unit 204 is back into unit groups.

Cathy Smith read statement:

I have no doubts that the quota will not change from previous years as the overwhelming majority of the Commission is not persuadable, but I want to remind all of you of the persistent deficiencies in our bear data. Our population is said to be growing at a remarkable rate of 16% per year due to in situ recruitment of juvenile bears and immigration from California. Do we know what the immigration is from Ca? We know that the Ca population is growing at less than 3-4% per yr on average over the last 20 years. Comparisons to our annual growth documented in the recently published article, are all lower than the 16% here, ranging from 9-13%, and they were in states with much better bear habitat (Arkansas, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Virginia). So, why are the bears running to Nevada to less desirable habitat, to avoid the taxes? Why are we hunting without knowing immigration rates from Ca? Should the Department have to provide this information before a hunt on a small edge population proceeds? We don't know the population or density in each hunt unit or even each mountain range. We are one of the few states to not have a quota based on hunt unit population. Unfortunately, the mountain ranges with the lower bear densities seem to have more access for vehicles allowing for an easier hunt which may lead to over exploitation in these areas. We are also in our third year of a drought, most severe this year. Decreased food availability not only increases home ranges of bears, so bears have to work harder, it also can result in reproductive failure. Then our bears can be chased by hounds when preparing for hibernation, further decreasing

their fitness. All of these things combined will result in a population decrease. We know that droughts and fires are expected to occur at greater frequency. In fact, Ca has published the anticipated westward migration of good bear habitat. Hunting small populations is inherently risky. The Department has matrix based on age and sex ratios to prevent overharvest. There is ample research demonstrating that population decreases are difficult to detect in small populations. Nevada has the added problem of having an edge population. Edge populations are typically predominantly male. Here the ratio was reported to be 2 males for every female. How well does the matrix work when it looks at ratios of males in a predominantly male population? Bear populations are much harder to estimate than ungulates. Can you even fathom hunting mule deer, elk, and sheep with this degree of uncertainty, depending on immigration which we only think is happening. Would you just blindly accept a much higher than average growth rate without confirmatory science as to why? What's going to happen when we have a good year for snow? Will the bears retract back into California where the habitat is better? In summary, shouldn't we confirm our results before we act on them? Shouldn't we make certain that we first don't do any harm to a species before it is hunted?

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, said the CABMW supports quotas as proposed but would like to eliminate objective due to the fact that it was never attained and leads to confusion and adds pressure early and time to remove objective as that is being achieved through harvest.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, speaking on behalf of himself spoke against the quotas, said at a point where we can do a three year average which would be 69 tags not 45. Harvest age greater than mean age and he recommends 51 resident and five for nonresidents.

Josh Vittori, Washoe County, supports quotas as presented, believes quotas could be revised due to research done by NDOW and asked that the Commission not restrict hunter opportunity or restrict the hunt any further.

Commissioner Drew said in response to Dr. Molde's comment that when 20 bears are harvested the bear harvest objective has been met and the season is over, and that is what is being presented today.

Biologist Cox answered that is correct and hunters are required to call 800 number to see if objective met and if it is the season is over.

Commissioner McNinch asked what coordination has been done with California because staff coordinate on other species.

Biologist Lackey said no formal coordination has been done on Nevada's black bear, research and issues are discussed with California biologists and supervisors but they don't have input on harvest objective or seasons. He said the Department is in the middle of a DNA Heritage study project.

Commissioner McBeath asked Mr. Lackey how removal of use of hounds to hunt bears affected California harvest and will that impact the population growth rate.

Mr. Lackey answered that he does not have exact figures but believes it dropped with the harvest just over 1,000 without use of dogs. He said to early to say how the growth rate will be affected. Commissioner Drew asked if anything in structure of hunt that raises red flag, and asked if NDOW concerned with impact of current drought.

Biologist Lackey answered nothing indicated in hunt data or in population estimates for the last few years that would indicate that any changes are necessary, and the drought is not affecting bear population.

Commissioner McNinch asked if harvest objective in place to maintain conservative aspects of hunt or is it necessary to manage population.

Biologist Lackey said harvest objective really should be considered a harvest limit and is very conservative and hunt will close as soon as 20 bears are killed which has not happened yet. He said until the three year review is complete, NDOW reluctant to make any changes until that time.

Commissioner Layne said of problems bear transported from Tahoe area to Pine Nuts that a lot of bears harvested out of Pine Nuts, and she asked if correct that high number of harvested bears were harvest from the Pine Nuts.

Biologist Lackey said that is correct and a significant portion of bear harvest was from the Pine Nuts, and is a common misconception from residents of Pine Nuts that we took conflict bears from Tahoe and move them to the Pine Nuts which is not standard as normal protocol is to release bears in their home range and do not translocate them. The Pine Nut population has been established on its own.

Commissioner Drew said he received correspondence opposed to the bear hunt and was received through NDOW and an email from the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife requesting an increase in bear quota but no change to harvest objective. He said as a Bear Committee member that everything the Commission has been done to this point with all the safety valves and starting a new hunt was based on having a conservative quota as well as conservative harvest objective, and the fact that we are in the middle of the review, he is not apt to change anything at this point. Commissioner Drew said CABMWs brought up including certain units back in and weapons, and those recommendations cannot be discussed today as this is agendized to set quotas/harvest objectives.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIDENT QUOTA FOR BLACK BEAR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 6151 WITH A 2014 QUOTA OF 41, A NONRESIDENT QUOTA FOR HUNT 6251 OF FOUR AND A BLACK BEAR HARVEST OBJECTIVE COMBINED OF HUNT 6151/6251 2014 OF 20, COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: CHAIRMAN ROBB, DREW, BLISS, MCBEATH, MORI, WALLACE, AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH AND LAYNE OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 2.

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

Biologist Cox showed the pronghorn antelope population estimate on a graph and noted the population is slightly down this year and carrying capacity has been hit for existing habitat. The days of great growth could be behind us.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2151 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McBeath noted that Douglas CABMW had a change but is not present.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Mori noted that the 2013 quotas were not denoted in the support material and he said the CABMWs noted that and it is helpful to have 2013 quotas in there.

Biologist Cox said that information will be included next year.

Resident Antelope Horns Longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt Muzzleloader 2171 and Resident Antelope Horns Longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Archery Hunt 2161

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT HUNT 2171 AND RESIDENT 2161 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Antelope Horns Shorter than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2181

Biologist Cox said 30 percent increase statewide and he showed a graph of western Pershing County herd in 041, 042, and there has been steady growth rate and recently population topped out. He said they are seeing steady average recruitment above 35 to 40 fawns per 100 does, and have had severe drought in Pershing and Lander, and pronghorn are resilient in overcoming the drought but this particular herd and summer water situation is the bottleneck as winter range is huge and they scatter because not tied to water but in July to September they need to be within a mile or two of water. The last two years the population dropping and although from a small sample size it is representative of what is happening out there and the drought is affecting the herds hence the drop in fawn ratios, and there was slight turn and is interpreting that as current habitat conditions of 1,500 to 1,600 animals of sustainable level for that herd. He said we need to pay attention to this statewide as herds reach carrying capacity on summer range in this case and implement aggressive management actions to maintain herds below sustainable levels.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they were opposed to going to 261 percent on the does. He said for second year the population has gone down 7 percent. The fawn ratio has declined for second year and to take tags from 28 to 101 for does in one year is crazy. He said they have no problem with a 3 percent increase which would be 38 tags and feel that is sustainable but a 261 percent increase is too much.

Biologist Cox said 100 is not crazy as left opportunity on the table and have pushed most of the herds to 35 bucks per 100 does. He said the drought conditions are severe and need to act now.

Chairman Robb said CABMWs have been conservative and need to recognize biology in making Decisions and reluctant to not listen to biology on doe harvest as knows mistakes in past on elk and bighorn sheep and will follow the biology.

Commissioner Young said agreed with Chairman Robb in supporting the biologists.

Commissioner Bliss asked if the CABMW had a discussion for the reasons for the increase.

Biologist Cox said he did not attend the meeting this year and does not know what was discussed.

Commissioner Drew said no disrespect to biologists if he does not agree with NDOW as he values what CABMWs recommend as well as they are out in those areas and would be willing to split the difference.

Biologist Cox said antelope drops twins the most of any animal in Nevada and there is an optimal level where you keep population lean and mean and generating ratio wise more young per adult does then if it was higher or really low and you keep feeding the animal as long as the habitat can support. The other thing is buck quality and will acknowledge that there has been a drop in the horn length and also the buck ratio and the drought impacts horn length and won't have trophy quality animals. He said we need to look at buck ratios and increase slightly to provide more quality.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 2181 AS PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN ROBB, BLISS, LAYNE, MCNINCH, MCBEATH, MORI, YOUNG AND WALLACE. COMMISSIONER DREW OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 8 – 1.

Nonresident Antelope Horns Longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2251
Nonresident Antelope Horns Longer than ears – Archery Hunt 2261

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HUNT 2251 ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AND NONRESIDENT HUNT 2261 ARCHERY HUNT AS RECOMMENDED BY DEPARTMENT. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLISS, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said his board voted to increase Units 101 – 103 late from 50 to 75 tags.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said their board recommended these hunts be sold as over the counter youth hunt.

Commissioner Bliss said he attended Eureka CABMW and he read their recommendations: For Units 144, 145, the CABMW recommended five tags for the early, Sept. 1 – Sept. 30; for the mid, Oct. 1 – Oct. 31, five tags; and 10 for the late hunt, Nov. 1 to Jan. 15. The reason for the reduction was the thought of having higher success rate with less people in the field and during discussion the area biologist was okay with the change.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4102 WITH THE CHANGE TO 101-103 EARLY 75 TAGS AND 101 – 103 LATE 75 TAGS; 144,145 EARLY FIVE; AND 144,145 MID FIVE; AND 144, 145 10. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said their recommendation for elk in Area 16 is that they are above their population objectives which were agreed on in the Central Nevada Elk Plan and as a result NDOW has recommended increases which they have voted against due to public input and all have been aware that they will be in non-compliance with the plan and will have to harvest to get in compliance. However, they don't want congestion or to take bulls and lessen quality. He said there has been low hunter success and Nye CABMW made recommendations that are different than NDOW although numbers are close as they moved tags around such as bull tags into the muzzleloader hunts, rifle cow tags into other season and felt success rates would be high and will harvest what is needed. Mr. Strozzi said a new season structure will be looked at so the harvest that needs to happen can.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they elected to reduce quota for 076, 077, 079, and 081 Early from 110 to 100, the same area Late season from 107 to 98. He said the 19 tags were put into Hunt 4156 moving that up to 28.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said White Pine had recommendation for Units 111 – 115 Early and Late on this, and wanted the Commission to know that he thinks they are trying to adjust tags in the muzzleloader hunt and does not know as far as reduction, but knows the idea they are looking at is that less is more. He said sometimes a little increase in tags is not big deal as success stays the same and with large increase success rate drops, and have less animals on the ground. He said they recommended 109 and 78 on the Early and Late, and he would recommend a compromise as you will see further that they want to add muzzleloader tags.

Commissioner McBeath said the recommendation to drop the tags on Hunt 4151 to 109, which is a drop off 10 tags over 119, and Late season from 98 to 78 is 20; and what they have done is increase the muzzleloader tags but increasing 111 – 115 by 10 and then adding 10 to 221, 223. They are recommending a reduction of 30 but only increasing by 20 and a compromise may be to drop Late 111 – 115 from 98 to 88, for a 10 tag drop which does not change the number of elk being taken. Only difference is more being taken out in 221, 223.

Discussion on proposed changes – (10:52:25 a.m.)

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4151 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 076, 077, 079, 081 EARLY REDUCE FROM 110 TO 100, FOR 076, 077, 079, AND 081 LATE REDUCE FROM 107 TO 98. WITH REGARD TO 111 -115 EARLY DROP FROM 119 TO 109; UNITS 111 – 115 LATE DROP FROM 98 TO 88; AND WITH REGARD TO UNIT 161 – 164, 171 – 173 LATE DROP FROM 54 TO 45. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 4156

Cory Lytle speaking for himself reiterated that for Units 221 - 223, 111 – 115, that he would have no issue with increasing those two to 18, and for 231, 241, 242, that he would recommend eight to match last year.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4156 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: TO 076, 077, 079, AND 081 CHANGING THAT FROM NINE TO 28; 111 -115 CHANGING FROM EIGHT TO 18; 221 – 223 CHANGING THAT FROM EIGHT TO 18; 161 – 164, 171 – 173, FROM 13 TO 22; AND 231, 241 - 242 FROM SEVEN TO EIGHT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 4161

No alternative recommendations presented.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO SUPPORT ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION, MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Spike Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651 and Resident Elk Spike Longbow Archery Hunt 4641

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4651 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS HUNT 4641 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107

Biologist Cox showed slides with the population estimates for elk and success rates for both cow and bull hunts combined, and that lots of tags does not equal harvest elk and need to be cognizant that point will be reached that when tag quota may not get us where we need to be.

Commissioner Bliss commented on Eureka CABMW that they tried to follow suit along with the bull hunt and number of hunters in the field and the late hunt being longer than others that he does not think you get the number of folks that tag along on cow hunt as you do with bull hunt, so there could be an adjustment on the back end of cow hunt side.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4107 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THE SECOND ONE - 141, 145 – CHANGE TO FIVE; THE THIRD 144,145 AT FIVE; AND 144, 145 THE FOURTH SEASON AT 15. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Hunt Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

Biologist Cox said this is the Department's flagship hunt and its thunder is being lessened by the other cow elk management hunts. There is a 9 percent increase statewide. Nye CABMW had alternative recommendation associated with wilderness portion of this hunt.

Commissioner Mori asked for explanation of Nye CABMW recommendation as Mr. Strozzi mentioned that tags come out the same because for antlerless there is a recommendation for a 50 tag reduction and he asked where that is picked up.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said in regular antlerless hunt there is a 50 tag reduction, 20 tag reduction in Early and a 30 tag Late reduction. He said in the Wilderness only hunt 161 – 164 there is a 30 tag increase and when you go to muzzleloader hunt there is a 20 tag increase. He said same total tags just moved tags around a bit. They are not sure if demand is there for Wilderness

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4181 AS PROPOSED BY DEPARTMENT WITH FOLLOWING HUNT EARLY 161 – 164 DROP FROM 137 TO 117; 161 - 164 LATE DROP FROM 165 TO 135. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181 Wilderness Only

Nye CABMW had alternative recommendation as discussed above.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED FOR HUNT 4181 TO APPROVE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH CHANGE IN UNIT 162 TO INCREASE THAT FROM 34 TO 64. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4151

Biologist Cox said this is the first of many cow elk management associated with bull elk tags and mule deer buck tags.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4481 OPTION FOR ANTLERED ELK HUNT 4151 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1331

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they made alternative recommendations for 061 – 064, 066 – 068 Late, recommending to up that to 51 tags to provide more hunter opportunity and in 101 – 103 Mid to take it up to 200 to match the Early, and reason is will have folks who enter second draw so they feel the tags will get sold.

Program Officer 3 Hullinger explained what happens in second draw when cow management tags have not been completely filled (11:24:28 a.m.). She said if no remaining tags in base hunt such as 1331 then you lose elk management tags associated with that hunter choice and they will just go unsold, further discussion on second draw.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE 4481 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1331 TO APPROVE AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: IN UNIT GROUP 061 – 064, 066 – 068, LATE INCREASE FROM 41 TO 51; AND UNIT GROUPS 101 – 103 MID FROM 65 TO 200. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4176 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN UNIT 161 – 164 FROM 20 TAGS TO 40 TAGS. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Muzzleloader Hunt 4476 Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4156 and Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1371

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4476 WITH OPTION FOR ANTLERED ELK HUNT 4156 AND OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1371 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Longbow Archery Hunt 4111 Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4161

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 4111 OPTION FOR ANTLERED ELK HUNT 4161 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Elk Antlerless Elk Management Longbow Archery 4411 Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1341

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNTS 4411 AND OPTION FOR ANTLERED ELK HUNT 4161 AND RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4411 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1341 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

Biologist Cox said for nonresident hunts and to explain the 90/10 split we have 9.9 for the rifle, muzzleloader, and 10.2 for a statewide 90/10 split between residents and nonresidents.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HUNT 4251 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said their recommendation to change nonresident elk antlered muzzleloader Hunt 4256 from one to two was to stay in 10 percent compliance.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH MOVED NONRESIDENT 4256 AND 4261 TO APPROVE THOSE AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND AMENDED HIS MOTION TO ENCOMPASS NYE CABMW CHANGES IN UNIT 161 -164, 171 – 173 TO CHANGE TO TWO TAGS. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. (11:35 A.M.)

Nonresident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281

Fred Voltz said killing wildlife is primary method of managing herds, the Humane Society of the United States published an article entitled "Out of Season" in its May/June 2014 issue, and read sections of the Article and will provide a copy for the exhibit file. He said population control methods such as surgical sterilization of does and vaccination of contraceptive PZP. (11:40 a.m.) The Commission should investigate use of PZP vaccination as a constructive and effective elk management tool.

COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SAID TO APPROVE HUNT 4281 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT.COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Nelson Bighorn Sheep Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 3151 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chairman Robb said the numbers in 134 show recruitment is down and is concerned that there won't be sheep in there. He is noting that due to the upcoming ewe harvest and the scenario in 134 is what he is concerned about statewide. He has hunted 134 and is a favorite place and does not want to see that trend elsewhere in the state.

Biologist Cox said that is correct and recognize that there has been adult mortality during the 2011 disease event and no recruitment for three years.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said had discussion and they had no recommendation due to divided opinions.

Steven Kellar said he is against the ewe hunt as well as California ewe hunt, and knows time has come as science states we should probably kill ewes due to disease but thinks there should be place to put them by themselves. He asked how will public be educated between yearling ram and ewe. He asked if there were places to put sheep could that hold off the ewe hunt.

Biologist Cox said a slide presentation similar to Colorado's will be used with pictures to educate hunters. Biologist Cox said the agency does not feel there are appropriate places to put them and will work harder to find low-risk areas to put these sheep for expansion.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, said Units 212 and 213 are adjacent to his county, and at their meeting they felt that if anything we could do with ewes outside of shooting them would be a great idea, but it is confirmed now that sheep in 212 have lung worm/pneumonia, and those sheep do move back and forth so it is not "if" sheep in 213 have that pneumonia it is just a matter of testing and they will probably show positive. If we can't move them when sick than the best thing is to decrease size of population and felt hunting ewes is best way to do it.

Mel Belding, NBU, read a letter regarding the planned ewe hunt, and NBU recognizes ewe hunts are a necessary part of sheep management the same as other game species, and before fully supporting ewe hunts they feel that healthy bighorns should be relocated into every viable ecological niche that exhibits acceptable risk. He said NBU is committed to making Nevada the world-wide model for bighorn sheep. He said speaking for himself that Mr. Cox made statement that "we" decided there is no place to put sheep and asked who the "we" is, and what do you say to biologists who request sheep for translocation such as 206 in the Excelsiors and the Gabbs Valley Range, and in 195. Do we feel comfortable with non-mandatory indoctrination when we know people will make mistakes. Should be on the record that there are NDOW biologists have areas to put sheep and are being told "no."

Chairman Robb said those are fair questions and during Commission comment those comments can be addressed but does not want debate during public comment.

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said they had lengthy discussion with one-half commenting places to put sheep and one-half trying to understand the ewe hunt numbers. There is frustration with people and belief lack of transparency when the ewe hunt was proposed at the December Commission meeting.

Josh Vittori, NBU, reaffirmed NBU committed to sheep transplant program in this state and if viable locations to transplant sheep they will provide funds and if something comes up, they will step up to the plate. With that being said, speaking for himself as a sportsman not associated with NBU, that he spoke to a number of other hunters on this issue and is clear there is huge dissension on these hunts and that is education. He said he would recommend to the Department to proceed and help public understand what the biologist's rationale is. He personally has a lot of support for the Department and would recommend listening to the biologists and supports them.

Chairman Robb said as far as transparency on another tool in the tool box, and understands what is being said and what is being told, but he was part of the discussion at multiple Commission meetings about putting ewe hunt in existence. He said he recalls saying that the ewe hunts should have been used three year ago and as we are behind. He said he is ready to use the tool and had that discussion. With the quota in 268 he is comfortable with quota of 20.

Biologist Cox responded to Mr. Belding's comment regarding who makes the decisions. He said there are certain units in the release plan now, and staff went through those areas along with Dr. Wolff and Unit 206, the Excelsiors, have been augmented twice. He said the primary augmentation is the Garfield Hills and although not on the release plan, there is a plan to amend it this summer and feel that we need to

continue with our program goals and objectives when we look at establishing a herd that is between 25 and 35, 25 to 40, is what we feel is going to get a herd that will establish and if it doesn't there is something wrong with the mountain range. Mr. Cox said that philosophy can be debated but feels that is what it took to establish 95 percent of our herds. Knows there is discussion to maximize these opportunities with sheep bursting at the seam and putting them into low-density habitat or unoccupied but is not sure how responsible it is to continue to put sheep in an area because we don't want to kill them. The Gabbs Valley Range is not on the release plan right now and would entertain opportunity to look at it and it is probably the Gillis Range that could be augmented which will be discussed this summer. He said some of the other releases in plan involve some risk such as the Virginia Range as domestic sheep exist in that range. His recommendation is to be cautious and not push things and have to address feral horses in Virginia Range. Biologist Cox said he does not fault anyone but biologists put sheep in areas with manageable risk and have learned that movement of sheep and distance from domestics is not enough. There will never be enough time to get everyone on board and will admit the Department was caught flat-footed with information collected as to what herds had virulent pathogens and we would have like to have had time to plan ahead and made more opportunity for source populations that are bursting at the seams and are trying to react to information we have. A year ago we had a lot of sheep that were healthy and we moved them and now we have a pneumonia event that we don't know the extent of and based on new guidelines will not use them as source stock. Returning to the individual quotas he will admit that some biologists out of respect to the NGOs are cautions whereas others are willing to do ewe or doe hunts. Biologist Cox said he made three presentations to the Commission regarding the ewe hunt and initially did not expect to use it but over the last few months uncovered information that put us in a box, and he continued statements regarding transplant of sheep.

Chairman Robb said in looking at 212 we don't what caused the problem but sheep were stacked on top of each other, and had we implemented something like this three years ago we don't know if it could have been avoided as can't go backward. He said he understands NBU's concerns and is again worry about scenario in 134 where we see quotas decline because we don't take action with too many sheep in an area beyond carrying capacity. He said it concerns him that we will pay for not taking bigger steps in 268 and will personally take heat for those comments but as a Commissioner he has to do what is right for management of wildlife in Nevada and will take the heat to up the quota a lot.

Discussion continued on sheep pathogens (1:46 p.m.)

Commissioner Mori's said this discussion has frequently come up since he has been on Commission and previous director stated that the places where the sheep have been put have been the easy areas. He said the difficulty without running into more conflict with domestic sheep, farm flocks, or whatever, the risk increases when you try to move sheep in the ranges with issues. His line of thinking is that tremendous amount of money spent and people very passionate about the work but at what point do we take a step back and say we have enough sheep and let's try to manage the ones we have and deal with the issues and problems with the amount of sheep we have then try to move sheep hoping isolation from pathogens which is why he supports the ewe hunt at whatever levels we decide today.

Chairman Robb said that was discussion at Heritage Committee meeting as trap and transplant is top project for Heritage and during discussion there will be more money spent for collaring and studying movement rather than moving them. He said that is where Heritage money will start to focus, and

Commissioner Mori is not only one thinking that way.

Commissioner McBeath asked question about Gold Buttes, and Southern Nevada Biologist Steve Kimble answered that the Gold Butte's have been looked at for about 10 years but many issues: Access, water, and opportunity not good right now. He said much is considered but not always brought forward.

Commissioner Drew asked how far over carrying capacity the Muddys are and think 50 to 75 are going to Utah this year, and are we using any as source stock in-state. There is potential for half that excess being dealt with not counting this year's lamb recruitment.

Biologist Cox said the population estimate is 900 and sustainable level is 700, and have discussed using drop-net opportunities to move them north and provide opportunity to acclimate. If we get drop-nets and assistance we might be able to move them and use them as source stock but right now we can't. He said one-third, not one-half. A disaster was averted last year with reprieve with water and those sheep that have ability to go to Lake Mead have gotten used to sitting on guzzler waiting for rain to fall and we found that sheep went down to river and saved their own bacon instead of waiting for rainfall. The data probably shows compensatory mortality and density dependent reproduction every time we move sheep out of the Muddys.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 3181 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chairman Robb said he can't support the motion as thinks we need to do more.

Commissioner McNinch said the reason he stayed with motion is recognition that the agency has a lot of weight they are pulling and made conscious decision to ease their way into it and find balance is how he reads it.

Biologist Cox said if we sample Muddys in October and have results we don't want we will question whether 20 is appropriate and that is situation we are in many arenas and don't have crystal ball. Went with 20 because thought in three or four year period we would get where we need to be with positive thinking.

Commissioner Drew said we have to use the information before us today and he can't support the increase in tag quotas without personally having talked to the area biologist or having the CABMWs look at that. Procedurally not comfortable with making that big of a jump and is not willing to go there today.

Biologist Cox said he respects Commissioner Drew's statement.

Chairman Robb agreed and his thought process is that the message has to be out there and do more which is why he won't support the motion and if the quota were looked at biologically the number would be bigger than 20.

Commissioner Mori said he agreed with Chairman Robb on that aspect and does not object to Commissioner McNinch's point either but will not be able to support the motion.

Commissioner Young said not sure if right answer to this and he himself is not a sheep hunter and does not know enough about it to do something outside of what is being recommended here and not sure and can't support it.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: BLISS, WALLACE, MCBEATH, MCNINCH, LAYNE, AND DREW. COMMISSIONERS MORI, ROBB AND YOUNG OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 3.

Nonresident Desert Bighorn Sheep Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3251

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO SUPPORT HUNT 3251 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident California Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8151

Biologist Cox said the local biologist actually wanted eight tags instead of six.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said he wanted to make sure Unit 12 went from six to eight as the biologist attended their meeting and was just an error.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 8151 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH ONE CHANGE TO UNIT GROUP 012 FROM SIX TO EIGHT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTIONS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

California Bighorn Sheep Any Ewe Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8181

Biologist Cox said this is the Sheep Creek Range in 068 north of Battle Mountain and would like to remove 30 animals in the short-term and looking at moving 15 or 10 by harvest and the remainder by capture and transplant this fall.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said they do not support this as over-population issue not a pathogen and speaking for himself said they had general public who want the sheep to be in Washoe County. As water projects are underway in Hay's Canyon, Coleman and have another herd piloted in the Petersen's and sheep all along that corridor that could use an augmentation.

Steve Kellars said he concurred with Mr. Flowers as he hates to see the sheep killed as they are healthy and wants to see them transplanted, must be a place in Nevada that can handle 15 ewes.

Mel Belding, NBU, said this is where we are 100 percent sure that we had a place to put these sheep and speaking for himself commented that sheep have been put into areas 011, Coleman, to the south on the Massacre Rim, just started with some in 013 into Hay's Canyon and those two herds are doing what the biologists felt they would do. He said for Cherry Mountain where biologist is being told no, that it is further from any domestic trailing than sheep in Granites are exposed to now. He said there are places for sheep in 011. He said we can take these 15 and 15 for a total of 30 and there are places to put them like Cherry Mountain and 011.

Commissioner Drew asked what is scheduled for California bighorn sheep transplant program.

Biologist Cox said in the current release plan Coleman Rim just done, Hay's Canyon was done two years ago, and still have Cherry Mountain and Cockle Canyon on the docket. Due to the detection of pneumonia in the Santa Rosa's and data showing the animals moving from one side to the next the agency will not put more sheep in there although experiments underway in Santa Rosas. Biologist Cox said he worked with the Washoe County biologist and the 2007 die-off in Hays Canyon was due to a farm flock situation that has been remedied and sheep in augmentation have been collared and two rams went down to Duck Lake Highway and went back to Hays Canyon but don't know what they will do in the future and the operator has lost sheep and potential for stray domestics who may head north and all the country is connected and doing the best we can to maintain separation and reduce the risk. He said we may do two releases but even if one release need that hunt.

Commissioner Drew said the minimum demand is 30 and potentially up to 60 animals to move this year based on what is on the books. He said if we take 30 out of 068 are we not taking sheep out of source populations where we bump up against carrying capacity.

Biologist Cox said based on assessment by biologist we are not at carrying capacity but don't be surprised if we come back with a ewe hunt in 032 next year if lamb recruitment numbers go higher.

COMMISSIONER MORI MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 8181 FOR DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION OF 15. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McBeath said there is only 15 sheep and why can't they be absorbed.

Biologist Cox said it is 30 sheep that need to be moved based on habitat conditions in Sheep Creeks, and it is a situation of pay me now or pay me later as problem not going away.

Commissioner Drew said he will default to local biologist and range conditions bad and population not doing well and is a tough decision and will support the biologist.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8251

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE 8251 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE 9151. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mountain Goat Any Goat Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said their recommendation is to increase 101 to five tags.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 7151 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN UNIT 101 FROM FOUR TO FIVE. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Biologist Cody Schroeder presented the mule deer hunt quotas with a brief overview: Overall there has been a 4 percent decline on buck tags and are recommending increases in doe quotas. The buck recommendations are to be in line with management objectives statewide of 30 bucks per 100 does. Doe quotas are aimed at keeping populations in check with their carrying capacity. For the junior hunt it is 26 percent of the total buck quota which was best guess for total applications. He started with the junior hunt and there were 3,755 applications for the junior hunt. Alternative recommendations were received from CABMW's: **Resident Junior Mule Deer - Antlered or Antlerless – Archery, Muzzleloader or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107**

CL: The Clark CABMW recommends that the Wildlife Commission match the number of tags to the number of youth applications.

CH: Churchill CAB would like to see a 30% reduction in tag quota in units 181-184 from 115 (department proposed) to 81 (Churchill CAB proposed).

MI: Board requests Area 202, 205-208 quota to be 20, the same as last year's quota.

ST: Recommends 9 tags for Unit 195.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said the Department recommended a reduction from 20 last year to 15 and would request that it be returned to last year.

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said they did not address this but speaking for himself that Unit 203 had 32 but 2013 applications totaled 34 and would like it increased to 40 to take care of all the applications in Mason Valley.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said recommended that the number of tags be matched to number of youth applicants to give every opportunity.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1107 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES THAT WE INCREASE 202, 205 – 208 FROM 15 TO 20; INCREASE UNIT 203 FROM 32 TO 40. COMMISSIONER MCBEATH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 1101

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE 1101 AS PRESENTED, COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION, AND MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they are recommending decreases as denoted on the recommendation Sheet. The Department wanted to go to 882 and they want 800, the agency issued news release saying that the drought and wildfires have been an impact and that is why they are asking it be brought down as well as the reason that many of the deer are landlocked and not there for hunters.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said on 1181 the Department proposed a quota of 4 percent of total of doe population. At their meeting they voted to drop it 2 percent to 59. He said the population has significantly decline from 3,200 to 2,700 from last year and that warrants less doe tags and will help the population return to where it should be.

Discussion on doe hunts in Eureka County 3:17 p.m.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT 1181 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES FOR 043 - 046 59; 061 – 064, 066 – 068 800; 101, 102, 109, 1,000. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN ROBB, BLISS, LAYNE, MORI, WALLACE, AND YOUNG. OPPOSED COMMISSIONER DREW AND MCNINCH. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 2.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331 3:20 p.m.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said they would like the same quota as last year – 20 tags.

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW, said the CABMW accepted the Department recommendation; however a landowner attended their meeting and requested a 50 percent reduction and he wanted the record to reflect that. He said they lowered the areas ABH and this is the third year and the CABMW did not want to make changes at this time.

Brad Johnston, Lyon CABMW, said speaking for himself he would like the same quota as last year as the issues denoted in the Big Game Recommendation book are not applicable to the Mason Valley deer herd in his opinion and he would like tags in 203 to be up to 55 or more tags even 58.

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said Area 10 recommendation 101- 109 reduce to 1,350; 101 – 109 mid from 1,401 to 1,240 and 101 – 109 late from 309 to 290. Same as last year's quotas and for reasons that they had for the doe hunt.

Commissioner Bliss said he had conversations with Eureka and White Pine CABMWs in Area 13 and going from flight data done this year, 36 per 100 does and don't deny that an increase is not needed but would like it to be 10 percent increase from last year rather than 30 percent.

A failed motion was made by Commissioner McBeath with the following comments made after the vote:

Commissioners McNinch, Drew and Young all agreed that CABMW recommendations are significant and with this motion are taking away opportunity and not comfortable with adopting this lock stock and barrel.

Commissioner McBeath said goal is to get to 30 bucks per 100 does and is relying on CABMWs and was coming from the position if we are at the objective.

Biologist Schroeder said that is our objective and for example in Area 13 that area has not been surveyed and White Pine recommendation was not clear on their CABMW recommendation.

Supervising Biologist Ken Gray said in regard to the White Pine CABMW recommendation that they only made changes in 013 and thinks that was an error. He said in Area 10 there are access issues, and confusion with deer moving to west side is that when they fly their surveys they find deer on Green Mountain bench because they migrated and collar data and general observation shows that they are uniformly spread out throughout the mountain range during hunting season and with effort access is there. From biologists standpoint he hopes to stay at 30 bucks per 100 does as it took a fight to get back to that and does not want that to happen again in a few years.

Further Discussion --3:41 p.m.

COMMISSIONER DREW MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE RESIDENT HUNT 1331 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 101 – 109 EARLY 1,400, 101 – 109 MID 1,240; 101 – 109 LATE 300; 111 – 113 EARLY AND LATE REMAIN THE SAME; 131 – 134 EARLY 300, 131 - 134 LATE 30; 141 – 145 EARLY 355, LATE 45; 195 20; 202, 205 - 208 60; 221 – 223 EARLY 325; 221 – 223 MID 125; AND 221 – 223 LATE REMAINS THE SAME 27. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. 3:45 P.M.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

Glenn Bunch of Mineral CABMW, said they want six the same as last year.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO ADOPT HUNT 1371 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF 202, 205 – 208 TO GO FROM FOUR TO SIX. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 1341

Doug Martin, Carson CABMW, was opposed to reduction in 17 and they recommend 45 tag reduction.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said he agreed with Carson CABMW recommendation that 17 should go up.

Kevin Strozzi, Nye CABMW, he said when there is a reduction that is usually due to demand/success and being undersubscribed and is not opposed to increasing hunter opportunity. He said they do get persons upset when they do go hunting there and don't see deer as it is a tough place to hunt.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln, for 231 they were looking at increase up to 55 and thinks that is another victim of demand/success as success has been low in the past and they would like to see 40 instead of 50.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said supported Lincoln CABMW Change.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT HUNT 1341 ARCHERY WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES TO 171 - 173 TO BE 150; UNIT 231 FROM 55 TO 40. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunts 1331, Muzzleloader Hunt 1371, Longbow Archery Hunt 1341

Furn Winder, Elko CABMW, said they requested to adjust to match resident numbers.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said for Hunt 1341 in Unit 1241 they want to see it go from six to four.

Commissioner Drew said the intent of his motion that anything changed in the resident hunt to basically adjust the nonresident to meet the 10 percent criteria.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT HUNTS 1331, 1371, AND 1341, AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH EXCEPTION OF ADJUSTING THOSE COMPANION UNITS FOR RESIDENT TO MEET THE 10 PERCENT REQUIREMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident and Nonresident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation Tags Either Sex Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115, AND 2215

Biologist Cox said everything is linked in the spreadsheet.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said for 2013 question asked where the tags were distributed in 2013.

Biologist Cox said that information is denoted on page A – 6 of the book.

COMMISSIONER DREW MOVED TO APPROVE EITHER SEX HUNTS 1115, 1215, 2115, AND 2215 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner McBeath said the motion needs to be amended to take into account the nonresident tags that were not taken into account; there is an adjustment of 1.5 percent or 402, but that does not include the adjustment. Same motion needs to be made for all of the nonresident's hunts that adjusts the number by the 10 percent change in the nonresident tags.

COMMISSIONER DREW SAID HE WILL ACCEPT THE ABOVE A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 20 Future June and August 2014 Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments - Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Robb - For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 20 and 21, 2014, in Tonopah, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. Also, the August 8 and 9, 2014, Fallon Commission meeting may be changed to August 15 and 16, 2014, due to a potential scheduling conflict.

Secretary Wasley provided agenda items for June: Trapping regulation workshop – June 30 deadline for regulations to LCB; tannery regulation workshop; Predator Plan final approval and have update on Project 25 from Pat Jackson; Heritage Projects final approval ; set and revise upland game; Heritage Committee will meet and discuss buyer's premium charges.

Commissioner Layne asked that coyote killing contest issue be discussed and look at possibly prohibiting that activity or at least looking at it.

August Commission date change:

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CHANGING THE AUG 9 AND 10 TO AUG 15 AND 16. WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 21 Public Comment Period

Gerald Lent asked for comments to be in the record; statement provided Attachment A –

Meeting adjourned 4:10 pm.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at ndow.org and the minutes are a summary of the meeting. At the Department of Wildlife Headquarters in Reno is a complete record of the meeting.

Public Comment

I would like to address the remarks made by Commissioner Mc Ninch yesterday on his Bear Committee report:

Yesterday you accused us, the public, of manipulating the system with the Open Meetings Law to stop your Bear Committee from having a meeting.

How arrogant you are when you ignore the law and yet you accuse and blame us the public of using the law to stop your committee.

You bet you must follow the law!

Its amazing you think you are above the law and then blame us the public for making you obey the law!

Yet you set laws that we the public have to abide by, Example seasons and limits, yet you think you are above the law and don't have to abide by the Open Meeting Law.

Why should we obey the laws you make for us then!

You totally forget why you exist in the first place, NRS 241.010 states all public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business, openly in a public forum, properly noticed and agendaized so we know

what you will be meeting on, so we can attend if we want to.

Obviously you think you are above the law when you accuse us the public of stopping your committee meeting because you and only you did not follow the law and we the public are the bad guys you claimed we were yesterday and we are manipulating the system.

Well, you are trying to manipulate the system by going around the Open Meeting Law!

You forget - the only reason you exist is for us the public - you work for us!

Obviously you don't believe this and that you are above the laws of the State of Nevada and you can ignore the Open Meeting Law.

You don't deserve to be a public servant and should resign immediately!

- NRS 241.010 Legislative declaration and intent; requirements for meetings held by teleconference or videoconference.**
1. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that all public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.
 2. If any member of a public body is present by means of teleconference or videoconference at any meeting of the public body, the public body shall ensure that all the members of the public body and the members of the public who are present at the meeting can hear or observe and participate in the meeting.
(Added to NRS by 1960, 25; A 1977, 1099, 2013, 727)

NRS 241.010 Legislative declaration and intent. In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that all public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.

(Added to NRS by 1960, 25; A 1977, 1099)

(Act of June 17, 2005, ch. 267, §1, 2005 Nev. Stat. 2242-2243) **Section 1.** Chapter 241 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. Any statement which is made by a member of a public body during the course of a public meeting is absolutely privileged and does not impose liability for defamation or constitute a ground for recovery in any civil action.

2. A witness who is testifying before a public body is absolutely privileged to publish defamatory matter as part of a public meeting, except that it is unlawful to misrepresent any fact knowingly when testifying before a public body.

NRS 241.015 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Action" means:

- (a) A decision made by a majority of the members present during a meeting of a public body;
- (b) A commitment or promise made by a majority of the members present during a meeting of a public body;
- (c) If a public body may have a member who is not an elected official, an affirmative vote taken by a majority of the members present during a meeting of the public body; or
- (d) If all the members of a public body must be elected officials, an affirmative vote taken by a majority of all the members of the public body.

2. "Meeting":

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b), means:

(1) The gathering of members of a public body at which a quorum is present to deliberate toward a decision or to take action on any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.

(2) Any series of gatherings of members of a public body at which:

- (I) Less than a quorum is present at any individual gathering;
- (II) The members of the public body attending one or more of the gatherings collectively constitute a quorum; and

(III) The series of gatherings was held with the specific intent to avoid the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Does not include a gathering or series of gatherings of members of a public body, as described in paragraph (a), at which a quorum is actually or collectively present:

(1) Which occurs at a social function if the members do not deliberate toward a decision or take action on any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power.

(2) To receive information from the attorney employed or retained by the public body regarding potential or existing litigation involving a matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power and to deliberate toward a decision on the matter, or both.

3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, "public body" means any administrative, advisory, executive or legislative body of the State or a local government which expends or disburses or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue or which advises or makes recommendations to any entity which expends or disburses or is supported in whole or in part by tax revenue, including, but not limited to, any board, commission, committee, subcommittee or other subsidiary thereof and includes an educational foundation as defined in subsection 3 of NRS 388.750 and a university foundation as defined in subsection 3 of NRS 396.405. "Public