

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
APPROVED Minutes

Lake Mead Water Safety Center
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
(LMNRA)

#5

LMNRA normally is a fee area, but the entrance fee to LMNRA has been waived for the public to attend the meeting.

On pages 7 and 8 of this agenda is the NPS fee waiver letter and a National Park Service (NPS) map with directions to the Lake Mead Visitor Center and the Water Safety Center building via Highway 93. The turnoff to the Water Safety Center building is marked on Lakeshore Drive.

The meeting address at the Lake Mead Water Safety Center located within LMNRA is as follows:
115 Boulder Beach Road
Boulder City, NV 89005

Google and Yahoo maps do not provide correct directions to the Lake Mead Water Safety Center.

Feb. 6 and 7, 2015

Meeting Agenda

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: County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) members and public comment allowed on each action item and regulation workshop items and at the end of the meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for two day meeting:

Chairman Jeremy Drew	Vice Chairman Grant Wallace	Commissioner Chad Bliss
Commissioner Brad Johnston	Commissioner Karen Layne	Commissioner David McNinch
Commissioner Pete Mori	Commissioner Paul E. Valentine	Commissioner Bill Young

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General David Newton
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby	

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

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Chief of Operations Bob Haughian
Biologist 4 Ken Gray	Conservation Education Division Administrator Teresa Moiola
Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne	Game Warden Captain David Pfiffner
Administrative Assistant 4 Kathleen Teligades	Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger	Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjoberg
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox	Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Biologist 4 Mike Scott	Biologist 4 Steve Kimble
Game Warden Captain Mike Maynard	

Others in attendance/two days:

Chairman Paul R. Dixon, Clark CABMW
Monty Martin, Systems Consultants
Billie Williams, Mineral CABMW
Jana Wright, Clark County
Donald Sefton, Systems Consultants
Tom Cassinelli, Chairman Humboldt CABMW
Bob Rittenhouse, Member Douglas CABMW
Stephanie Myers, Mt. Charleston
Michael Reese, S. Nevada Wildlife Coalition,
Cory Lytle, Chairman Lincoln CABMW
Paul Dixon, Chairman Clark CABMW
John Hiatt, Clark CABMW

Don Sefton, Systems Consultants
Joe Crim, Chairman Pershing CABMW
Gary Garwood
Fred Voltz, recreationist
Mary Maguire, Las Vegas
John Sullivan, NV Trappers Assoc. and Clark CABMW
Sean Shea, Chairman Washoe CABMW
Joe Luby, Clark CABMW
Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Gil Yanuck, Member Carson CABMW
Eric Clifford, Churchill CABMW
Dan Patterson, Sportsman Conservationist

Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 – 8:30 a.m.

1 Call to Order, Introduction and Roll Call of CABMW – Chairman Drew

Chairman Drew called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and conducted roll call of the Commission. Commissioners present at roll call: Chairman Drew, Vice Chairman Wallace, Commissioners Bliss, Johnston, Layne, McNinch, Mori and Valentine. Commissioner Young absent for roll call.

CABMW roll call: Paul Dixon, Clark; Glenn Bunch, Mineral

Joe Crim, Pershing; Billie Williams, Mineral; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Sean Shea, Washoe; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Mike Reese, Clark; Eric Clifford Churchill; John Sullivan, Clark; Bob Rittenhouse Douglas; and Paul Dixon, Clark,

2 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Drew – For Possible Action

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

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, LAYNE, MCNINCH, MORI, AND VALENTINE. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

3 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Drew – For Possible Action

The Commission may take action to approve the draft Nov. 14 and 15, 2015, meeting minutes.

Chairman Drew said he had one change on page 4, agenda item 6, a motion passed is denoted as “8 – 1,” and the vote should read “8 – 0.”

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE CHANGE THAT CHAIRMAN DREW NOTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, LAYNE, MCNINCH, MORI, AND VALENTINE. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER YOUNG ABSENT.

4 Member Items-Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Drew –Informational

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

Commissioner Layne said on Dec. 3 California passed a regulation in a 4 – 1 vote, which basically stated that it is unlawful to offer any prize or other inducement as a reward for taking of furbearers, that individual contests or tournaments are prohibited. She said the president of their board indicated that they felt that now is a new age and these are the types of things to look at and that was why they made the decision to pass that regulation.

Commissioner Johnston said on that topic, he knows the Commission received a petition to adopt regulations to ban such coyote killing contests and believes the petition will be on the March meeting agenda. He said in advance of that meeting, he requested the Deputy Attorney General's (DAGs) to provide the Commission guidance as to its authority under state law to adopt such regulations in that specific context so a discussion can be had at the March meeting, or that we put that on the agenda as needed for any type of formal action that this Commission may need to take to request guidance from the Attorney General's Office in the form of a legal opinion. Commissioner Johnston said he received an email about a week ago, as did the other Commissioners, which expressed dissatisfaction with this meeting's location as being inconvenient. He said this Commission does not have its own facility to have meetings and the Commission is left to find places for their meetings and also was suggested in the email that this meeting location was selected by the Commission to hide the meeting from the public. He said that is simply false, and as far as he knows not even the chairman of the Commission has input or involvement on meeting locations, and neither do the Commissioners. He is informed where the meeting is to occur and he makes arrangements to be there. He said he thinks the Department staff responded to the assertion and they went to great lengths to advise the public as to where the meeting location was and how to get here, and access the facility without charge. So, the assertion that this meeting location was to hide the meeting from the public is completely false, and there was no intent on anyone's part to have the meeting at this location for that purpose.

Chairman Drew said he also received emails and phone calls about the coyote killing contest, and with a petition the issue will be on a future agenda. He said this agenda was too full and he advised Commissioner Layne it will be on a future agenda. He said he did receive the same email that Commissioner Johnston did about the meeting venue, and he agreed with Commissioner Johnston's topic point, and reiterated there was absolutely no intent to hide the meeting as this is a public body, and is difficult for staff to find meeting accommodations that allow the Commission to meet past 5 p.m. and on Saturdays.

Secretary Wasley said the Department has had ongoing correspondence with a disgruntled hunter who broke his leg during elk season. He went to a regional office to turn in his tag and he said he was led to believe by staff that he would receive bonus points and or a replacement tag. However, the law does not allow the Department that discretion or flexibility, and the hunter was advised of that limitation, and the hunter has sent a letter through his lawyer. Director Wasley said at some point there may be a petition to the Commission to seek remedy.

5 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.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said members of public concerned with size of deer herd in and around Carson City and they have contacted local government officials who have in turn contacted him. He said he will try to discuss with NDOW staff biologists while at this meeting as to what the course of action should be. He said they are trying to follow educational process to alert public that there is state ordinance against feed wildlife. He said there are many attractants

bringing deer into town such as fruit, landscaping, and people possibly feeding the animals. Mr. Yanuck said we need to find a way to deter the deer from populating the area.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said in regard to the email about the meeting venue that former Wildlife Commissioner Ron Lurie would offer up for free his casino's grand ballroom for use by the Wildlife Commission for a meeting. Secondly, he asked if the Commission has a calendar as to when items are due such as Heritage proposals, Kirch award nominations, and matters such as that. He said people would like to be able to go to the NDOW website and know what will be coming up on Commission agendas over the next couple of months.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said a few meetings ago they looked at Partnerships in Wildlife (PIW) tags, and he provided a spreadsheet showing a breakdown on how much money is lost due to the order in which the PIW tags are drawn. PIW tags are drawn after the regular draw, and the PIW tags should be drawn first because if you draw a tag you don't get to go into the PIW draw, and he said they hope the Commission would take a look at that. (Spreadsheet in exhibit file).

Commissioner Young arrived at the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

- 6 Nomination of New Members to Serve on Central Nevada Elk Plan (CNEP) Coordination and Oversight Team (COT) – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider and may vote to approve nominees to serve on the CNEP COT, which include: Lorinda Wichman (Nominee for County Commissioner Representative), Paul Young (Nominee for Statewide Agriculture Group Representative), and Joe Clifford (Nominee for Local Ranching Representative).

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling provided background on the state elk plan that was adopted by the Commission in 1997, and under which the Central Nevada Elk Plan was subsequently nested and approved by the Commission in 2004. At the time of approval, the Steering Committee recognized and identified five management issues that will require continuing coordination and oversight during plan implementation. These issues included: population monitoring and herd health; vegetative monitoring and rangeland-forest health; multiple-use, conflict resolution and information reporting and distribution

He said to ensure this continuing effort, the Steering Committee included in the Central Nevada Elk Plan Coordination and Oversight Team. This team comprises 10 individuals appointed by the Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners as follows: One sportsman representative from a recognized state-wide sportsmen group; one CABMW representative from Eureka, Lander or Nye Counties; one representative from a recognized state-wide agriculture group; one locally-affected ranching representative who resides in Eureka, Lander or Nye counties; Yomba Tribal Chairman or appointee; Duckwater Tribal chairman or appointee; one county commissioner or appointee from Eureka, Lander or Nye counties; BLM District Manager or appointee; Forest District Ranger or appointee; and NDOW Game Division Chief or appointee. Currently, there are three vacancies on the COT. At the last meeting of CNEP COT, which was held on Dec. 8, 2014 in Tonopah, the team discussed the need to fill vacancies.

Steve Williams, from U.S. Forest Service nominated Paul Young as the statewide agricultural group representative. Charlie Cecchini nominated Lorinda Wichman and Joe Clifford for the County Commissioner representative position and local ranching representative respectively.

Following is a brief biological sketch of each of these nominees:

Paul Young – Nominee for Statewide Agriculture Group Representative

- President of Lander County Farm Bureau
- Young Ranch, Big Smoky Valley, Lander County, was purchased in 1950s
- Raised on ranch, and took over operation and ownership in 1990s
- Attended Austin High School, Ricks College, and Utah Valley College
- Served an LDS Mission to Ireland for two years
- Married with seven children
- Involved in numerous community boards and events
- Involved in original Central Nevada Elk Planning process as an interested party from the beginning

Lorinda Wichman – Nominee for County Commissioner Representative

- Elected 2009 as District 1 Commissioner for Nye County, representing 17,933 square miles of the 18,159 square miles of Nye County.
- President Elect 2014 of the Nevada Association of Counties
- Chairman - 2012 to present - Nevada's Association of Counties Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee
- Chairman of the Tonopah Conservation District
- Vice-Chair 2015 State Land Use Planning Advisory Council
- Twice appointed representative to National Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee
- Chairman - 2013 to present - Nye, White Pine, Eureka, Lander Counties Secure Rural Schools Resource Advisory Council.
- Smoky Valley resident with small livestock operation since 1999

Joe Clifford – Nominee for Local Ranching Representative

- Born and raised in Tonopah area
- Worked for NDOT for 22 years
- Served for two years in Army, with a tour in Vietnam
- Moved back to family ranch in Stonecabin Valley, and has been full time rancher in the area for past 26 years
- Family ranch purchased in 1883, and has been managed by Clifford family ever since

Clearly, they are busy people, but busy people get things done. On behalf of the Central Nevada Elk Plan Coordination and Oversight Team, I am pleased to offer these nominees for your approval to serve on this team.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINATIONS OF PAUL YOUNG, LORINDA WICHMAN AND JOE CLIFFORD FOR THE COT AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 7 Review and Consideration of the Black Bear Subcommittee Report Entitled "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada" – Commissioner David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider, amend as appropriate, and may vote to approve a report submitted by the Black Bear Subcommittee entitled "A Three-Year Comprehensive Review of Black Bear Harvest through Regulated Hunting in Nevada." On approval, the Commission may

forward this report on to the Nevada Legislature to fulfill the request included within 2013 Senate Bill 82.

Chairman Drew said the Bear Committee passed the recommendations from the Black Bear Subcommittee in a 4 – 0 vote. Chairman Drew said he endorses the committee recommendation, and he thanked the committee and NDOW staff for their work and efforts - especially to NDOW staff for getting the job done.

Commissioner McNinch agreed with Chairman Drew's comments, and thanked the Department staff as staff actually made personal sacrifices in completing the committee's work.

Chairman Drew said the report was sent in support material, and the first two pages include the Executive Summary and the committee's recommendation to the Commission to go forward. He said the report is succinct with a summary and the appendixes available on the webpage. Chairman Drew reviewed the sections of the report, noting that the report includes a social perspective review of where much of the back and forth discussions were held, and the committee tried to identify all the issues and items that had been brought forth through the committee process to the Commission and to work through the legislative processes.

Commissioner Layne thanked the Bear Committee for their effort as she knows it was a huge undertaking, and provided her comments: She said this is a broad discussion and may want to add to this discussion the ongoing drought in Nevada and the impact of the drought on the bear population. She provided a U.S. Drought Monitor Map dated Jan. 27, 2015, (exhibit file). She needs the drought needs to be taken into consideration, and provided a climate map. Commissioner Layne said in terms of recommendations to the Commission was #5, Human Dimension survey and that a number of questions were asked at the CABMW meeting about what that would be and would it be worthwhile to the reader to add a sentence or two as to what the Human Dimensions portion would entail. She said one issue for her is the Department has relocated many bears and she would like to know the mortality level of relocated bears in comparison to the rest of the population, as we study this issue. She recommended the Bear Committee report be passed by the Commission.

Chairman Drew said in response to Commissioner Layne that in terms of the drought, everyone is well aware of the situation. He said there has discussion regarding the Commission reviewing the bear hunt on a regular basis which was included in recommendation #1 and in regard to Human Dimensions there was recommendation that the committee have someone come in and discuss Human Dimensions work under #5, and what that means is the Commission is to consider that and Human Dimensions were discussed at every committee meeting. Chairman Drew said he is reluctant to do any editing of the document today but ultimately will be up to the other Commissioners.

Commissioner McNinch said in regard to Commissioner Layne's concerns and suggestions is that the report in a broad sense opens that door to look into those matters.

Division Administrator Wakeling said he has nothing further to add, the committee was diverse and he was impressed with professionalism and respect between committee members, staff and public.

Chairman Drew thanked all who participated as the discussions were not easy and all were respectful on all sides.

CABMW and Public Comment on Black Bear Report–

Jana Wright, resident of Clark County, thanked Dr. Layne for bringing up the comments made at the Clark CABMW meeting about adding to the report on pages 11 and 12, the recommendations to the Commission by the Black Bear Committee. She said it is an awesome report and many hours spent discussing. As brought up at the Clark CABMW meeting, a CABMW member brought up that future revisions include the impact of drought and global warming on black bear behaviors. She said she understands the chairman and committee chair's have stated about not wanting to do much at this meeting with the report, as the report needs to be sent to the Legislature, and does think the drought is obvious and needs to be considered. For the record, she provided a copy of an article from the Las Vegas Review Journal dated June 25, 2014, entitled "Drought Severely Affecting Small, Large Animals in Northern Nevada" (exhibit file). She said we need to be cognizant of the drought.

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, said they discussed this report at their meeting, and NDOW Biologist Lackey stated that the bear population of 500 to 700 bears is stable in the Tahoe Basin. Mr. Rittenhouse said his CABMW discussed creating a Heritage tag for the bear hunt along with a professional guide who requested that shotguns be added as a legal weapon to the bear hunt.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said an attendee their meeting said there needs to be clarity whether it is the "Bear" or "Black Bear Committee." He said Washoe CABMW approved the report.

Chairman Drew said in the report the reference is made to "Black Bear Committee" and the committee is "Bear" and that revision should be included.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ACCEPT AND FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BEAR COMMITTEE AND THAT THE REPORT IS FORWARDED TO THE LEGISLATURE AS RECOMMENDED, WITH NOTED EDITS REFERENCING "BEAR COMMITTEE." COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8 Commission General Regulation - Workshop - Public Comment Allowed

A Commission General Regulation 455 T-14 – Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – Informational Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

The Commission will hear a temporary regulation relating to trapping questionnaires and trapping license valid periods. The regulation will add language to specify the valid period of a trapping license as July 1 – June 30. The regulation amendment will also update the trapping questionnaire deadline language, changing the deadline from April 30 to May 31, making it consistent with other Department questionnaire language. The amendment includes having the Department be responsible for prohibiting the purchase of a subsequent trapping license, instead of the Commission, when a trapper fails to return a questionnaire. This amendment will allow the Department to administer the trapping questionnaire processes effectively in regard to the trapping seasons as established by the Commission. The regulation is intended to give trappers ample time to return their questionnaires but also provide an efficient license denial procedure if they fail to return their questionnaire.

Chairman Drew said as much as he would like to have workshops and approvals of regulations at separate meeting that could not be done for CGR 455 which is time sensitive as we are against the end of the trapping season.

MA3 Hullinger said currently the trapping seasons for furbearing animals closes April 30, and the trapping questionnaire deadline in the regulation is April 30. This causes a conflict for licensed trappers in meeting their questionnaire reporting requirement if they are active until the close of the season - April 30. In addition, the regulation stipulates that the Commission has the authority to suspend the trapping license or deny the ability to acquire a trapping license if the licensed trapper does not meet the deadline. The trapping license valid period is currently March 1 – Feb. 28. Since the seasons extend beyond the expiration of the license, a trapper could already have purchased a new trapping license if it is determined they have not met the reporting requirement. The amendments would streamline the requirements by removing the calendar conflicts associated with the trapping questionnaire deadline, season closure, denial of acquisition of the trapping license and the valid period of the license. Additionally, the proposed language for the trapping questionnaire deadline is consistent with language used for other required questionnaires that the Department administers.

Implementation - To implement the changes proposed in the amendments, the Department will: Extend the valid period of the current valid trapping licenses purchased before Feb. 28, 2015, to June 30, 2015. This will get the license holders through the transition period. The Department will program the trapping license denial into the Nevada Wildlife Data System.

Currently, programming is not license class specific and the regulation requires that it only be the trapping license denied. The new deadline of May 31 will allow license trappers a month after the close of the season to submit the questionnaire. In the transition period (March 2015 - June 2015) manual paper licenses will not be available. License sales will be available online.

New Process

Furbearing Season(s) Oct. 1 – April 30
Furbearing Questionnaire May 1 – May 31
Administration of Non-returns June 1- Jun 30
Trapping License Valid Period July 1 – Jun 30

Language Explanations:

Section 1 – This is new language identifying the trapping license valid period. The language is similar to what is used in statute for hunting and fishing licenses, except it is for a fiscal year.

Section 2, Subsection 2 – Amends the questionnaire deadline to May 31. This is to get questionnaire deadline away from the furbearing season closure date of April 30. It will also allow licensed trappers 31 days to respond to their questionnaire. It changes the authority for the suspension and denial to purchase to the Department. The language format regarding the questionnaire deadline and administration is consistent with other regulated Department questionnaires.

Chairman Drew said a question that came up at a CABMW meeting was that we are making the return of the questionnaire mandatory; however, it already is mandatory.

MA 3 Hullinger answered that is correct; the Department was not enforcing the regulation because of the date conflict.

Chairman Drew said essentially the intent is to make this more in-line with the big game return questionnaires. Chairman Drew said another question was getting the trapping questionnaire into trapping license holder hands and the potential of going online to make it easier. The concern is that in using the mail process some persons may not receive their questionnaire.

MA 3 Hullinger said in other arenas the Department is suspending licenses through courts and the Wildlife Violator Compact agreement. She said the online questionnaire aspect has been discussed and would be available if implemented.

Commissioner Valentine asked what is on the actual questionnaire.

MA 3 Hullinger said she has not seen the questionnaire as the License Office does not process them, and her understanding is that it is short.

Division Administrator Wakeling said it asks you to enumerate the number of species that were taken.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said they agreed on the dates but when it came to the questionnaire they had lots of discussion and heard that questionnaire requests you fill out species taken. Discussion ranged from big game people have to do it, to trappers stating the questionnaire is duplicated from information obtained at the fur sales. The only information you are not getting is non-target species, and non-target species are coyotes and jack rabbits which are shot by people all the time and they are not recorded anywhere in the system. He said this needs to be discussed further because if you have questionnaire it should be meaningful and not repeat what you get from fur sales. Whether it is mandatory comes down to having new information, and if not new information, it is duplicative and not obtaining what you want.

John Hiatt, Clark CABMW, said he supports the questionnaire because knowing information about non-target species is important, especially for species such as golden eagles which we know are caught in traps. He said he is in favor of the questionnaire as a mandatory requirement as only way to obtain that data.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they supported it in a 3 – 2 vote, and that it is good to gather information.

Eric Clifford, Churchill CABMW, said they voted to approve the first portion but recommended that we take time to review and produce a questionnaire for second portion.

John Sullivan, vice president of Nevada Trappers Association, said his organization supports the license change dates. As to the questionnaire, the questionnaire is confusing and he does not even know the answer to the definition of “target” versus “non-target.” His main point is the questionnaire is not used for management purposes, rather it is only used for information. He said that trapping is similar to small game hunting and should be similar process, and suggested putting the questionnaire online rather than using mail and he asked that the Commission step back and clear up those issues first.

Mike Reese, Southern Nevada Coalition, said the questionnaire is three pages long, and other questionnaires are voluntary such as the small game questionnaire. He said he made the motion to abolish the requirement as he felt there is no value from standpoint of sportsman’s

dollars being spent on this and does not know the value of the information. It should be treated like upland game to obtain sampling.

Stephanie Myers, Lee Canyon and Mt. Charleston, said federal law to seal bobcat pelt, and burden of returning questionnaire is minimal and has always been mandatory as staff said and the Department has just not enforced it, and the regulation needs to be enforced. She said trapping is indiscriminate and traps can trap animals such as dogs and the questionnaire would provide important information on non-target species, and she hopes the regulation passes.

Jana Wright said she is in support of the regulation and as staff stated NAC 503.160 makes the survey mandatory and for whatever reason the Department did not enforce penalties to trappers who did not turn in the survey and at a previous meeting staff stated a 70 percent return and if mail/form not forwarded, when license bought they should be informed that you will be required to turn in a survey before you renew your trapping license. She said this is a good regulation and hopes the Commission supports it.

Fred Voltz, said he agreed with Ms. Myers and Ms. Wright, and thinks there is a missing dimension which is there is no audit mechanism of these forms being returned. There needs to be a mechanism in place to insure that the information reported is accurate. He said at the Fallon meeting we heard that a huge number of non-target species are being caught, and no real certainty that numbers are indicative of what is happening to state's wildlife which we know belongs to the public.

Chairman Drew asked the Department to address the value of the data, and what it is used for and the time sensitivity of that data coming back. He said on the big game questionnaire the \$50 fine is encouragement to get the information in quickly. He said the real hammer is the suspension of the right to apply for a big game tag, and his question is how the data is used in terms of setting trapping seasons and the time sensitivity of getting the data back.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling said the data from questionnaire generally does not influence trapping seasons in the manner that big game questionnaire does, as the number of people participating in trapping is not limited. Therefore the sensitivity is less than big game. However, we use the data to provide the ability to see trends over time, and is extremely useful to have statistically a "co-variant" such as price. He said price influences people who participate, and use data for "catch per unit effort" as this helps us see population trends, and helps us as we also look at this over time. Administrator Wakeling said we never know when an activity like trapping will be challenged and we believe trapping is an absolutely legitimate and appropriate recreational activity for people to engage in, just as hunting and fishing is, and we need to have the data to make certain that trapping activity does not overly exploit a population. He said questions do come up for the non-target take, and we are not suggesting that this data is absolute, but it tends to have the same type of bias through time and trend analysis allows us to look at varying effect on those things. He said one other question he would address relative to the small game is we do take a sub-sample of the population that is involved in this activity and if you use a sub-sample you have to have a minimum sub-sample size to develop confidence in the estimates you are getting. Trapping has such a small participation rate, less than 1,300 persons, and to get 300 samples across the state does not provide reasonable precision that we need to look at this; we need to be able to get a larger sample size to look at it over time.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the Department has any guidance on the target and non-target species. He said if we are going to add value to the questionnaire that would be a key component, and the fact that trapping is indiscriminate makes the questionnaire more necessary. For that reason he is in support of moving in that direction.

Administrator Wakeling said target means the species for which there is an open trapping season, for a species for which there is not an open trapping season would be non-target. He said we can easily do a better job of explaining that.

Chairman Drew asked if there would be a concern if we were to lower the \$50 fee as this is first year of enforcement, and allow time for trappers to get used to the system.

MA 3 Hullinger said the statute behind the data collection states \$50 with no authority to lower the fee.

Commissioner Johnston asked if NRS requires trappers to provide the response to the questionnaire as well.

MA 3 Hullinger said the statute is NRS 501.119 and is "Collection of Data from Hunters, Trappers, and Anglers," and is established in regulation as being required.

Commissioner Johnston said he read the regulation and it is already a requirement for trappers to complete the questionnaire and submit it to the Department, there is already the \$50 administrative fee in existing regulation and is a clean-up matter for the Department to be able to suspend a trapping license. He said what he is hearing from public is that there may be improvement needed on the questionnaire and use of the data being collected, and does not think that is the issue before us right now. He said he supports the proposed regulation as presented and then we can move forward for the Department to do the clean-up on the questionnaire and additional data could be provided to the Commission and that is one question he had about trapping concerns, was what data do we have and this could help provide answers to some of those questions.

Chairman Drew said in context of workshop today, we have the regulation as written which provides opportunity going forward to how we collect and review the questionnaire. He said for tomorrow's workshop, the regulation will be heard exactly as presented in the support material, under agenda item #8 A and #16 D.

9 Commission Regulation Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- A Commission Regulation 15 – 04, 2015 Big Game Application Deadline Information – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2015 big game application deadline information.

MA 3 Hullinger said there are no recommended changes to the application deadline format, and will continue to offer the option to apply through the mail.

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said this deadline ties into what Mr. Dixon said, if we had a calendar, all the events that go on would be denoted and asked if that could be looked at putting that together with this, would be greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Bliss said that Commission calendar does note what is occurring on at each meeting.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 04 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- B Commission Regulation 15 – 05, 2015 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting language regarding the 2015 big game tag application eligibility.

MA 3 Hullinger said there are no changes regarding the application eligibility for Silver State tags. The eligibility is stipulated in NAC. Antelope - no change to the antelope eligibility. Applicants will have to choose one category of antelope hunt and can only obtain one tag through the draw. Elk, this year the elk application eligibility is as follows: NAC authority for management hunts was approved in 2014 and seasons are being recommended by the Department again this year. (See season tables regarding recommendations on antlerless elk management Hunts 4481, 4476, 4411. For deer tags with an antlerless elk management hunt option and bull tags with an antlerless elk management hunt options). Applicants will be allowed to apply for more than one antlerless elk tag. But can only obtain one antlerless elk tag. Spike elk application eligibility is included in the CR as there is a spike elk hunt recommended by the Department. Applicants in a waiting period for antlered elk (bull) will be eligible for spike elk. Applicants will be allowed to apply for antlerless elk and spike elk. Applicants will not be able to apply for both antlered elk and spike elk. Applicants will only be able to obtain one antlered elk and one antlerless elk. This year the bighorn sheep eligibility is as follows: Sheep hunt application eligibility for applying for ram/ewe hunts is “or.” In other words an applicant will have to choose between applying for a ram hunt or applying for a ewe hunt for a species. The applicants will be able to apply for each subspecies of ewe if the hunt recommendations are approved at the commission meeting. Mountain and black bear have no change to their application eligibility from last year. Applicants for mule deer can only apply for one category of mule deer and can only obtain one tag through the draw, with the exception of the Antlerless Depredation Hunt 1101 eligibility listed. Other tags, Heritage tags, antelope and deer landowner damage compensation, elk incentive tags and antlerless elk landowner tags are tags that a person can obtain in addition to the draw tags.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said at their meeting they brought up landowner damage tags because of damage. He said that a person approached him with suggestion, since we have abundance of elk, and everybody is trying to get people to take more elk and take cow elk. We give landowners who have damage to fields by elk, tags that sell anywhere from \$4,000 or \$5,000 to \$10,000, which is a lot of money. He said there are rumors of fact that some unscrupulous landowners raise alfalfa crops purposely to get elk to raid their fields to get tags. He said he has no personal knowledge of any of those things, but it makes people upset over what the tags are sold for versus the damage that actually happened to their land. The suggestion was made instead of giving tag for thousands of dollars of damage to a landowner; instead you give them four or five cow elk tags which would help eliminate a lot more cows and a lot more of the elk herd.

MA 3 Hullinger said it is actually elk incentive tags and they are to maintain habitat and incentive it is not a damage tag like deer and antelope damage compensation program. They are statutory and regulatory requirements that affect the program and would have to look at those regulations, as it is listed as either sex tag. She said that misunderstanding is that it is not covered under eligibility, and to change to cow tags you would have to look at the statute and the NAC as statute lists it as either sex.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said his CABMW would recommend over the counter, and asked if that would change anything in eligibility space, as eligibility for elk being one horn and would over the counter fall under that, or would that be a special program where it would not be affected. If we have that discussion, he does not want to miss the fact we have to change eligibility requirements if required.

MA 3 Hullinger said with the elk landowner season being proposed there is a flavor for over the counter tag being recommended with elk landowner seasons. She said we had this program ready last year, and did not actually have a hunt occur, although they had it ready. Then we were never called for a season for that property. She said staff is ready to issue tags at local offices once called to do so.

Chairman Drew said at this time that is covered under page 2 under elk landowner tags, and there is nothing in regular draw that would preclude you from getting those tags as it stands in the proposal before us.

MA 3 Hullinger said the hunt will be set-up for the landowner to have 25 tags for the property and may only give us 10 names for a season when he knows the animals will be on the property. It is a limited over the counter and controlling the population only on the property not the entire unit. She advised the Commission that there is a typo on a hunt number, the language for antlerless depredation hunt 1101, it is listed as 1131 and should read "1331."

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 05 AS PRESENTED WITH MA 3 HULLINGER’S CORRECTION TO “1131” TO “1331.” MOTION SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C Commission Regulation, 15 – 06, Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife 2015 Season and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Silver State Tag and Partnership in Wildlife hunt species, seasons and quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

MA 3 Hullinger presented CR 15 – 06 Silver State and Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) hunts. For Silver State hunts, the species, unit and season recommendations are the same as last year. These hunts have ties to the 2015 Heritage tags approved last year which are currently being auctioned. Pursuant to NRS the total tags available for Silver State and Heritage cannot exceed 14. There were nine big game tags for 2015 Heritage: Two deer, two elk, two antelope, two Desert bighorn sheep and one California bighorn sheep. MA 3 Hullinger said the recommendation does not exceed what is allowed by statute. She said the Commission should consider extending the questionnaire deadline in the annual regulation for these hunters to turn in their questionnaires as the seasons extend to Feb. 29. For PIW the species quota and season recommendations are the same as last year, and new this year on the California is a request for closure of Unit 041 due to limited number of mature rams in the unit. NAC stipulates the quota cannot exceed the following: Mule deer, resident only 22, nonresident three; antelope

resident only, five; elk resident only three; mountain goat resident only one; and bighorn sheep tags resident only four.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said they had recommended changes: For California bighorn seasons they would like them similar to deserts, where unit is closed from previous year's harvest, Dream and Heritage would be precluded from hunting in units harvested from the previous year. Last year all three special tags harvested from the same unit, and that puts a lot of pressure on biologist, and most times it is Unit 31. He said they would like it to be one special hunt in a unit in each of the units, like the deserts. He said they don't want to change PIW tag to a Silver State tag as that is being considered, and he realizes the money may be better, but Silver State and Heritage hunters get to hunt before the regular season. He said we could solve it by taking Heritage and PIW and start them on opening season date, like the PIW, and let them extend after the season. He would hate to put special hunter out there in these units where they might be one trophy ram which happened in 041 and both hunters went there and then the rams were gone for four past years. Mr. Cassinelli said the harvest from these small number units where we only have one or two tags, and we put these three special hunts in there really makes a difference. He said he proposed this at the last season setting meeting, and it didn't get done, and these problems have shown up since then.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said one of their concerns for several years has been resident mule deer quota for 22 in Units 194 and 196 has potential, when you look at 194 and 196 that with November hunt where 50 resident tags are given out, has potential to hit one unit really hard. He said he thinks the number is too high and thinks same amount of people will put in for PIW tags if you lower that number.

Chairman Drew asked if they had a specific recommendation as to what the numbers should be.

Mr. Shea answered that they think the numbers are too high and not sure how that number comes up as they have limited numbers as is.

Chairman Drew said that is the maximum allowed.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Mike Cox said in response to Mr. Cassinelli's request that we have had similar situation with California as we had with deserts, where all the specialty tags were harvested from one unit. He is right that 11 tags have come out of 031 for the last four years. He said having a unit where you can't hunt due to previous year's hunter harvested can work. Although, he said in 2014 all three harvested from 031, and every other year there is potential for three rams to be hit, as they all started the same year. He said Heritage 2015 is already set, and some states tell hunters that for two years the special tag will not include a certain unit, and others will. He said he knows guides are frustrated when an auctioned Heritage tag has limitation to it. So far we still get a good dollar amount for the desert Heritage tag with knowledge there is a limitation. He noted that at present there is not a California PIW tag, and the Commission could consider replacing the PIW for California with a Silver State, as the Silver State season is longer and would raise more funds.

Chairman Drew asked MA 3 Hullinger to respond if a California could be added without taking it out of another specialty program.

MA 3 Hullinger said seasons, species, units, and tags are up for discussion today and would defer to DAG to insure the items were agendized correctly.

DAG Newton said the Commission could.

Mr. Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said they are really opposed to people being able to harvest ahead of general sportsman. As he had his own experience with waiting 20 years for a tag and then the specialty tags are ahead of regular tag-holder and from his own experience, the hunter is left with less than what they are able to harvest.

Commissioner Bliss asked if with the PIW tag if the Department have a concern as expressed by Washoe County.

Biologist Cox said they do track the harvest of all the special tags and every other year they look at it, but so far for mule deer it has been spread out fairly well. He said the Department did not identify a Silver State tag for a California as they wanted a public process, but if we don't it may never come up.

Commissioner Bliss said the Silver State tag program was developed through the CABMW process and legislative process and if the Commission were to add a species such as a California tag he would want public involvement to continue.

Commissioner Valentine said we discuss elk abundance and opportunity exists to have three tags in the PIW hunt, and why not take advantage of that and add three elk tags.

Chairman Drew asked for thoughts or comments on that, and heard none, then said in summary that during the discussion it was brought up potential to exclude previous year's harvest unit on at least the California PIW tag, need a footnote to extend the hunter questionnaire deadline if we keep Silver State hunt dates the same, and a suggestion to potentially change opening date of Silver State, and if no further discussion would ask for a motion.

Commissioner Wallace said with discussion of what Mr. Cassinelli brought forth, as to PIW hunt with California bighorn, that we would not really change anything and would make his situation worse if changed to Silver State tag as season is expanded. He said not sure if this would be popular but could remove PIW California bighorn sheep tag as will still be available for sportsmen through regular draw instead of special draw, not sure if that will solve the problem as we have small units with small numbers and small tag numbers.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 06, SILVER STATE AND PIW AS PROPOSED WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES: AS FAR AS SILVER STATE HUNT ADD FOOTNOTE FOR EXTENSION OF RETURN CARD WITH SEASON DATE GOING THROUGH FEB. 29; PIW ELK QUOTA TO CHANGE IT FROM TWO TO THREE. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chairman Drew asked MA 3 Hullinger if she needed specific language for return card deadline; she confirmed that she does, and asked that it be similar to the deadline for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep hunt which is seven or eight days after the hunt season closes (March 8). He asked Commissioners Bliss and Valentine if they would accept a friendly amendment to add March 8 as the questionnaire deadline.

AMENDMENT OF MARCH 8 WAS ADDED TO THE MOTION.

Commissioner Layne said she will not vote not in favor as not a fan of adding numbers.

Commissioner McNinch said he hopes we continue to move forward with suggestion of Mr. Cassinelli and arrive with alternatives at future meetings, as Commissioner Wallace's suggestion is viable. He will support the motion though.

Chairman Drew said he would echo concerns of Commissioner McNinch and at a point where we need to look at that and he would ask that the Department make recommendation and provide information to CABMWs as suggested by Tom Cassinelli of Humboldt CABMW.

Commissioner Mori asked Mr. Cox to clarify that when we look at harvest in one particular unit as Mr. Cassinelli brought up, to what extent if you have data showing that, do these issues iron themselves out, such as if you have a harvest of all big rams from one unit and if not all big rams, the sportsmen will automatically look at other units and if no action taken, would it even itself out.

Biologist Cox said field biologists cushion the effect as they know where harvest pressure occurs and they feel responsibility to not allow over harvest to occur and try to prevent that, but as long as mature rams continue to be there then people will put in for those tags. He said they shift or reduce the tags available to the general public to accommodate the special tag harvest as Commissioner Wallace pointed out.

Chairman Drew said he is aware of Humboldt's concern on changing dates, but is reluctant to change dates of Silver State as we have already set the dates for Heritage and may discuss that later.

Commissioner Johnston said to Biologist Cox that the biologists are adjusting the number of tags in the main draw based upon where you think the specialty hunters will go.

Biologist Cox confirmed that is correct but forced to look at trends and age structure of live rams, and these adjustments were brought up eight years ago, and hoped they would fix themselves. He said he thinks the rotation has really helped a lot with the deserts.

Commissioner Johnston asked him if there has been an over harvest issue or is it more a trophy quality issue. He said a person who draws the tag in the main draw may not get as good of a trophy in a particular unit because a specialty tag holder went in earlier. He said the trophy quality issue is not nearly as concerning to him as a management over harvest issue.

Biologist Cox said age, genetics and feed, all contribute to trophy quality, and everything being equal for a unit and if mature age maintained, the genetics thrive.

CHAIRMAN DREW SAID HE WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO THE PIW CALIFORNIA HUNT 2015, WHICH WOULD READ CALIFORNIA RESIDENT RAM HUNT 8000, ANY MANAGEMENT UNIT WHERE THERE IS AN OPEN SEASON FOR CALIFORNIA EXCEPT FOR UNITS WHERE THE PREVIOUS YEAR HARVEST OR PIW TAG OCCURRED, TAG HUNT 8000 OCCURRED AND UNIT 041. HE SAID FOR CLARIFICATION THE PIW WOULD EXEMPT UNIT 031. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE AMENDMENT.

Commissioner Young asked if Mr. Cassinelli's issue has been addressed.

Mr. Cassinelli said yes and no, because he is not opposed to what the Department has done as they have done excellent job managing the sheep and have no problem with sheep or trophy hunts themselves, and what he is managing is sportsman, opposed to specialty hunts. He said sportsmen are taking the shaft, and he wants all three special hunts to do that, so they all shift around as PIW is regular sportsman and that is who he is supporting. He said he is not opposed to doing that this year, and this is all ready in place for Heritage, and this may work better. He said we need to remember next year to make Heritage in the same boat so it shifts. He said there are several other units with big sheep, and it is easy to hunt 031 and that is a real draw. Heritage hunters know that and easy for guide to get a quality ram out of 031.

CHAIRMAN DREW ASKED FOR THE VOTE ON THE AMENDMENT: ADD LANGUAGE ON PIW ONLY FOR CALIFORNIA BIGHORN AND WOULD EXEMPT THE UNIT WHERE HARVEST TOOK PLACE THE PREVIOUS YEAR. VOTE ON AMENDMENT WAS UNANIMOUS.

Chairman Drew said the Commission is back to the main motion as amended:

MOTION AS AMENDED IS TO APPROVE CR 15 – 06 SILVER STATE AND PIW HUNTS AS PROPOSED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: ADD A FOOTNOTE FOR RETURN QUESTIONNAIRES ON SILVER STATE TAG WITH A DUE DATE OF MARCH 8; CHANGING PIW ELK FROM TWO TAGS TO THREE TAGS; AND INCLUDES AMENDMENT JUST PASSED. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLCE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 1. COMMISSIONER LAYNE OPPOSED.

D Commission Regulation, 15 – 07, Dream Tag 2015 Seasons – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2015 Dream Tag seasons. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

MA 3 Hullinger said CR 15 – 07 is specific to the Dream Tag seasons and unit groups. NRS stipulates the species and quota, therefore those items and cannot be change. The season recommendations are the same as last year. New this year on the California Bighorn Sheep hunt, closure of Unit 041. This is to be consistent with the 2015 Heritage closure language. The recommendation for closure is due to a limited number of mature rams in this new unit.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said same statements as discussed previously for PIW for apply for Dream Tag and Heritage next year.

Chairman Drew clarified that he would like the same exemption in for PIW meaning no PIW nor Dream Tag in 031.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 - 07 2015 DREAM TAG HUNTS AS PRESENTED WITH FOLLOWING CHANGE: THAT THE UNIT GROUP FOR HUNT 8500 CLIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP READ ANY MANAGEMENT UNIT WHERE THERE IS AN OPEN SEASON FOR CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP EXCEPT FOR UNIT 041 AND THE UNIT WHERE THE PREVIOUS YEAR HARVEST FOR THE DREAM TAG HUNT 8500 HARVEST OCCURRED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- E Commission Regulation, 15 – 08, 2016 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger and Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox
– For Possible Action
The Commission will consider the adoption of the 2016 Heritage Tag hunt species, seasons and quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

MA 3 Hullinger said CR 15 – 08 for 2016 Heritage tags is up for recommendation by the Commission. She said this regulation is to establish the Heritage Auction tags for 2016 in order for the Department to get the vendor proposal packets out to the vendors by March 1. The species, season and quota recommendations are the same as the 2015 Heritage tags. The special regulation requirements on page 2 are also the same as the 2015 Heritage tag packet. In subsection 4, the Department is continuing to recommend the closure of Unit 041 for California Bighorn sheep Heritage Tags. NRS stipulates that the quotas for Heritage and Silver State cannot exceed 14 big game tags and five turkey tags.

Chairman Drew said that he was contacted by a bidder for the 2015 Heritage tag because it was not clear to them whether 041 had been hunted previously and if it was open. He said that confusion arose as the footnote had the information. He requested that in the future a unit group column be included in the table on first page. The other thing he would add for clarification is that this is for the 2016 Heritage tag that if same exemption were put in for California bighorn sheep, it would not take place until next year and essentially we would be staggering the effect of tags, if that recommendation were incorporated.

MA 3 Hullinger said the column could be incorporated.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said he would like all three special hunts to be staggered for same reasons.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said for himself, he personally has problem with them starting one month ahead of other hunters and is throwing the general public under the bus.

Biologist Cox said this year one unintended consequence that happened that may not ever happen again is we did have a Heritage tag holder who had not hunted and when desert tag auctions occurred there were hunters asking where they could not hunt because the tag holder had not hunted yet, and he does not think it affected the amount received for the tag, but there were a few persons frustrated that they could not tell clients what they were buying.

Chairman Drew said he is okay with season dates going back to Aug. 1 to Dec. 31.

Commissioner McNinch said was that not one of the draws to the tags was that you could hunt without others and the goal of the tags was to maximize the amount of money for the tags, and is a fine balance.

Chairman Drew said understood.

Commissioner Johnston said he understands the public comment but unless he won a lottery he would never have a Heritage tag and they are not available to everyday person and changes could impact marketability of the Heritage tag.

Commissioner Layne asked question if hunters harvest in July.

Biologist Cox said he believes one subspecies was harvested in July but does not have a list.

CHAIRMAN DREW MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 08 2016 WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAGS WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THAT WE ADD A UNIT GROUP COLUMN TO TABLE CONSISTENT WITH OTHER HUNTS, CHANGE THE SEASON DATE FOR MULE DEER, PRONGHORN ANTELOPE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK, NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP, AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP TO AUG. 1, 2016, THROUGH DEC. 31, 2016, AND ON PAGE 2 SUBNOTE 4 THAT WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO THE TABLE THAT WE ADD, UNITS FOR DESERT AND CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP WHERE PREVIOUS YEAR'S HARVEST FOR HERITAGE NELSON, DESERT, AND CALIFORNIA SHEEP HUNT OCCURRED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE.

MA 3 Hullinger said Game Division may have concerns with aerial flying, and asked them to address that matter.

Western Region Big Game Supervisor Mike Scott said one reason they asked for the seasons to be moved back was to prevent persons from aerial flying early in the season and that season date was intended to discourage aerial scouting.

Commissioner Bliss said he agrees with the motion except for the season dates, and the purpose of tag is to generate money in Heritage account where funds matched and good things are done for wildlife and would hate to do anything to jeopardize value of tags.

Commissioner McNinch said maybe there is a different way to handle the flying and he will not be able to support this motion without having that addressed.

Chairman Drew said he understands the concerns but probably other ways to handle that and at this point.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, LAYNE, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS OPPOSED: MORI, BLISS, AND MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 6 – 3.

10 Reports – Informational

A Mid-Winter Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference Report – Secretary Tony Wasley, Chairman Jeremy Drew and Commissioner David McNinch
Reports will be provided on the recent mid-winter conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Secretary Wasley said the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) has two conference events each year that are rotated through the member states. The Nevada Department of Wildlife rotation to host the conference is this year, with the 2015 conference in Reno. The Department just hosted the mid-winter meeting in Las Vegas in January and had record attendance with 140 attendees. In conjunction with the conference other meetings are held such as the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council meeting, and hunting/angler participation meetings. A big issue for many WAFWA states has been the Lesser Prairie Chicken with five states having populations of the bird. He said the value of the meetings is that they provide states the opportunity to develop a uniform unified front on resource issues, and also huge value to participate with agency federal partners. The top tier officials from federal

agencies such as Director Dan Ashe of U.S. Fish and Wildlife attend, and states are able to coordinate on sage-grouse planning. The 2015 conference theme is “Landscapes in Transition” and the conference will be July 16 – 22 at the Peppermill in Reno. Director Wasley said he attended the Commissioners/Director’s Forum which was well attended and heard very positive comments about the venue. NDOW Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne provided a presentation on wild horses specific to the western states not just Nevada. He said he and Chairman Drew encouraged all to attend the summer conference in Reno.

Chairman Drew said NDOW staff at the meeting that facilitated and stepped up did a phenomenal job especially transporting attendees to and from the airport and implementation efforts. He chaired the Commissioners’ Committee which had seven states represented. He said other states are dealing with grizzly bears and wolves. He would encourage the Commissioners to attend this summer’s conference to participate.

Commissioner McNinch said he too heard many compliments about NDOW staff from attendees. He said every state has their own issues, and for us sage-grouse is one, but some broader issues are conflict. Chairman Drew facilitated session about conflict, and self-reflection on how we handle situations and that is how the meetings help by sharing strategy. He said that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) is establishing a blue ribbon panel for discussion of broad based funding for wildlife, and that panel is planning on at least three meetings with industry folks, former Wyoming governor, and owner of Bass Pro Shops, are co-chairing. The ultimate goal is to make recommendations to Congress and everything is on the table such as excise tags on goods for Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson. A big challenge is the fear is that traditional system will break down, and that is not the case as that system is important to the success of state fish and wildlife agencies, and new system should be a brother or sister to that system to broaden support for wildlife. Commissioner McNinch said Texas did a detailed study specific to dove hunters on lead versus steel shot, and first time anyone has put numbers to which is better and findings could potentially change ammunition. He said as far as human dimensions they had a chart denoting the more rural versus urban you are, the more conflict you will have. Outside of Arizona, Nevada is by far the most urban, and we can’t compare ourselves to Idaho and Montana, we are not even close.

Chairman Drew said he would add to Commissioner McNinch’s report that although Nevada is ground zero for wild horse issues that these other states with less horses are paying attention to the issue. He said separately the Commissioners did recommend to the Directors that a WAFWA Legislative Committee be formed so the western states can speak in unison on big national wildlife policy issues.

B Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
The draft FY 2016 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review and input.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson said presented a Power Point presentation on the 2016 Predation Management Plan – Exhibit File.

Commissioner Layne said she does not see any education projects, and this morning a CABMW member commented on the need to educate people not to feed wildlife as that is a huge problem in Southern Nevada. She said that education would be a place that would benefit us and we should look at that beyond the projects here.

Commissioner Bliss said some of the projects such as Projects 25, 35 and 36, that are more study-type projects, he has noticed that funding is solely the \$3 fee, and asked why some of those projects are not utilizing the Pittman-Robertson (PR) match.

Staff Specialist Jackson said he is new to grant writing for PR funds but one caveat is there is a restriction that the projects cannot have lethal removal component, which excludes the majority of those projects. Project 25 has already received PR funds for the past five years and cannot receive any more. Project 35 may be available for PR, and for Project 36 he would need to contact USFWS.

Commissioner Bliss asked as to red fox study, last year we funded \$10,000 for the project and went into Heritage meeting and additional \$10,000 acquired from that fund to do the sampling. He asked if results have been received from last year and how many samples collected, and if additional funding is being requested from Heritage this year.

Staff Specialist Jackson answered that \$3 fee will go to processing the 68 collected samples. The furbearer biologist is overseeing the project and was explained to him that there were issues between UC Davis and NDOW accountants on transferring money over, the samples have been in a freezer waiting on the funding for processing which just occurred. The Heritage funding he learned about after the draft Predator Plan and that went toward paying for partial costs and stipend of graduate student. He does not know if funding will be sought from Heritage.

Chairman Drew said he understands not being able to match PR on implementation side, but would hope that we are maximizing whatever PR is available on experimentation projects.

Commissioner Mori said relative to Project 33, Bi-State Sage-grouse Nesting Habitat, that the conclusion stated that other federal aid dollars exist to fund this project. He asked if project has been looked into for funding with upland game stamp funds.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Jackson said he does not know and had spoke to Habitat staff and was told that the \$3 fee may not be an appropriate use and thought other funds available.

Chairman Drew said he believes there is commitment from federal agencies in place on implementing the Bi-State Conservation Action Plan and actually have influx of federal dollars, and project with 100,000 acres of PJ treatment over the next 10 years by Forest Service. He said there have been developments from last year that have been positive as federal partners have stepped up.

Director Wasley said the bi-state listing process is on a different timeline then the Greater Sage-grouse listing, with different players from same agencies. What was developed was an Action Plan which outlined all the projects necessary to reach a not warranted finding, and USFWS was very supportive, but the criticism was on the funding. They said if implemented this is what the species needs for effective long-term conservation and they need to see the certainty of implementation, and NRCS, BLM, Forest Service, all at the national level along with Nevada and California all committed to different amounts of money to implement the Bi-State Action Plan. It was determined that approximately \$38 million was needed and through all the commitments by federal and state partners, a commitment in excess of \$45 million toward implementation. The importance of \$3 fee for this project is secondary to other committed funding sources from federal agencies.

- C Heritage Report – Deputy Director Cates
A report will be provided on the available funds (interest and principal) for expenditure from the Heritage trust account in the upcoming year.

Deputy Director Cates said there has been a large increase in funds available this year with \$708,029.61 available, \$150,000 more than last year. He said some of that is due to PIW and Silver State applications which were up about 2.6 percent, but mostly it is an increase in the Heritage tags.

Chairman Drew asked him to provide a timeline on Heritage Funds.

Deputy Director Cates said the timeline is that applications for Heritage projects are due March 1, and in May the Department will provide the Commission a ranked list of projects and then the Heritage Committee will meet and at the June Commission meeting Heritage Projects are selected which start July 1.

- D Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton

DAG Newton said report was submitted and would add to item #7, Smith/Molde, that the response on behalf of the Commission was filed last week.

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

Secretary Wasley said he will report on bi-state and as stated previously, the bi-state is a year ahead in the listing process than the Greater Sage-grouse. Different planning process with good involvement by partners and have the Action Plan and financial commitments. He said everything we are hearing from USFWS is very positive and they feel good about our ability to achieve a not warranted finding, and we continue to provide updates on implementation of Action Plan demonstrating certainty of implementation of the Services PECE Policy – certainty of effectiveness and certainty of implementation. He said they never questioned the effectiveness of the actions proposed, just whether they would be implemented, and with commitment of funding for implementation of the Action Plan USFWS feels good and partners continue to be engaged with regular meetings. Director Wasley said we should know something by late April, and also the omnibus spending bill passed to limit Department of Interior spending on sage-grouse as they were allowed no money to spend on publishing listing results, but has not hindered the USFWS's ability work on rendering the decision and according to them we don't expect to have a delay in reaching the decision and should hear in late April. On the Greater Sage-grouse, the big piece of conservation planning has been the BLM resource management plan, their land plan use amendment to address how things will be done on the landscape and is our understanding that will come out late spring/early summer and language contained in land use plan will be key indicator of the conservation actions on the ground, and will be able to gauge from USFWS at that time the adequacy of that. A big part of the BLM effort is inclusion of the state plan. The state plan addresses all the threats identified in conservation objective team report and a key component of state plan is state's conservation credit system which is robust mitigation system that requires mitigation to be performed on the landscape prior to any disturbance on the landscape, and BLM has included that in their resource management plan as the mechanism for mitigation. The USFWS is required in a settlement to render a decision by Sept. 30, 2015, if they get to Sept. 30, 2015, and have a not warranted finding, there is nothing to stop them from announcing that and if they need to spend money to publish a listing, they will be caught between the settlement language and the Omnibus spending package and we will need to seek time through a judge. He said we are optimistic with State

Plan being incorporated into BLM resource management plan and are anxious for the Environmental Impact Statement come out, and see where it ends up and get feedback from the Service.

Commissioner Mori asked for update on status of the state plan.

Director Wasley said the state plan is basically complete and has been approved by the state's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) and the conservation credit system has been completed and was accepted by vote through the state SEC. There are some minor details of consistency with language, so there are ongoing meetings of SEC and is not considered an end point, but rather a beginning of implementation. He said there will be a need for the SEC to maintain its presence as well as the SEC Technical Team. Right now challenges are how to transition from previous processes in place with consultation through BLM or the Forest Service to now include the state plan and state personnel including NDOW, SEC Technical Team, and which projects are large enough to be considered for consultation and how we implement mitigation, who calculates mitigation so as we work toward implementation those details will evolve and we will learn as we go.

Director Wasley reported on the sage-grouse Wing Bee recently held and 1,034 wings classified total for all regions. Production was estimated at 1.54 chicks per hen and nest success was estimated at 47.1 percent. The number of wings collected was 21 percent greater than last year (n=855), but substantially less than the 10-year average of 2,093. Overall production was less than last year, but greater than the 10-year average of 1.48 chicks per hen. Nest success was greater than last year (45.7 percent) and greater than the 10-year average of 44.8 percent. Production in the Western Region was 1.76 chicks per hen while estimated production in the Eastern and Southern Region's combined was 1.45.

F Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation and Economic Development Act of 2014 – Chairman Drew
Chairman Drew will report on the status of Nevada Sagebrush Landscape Conservation and Economic Development Act of 2014. The most recent “discussion draft” has been provided as support material.”

*Additional information is available at www.reid.senate.gov/sage-grouse

Chairman Drew said status of the Act is that most recent discussion draft was provided as support material for this meeting and is entitled “Discussion Draft Version 2.” This is an effort from Senators Reid and Heller jointly to come up with federal legislation to help support sage-grouse and has components that should be of interest to CABMWs. His intent for putting this on the agenda was to make sure CABMWs and public members are aware of what is going on here. He has been in correspondence with staff of both senators, and they do intend to bring this back, this was not formally introduced in last Congress and they do intend on either issuing another discussion draft in 2015 or formally introducing a bill. He said if you look at the second page of support material it breaks down several sections. One section of great concern from wildlife standpoint is covered land conveyances. He said there is a concept that some lands around existing mining operations may be conveyed to individual companies, the concept is that those lands would be sold for fair market value and the money would return for sage-grouse conservation. He said all in the room can tell you there is concern with that given potential issues with access, issues with critical wildlife habitat, migration corridors and other issues. The maps are not available right now, and staff have asked mining companies to provide inputs on what land they may want to see conveyed, and he has expressed concerns with maps not publically available and has requested they become available. He said the Commission has

Policy #64 in regard to public land sales and transfers and is very clear that the Commission will not support any land transfer with high wildlife values to insure protection of wildlife values. He said his point for all is that they are cognizant that this is out there, and other part is it lists a lot of different conveyances to counties, as it is a very big bill with many ramifications to the public's wildlife in Nevada, and wants people to be aware and has provided the CABMW mailing list to their staff so that they can be sent further information.

Commissioner McNinch said he appreciates Chairman Drew keeping track of this as big document with a lot of information and bringing it to the Commission. He asked if the Commission would take a position.

Chairman Drew said he had indicated to the Congressional staff of both senators that he intends to be more engaged as a Commission and this could return to the Commission for formal comment. Right now the schedule is up in the air and no clear indication as to when or if they issue another discussion draft or if this is formally introduced. The purpose was raising awareness was his intent and that the Commission may need to address the matter.

G Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Director Wasley provided the Nevada Department of Wildlife Activity Report:

Staff is tracking legislative proposals that could or will impact wildlife, wildlife recreation and licensing, water, habitat, public lands, boating, agency operations, law enforcement, and employees. Notably, the Department's four proposals now have bill language online. This first week of the session we are monitoring five bill hearings, and attending/testifying in three of them.

Also, there are three trapping proposals, two license proposals, and one proposal to once again make the Department a Division under the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

As elk populations have expanded their range and population size, the Western Region has initiated the development of an elk management plan originally conceived to include Humboldt County, but a broader geographic focus is being considered.

During 2014, the Eastern Region remained the area in which most landowner relations issues developed regarding mule deer, pronghorn, and elk. Two hundred and two deer and pronghorn compensation tags were issued in this region, 169 for mule deer, and 33 for pronghorn; 112 compensation tags were issued in this region for elk, and the estimated value of the elk tags was \$1,112,000.

On Dec. 8, 2014, bighorn sheep from the Sheep Creek Range, north of Battle Mountain were captured, and 15 of these sheep were subsequently released in the Massacre Rim in Unit 011.

Cooperative Bighorn Sheep Capture for Highway 93 Study near Las Vegas. NDOW coordinated capture efforts with the Nevada Department of Transportation and the Arizona Game and Fish Department to study movements and overpass alignment to benefit bighorn sheep south of Las Vegas during January 16–18, 2014. The capture was successful, Arizona is taking lead on marking and monitoring based on the success of their previous project on the Arizona side of the Hoover Dam realignment project.

Wildlife Health

Walker Lake Waterfowl Mortality Event - Waterfowl mortality due to an avian cholera outbreak may have begun as early as September 2014 based on hunter reports. Both coots and ducks have been recovered, and several hundred have probably died. Cholera outbreaks in other states have sometimes lasted for many months. It has probably been about 30 years since the last avian cholera outbreak in Nevada, although these outbreaks are more common in California. About 70,000 birds are at risk on Walker Lake. Health risks to humans or dogs is considered minimal.

Bighorn Sheep Monitoring

On Dec. 9, 2014, 21 California bighorn sheep were captured in the Snowstorm Mountain range. This herd suffered an all age pneumonia mortality event in 2011 and has experienced poor lamb recruitment since that time. Eleven (one male, 10 female) sheep were sent to South Dakota State University as part of a multi-year collaborative project to study the hypotheses that a small percentage of post pneumonia event survivors remain "super shedders" and are responsible for the annual loss of lambs from pneumonia. The remaining 10 animals were sampled for respiratory pathogens and marked with VHF or GPS transmitters for monitoring and released on the mountain.

Staff are working with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Lahontan NFH Complex) and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to develop a cooperative agreement to provide a better supply of Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) eggs for LCT production at NDOW facilities. This would allow expanded stocking of LCT in the Truckee River basin; the main impediment to LCT stocking has been the inability to get the quality and quantity of eggs needed.

A die-off of sport fish, primarily trout, has occurred at Sparks Marina for the second winter in a row. The incident started in late December like in 2013 but this year oxygen levels returned to normal much more quickly. We think the cause is probably mixing in the water column that stirs up organic material which has built up over time. We are discussing options with the City of Sparks including a possible winter aeration system to prevent recurrence.

The US Forest Service has issued a final decision on Incline Lake to remove the dam and restore the site as a wet meadow. This was contrary to the Department's preferred alternative to restore the dam and reservoir as a recreational fishery. Our protest of the decision yielded negative results. At this point it doesn't appear there are other appeal options under NEPA.

Division staff is completing project planning and necessary NEPA analysis for a treatment of Comins and Basset lakes in White Pine County to remove invasive northern pike. The treatment project is scheduled for late August 2015. Staff anticipates project documents will be available for public review to the Commission and affected County Wildlife Advisory Boards in March.

The Division's Aquatic Invasive Species program staff in 2014 performed 237 vessel decontaminations and over 1300 inspections, and made outreach contacts to over 18,500 watercraft users statewide. The majority of these activities were at Lake Mead and Lake Mohave

The process of hiring 10 field game wardens in an attempt to fill the Division's 30 percent vacancy rate is ongoing, and plan to have these new hires in law enforcement academies by February.

Several of our recent cases have been heavily covered in the media, including a multi-year investigation into the killing of numerous big game animals without tags and out of season by several undocumented immigrants from Southern Nevada. Because of federal firearms charges being added, several of these defendants have received extensive jail time and may be facing deportation.

Eastern region game wardens also recently issued a citation for a trapper that stole a trap from a fellow trapper. The two trappers had an argument about the theft on a social media chat room so the investigation had some clues available.

Two game wardens have graduated from law enforcement academies and started field training. This is in addition to the 10 vacancies we are currently trying to fill.

NDOW is participating in the “America’s Wildlife Values” project which will conduct an assessment of public wildlife values in the US. The study is aimed at understanding trends in public values toward wildlife as a key to meeting current and future wildlife management challenges. In addition, the project seeks to improve the ability to anticipate the public response to wildlife management issues and communicate about these issues with an increasingly diverse stakeholder constituency. NDOW is participating with over 30 other states in partnership with the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) and the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) in cooperation with Colorado State University and Responsive Management. The Advisory Committee members, including NDOW’s representative, participated in a kick off for the project this week.

NDOW recently launched a new podcast, content delivery forum and blog titled “Nevada Wild” designed to take an in-depth look at issues impacting wildlife. Public engagement and outreach were the primary purpose in crafting this effort with the goal of telling NDOW’s story in an interesting way that would educate the public as well as inspire them to participate. Early results exceeded expectations generating over 7,000 unique visitors in the first month alone.

Conservation Education staff participated in a conference call with producers for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Natural History Unit. The BBC is working on a three-part series on the Southwestern United States. They are seeking assistance from NDOW with coyotes, jackrabbits and roadrunners. Filming for the production is scheduled during the month of April.

NDOW staff from several divisions participated in the Wild Sheep Foundation expo in Reno in January. Staff hosted a booth on the show floor to answer question. In addition, staff helped conduct the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience where over 1,000 students participated in various wildlife related activities.

Zunino-Jiggs Reservoir Rehabilitation and Repair, Elko County. The dam repairs are complete and boating facility amenities are moving forward. This project reestablished a safe and operable facility to maintain the popular reservoir for fishing and recreation. The next phase of the project is to design the boat launch facility and amenities, with construction completion anticipated by the fall of 2017. This project could not have been accomplished without the cooperation and funding from several partners—the Gund Ranch, Cummings Ranch, Barrick Gold, Newmont Gold and Elko County.

Fuel Dock Replacement for Callville Bay Marina at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. This project is complete and now provides boaters with safe and efficient fueling and sewage pump-out facilities, and will reduce the likelihood of fuel spills and sewage discharge into the Lake.

Fuel Pump-out and Transient Dock Replacement for Cottonwood Cove Resort Marina, Lake Mohave NRA. Similar to the Callville Bay project, this completed project will also provide boaters with safe and efficient fueling and sewage pump-out and reduce the likelihood of fuel spills and sewage discharge into the Lake.

Cave Lake Dam Assessment Study, White Pine County. This project, in progress, will provide an engineering assessment of the dam structure, and will include a structural assessment of the embankment and emergency spillway, flood and overtopping analysis, and geotechnical assessments of the dam embankment in order to obtain necessary information for repair and renovation to the dam in support of Cave Creek Reservoir and provide continued popular sport fish boating access in White Pine County.

Drought continues throughout the state.

Habitat has been busy with wildfire restoration activities across the state:

Holloway Fire – NPCD purchased 52,311 Wyoming big sagebrush, mountain big sagebrush, and bitterbrush plants for planting in the Holloway Fire

Spring Peak Fire – Habitat, Fisheries, and ConEd planted ~6,000 sagebrush seedlings November 14 and 15. ~ 40 BLM, FS, NDOW, and volunteers helped over 2 days.

Desatoya Fire – aerial seeded 115 acres of Pinion Juniper burn with a grass-forb (10 species) seed mix December 1.

Coleman Fire – 15k seedlings being planted this spring

NPCD purchased 7,283 sagebrush seedlings. 7500 seedlings purchased with Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Funding

Lost Fire – 2624 acres seeded with mountain big sagebrush and slender wheatgrass seed mix in Jan. 2015. Funding provided by Ruby Pipeline Mitigation account.

Bootstraps Fire in Carlin Trend 1,400 acres in cooperation with BLM and Private Landowners .

Bald Mountain Mine Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) should be released any day.

The Bald Mountain Mine records request was recently delivered. The hard copy count of the email and note record was 3,486 pages, an additional 986 pages above our original 2,500 quote. All emails were printed and reviewed for necessary HIPAA redactions with final hardcopies being supplied in addition to the scanned copy in electronic pdf format. We also provided another 6,155 electronic records (email attachments, files, reference material, etc.) on a jump drive for their reference.

Progress continues on Spruce Mountain Restoration project; hired Matt Flores as water development biologist, Feb. 17, 2015.

Conducting winter raptor surveys across the state to help establish baseline raptor population estimates

Abandoned mine lands surveys to identify bat roosting and hibernacula sites and continue broader white-nosed syndrome surveillance efforts

Capture and release of golden eagles equipped with satellite transmitters to study eagle territory size, foraging areas, and seasonal movement regarding energy development. This is a collaborative effort with the USFWS and BLM as well as Spring Valley Wind Technical Advisory Committee.

Chairman Drew asked if Humboldt County is aware of the Humboldt County Elk Planning process getting underway.

11 Public Comment Period

Stephanie Myers, Lee Canyon, said there is a perception in society that the only good predator is a dead predator and she urged folks to watch PBS on Wednesday as there is a program about living with predators, and she cited examples of that in other countries. Ms. Myers requested that videoconferencing be provided as she cannot attend the March meeting in Reno.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said March 19 is the Friends of Nevada's hosted legislative luncheon. There are 29 new legislators. He said he has been soliciting donations from different organizations and that an elk dish will be offered and this is a great opportunity to meet legislators.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7, 2015 - 8 a.m.

12 Call to Order, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Drew

Chairman Drew called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. Commissioners present for roll call: Chairman Drew, Vice Chairman Wallace, Commissioners Bliss, Johnston, Layne, McNinch, Mori, Valentine, and Young.

CABMW Members present for Roll Call: Cory Lytle, Lincoln; Gil Yanuck, Carson; Paul Dixon, Clark; Mike Reese, Clark; Sean Shea, Washoe; Joe Crim, Pershing; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt; Eric Clifford, Churchill; Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas; and Billie Williams, Mineral.

13 Approval of Agenda – Chairman Drew – 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 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14 Member Items – Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Drew – Informational
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may

provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley will also be discussed.

Commissioner Young said he will read a letter (exhibit file) from constituent Greg Wells of Southern Nevada and in full disclosure the person is a friend of his. He said he ran into him at Area 22 and talked with him and said he would bring his concerns to the Commission. He said he brought his correspondence (exhibit file) and he read the letter which is about non-resident guided hunts, and increasing the price of a guide license for the resources they take, and the landowner tags as persons are exploiting the program. Commissioner Young said he personally perused the guide websites and does not think it is right. He said he has no problem with rancher or landowner receiving fair compensation and the Commission is responsible to shepherd the resources to the people of the state and are not giving them a square deal on these. He said he would appreciate if the Commission took this issue up as it will not impact the landowner with tags and what they can get for the first time is great, and as far as the non-resident guides they are abusing their privilege, and every hunter and sportsman in this state deserves to have a fair shot.

Commissioner Johnston said the State Engineer's Office issued a curtailment order of ground water in Smith and Mason Valley in light of the drought and cutting all supplemental ground water by 50 percent. He said that is a huge impact to the farmers of those two valleys, and is hoping at the March meeting for an update from the Department as to how that curtailment order will affect Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA), as he knows there are parts of the WMA under cultivation. He said he does not believe the curtailment order will affect the state's ability to pump their wells for wetlands area. He said in addition in discussion with the federal water master who oversees the Walker River system there is serious concern over what the flows may be on both the East and West and Main of Walker River given the situation of the Sierra Nevada's and just hopeful for an update from Department on how it will impact Mason Valley WMA and the Walker River system and if any action that could be taken.

Commissioner McNinch said if an agenda allows time he would like he bear video which was collaborated on by the Department and Washoe County Health District on trash management shown at a Commission meeting. Commissioner McNinch also said would mention that Chief Laura Richards of the Wildlife Diversity Division retired and wanted to acknowledge on the record all she did for the program over the years. He said she was tireless in her efforts for maintaining the program in a functional capacity handling everything from State Wildlife Grants to managing the falconry and commercial collection of reptiles. Wildlife Diversity is a huge program and wanted to put on the record that her efforts were very much appreciated and wish her the best of luck.

Chairman Drew said he too appreciated Laura Richards and her efforts and would echo Commissioner McNinch's comments which summed her efforts up very well. Also, he learned that Assemblywoman Debbie Smith had surgery yesterday which went well, and she has always been a friend of wildlife and has been receptive to our issues, and he wished her a speedy recovery.

- 15 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.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, thanked Biologist Mike Scott on behalf of the Lincoln CABMW for all of his work the last 20 years in his position as Big Game Biologist. He congratulated him and said they will miss him in their community.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said meetings were held a year ago with Barrick Gold Mine during the Commission's Public Lands Committee and he requested that an update be given at the next meeting or that the Commission's Public Lands Committee be convened to provide an update.

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

- A Commission Regulation 15 – 09, Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adoption of 2015 – 2016 and 2016 – 2017 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quotas. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

(8:25 a.m.)

Big Game Biologist Mike Cox said he would begin the 2015 and 2016 big game season recommendations with a review of last year's hunts using a series of tables and graphs comparing 2013 and 2014. He said there were the new cow elk management combination tags with deer hunts, Wilderness hunts in three different areas of the state where cow elk hunters were restricted to hunt only within the BLM and USFS Wilderness.

2015 and 2016 Big Game Season Justifications and Explanations

Pronghorn

- For Rifle Buck Hunt in Units 041, 042, go back to single early season to better accommodate adequate sample size for post-rut ground surveys.
- For Rifle Buck Hunt, recommend 205 - 208 and 211- 213 be placed back to the standard Aug 22 – Sept 5 season to see if hunter success would increase because bucks will be associated with doe groups and more visible than in small bachelor groups post rut.
- Eliminate units in northern Washoe County from muzzleloader hunts due to pronghorn dispersal in that country prior to late September which drastically reduces buck availability.
- Add two unit groups to nonresident archery hunt to comply with 90/10 residency split.
- For Hunt 2181, add 2 units in Elko and White Pine County where herds have expanded and are large enough to support sustainable doe hunting opportunities. Split the large Lander and Eureka County unit group 141 – 156 to have greater control of meeting doe harvest objectives in specific units and subherds.

Elk

- The pioneering elk herd in the Santa Rosa Range has grown large enough to support limited tag quota bull and cow elk rifle hunts.
- Have split bull rifle season for Spruce Mountain elk herd to spread out hunting pressure into two seasons with expected increase in tag quotas.
- Adjust Unit 091 interstate bull rifle season to coincide with Utah's dates.

- Continue the rotating weapon class rut bull hunt in Area 16/17 with rifle hunt in rut period in 2015 and back to muzzleloader hunt in the rut in 2016.
- With the elk herd In Units 241, 242 large enough to support their own hunt, split these units from Unit 231 to accommodate more elk harvest in Area 24.
- Shift bull muzzleloader and archery seasons on Spruce Mountain (Units 078, 105-107, 109) earlier to accommodate split rifle seasons to start in late October.
- Add Unit Group 076, 077, 079, 081 to nonresident bull muzzleloader hunt and Unit Group 078, 105-107, 109 to nonresident bull archery hunt to comply with 90/10 residency split.
- For spike bull hunts, eliminate archery hunt due to extremely low harvest and expand the spike bull rifle hunts to eastern Elko County (Units 076, 077, 079, 081).
- Minor shift in season dates for cow elk rifle hunts in 061, 071 and 062-068 Unit Groups to have early season end before deer rifle season opener and plans to reduce quota in middle season that overlaps with deer rifle season.
- Expand late cow elk rifle season for Units 066, 067 to include 062, 064, and 068 units and extend season to Jan. 31 to increase cow harvest in all units.
- Add late cow elk rifle season in December and early January for Unit Group 076,077,079,081 to increase harvest.
- Combine Units 221 and 222, 223 cow elk rifle middle and late seasons into a single long late season of Dec 5 – Jan 15 (including wilderness hunt) to allow more time for hunters to be successful not knowing when winter storms may restrict access or even enhance hunting conditions.
- Make the middle and late season cow elk rifle hunts for Unit 23 equal number of hunt days to provide more equitable hunting opportunity for both hunts.
- Add Unit 072 to wilderness cow elk rifle hunts to increase cow elk harvest.
- Add Unit 231 to nonresident cow elk rifle hunt to expand unit group choices for nonresidents.
- Shift cow muzzleloader and archery seasons on Spruce Mountain (Units 078, 105-107, 109) earlier to accommodate split bull elk rifle seasons and earlier bull muzzleloader and archery hunts.
- For the cow elk depredation hunt, add Units 091 and 113 to help reduce concerns over elk depredation on agricultural fields.
- Add Unit Groups 161-164 and 231 to all 3 weapon-class cow elk management hunts associated with deer hunts to increase cow harvest with no increase in hunters afield.
- Add rifle cow elk management hunt to late deer rifle season in Unit Group 221-223 to increase opportunity to harvest more cow elk.
- Eliminate cow elk management option for bull muzzleloader and bull archery hunts due to lack of hunter success.

Bighorn Sheep

- Adequate number of mature desert bighorn rams are available for hunt in Unit 195.
- Eliminate late desert bighorn season for Unit 184. No longer need split season with low quota; late season still difficult to hunt higher elevations.
- Split the South Hiko and South Pahroc Ranges from the Delamars in Unit 241 to focus desert bighorn hunters into the Delamar Range where ample mature rams exist.
- Normal season date adjustments for Units 252, 280, 281 and 282 to accommodate calendar shift and Nellis Test and Training Range operations.
- Restore nonresident desert bighorn hunt in Unit 262. Was concern over disease impacts to Unit 262 herd but 2014 hunt results confirmed adequate mature rams still exist.

- Add Unit 253 to desert bighorn ewe hunt to allow for herd size to be reduced to the current identified sustainable management level based primarily on seasonal water and forage limitations.
- For California bighorn hunts, add Units 041 and 066, where recent ground and aerial surveys have confirmed adequate mature rams for hunt.
- Add nonresident California bighorn hunt to Unit 031 to spread out nonresident hunters to additional unit where high quotas exist. In 2014, each of the 3 units open to nonresidents had 2 tags each.
- Open Rocky Mountain bighorn hunt in Unit 091 (Pilot Range/Leppy Hills) where we have been rotating a hunt with Utah every other year; single Utah hunter had tag in 2014.
- Consider the opportunity to replace existing PIW California Bighorn hunt with a Silver State California bighorn hunt that has longer season.

Mule Deer

- Junior hunt 1107, season ending dates were extended to accommodate Nevada Day weekend for 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and be consistent with calendar shift in the years ahead.
- 1101 Baker Ranch antlerless deer depredation hunt, we shifted season dates to accommodate a Saturday opener for the early season and be consistent with 2013-2014 recommended hunt dates.
- 1181 antlerless deer hunt in unit group 061-064; 066 -068, added a late season to spread out hunters and minimize congestion for 1331 antlered deer hunters.
- 1181 antlerless hunt in unit group 071-079, 091. A new antlerless deer hunt is proposed for this unit group. This hunt is intended to address recent trends in declining fawn production and other indications that this deer herd has reached or exceeded carrying capacity.
- 1181 antlerless deer hunt in unit group 043-046, recommended for continuation due to current trends in population size, fawn ratios, and persistent drought conditions. This hunt is very popular among sportsman and continues to have a high application to quota ratio and excellent hunter success rates.
- 1371 antlered deer muzzleloader in unit group 181-184. Shifted season dates to late season during the rut to increase opportunity for hunters and maximize hunter success. A low hunt quota is expected.

Biologist Cox said season recommendations were received from CABMWs and these seasons are being set for the next two years, 2015 – 2016 and 2016 and 2017. The Department changes to previous seasons are denoted in bold on the support material for agenda item #16 A.

2015 & 2016 COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD BIG GAME SEASON ADJUSTMENTS

Only Alternative Recommendations to Those Proposed by NDOW are Listed

Counties that forwarded recommendations to NDOW were: CC, CH, CL, DO, HU, LA, LI, LY, MI, NY, PE, ST, WA; (Elko County provided recommendations but didn't have a quorum)

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

HU: Remove unit 035 from unit group 032, 034, 035 and place into a separate season to allow for better control of harvest quotas. Other supporting reasons, 035 herd does not comingle with 032, 034 herds and to improve the class of bucks in 035.

PE: Would like to see the buck season split and to mirror the 033 hunts.

Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2251

HU: Remove unit 035 from unit group 032, 034, 035 and place unit 035 into a separate season (see reasons for above)

MI: Units 205-208 move to Aug 22 to Sept 5 same as 2151

PE: Would like to see the buck season split and to mirror the 033 hunts.

WA: Nonresident should match resident – antelope 205-208 and 211-213.

Resident Antelope – Horns Longer than ears – Muzzleloader Hunt 2171

MI: Add muzzleloader season in Units Area 205-208. Same dates Sept 25 to Oct 4 in both 15-16 and 16-17 years.

NY: Would like to add Units 161-162, 171-173, and 251 to the muzzleloader hunt 2171.

Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Longbow Archery Hunt 2161

HU: Remove unit 035 from unit group 032, 034, 035 and place into a separate season to allow for better control of harvest quotas. Other supporting reasons, 035 herd does not comeingle with 032, 034 herds and to improve the class of bucks in 035.

Nonresident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Longbow Archery Hunt 2261

HU: Remove unit 035 from unit group 032, 034, 035 and place unit 035 into a separate season (see reasons for above)

PE: Do away with this hunt.

WA: Nonresident should match resident – antelope 205-208 and 211-213.

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

HU: Remove unit 035 from unit group 032, 034, 035 and place into a separate season to allow for better control of harvest quotas. Other supporting reasons, 035 herd does not comeingle with 032, 034 herds and to improve the class of bucks in 035.

PE: Do away with this hunt.

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151

LA: Only have a depredation hunt in Unit 051 until there is an Elk Management Plan established with actual herd numbers.

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

Resident Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 4156

Nonresident Elk - Antlered - Muzzleloader Hunt 4256

Resident Elk – Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 4161

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 4261

Resident Elk – Spike – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651

Resident elk Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

LA: Only have a depredation hunt in Unit 051 until there is an Elk Management Plan established with actual herd numbers. Cut back the antlerless elk season dates to December 15 in areas 062-064 and 066-068 late hunts.

LI: Late season to end on January 3 for Units 221 Late; 222, 223 Late; 231 Late; and 241, 242 Late. For Unit 231 Mid, season should go December 5 to 17. For Unit 231 Late, season should go December 18 to January 3.

PE: Do away with hunt in 051.

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

LI: Late season to end on January 3 for Unit 222 Late.

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281

LI: For Unit 231 Mid, season should go December 5 to 17. For Unit 231 Late, season should go December 18 to January 3.

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Longbow Archery Hunt 4111

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 For Hunt 1331

LI: Eliminate Unit 221-223 Late hunt.

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management – Muzzleloader Hunt 4476 For Hunt 1371

CC: Hunt 4476, that the ELK portion of the DELK tags open 3 days after hunt 4176 not 7 days prior to.

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management – Longbow Hunt 4411 For Hunt 1341

Resident Elk – Antlerless Elk Management – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4481 For Hunt 4151

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

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

NY: Add unit 212E and 212L to the Nonresident Nelson Hunt 3251.

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

PE: Drop unit 253.

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

LY: CAB members had questions on area 041 which had an excellent sheep population. They would like further information as to where the population came from, predator information and population of sheep.

PE: Recommend to combine units 066 and 068.

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

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

PE: No hunt.

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

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

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

HU: Extend season in units 051, 031, 032, 034 and 035 to November 5.

LI: Recommend season to end on Nevada holiday Weekend, (Sunday) for Units 221-223, 231 and 241-245. For 2015, it would be November 1. For 2016, it would be October 31.

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

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless – any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

HU: Remove season from unit group 043-046.

PE: No hunt.

Restricted Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1235

HU: Extend season in units 051, 031, 032, 034 and 035 to November 5. Accept all other seasons.

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

CL: Units 221-223 Late to 11/1 – 11/15 and propose a Unit 231 Late hunt 11/1 – 11/15.

HU: Extend season in units 051, 031, 032, 034 and 035 to November 5.

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer – Antlered – Longbow Archery Hunt 1341

HU: Extend season in unit group 101-109 Late to November 30. Accept all other seasons.

2015 & 2016 Antlerless Elk Landowner Hunts

2015 Mountain Lion Harvest Limits, Open Units and Hunting Hours, 15-10

LI: Recommend moving back to Area Specific Management and Harvest Limits instead of Unit Groupings. Recommend harvest limits of the following: Area 22 a limit of 8; Area 23 a limit of 6; and Area 24 a limit of 6.

Resident and Nonresident Black Bear – Either Sex – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 6151 and 6251 CR15-11

2015 Silver State and Partnership in Wildlife Tags, CR15-06

HU: Change language in Unit Group description for Hunt 8000 to “Any management unit where there is an open season for California Bighorn except for Unit 041 or where the previous year harvest for Partnership in Wildlife tag Hunt 8000 occurred”.

2015 Dream Tags, CR 15-07

HU: Change language in Unit Group description for Hunt 8500 to “Any management unit where there is an open season for California Bighorn except for Unit 041 or where the previous year harvest for Dream Tag Hunt 8500 occurred”.

2016 Wildlife Heritage Tags, CR 15-08

HU: Change language in “Special Regulations for Each Tag” line 4. To “The successful bidder for each tag type may hunt statewide in units where a season is established by Commission for that species except those areas closed to hunting in NAC 504.340, units for Nelson (desert) Bighorn Sheep where the

previous year harvest for the Heritage Nelson (desert) Bighorn Sheep hunt occurred, California Bighorn Sheep unit 041 and units for California Bighorn Sheep where the previous year harvest for the Heritage California bighorn Sheep hunt occurred.”

PE: Recommend to see the Heritage hunt included for 2016 hunt in 041.

Other Recommendations

CL: No elk season to extend beyond December 31. Would like NDOW to prepare and present to the Commission information on harvest and success in reducing cow elk numbers using the current DELK, BELK, and extended hunt seasons. Commission should consider over-the-counter elk tag opportunities in specific management units where numbers are not coming down in order to increase harvest and meet management objectives.

CL: Hunt 1331 to have 2 potential trophy hunts established with very restricted quotas.

LY: CAB received complaints regarding congestion in area 6 during the early hunt. CAB would like the department to look at alternatives to relieving congestion in this area. Perhaps set up week at a time hunts or other creative ways to eliminate over-crowding.

Antelope Hunt 2151/2251 horns longer than ears

Chairman Drew noted for the 2015 – 2016 season, the season ends on Sept. 5 which is the Saturday of a three day weekend, Labor Day holiday, and he requested if no concern that the season end on Sept. 7 for a full weekend.

Commissioner Layne said previously the Commission was given information on what last year's season were as it was helpful.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said in the 041 hunt it was combined season and then split and now back to single season, and there are a ton of tags in that unit and with one season there will be hunter congestion. He said the herd is huge but they are congested in areas where the water is, and they would like the season back to where it is split and to mirror 033, Aug. 22 – Aug. 28, and Aug. 29 – Sept. 7.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said they are asking to remove Unit 035 from Units 032, 034, 035, and place into a separate season to allow for better control of harvest quotas. The herd does not intermingle with 032 and 034, and the Department did not seem to have a problem with that.

Biologist Cox said the Department is fine with Pershing CABMW recommendation to split the season and have two separate openers. He said for Humboldt and breaking out 035 from the large unit and there was concern with buck quality and horn length data shows it is lower in 035 compared to 032 and 034, although the harvest was almost equal. He said he is fine with their recommendation for buck quality.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE HUNTS 2151 AND 2251, HORNS LONGER THAN EARS AS PROPOSED WITH FOLLOWING CHANGES, THAT UNIT 035 BE SEPARATE FROM UNITS 032 AND 034; 041 AND 042 UNITS BE SPLIT INTO TWO HUNTS WITH DATES OF AUG. 22 TO AUG. 28, AND AUG. 29 TO SEPT. 5, AND THAT ALL SEASON DATES WITH ENDING DATE OF SEPT. 5 BE EXTENDED TO SEPT. 7 FOR BOTH YEARS, AND INCLUDE TYPOGRAPHICAL CHANGE ON PAGE 2 FOR UNIT GROUPS 205 - 208. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 9:08 A.M.

Antelope Horns Longer than Ears - Muzzleloader/Longbow Archery Hunt 2171/2161/2261

Biologist Cox said the Department did propose to eliminate muzzleloader hunts in northern Washoe County units because of dispersal and hunter opportunity being impacted due to limited number of pronghorns in the area. Mineral and Nye CABMW had alternative recommendation to add muzzleloader hunts, and same recommendation from Humboldt CABMW to split out 035.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they were disappointed that the muzzleloader hunts were eliminated from Washoe County and knows there is dispersal and people know success is low but they want to get out. He asked that those hunts be placed back in there for next two years.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said he has the same for the rest of the hunts that once we split the season, we need to split the seasons for the rest of the unit group.

Biologist Cox addressed the Washoe CABMW concern and said White Pine CABMW first requested muzzleloader antelope hunts and he was surprised that there was not more interest in the hunt as the dates selected had an end of September season date, which is post rut hunt which still provided opportunity to maintain doe hunts in middle of September. In northern Washoe pronghorn move off their winter range early and or water dries up. For most of state it is pretty good time of year, and in looking at application numbers, between rifle and muzzleloader. We have over 12,000 residents applying for rifle, and statewide muzzleloader applicants were 120. He said he wishes there was more interest, and have nothing against the muzzleloader season, but disparity in pool of applicants. He said some biologists want to do ground surveys and they don't want to disturb hunters on the ground.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 2171 AS PRESENTED WITH FOLLOWING ADDITIONS, THAT THERE BE A HUNT IN 011, SEPARATE HUNT 012 - 014, SEPARATE HUNT 015, SEPARATE HUNT 021 – 022, SEPARATE HUNT 033 WITH SEASON DATE OF SEPT. 25 – OCT. 4. MOTION ALSO INCLUDES APPROVAL OF RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 2161 AS PRESENTED WITH EXCEPTION THAT UNIT 035 BE SEPARATE HUNT FROM UNITS 032 AND 034, AND THAT WE MOVE TO APPROVE NON-RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 2261 AS PRESENTED WITH MODIFICATION THAT 035 BE A SEPARATE HUNT FROM 032 AND 034. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. MOTION PASSED 8 – 1. COMMISSIONER LAYNE OPPOSED.

Resident Antelope Hunt 2181 – Horns Shorter than Ears

Biologist Cox said a few more seasons were added in Areas 7, 10, and 12, and split the very large unit group in northern central Nevada, that included Eureka, Lander, and parts of Nye Counties, to focus doe harvest in particular mountain ranges that are somewhat separate, changes denoted in bold on support material for #16 A.

Chairman Drew asked if doe hunt start dates should be moved back to Sept. 9 due to date change to of Sept. 7 for antelope buck hunts.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they are opposed to doe hunts in 041 and 042.

Commissioner Bliss asked staff if the doe population is at such a level that a doe hunt is necessary.

Biologist Cox said that is one of the larger antelope herds and are concerned with habitat conditions, and with drought recommends continuing with female harvest.

Commissioner Johnston said with the drought condition issue the season could be adopted and at the quota meeting address the number of tags.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS SHORTER THAN EARS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THAT ALL UNIT GROUPS START DATE IS SEPT. 8, FOR 2015 – 2016, AND 2016 AND 2017, EXCULDING 114, 115 THE BAKER RANCH WHICH WOULD REMAIN THE SAME - SEPT. 12 – 18 AND SEPT. 10 - 16. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION TO AMEND THE MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON TO SPLIT OUT UNIT 035 FROM 032 AND 034, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE AMENDMENT. VOTE ON AMENDMENT: UNANIMOUS VOTE. MAIN MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.

Resident Elk Antlered Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

Biologist Cox said same as last year.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said his board voted to end the season before January, as they don't want any seasons carried into January. He said Mr. Cox gave the Department briefing at the beginning as to why the Department wants seasons into January, but thinks there are other options. He said when the Commission discussed shed antler collection there was a concern with having people in the field just collecting shed and pushing animals, and for warm years not probably a big deal but in a cold year the herd will be impacted dramatically, and will only take one cold year. He said his perspective is there are other options to increase elk harvest such over the counter tags, and Clark CABMW will object to any date that goes beyond Dec. 31.

Commissioner Bliss said in regard to Jan. 15 season end date that he has same concern as CABMWs and Mr. Dixon. As far as depredation hunt the hunts are starting Oct. 1 and to end on Dec. 31 is plenty of time for that hunt, and he will have that concern throughout today's season setting dates.

Commissioner Layne agreed and will not support hunts that go beyond Dec. 31.

Commissioner Mori said his perspective on the elk hunt, is that we are talking of a species that is prolific, and that elk are different than other species and the Department has made agreements on elk, and we have seen what has happened. He said he commends the Department for providing solutions to counteract that, and deal with the growth of elk herds. For the first time as reported earlier we have seen a plateau in population estimates and may not be statewide and will use Area 6 as an example, over the past six years we have seen those

populations escalate and with what the Department is doing and taking a proactive approach with new hunts such as in Unit 051, that shows him they are committed to getting a handle on it and does not want the Commission to step in front of that and he will be supporting the January hunts, and he understands the other issues that are associated with this. In his mind he prioritized what we need to do and this is at the top of what we need to do to accomplish our goals.

Commissioner Valentine said he does not disagree with Commissioner Mori and maybe possibly shorten the January hunt and asked if a large number of hunters in the field much beyond that first of January date.

Biologist Cox answered data is received but do not know what dates they hunt, and there were probably successful and unsuccessful hunters. Maybe carry date past New Year as a compromise.

Commissioner Bliss said in response to Commissioner Mori that he does understand fully what we are up against in harvesting elk and as Mike presented to us earlier there was good success in the September hunt, but we have a landowner voucher program that could be utilized to remove the same or more than the 113 elk removed in those two weeks of January. He said he is not against goal of what agreed to in plans, and he just has a hard time with January.

Commissioner Wallace said he supports the Department, previous comment...system feedback occurred. (9:49 a.m.)

Commissioner Johnston said he looked up last year's hunts and the quotas for the late hunt, and thinks the concern about a large disturbance in the area when the hunt runs from Oct. 1 in one area and Nov.1, he thinks that we can continue into the two weeks in January because not that many people out there and understands the concerns but when you see tag and quota numbers and the length of the late season when they start that you can have two weeks in January.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4102 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND BLISS OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2.

Elk – Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151/4251

Biologist Mike Scott said the Department is proposing to start a new elk hunt in Unit 051 for bulls and later cow elk in Humboldt County, and as informed yesterday the elk planning process is starting, and to show the livestock industry that we are ahead of the game and start hunting elk now so we don't have landowner problems later.

Commissioner Bliss asked what the population estimate is.

Biologist Scott said we don't actually have a population estimate and plan to do an aerial survey and the population model is being developed and a ballpark guess is about 100 elk.

Biologist Cox said other changes are shifting 065 out of the rut, and put more tags in there; had a split bull rifle season there due to increase of tags on Spruce Mountain; continue to go with the flow with Utah on Pilot Peak with same dates; we have rotating bull rut hunt in Central Nevada, so this year the 2015 season will be rifle hunter opportunity, and will switch back to muzzleloader, than in two years archery; and we split out Area 24 from 23 and need to focus hunters in there.

Chairman Drew suggested putting a footnote on Unit 51 if approved by the Commission, so that the application can denote what is being done with that hunt while developing a management plan. The language could read: This is a new hunt intended to manage a recently established pioneering elk herd while long-term management plan is developed. He also heard suggestion that it be a depredation hunt instead of keeping it in Hunt 4151, but it did not seem like appropriate place for depredation hunt.

Biologist Cox said connotation with depredation hunt is that the elk are unwanted and that has not been deemed yet, and would rather not designate the hunt as such.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said he is impressed with beginning of process and will get us ahead which will make the elk planning process easier instead of waiting until we have a problem then making a elk plan to solve the problems. He said sportsmen and landowners are talking and as far as depredation side, it looks like we will have elk population in Santa Rosas and thinks the plan will be done for all of Humboldt County and get other units in line. He said his allotment has been affected by the elk and has been watching the elk, and said there may be major problems with the plan as Humboldt County has a large agriculture industry, and setting a season will eliminate some concerns.

Commissioner Mori said Elko CABMW did not have a quorum and are not represented at this meeting, but he has been contacted over concern with losing rifle rut hunt in 065 and he spoke to Biologist Ken Gray about it before the meeting and was told the Department is looking at changing the quota and ramping it up in that unit and that is why they proposed to take the rut hunt out of that, and with that in mind, not sure if Elko people understood that and asking to maintain that 065 at this time until that happens down the road, and is proposing a date change 065 to Sept. 17 – Sept. 30

Biologist Gray said the Department would be okay with that for now with the idea that 065 is relatively small mountain range and when tags ramp up there will be concern with high end bulls being shot out and no incentive tags, and could support a rut hunt for another year or two, and to maintain quality that hunters expect will have to go back to October hunt.

Chairman Drew said the rotation hunt was brought up at Washoe CABMW that the thought was originally two-year rotation basis and if remembers right there was a lapse and switched it to one year, and asked if that is correct.

Biologist Cox said it has been presented as a three year rotation to accommodate all three weapon classes and are consistent with intent of rotation.

CHAIRMAN DREW MOVED TO APPROVE ELK ANTLERED HUNTS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151 AND COMPANION HUNT 4251 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 051 ADD FOOTNOTE THAT READS THIS IS A NEW

HUNT INTENDED TO MANAGE A RECENTLY ESTABLISHED PIONEERING ELK HERD WHILE A LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN IS DEVELOPED. THE ONLY OTHER CHANGE WOULD BE TO MOVE SEASON DATES FOR BOTH HUNT YEARS IN 065 TO SEPT. 17 – SEPT. 30. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Elk Antlered Muzzleloader Hunts 4156/4256

Biologist Cox said with shift in split season on Spruce Mountain we shifted most of the other seasons including muzzleloader and archery and the rotation into Central Nevada for the muzzleloader hunt in Areas 16 and 17 in two years and again will be consistent in pulling in 241 and 242 out from 231 for all bull hunts.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE 2015 AND 2016 SEASON DATES AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4156 AND NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4256. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Elk Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 4161/4261

Biologist Cox said for archery hunts the Spruce Mountain shift to early September to accommodate a muzzleloader and rifle hunts, and split season, Area 16 archery season will be consistent for both years in early September and splitting out Area 24.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE FOR 2015 – 2016 AND 2016 AND 2017 SEASONS RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED LONGBOWN ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AND NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4261 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MA 3 Hullinger advised the Commission that there has been a language change from “longbow” to change to “bow” for the item description.

Chairman Drew said would it be clearer if it stated “bow archery hunt” or simply “archery hunt.”

MA 3 Hullinger said she believes it is “bow” but will check with Law Enforcement.

Chairman Drew said the Commission can do that as a universal change before closing the agenda item.

Resident Elk – Spike – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651

Chairman Drew received detailed email from spike hunter in Area 6 this year and challenges they experience and will pass the email message onto the Department and there were concerns with harvesting a spike amongst large group of cows, and the person had concern with identifying spikes because they weren't spikes as they small branches at the end of their antler. He said there needs to be clean-up language or definitions for the future.

Biologist Cox said he has discussed with Law Enforcement and there is good alternative definition the will likely be implemented this summer in conjunction with law enforcement.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEASON DATES FOR RESIDENT ELK SPIKE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4651 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioners Layne and Bliss restated their concern with hunts ending in January.

Biologist Gray said in western Elko County units requesting to go to end of January, and one reason is that Department met with Cattleman's Association and some of the ranchers out there thought they would be more effective in killing cows in unit group if it was a later date, and two or three years ago had major depredation issue and had emergency hunt and since the cow elk hunt has been implemented in January, those problems totally disappeared which ended need for depredation hunt.

Commissioner Bliss said the voucher program was put in place and ranch and agreed with ranchers that extended date will help reduce those numbers, and he agrees with that, but would also be helpful if the voucher program were utilized, and with elk on private property and if hunted during the right time they could push elk off private property on public land and vice versa and we would have more success. He said that is his hang-up on the January hunts and thinks we can get to common goal in different way and not hunt elk in January.

Biologist Cox said he has been reminded that if Commission does approve hunt through Jan. 31 that we will need a footnote to extend the return card questionnaire deadline to Feb. 8.

COMMISSIONERS JOHNSTON AND MORI AGREED TO INCORPORATE FOOTNOTE INTO MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND BLISS OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2.

Elk Antlerless Hunts 4181/4281 and Wilderness Hunt 4181

Biologist Cox provided the changes: Cow season with small quota added for 051; shifted seasons slightly in early October for 061, 067, Mid; combined the 66 and 67 into the entire Unit group of 062 – 068 Late; added late season for 076 – 081 in October and now will have Early, Mid, and Late season; typo for 078 should be Sept. 21 – Oct. 4 for both years to accommodate shifts in bull season; shifted the 221 season to even up and is a single season in 221 Late instead of two split seasons; Area 23 seasons' length equalized; split out to focus cow harvest in Area 24 away from Unit 231; Wilderness Hunts added with Early and Late hunts in Jarbidge Wilderness; 222 hunt was two seasons and combined in one Late Wilderness hunt for Mt. Grafton.

Chairman Drew asked question about 072 Early and Late season, that will run 10 days in length and the 10th is a Saturday and the 11th is a Sunday, and with that date ending and being in Wilderness with season ending Saturday, might have some heartburn, and why that was split that versus one single long season on 222.

Biologist Cox said he himself hunts Wilderness Areas and uses the Sunday to carry the meat out, and Chairman Drew's point is good on the split and believes that would be good knowing the hunter will be in for five days.

Chairman Drew asked if anything to address on nonresident antlerless hunts.

Biologist Cox said they did add a few more hunts and share cow elk with nonresidents in Unit 231.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said the CABMW voted on all the Late cow hunts to end Jan. 3, and they wanted to split those hunts similar to last year which would give the first Mid hunters a couple of weeks. Late season to end Jan. 3 for Units 221 Late; 222, 223 Late; 231 Late; and 241, 242 Late. For Unit 231 Mid, season should go Dec. 5 to 17. For Unit 231 Late, season should go to Dec. 18 to Jan. 3.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said he supported extended harvest and Department recommendations are appropriate to get there. He has been on numerous committees for elk planning and sportsmen gained confidence of Central Nevada ranching interests and many of the fears out of Humboldt County are similar. Years of extreme drought rangelands are under extreme pressure, and over-utilization by elk, need to control elk within population objectives.

Chairman Drew said this may be easier to have two motions with one on 4181/4281 and one to split wilderness out, and the only other comment on 051 is to add footnote similar to antlered hunt Unit 51 and extending hunter return questionnaire to Feb. 8.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: A FOOTNOTE FOR 051 THAT WAS DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY WITH CHAIRMAN DREW'S WORDING; A FOOTNOTE ON 062, 064, 066 – 068 LATE TO EXTEND RETURN CARD DEADLINE TO FEB. 8; FOR 078, 105 – 107, 109, UNIT GROUP THE DATES TO CORRECT A TYPO FROM OCT. 1 – OCT. 20 TO SEPT. 21 TO OCT. 4, AND FOR THE COMPANION HUNT THE NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4281 TO ALSO INCLUDE THE FOOTNOTE FOR JAN. 31 CLOSING FOR THE EXTENDED RETURN CARD PERIOD. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Mori said he has no question as to sincerity and knowledge of comments received on shortening these hunts as Cory Lytle mentioned to Jan. 3 and understands reason; however for these hunts will be supporting Department recommendations.

Chairman Drew said he appreciates the time they took to look through this and explain it, and is comfortable with all recommendations, and having dialogue with the Department.

Commissioner Bliss said it bothers him to vote no as he agrees with 99 percent of what we are doing and understands elk situation just has hard time with hunting elk in January and hopes everyone understands that he is not just the "no" person on the Commission

Commissioner Johnston said he agreed with Commissioner Mori and Chairman Drew's comments and has already taken position and wants to maintain consistency, and he hears the concerns, just does not think it will be as big of an issue with season dates and number of tags.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND BLISS OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2.

Resident Elk Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181 Wilderness Only Hunts

CHAIRMAN DREW MOVED TO APPROVE 4181 WILDERNESS HUNT WITH ONE CHANGE: THAT CHANGE WOULD BE A SINGLE SEASON FOR 072 THAT WOULD RUN OCT. 1 – OCT. 20 FOR BOTH SEASONS. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND BLISS OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2.

Resident Elk Hunt Muzzleloader and Archery Hunts 4176/4111

COMMISSIONERS JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4176 AND RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 4111 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Hunt 4107 Resident Elk Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt

Biologist Cox provided Department recommendations: Attempting to accommodate Utah Division of Wildlife Resources with a cow elk removal on Utah side, for Pilot Peak 091, but they were not able to accommodate a similar season and are requesting to eliminate the recommended seasons for 091, and to add season for 113 that we have not had in the past to put pressure on elk and instead of four seasons for Unit 121, we are going to have three and combine the third and fourth into a third season, Oct. 1 – Jan. 31 for Unit 121.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4107 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: REMOVING THREE 091 HUNT CHOICES; ADD A FOOTNOTE 121 THIRD SEASON EXTEND RETURN CARD DEADLINE TO FEB. 8. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, VALENTINE AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND BLISS OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2.

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

CABMW and Public Comment - None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481 OPTION FOR ANTLERED ELK HUNT 4151AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151 and 3251

Biologist Cox reviewed changes, recommendation to take out Unit 195, from last year and will continue to work with landowners to get stipulations figured out. For Units 223, 241, which is the Delamars, Pahrocs and Hiko, that staff are recommending to focus hunters into the Delamars, and unfortunately 241 involves multiple mountain ranges so there is a footnote describing the

boundary separating the Delamars from the South Pahrocs and the Hikos. The other bolded dates are shifting the dates to accommodate Nellis NTTR dates that start on a weekend during their open periods. For nonresident hunt the Spring Mountains were returned to the nonresident hunt – Unit 262.

Chairman Drew said appreciated the Department pulling back recommendation on 195, and his expectation in the future is to put a note in the regulation that spells out exactly what the tag holder needs to do similar to Stonewall Mountain.

CABMW Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3151 AS PRESENTED BY DEPARTMENT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF REMOVING 195 AND ALSO MOVE TO APPROVE NONRESIDENT NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM AND LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3251 AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Biologist Cox said recommending to add Unit 253, the Bare Mountains, we have utilizing that herd as source stock and herd continues to do well, and herd is in question with pathogens, and hedging bets if we can't use as source stock, really need to thin it out. He said there is an invisible pipeline on the landscape that connects Bares with Nellis TTR, and Air Force has contractor that conducts surveys on the bombing range and actually classified over 400 bighorns on the bombing range and that herd is really building as is the case on the old Nevada Test Site. He said biologists have always known that we can't be harvesting the mature rams on the Bare Mountains with only the Bare Mountain population generating those rams as not a closed population, which will continue.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3181 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

California Bighorn Sheep Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunts 8151/8251

Biologist Cox said many years since the Schwabes and the Selenites in 041 available for sheep hunting and will open that up again, and recommending to have that hunt. Documentation of mature rams and probably will recommend a quota of one tag. Also, the Snowstorms that experienced the die-off in 2011 have mature rams and likely not a sustainable hunt but will take advantage of them and that is Unit 066, and to spread the wealth have added 031 for nonresidents as has largest quotas.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said he has concerns about the 031 tag and where will that come from, as the unit has two, and hearing from residents and knows about the 10 percent cap comes from whole population but 32 and 34 though they are coming in and people will ask why there are two resident tags and not just one, and suggested splitting instead of doubling up.

Biologist Cox said no discussion was had on quota management and would agree that if interest in adding a unit, it could be done. He said he does not foresee a drop in quotas and did have two tags in all three of those units for nonresidents last year. He said the normal process is to look at units with larger quotas and typically identify those for nonresident hunts but not always.

Chairman Drew asked what would be the unit with the next highest quota.

Biologist Cox said 012 is next highest, but challenge last year, and you have 014 and 068 which both had five tags last year.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said speaking for himself thought there was a push for Sheldon to have nonresident tag because it is a National Wildlife Refuge and wants to make sure he heard the Sheldon guys right.

Biologist Cox said there was a nonresident tag and had concerns with what was happening with sub-herds on Sheldon and have not figured out the reduction in bighorn numbers, and is down to two tags and understands with it being a National Wildlife Refuge that it would be reasonable to have a nonresident and wishes we had more sheep.

Commissioner McNinch said Pershing CABMW wanted to combine 066 and 068.

Biologist Cox said they would request not to as so few rams in Snowstorms and can't tell and can encourage people but when combined unit group they can go wherever they want and want to split that hunting pressure out.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNTS 8151 AND NONRESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8251 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident California Bighorn Sheep Any Ewe Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8181

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8181 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Biologist Cox said the Department has more information on contact here 074 and Biologist Ken Gray will address that and interstate hunt with Utah for Pilot Peak.

Biologist Ken Gray said during the Predator Plan presentation you saw the 074 project and in preparation for that project we expended time doing surveys to establish baseline for future predator projects and to put two collars on two ewes, and plan to collar four more animals this year. Two of the collared ewes have died and believe we have active disease situation going on, and collar crew only observed seven bighorn sheep so with belief that disease activity still going on he does not want to be in position of closing hunt after people have applied and Department recommendation is to eliminate Unit 074, and 091 is known to have rams now and is shared hunt with Utah and will evaluate it next year and running out of rams.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 9151 AS PROPOSED WITH CHANGE THAT PROPOSED HUNT FOR UNIT 074 BE DELETED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

Biologist Gray said a reduction in Unit 101 as kid production is extremely low and 102 is up ticking but have not had good survey conditions, and would guess 10 to 11 tags, at least eight.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE HUNT RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT – ANY GOAT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7151 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Biologist Cody Schroeder said the Department reviewed the dates and ending the season on Nov. 2 provides consistency and accommodates the Nevada Day holiday. Realizing it does fluctuate into the week with the calendar shift.

Commissioner Young asked why the youth hunt overlapping the trophy hunt seasons such as the late hunt for 222 and could that be shortened if someone is lucky to draw one of those tags as he was up there and it was pandemonium on the road with the youth hunting at the same time.

Biologist Schroeder said the rationale is to be consistent throughout the units, and to allow the junior hunters to have trophy opportunity as well.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said they want to standardize and would extend season in Units 051, 031, 032, 34 and 035, to Nov. 5 to give short period of time when deer start moving.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said they recommend the season to end on Nevada holiday weekend as in the past for Units 221 – 223, 231, and 241 – 245. For 2015, Nov. 1, for 2016 it would be Oct. 31.

Motion made accepting Humboldt CABMW recommendations and withdrawn (11:45 a.m.) after further discussion of Humboldt and Lincoln CABMW recommendations.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER HUNT 1107 – ANTLERED – OR ANTLERLESS – LONGBOW ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER, OR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1107 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS UNIT 031, 032, 034, 035, AND 051 NOV. 2 TO NOV. 5; UNITS 221 – 223, 231, 241 – 245 TO END NOV. 1, 2015, AND NOV. 2, 2016 TO BE CHANGED TO OCT. 31, 2016. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 1101

Biologist Schroeder said dates shifted to provide Saturday opener for early season and consistency with previous years. MA 3 Hullinger said that the special regulations can be struck.

Chairman Drew noted that the 2016 – 2017 dates are ending on a Saturday. Biologist Schroeder answered that he is not sure and kept it the same.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 1101 AS PROPOSED EXCEPT TO REMOVE NOTATION UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS. MOTION SECONDED AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident Mule Deer Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

Biologist Schroeder said the Eastern Region staff decided to split the Area 6 doe hunt, the Early and Late, to spread out the hunting pressure. Recommendation to add season to Area 7 as recent surveys indicate density dependence and reached carrying capacity limits.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, said they oppose this doe hunt in 043 – 046 because recruitment in the unit has been down for a while and this winter with rains and greening up they think it is a chance to get population come back and oppose the hunt for that reason.

Cody Schroeder said in response that Commissioner Layne passed out the drought monitor and the area is in persistent drought and appreciates Pershing CABMW perspective on the low recruitment rate, that is the exact reason to recommend the hunt as classic density dependency theory denotes that when you have population increasing you start to see reduced production and those are signs we look for to recommend a hunt. The risk of allowing the herd to grow unsustainably is they reduce their own carrying capacity with over-utilizing the range, the Department recommends continuation of the hunt.

Commissioner McNinch said really is counter intuitive to remove does and discussion of doe hunt has long history and this is critical management and is last resort, not taken lightly.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1181AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Restricted Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1235

No Department changes recommended for Hunt 1235.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said all the junior hunts go to the fifth, may need the other end dates need to be changed, and he would like 022 moved to Nov. 5 to keep in line with the 013 Late, and 014 Late, at least for Washoe County.

Biologist Cox said we should try not to have resident adult hunts and youth hunts end on different date, the 022 junior hunt is Nov. 2, and if we have difference the kids have to stop. The Department has wanted consistency and Lincoln CABMW has been consistent in keeping adults from extending past Oct.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, speaking for himself, said in particular 221 – 222 we have had lots of challenge and three years ago we implemented the three season structure to try and see if we could help the mule deer hunters out and the people who apply for the late hunt in 221 – 223, that is a very nice trophy hunt and wants to give those guys that week and they want to stay consistent with recommendations. He said you will see it again when they want to eliminate it with the delk hunt too, and for 231 they do not support Clark CABMW recommendation as do not want it extending it into November.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESTRICTED NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1235 WITH FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS: UNIT 031, 032, 034, 035, AND 051 TO END ON NOV. 5 INSTEAD OF NOV. 2; AND FOR UNIT GROUP 241 – 245 FOR 2015 TO END ON NOV. 1 INSTEAD OF NOV. 2 AND FOR 2016 END ON OCT. 31 INSTEAD OF NOV. 2. MOTION SECONDED.

Commissioner Johnston said with 031 through 035 and 051 are we just doing the for consistency purposes because he understands what Humboldt County wanted for the junior hunt and does not see how that rationale applies to a nonresident guided hunt.

Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW, said it is not just consistency it also gives the deer some movement as 051 is a tough unit, and allows higher success rate with harvest.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Biologist Schroeder said no changes recommended from Department only recommendations from Humboldt and Clark CABMW.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said he understands there are a lot of landowner tags up there and Clark CABMW proposed concept that starting a trophy unit and restrict number of tags and set up and if you look at where people want to hunt is the Late hunt in 221 – 223 Late or the 231 Late because trophies and because landowners have tags, they don't think the general population should be restricted from having that opportunity. He said their recommendation was for restricted trophy area.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, speaking for himself said landowner tag system is not perfect and does work and is effective. Right now system is set up for landowner to sell tags for open unit, whether it is called trophy hunt or whatever, it is still a open unit hunt so all those tags will hunt that late hunt. He said they will never support a Late split season in Unit 23 because of that as they are hard to draw. He said he personally has seen the rut in November and there is myriad of reasons for the season date structure as they worked this for years.

Chairman Drew said same recommendation from Humboldt CABMW.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331 AS PROPOSED WITH FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS UNIT 031, 032, 034, 035, AND 051 TO END NOV. 5 INSTEAD OF NOV. 2; UNIT GROUP 241 – 245 END NOV. 1 2015, INSTEAD OF NOV. 2 FOR 2015 AND ENDING OCT. 31, 2016, RATHER THAN NOV. 2 IN 2016. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

Biologist Schroeder said only change was Unit 181 – 184 which shifted later in the rut to increase hunter success.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1371 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Longbow Archery Hunt 1341

No Department recommendations for change.

Commissioner Mori said Elko CABMW contacted him and on Units 101 – 109 Late, and he asked for clarification on the Department recommendation.

Biologist Schroeder said the Department is not in favor of extending the season because of need for surveying mule deer during that time and extending the season would impact that. Also extends pressure on deer especially for Area 10 and want to minimize pressure on deer.

Chairman Drew said another CABMW had recommended to extend the season, and Commissioner Mori is referencing that some are suggesting elimination of the hunt.

Biologist Schroeder said he knows the area biologist is not in favor of the hunt, and with Elko CABMW not having a quorum and apparently there are members of the public in support, the Department would be neutral at this time, and possibly eliminate it in the future.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNT 1341 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2015 and 2016 Antlerless Elk Landowner Hunt

Biologist Cox said they requested a change to extend the potential open season of this hunt to June 30.

Chairman Drew said this would make it year round.

Biologist Ken Gray said the Department does not anticipate using the dates from February 28 to June 30, but if we had to it is there. The whole purpose of the program is to solve problems in a timely matter and would allow a tool in the box.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE 2015 AND 2016 ANTLERLESS ELK LANDOWNER HUNTS AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

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

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

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

Chairman Drew said the three elk hunts are on the table for discussion - Hunts 4481, 4476, and 4411.

Biologist Cox said changes will be in Humboldt County and did not change three seasons in Area 22 for rifle, and 231 stayed the same. He said we did have recommended cow management hunts in Area 16 and good tool to implement and also in Late season for Area 22, Early and Mid season and added for rifle the third late season, did not add Area 22 to muzzleloader or archery.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said they recommended to change 4476 of the elk portion open three days later not seven days prior to it. He suggested that when quotas come in, that cow quotas be brought back to 2013 baseline and not given to elk hunters because they are focused on cow hunting and will be more successful.

MA 3 Hullinger said the program for the combo hunts was programmed to match deer tag and would take programming.

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said they realize this is a opt in for those who draw deer tag and for Late 22 hunt they recommend elimination of elk option to allow mule deer hunters to be alone in the field.

Commissioner Johnston said the idea was to put the cow elk tag in the back pocket of the deer hunter to not add to hunter congestion, and thinks that is why the season is the way they are and are linked to deer seasons.

Biologist Cox said small unintended consequence for rifle and archery hunters is the standard cow hunters for this weapon classes are in the field first, then the deer archery and rifle come a few days later. In the muzzleloader case they are out there first, and the standard cow elk muzzleloader hunters have to wait seven days and a compromise may be to increase cow muzzleloader season may not be as big of a deal to change the dates.

Commissioner Johnston said the intent was not to have overlap and have the cow elk tag in hand of someone out in the field, understands issue on order but key purpose was not to add to hunter congestion.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4481 OPTION FOR MULE HUNT 1331 AS PROPOSED BUT ELIMINATE THE 221 - 223 LATE SEASON OPTION. MOVED TO APPROVE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4476 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1371 AS PROPOSED AND THE RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT LONGBOW ARCHERY 4411 OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT 1341 AS PROPOSED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Longbow Archery Change

CHAIRMAN DREW MOVED THAT UNIVERSALLY IN CR 15 – 09 THAT WE CHANGE ALL HUNTS THAT STATE LONGBOW ARCHERY HUNTS TO BE CHANGED TO SIMPLY READ "ARCHERY HUNTS." COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Drew said the Commission will recess and will reconvene at 1:10 p.m. and will keep Agenda Item #16 A open in case anything was missed.

- B Commission Regulation 15 – 10, Big Game Mountain Lion Harvest Limits for 2015 – 2016 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider the adoption of 2015 – 2016 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Department has no changes proposed.

CABMW and Public Input -

Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW, said we have done this for a few weeks and have looked at a few unit groupings and think maybe should go back to area specific on the lions. When you look at harvest objectives for each individual area versus the unit groupings, and even came up with harvest limits: Area 22 limit of eight; 23 a limit of six; and 24 a limit of six.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 10 AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- C Commission Regulation 15 – 11, 2015 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adoption of 2015 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear. Note: Support material sent separately from Game Division.

Biologist Jackson said the Department is recommending no changes to season dates or quotas for the black bear hunt the only change has been to the indoctrination dates to correspond with the weekend.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, said for clarification the boundary restriction was noted by the Rim Trail, and it is actually the "Rim" as the trail goes up and down. He said they would like shotguns included in legal firearms.

Stephanie Myers, Lee Canyon, said many in the room whom believe the bear hunt is only a trophy hunt, because we now have non-lethal ways of dealing with misbehaving bears. Her question would be to ask why are we killing bears at all.

ITEM
16c - 2/7/15 - PUBLIC COMMENT - FROD VOLTZ
WILDLIFE COMMISSION

THE COMMISSION FACES AN INTERESTING QUESTION: JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN DO SOMETHING, SHOULD YOU DO IT? THERE'S NOT A SHRED OF SCIENCE IN THE THREE-YEAR BEAR HUNT STUDY JUSTIFYING A COMPELLING NEED FOR A 2015 BEAR HUNT.

PROMOTING WILDLIFE KILLING FOR PERSONAL AMUSEMENT AND BRAGGING RIGHTS IS NOT SUPPORTED IN THE MUCH-CITED NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

GRATUITOUS WILDLIFE KILLING IS NOT WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

THEREFORE, THE 2015 BEAR HUNT SHOULD BE COMPLETELY REJECTED AS UNNECESSARY AND UNJUSTIFIED BY SCIENCE OR ETHICS.

Sean Shea, Washoe, said everyone in the Department doing a great job from the biologists to the wardens and they deserve more credit than they get.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said he supports the bear hunt and takes exception to comments made as his people have hunted bears for thousands of years. He said he has assisted the Department staff with black bear research for the past few years, and gratifying to see expanding bear populations in places that we have not seen in a 100 years, simply because they were extirpated by the settlement of Nevada over 150 years ago and is nice to see the population respond to application of North American Wildlife model of wildlife management funded by sportsmen. He thanked the Commission for endorsing the hunt in the past.

Commissioner McNinch said he will not support the motion as has question in his mind about season length, and appreciates having the comprehensive report done. He said as far as this Commission is concerned the bear hunt was not set-up to manage problem bears, and the Department has already relayed it as an opportunity hunt.

Commissioner Layne statement said she attended her first Commission meeting to oppose the proposed bear hunt, and she appreciates all the Department has done, particularly this year in terms of waste management and dealing with those issues and getting something done at the local level, as well as the Bear Committee's efforts, she will vote nay on this season.

Commissioner Johnston said he had a question about requests to add use of shotguns to the hunt and thinks that is separate from the season setting process.

Chairman Drew said that is correct and would require a NAC change and use of shotguns is a recommendation from the Bear Committee.

Commissioner Johnston said he came on the Commission where it was already established, and bear hunt was ongoing, and we are getting the three year report. He said he does not see evidence presented by the Department or anyone else to discontinue the hunt, and for that reason will be supporting the hunt.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15 – 11, 2015 BLACK BEAR SEASONS AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, MORI, JOHNSTON, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. MOTION PASSED 7 – 2, COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND MCNINCH OPPOSED.

D Commission General Regulation 455 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Trapping Questionnaire Deadline and Trapping License Valid Dates – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear a temporary regulation relating to trapping questionnaires and trapping license valid periods. The regulation will add language to specify the valid period of a trapping license as July 1 - June 30. The regulation amendment will also update the trapping questionnaire deadline language, changing the deadline from April 30 to May 31, making it consistent with other Department questionnaire language. The amendment includes having the Department be responsible for prohibiting the purchase of a subsequent trapping license, instead of the Commission, when a trapper fails to return a questionnaire.

This amendment will allow the Department to administer the trapping questionnaire processes effectively in regard to the trapping seasons as established by the Commission. Note: See support material under agenda item #8 A.

The regulation is intended to give trappers ample time to return their questionnaires but also provide an efficient license denial procedure if they fail to return their questionnaire.

Chairman Drew said the regulation was heard by the Commission in yesterday's workshop and there were no changes proposed to the regulation and is being heard today as presented.

MA 3 Hullinger said the main change in the regulation were to change the valid trapping license valid date to June 30. The questionnaire deadline from April 30 to May 31 and if it falls on a weekend, it is the following weekday, and the authority to suspend the license if questionnaire is not returned.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Stephanie Myers, Lee Canyon, said she hopes the Commission supports new trapping regulation as traps do not discriminate and she asked how the Department will verify the data in the questionnaire.

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, said when questionnaires sent it should include disclaimer that the questionnaire is not scientific. Not to be used for scientific purposes.

Fred Voltz, said he takes great exception to last comment. The data is to be received in exchange for privilege not the right to trap the public's wildlife, and the Department has the responsibility to insure that the data is correct.

Chairman Drew said testimony provided yesterday during the workshop that trapper's should be treated no different than waterfowl and upland hunters. In his mind this regulation is clean-up and mandatory reporting requirement has been in place for a long time and we are putting something in place that allows to implement the intent of a regulation already in place.

MA 3 Hullinger said the Department is going to print new licenses for trappers that have the new deadline of June 30 to get them through the transition period to the new license year and allow programming time for the suspension.

Chairman Drew said when staff send out the new license would hope that staff indicate changes with questionnaire and provide a questionnaire so trappers know what is coming. He said more education never hurts. MA 3 Hullinger said the support material was mailed to all trappers prior to the Commission meeting so that questions could be asked, and she received a few calls and Game Division received comment and concerns from Nevada Trapping Association.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 455 TEMPORARY LCB FILE T-14 – TRAPPING QUESTIONNAIRE DEADLINE AND TRAPPING LICENSE VALID DATES AS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E Commission General Regulation 454 Temporary LCB File T-14 – Firearm Carry During Archery Hunt – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed – For Possible Action
The Commission will hear a temporary regulation relating to the carry of a firearm in the field while hunting under archery regulations. The regulation will change NAC 503.144 to allow the carry of personal protection handguns while archery hunting. This regulation will be temporary and will require Legislative Commission approval to become permanent after the 2015 Session of the Nevada Legislature.

The regulation was heard by the Commission during the workshop at the November 2014 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting. The Commission discussed different alternatives to handgun carry restrictions and the needs for archers to carry a handgun during

archery only season. The language has been updated to reflect the changes requested by the Commission by allowing a person to carry any handgun that is not scoped and has a barrel length of 8" or less. The language change clarified the type of handgun to be carried in the field during archery only season.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said there is a wording change in the agenda description and he read the section from NAC 503.144, and essentially the word "less" should be "more." He said first heard in workshop in November and this is language that board recommended then, and has heard from Nevada Bowhunters' Association and were supportive and recommended language rather than saying "unlawful to carry a handgun with a barrel length of eight inches or more, they were saying limit the barrel length to six inches or less."

CABMW and Public Comment -

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said the CABMW approved this with a 3 – 2 vote. Personally, he feels this is a gray line. He said law enforcement does not need a gray line at all, and need to keep it black and white.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 454 TEMPORARY LCB FILE T-14 – FIREARM CARRY DURING ARCHERY HUNT AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Layne said she expressed her concerns in the Nov. 14, 2014, workshop and will be voting nay on this.

COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: CHAIRMAN DREW, COMMISSIONERS WALLACE, BLISS, JOHNSTON, MORI, MCNINCH, VALENTINE, AND YOUNG. COMMISSIONER LAYNE OPPOSED. MOTION PASSED 7 - 2.

17 Future Commission Meeting and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Drew – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 20 and 21, 2015, in Reno, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

Director Wasley read his list of potential agenda items for the March meeting: Legislative update; report from Department on the curtailment order on Smith and Mason Valley; update on Bald Mountain Mine Draft EIS status; recommendations by the Department with respect to elk arbitration process as anticipate need for that in the upcoming year. Chairman Drew agreed that procedures need to be developed for arbitration now that a regulation is in place and another clean-up item in terms of emergency depredation hunts.

Chairman Drew said he plans to schedule a Legislative Committee meeting between now and March 20 to be able to review language that is out, and an April meeting to be scheduled in March to deal with legislative items. He had a request from staff to move the May meeting by one week to allow time for analysis of return cards and prepare for the meeting. The suggested new dates are May 15 and 16, 2015.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO MOVE THE MEETING DATE FROM MAY 8 AND 9 TO MAY 15 AND 16, 2015. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director Wasley said he believes the Department will be able to offer videoconferencing for the next meetings in Reno, and will continue to look for a venue in Southern Nevada to provide that opportunity as well.

Commissioner Layne asked about the coyote contest killing petition, and Chairman Drew advised that petitioners requested the March or April meeting agenda, and his inclination is March as April is designated for legislative issues.

Chairman Drew provided an updated committee list:

Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee

Commissioner McNinch (Chair), Commissioner Bliss, and Gil Yanuck (Carson)
Staff to Committee: Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly

Bear Committee

Commissioner McNinch (Chair), Chairman Drew, Commissioner Wallace, and Public Representative Kathryn Bricker

Staff to Committee: Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling

Duck Stamp Judging

Commissioner McNinch (chair) Chairman Drew

Staff to Committee: Public Information Officer 2 Aaron Meier

Elk Damage and Incentive Committee

Commissioner Wallace (chair), Commissioners Mori, Layne, Valentine, and Lincoln CABMW Member Cory Lytle

Staff to Committee: TBD

Finance Committee

Carson CABMW Member Gil Yanuck (Chair), Commissioners Johnston and Layne, and Clark CABMW Member Paul Dixon

Staff to Committee: Administrative Services Officer 3 Liz O'Brien

Legislative Committee

Chairman Drew (Chair), Commissioners Johnston, McNinch and Young, and Public Representative Kyle Davis

Staff to Committee: Management Analyst 3 Kim Jolly

Public Lands Committee

Chairman Drew (Chair), Commissioners Bliss, Mori, and Wallace, and Clark CABMW Member Paul Dixon
Staff to Committee: Chief of Habitat Alan Jenne

State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee – NRS 567.01

Commissioners Wallace and Mori

Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee

Commissioner Johnston (Chair), Commissioners Mori, Valentine, Pershing CABMW Member Joe Crim, and Public Representative Rex Flowers

Trapping Regulation Committee

Commissioner McNinch (Chair), Chairman Drew, Commissioner Layne and Clark CABMW Member John Sullivan

Staff to Committee: Chief Game Warden Turnipseed

Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award Committee

Commissioner Wallace (Chair) and Commissioner Valentine

Staff to Committee: Staff Conservation Educator Kim Toulouse

Wildlife Damage Management Committee

Commissioner Bliss (Chair), Commissioners Layne, Mori, and Johnston and Humboldt CABMW Member Tom Cassinelli

Staff to Committee: Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

Wildlife Heritage Committee

Commissioner Wallace (Chair), Commissioners Bliss, Valentine and Young, Mineral CABMW Member Glenn Bunch and Pershing CABMW Member Joe Crim
Staff to Committee: Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman

Wildlife Scholarship Recipient Selection Committee

Chairman Drew (Chair), and alternate Commissioner Johnston, [NBU appointee], [Nevada Record Book appointee],
Staff to the Committee: Russell Woolstenhulme

CABMW and Public Comment -

Jana Wright said she is opposed to John Sullivan continuing to be on the Trapping Committee and had impression Commission's committee's were to be made up of Commission members only.

Stephanie Myers said they have directed many letters and emails to the Commission about the inclusion of a big time trapper John Sullivan being on the committee, especially since representation denied by Trail Safe, as long as Mr. Sullivan is on the committee, that is positively unfair and unrepresentative.

Sean Shea said a matter that needs to be looked into is those people who sell tags and allow people to come on their land and harvest deer or antelope, as he has an issue as they are double dipping.

Larry Johnson, Coalition of Nevada's Wildlife, said comments made about Trapping Committee and it is nice having someone on the committee who knows something about trapping and the same with the Bear Committee.

18 Public Comment –

Larry Johnson, Coalition of Nevada's Wildlife, said something he would like the Commission to address in a more timely manner are issues that greatly impact the wildlife resources. He said an update is scheduled on Barrick Mine expansion, the draft EIS was to be out the first week of January, with a 30 day comment period. He realizes the comment period does not always allow the Commission time to comment, and in his opinion that draft should have been put out to the CABMWs six months ago with an alert of that schedule so sportsmen have opportunity to comment on something that could impact 25 percent of state's deer herd. He said he would like the Commission to address more in depth control depth of wild horse populations, and aware there is ongoing lawsuit against BLM in an attempt to force them to manage wild horse populations at Appropriate Management Levels. The Commission should have a more active role in seeking intervention status or at least file an amicus brief to control wild horse populations as tremendous impact on wildlife resources and range conditions. He said it is too far into the year for the Legislative Update, sportsmen and CABMWs need to know intent of bill drafts early on, as currently there is a bill to demote the Department of Wildlife to a Division under DCNR and that could be decided before the Legislative Update. The Commission would not have time to act, and another issue is resolution calling for transfer of public land to state from federal agencies which would be tremendous impact to sportsmen and wildlife resources. He said sportsmen need to be educated and CABMW has best mechanism to do that and duty falls on the Commission. We have wasted too much time in Commission meetings on bears and trapping for years and do not see agenda items that address true impact on wildlife resources.

Joe Luby, Clark CABMW, said the Clark CABMW had a unanimous vote for the Commission to consider over the counter cow elk tags at some point, as we heard this morning the desire to increase the elk harvest and had success combining cow elk hunts with deer hunters with elk tag in back pocket and the extension of the season into January. He said that is where the discussion came from at the Clark CABMW as a couple of guys were not in favor of January season, and discussed hunter opportunity to obtain tag through over the counter providing hunters opportunity to obtain more than one cow elk tag.

Meeting adjourned 2 p.m.

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.