

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting**  
**Commission Meeting - Approved Minutes**  
*COMPLETE VIDEO OF THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.NDOW.ORG](http://WWW.NDOW.ORG)*

The public is invited to attend and provide public comment from the following location:

Eureka Opera House  
31 South Main St.  
Eureka, NV 89316

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 Paul E. Valentine	Commissioner Bill Young
Commissioner Pete Mori	Commissioner David McNinch	

\*Commissioner Layne absent for two day meeting

Secretary Tony Wasley

Deputy Attorney General David Newton  
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance during the two day meeting:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka
Maureen Hullinger, Management Analyst 3	Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman
Operations Administrator Bob Haughian	Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling
Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa	

Meeting Attendees

Rex Flowers, self  
Fred Voltz, self/general public  
Wade West, Double-U-Livestock  
Cole Crim, self  
Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW  
Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW  
Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW  
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW  
Raymond Hodson, Eureka CABMW

Don Sefton, Systems Consultants  
Monty Martin, Systems Consultants  
Jamie West, Double-U-Livestock  
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW  
Jessie Weller, Lyon CABMW  
Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW  
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW  
Lester Porter, Eureka CABMW  
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants

Friday, June 19, 2015 – 1 p.m.

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

Chairman Drew called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Commissioner Layne was absent for two days, and Commissioner Young is absent at roll call.

Roll Call Advisory Board Members: Glenn Bunch Mineral CABMW, Gil Yanuck Carson CABMW, Paul Dixon Clark CABMW, Craig Burnside Douglas CABMW, Raymond Hodson Eureka CABMW, Lester Porter Eureka CABMW, Joe Crim Pershing CABMW, Tom Barnes Elko CABMW, Sean Shea Washoe CABMW, Jessie Weller Lyon CABMW, and Mitch Burns Lyon CABMW are present.

- 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.

Public Comment – None

**COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.**

- 3 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).

Commissioner Items - None

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

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said they have had some problems the last couple of summers and again this spring with the urban deer population growing and feeding on landscaping. They have had meetings and gathered information. The Department has been an active partner to try to come up with a solution to the problem. They do not want to reduce the overall population. Public education is the best way to approach this problem. They did a half hour television show regarding this problem. It is on YouTube and will be on the Carson City website. A brochure titled “Deer are active in this area, please do not feed” was handed out (exhibit file). The brochures will be distributed as part of the billing from the water department. We want people to understand that it is illegal to feed wildlife. Not a lot of people understand that and they feed and water the wildlife. This causes more problems. They are trying to make people aware of the problems with education. The sheriff’s office is the first line of contact if someone see an injured

deer or they have a deer problem. The sheriff's office will contact the Department if they need to. They think they are on the right track. They want to educate the public that there is a problem and how to avoid the problem. They want to have local meetings so residents do not have to run around town. This is the first step.

Chairman Drew said he appreciates the CABMW tackling a local problem in their community and to pass his appreciation onto them.

- 5 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Drew – For Possible Action  
The Commission may take action to approve meeting minutes from the April 15, 2015, Commission meeting.

Chairman Drew had minor changes.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 15, 2015 MEETING WITH CHANGES NOTED BY CHAIRMAN DREW. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.**

- 6 Duck Stamp Request–Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Mike Zahradka – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for funding from Duck Stamp funds.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman gave a brief overview of proposals that have been submitted for funding for fiscal year (FY) 2016 under the Duck Stamp Program and the related budget status of that account (exhibit file). Page 10 has a table that summarizes the names, project managers and funding requested of the 16 different projects that were submitted. Staff recommends that the list of projects be approved today. Page 11 denotes the duck stamp account budget status and if the Commission approves the full list of projects as recommended, the account balance at the end of FY 2016 will be approximately \$258,341. There is about \$70,000 less in proposals this year compared to last year. The anticipated revenue is about the same as FY 2015, \$98,346.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka gave an update on the work completed in the wildlife management areas (WMA) during FY 2015 and how some of them tie into the FY 2016 proposals. Carson Lake and Pasture Vegetation Management was approved in FY 2015 and will be completed this summer. The project entails cleaning of a canal, replacing water control structures, and removing sediment build up. They partnered with Ducks Unlimited on this project. Another major project is in the Key Pittman and Overton WMA. In Key Pittman they are working at the north ponds. The ponds at both of the WMAs were created years ago without a lot of engineering expertise so they lack the amount of water fowl habitat and hunting opportunity they are capable of supporting. When they managed the upper pond at Key Pittman at a higher level it flooded onto a private land owners hay pasture which caused problems. The pond is kept at a lower level until it can be reconfigured. Phase one of the wetland enhancements was approved with FY 2015 duck stamp funds. Phase two is a current proposal, which asks for funding to buy infrastructure that will be needed in phase three which will take place in FY 2017.

Chairman Drew asked what we are seeing in terms of the use of food plots in the Kirch and Key Pittman WMAs. Does that affect the sportsmen who are using that area.

Mike Zahradka said that both areas have food plots. Goose hunting has been stable/average over the last few years. There was an additional 40 acre winter wheat plot put in the Kirch WMA and goose hunting has increased.

Chairman Drew asked about the status of the water at the Mason Valley WMA. Does the Department anticipate issues with the state engineer.

Mike Zahradka said that the issue with water at the Mason Valley WMA is the irrigation. Less than 10 percent of the water deliveries were received. Joggles are used for transferring water from the fish hatchery because it is pumping continuously.

Chairman Drew said most people might not know that the size of that WMA has more than doubled. He asked if we need more funding to deal with noxious weeds.

Mike Zahradka said that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) donated 1,500 acres and were required to help with weed control and restoration efforts to get desirable vegetation growing. The other addition was 2,500 acres north of the railroad tracks, which the Department bought from a private party and has been controlling weeds.

Commissioner Bliss asked if food plots will be done at Steptoe Valley WMA.

Mike Zahradka answered on a smaller scale and there are food plots around each pond.

Commissioner Bliss asked if much maintenance needed to be completed on the food plots.

Mike Zahradka clarified that it is part of the annual program and it will be seeded every year.

Commissioner Valentine asked about the north pond on Key Pittman WMA. When will the project occur?

Mike Zahradka said that they hope to replace water control structures in FY 2016, but the dirt work will take place sometime after next July.

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, unanimous approval of these projects, however, the three year history listed on the budget summary project costs are exceeding revenues by about \$100,000 a year. The fund is dwindling. At this rate, funds available for projects will only be brought in from revenue. Craig Burnside said he personally feels that the cost of running pumps and spraying weeds are not projects and should be incorporated into the operating costs at the WMAs.

Commissioner Johnston asked where the \$10,000 in Canada is spent.

Mike Zahradka said the \$10,000 is an annual contribution that has been an ongoing donation for the last 10 years and knows that spending the money up there benefits the birds down here.

Secretary Wasley said the Department was just recognized for over \$100,000 in contributions that occurred over 10 years. Ducks Unlimited invited the Department to Canada this year to view the projects, but the travel cost is prohibitive.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman said that he understands that the majority of their habitat work is completed in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Studies show that a lot of the waterfowl that make their way down the Pacific Flyway through Nevada come from that area.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2016 PROJECTS AND EXPENDITURES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.**

7 Upland Game Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Mike Zahradka – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for funding from Upland Game stamp funds.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Farman said that staff is recommending the Commission to approve FY 2016 proposals for funding under the upland game bird stamp account. Mark Farman explained page 21, which shows 15 projects. The projects total \$262,000. He also explained page 22, the account budget status. The FY 2016 projected ending balance is \$394,384, assuming the Commission approves the entire list of proposals.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa has eight projects and discussed the new projects being proposed. The Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Restoration project is ongoing and located in the Bull Run Basin in Elko County. Over the past three years over 140 Columbian sharp-tail grouse were captured and translocated to the Bull Run Basin. Biologist Espinosa talked about the bi-state monitoring where work in California is ongoing monitoring source populations, estimating vital rates of sage grouse. Most research efforts have focused on areas where there is activity happening such as a geothermal plant, a transmission line, or a mine. He described how they are working on a conservation principles book for greater sage-grouse within the Great Basin.

Chairman Drew appreciates the time and efforts of the projects. He asked if there been any monitoring on the mountain quail and ruffed grouse translocations.

Biologist Espinosa said that mountain quail are hard to monitor and that besides chukar, ruffed grouse have been the most successful release of any upland game species in Nevada.

Chairman Drew asked if there are any results on the Pine Forest site.

Biologist Espinosa said there have not been any results yet.

Chairman Drew wanted to clarify that the conservation principles book for greater sage grouse within the Great Basin is tying together a lot of Mr. Espinosa's work that is ongoing, with the greater sage-grouse monitoring they are trying to fill large data gaps.

Biologist Espinosa said that there are two areas where populations are robust. There is not a lot of anthropogenic development and the habitats are intact and contiguous.

Chairman Drew asked about the Desatoya Mountains and where they are in terms of implementation on the project and if there have been any changes in bird behavior.

Biologist Espinosa said they have not seen any changes in bird behavior because it is too early. There have been 2,000 acres thinned and this year there will be an additional 789 acres cleared. It is key to determine the ultimate effects of the projects on sage grouse. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is using the data to help guide where they are going to do further treatment work. Multiple benefits simultaneously.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, wanted to give credit to the Carson Valley Chukar Club and the Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Midas.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked if populations will be synergistic with re-introduction of quail in the south. Everyone sees Gambel's quail in the south, but not mountain quail.

Biologist Espinosa said the species overlap but they have placed water developments in areas that are more conducive to mountain quail habitat selection. They see the overlap in places such as China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station.

Jesse Weller, Lyon CABMW, said they were looking at the project cost breakdown on page 36 and were curious what personnel and vehicle costs entailed for the bi-state monitoring in Mt. Grant and Desert Creek.

Biologist Espinosa said the research projects are contracted out to the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the funding goes to field technicians. It is an intensive follow up effort with vegetative monitoring. The vehicle costs are high because the USGS rents vehicles for the field season. The cost from the damage of off-road use adds up.

**COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE FY 2016 UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP PROJECTS AS PROPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS YOUNG AND LAYNE WERE ABSENT.**

8 Wildlife Heritage Committee– Commissioner Wallace

A Heritage Committee Report– Commissioner Wallace – Informational  
The Commission will hear a report from the Wildlife Heritage Committee chairman.

Commissioner Wallace said the committee reviewed the Heritage tag vendor selection. Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN) had sent an application that was not received; however, tomorrow the committee will recommend that WHIN receives a tag. Reallocated funding for FY 2015.

B Fiscal Years 2015, 2014 and 2013 Heritage Project Extensions Commissioner Wallace – For Possible Action  
Pursuant to NAC501.340, the Commission may approve requests for extension of 2015, 2014 or 2013 Heritage projects.

Chairman Drew reminded everyone of the support material for this agenda item (exhibit file).

Commissioner Wallace provided the committee recommendation for the 2015, 2014, and 2013 project extensions. The rows that are shaded in gray in the support material are the projects that need an extension. The committee voted to extend extensions to all of the projects shaded in gray.

Commissioner Bliss added that some projects will be ready to go this year and some projects are complete, but the final billing has not been compiled. They would like to see the projects implemented as fast as they can. They are on the right track.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENSIONS ON PROJECTS 15-02, 15-03, 15-05, 15-09, 15-10, 15-16, 14-04, 14-05, 14-06, 13-04, 13-06, AND 13-08. MOTION SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONER'S LAYNE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.**

- C Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2014 Heritage Funding Reallocation – Commissioner Wallace – For Possible Action  
The Commission may approve reallocation of unused Heritage funds from a previously approved 2015 or 2014 project to any other previously considered 2015 or 2014 project application.

Commissioner Wallace said that monies available for reallocation for FY 2015 were a total of \$32,160.56 and he listed the projects and specific amounts.

**COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REALLOCATIONS OF PROJECT MONIES. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG WERE ABSENT.**

- D Fiscal Year 2016 Heritage Project Proposals – Commissioner Wallace – For Possible Action  
The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve 2016 project applications for funding.

Chairman Drew noted that he has some association with some of the projects on the list so he will be abstaining from the vote.

Commissioner Wallace reviewed recommendations from committee (exhibit file). Washoe County wanted \$10,000 moved from project 16-05 to 16-12, but the committee did not approve the change.

Commissioner Johnston noted that the committee did a great job with the recommendations with making the process smoother and saving time.

Chairman Drew agreed with Commissioner Johnston.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO RECOMMEND THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BLISS. CHAIRMAN DREW ABSTAINED. COMMISSIONERS IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION: BLISS, WALLACE, JOHNSTON, MCNINCH, MORI, AND VALENTINE. COMMISSIONERS LAYNE AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0, WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

Commissioner Young arrived at 2:33 p.m.

9 Reports – Informational

A 2015 Legislative Session Update – Chairman Drew  
Report on the 2015 Legislative session

Chairman Drew reviewed the following:

Nevada Department of Wildlife sponsored bills:

- AB35 – Coast Guard Laws on boat Hull Identification Numbers - Signed
- AB82 – Fiscal cleanup bill - Signed
- SB41 – Electronically sold Federal Duck stamp - Signed

Other Bills affecting wildlife:

- AB78 – Signed version requires 80% of the \$3 Predator Fee to be lethal control, and other provisions.
  - adds input from the Department of Agriculture's Predator Rodent Committee to the predator fee program, and
  - explanations to County Advisory Boards on seasons or bag recommendations different than their suggestions,
  - (Originally was Nevada Department of Wildlife's bill, to provide authority to raise the elk application fee up to \$10.) – did not pass.
- AB136 - Signed version requires ADA accommodations in Hunter Education.
  - Allows for carry of firearm for self-defense 8" or less without a scope during archery or muzzle-loading season, and
  - Provides for killing and retrieval of game by a person assisting a paraplegic, amputee, or paralyzed person.
  - (Original version would have required a new license class with a blanket exemption of hunter education for those with mental or physical disabilities.)
- SB4 - Add exemptions from registration, changes "must" to "may" register, limits requirement for depredation permit for furbearers on your private property - Signed.
- SB417 - Protects wildlife location data for one year, prohibits use for purposes of hunting – Signed

Resolutions:

- Assembly Joint Resolution 2 - Urges the United States Congress and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to take certain actions to reduce the impact of common ravens on the greater sage grouse and desert tortoise populations in this State. (BDR R-33).
- Senate Joint Resolution 1 - Urges Congress to enact legislation transferring title to certain public lands to the State of Nevada in accordance with the report prepared by the Nevada Land Management Task Force. (BDR R-451).

- Senate Joint Resolution 5 - Expresses support for the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan developed by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service not to list the greater sage-grouse as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. (BDR R-480).
- Senate Joint Resolution 11 - Proposes to amend the Nevada Constitution to preserve the right to hunt, trap and fish in this State. (BDR C-1001). Will have to pass in the next session again through both passes before being placed on a ballot.

Bills that Failed:

- AB 142 – Would have gutted the demerit system and weakened enforcement of wildlife laws.
- AB 261 – Would have authorized local establishment of feral cat colonies.
- AB 338 – Would have revised trapping registration, visitation, shed antler regulation.
- AB 361 – Would have authorized local regulation of captive wild animals.
- SB 130 – Would have consolidated NDOW into DCNR.
- SB 163 – Would have created the Advisory Council on Nevada Wildlife Conservation and Education within the Department of Wildlife.

Secretary Wasley thanked and expressed gratitude to Chairman Drew and Commissioner Johnston for their efforts during the session.

Chairman Drew thanked the Department staff for their efforts as well and would recommend that if you have not been involved in the process with the Nevada Legislature to watch a meeting online to see what is involved. He also encouraged the Commission members to communicate with the legislators because it helps with the process.

B Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Ecosystem Council Update – Secretary Tony Wasley  
An update on the status of the sage-grouse will be provided as well as an update on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.

Secretary Wasley said the Secretary of the Interior announced the not warranted finding for the bi-state. Yesterday there was a meeting with the Bi-State Executive Oversight Committee and the local area working group. They will continue to identify funding sources for project implementation on the ground, and have been diligent in implementation of plan. Appears funding will exceed amount written to each agency. Things look positive for bi-state.

The Land Use Plan (LUP) is a big part of the future for sage-grouse and has been undertaken by the BLM and was recently released. The state's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) is in process of evaluating the document and looking for inconsistencies with the state. There is a 30 day protest period. They are not quite in the middle of the 30 days and are meeting with the SEC to discuss the commenting strategy. There is a 60 day review, and the process is that the state will represent their concerns and follow up with the governor's consistency review. There are four different habitat management categories around the state with varying restrictions. There are still ongoing discussions. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is supposed to make its decision by Sept. 30, with a "Not Warranted Finding" being fine, but "Threatened or Endangered" will require seeking relief from a judge.

- C Project Report: Eastern Region Pinyon-Juniper Projects – Eureka County Natural Resources Manager Jake Tibbitts  
Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and Eureka County representatives will report on wildlife habitat improvement projects in Eureka County.

Chairman Drew said Eureka Natural Resource Manager Jake Tibbitts will not be presenting today as he had to attend a meeting in Carson City; however, he provided his presentation (exhibit file). Chairman Drew hit the high points of the presentation. Huge increases in pinyon-juniper cover throughout the Great Basin. Eureka has seen encroachment into areas with streams, springs, and seeps. The Eureka CABMW and the conservation district approached the BLM with moving forward with thinning around select streams on BLM lands, selective removal of pinyon-juniper on over 3,000 acres on private lands. They want to cut 100 percent of encroaching pinyon-juniper including all seedlings out of designated treatment areas except those trees avoided for unique characteristics. Chairman Drew explained the money the local community put together. Total funds committed to the project are close to \$400,000, with a phenomenal amount of work that has occurred. Eureka County is using the wood to try to make biochar for a soil amendment. Chairman Drew appreciates the Eureka CABMW for identifying a problem at a local level and starting with the grassroots effort to get good things done and inviting partners throughout the state.

Commissioner Bliss said when he was on Eureka CABMW in 2012 they wanted to reduce trees around springs. They met with BLM and NDOW with the idea but did not have money. He and Jake Tibbitts went to the Eureka County Commission and requested \$40,000. They were granted the funds and had to work through the government process. Due to roadblocks encountered they directed their effort on private property as the prime sage-grouse habitat. The Eureka CABMW is still working to get the public land projects underway. He thanked the Eureka CABMW for stepping up and doing something. They used their role as CABMW to pursue a project similar to what Carson CABMW is doing with their urban deer problem.

Lester Porter, Eureka CABMW, followed up to Commissioner Bliss' comments stating that projects being undertaken on private property. The Eureka CABMW submitted a letter to NDOW and USFWS to get the BLM to re-start project approvals on public land, which is now underway. Guzzler projects were also discussed, and he said they were approved for guzzler projects. They are starting next week. He thanked Director Wasley and Deputy Director Robb for assistance with a letter to get the BLM interested. Local houndsmen and sportsman groups helped raise money to fund projects.

Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne thanked the Eureka CABMW for the project and interest. It is great to collaborate and it builds momentum for the Three Bars project.

Secretary Wasley said partnership with funding was obtained from different sources, and thanked Eureka County for keeping this on the radar.

- D Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee – Commissioner Johnston  
A report will be provided on the committee's recent meeting.

Commissioner Johnston said the committee has not met for over a year. Historical perspective provided with review of past topic list and proposals on the list. Action taken at the end of the meeting was for CABMWs to review the topic list and provide feedback on that list or new items for consideration. Now more than one CABMW has raised the same issue. The first step is to

put the work of this committee on people's radar. A letter will be sent to the CABMWs and posted online to seek input.

Chairman Drew asked when the input will be requested.

Commissioner Johnston said he would like to get the request for input to the CABMWs so they can consider it in advance of the Commission's meeting in September. He believes there will be input from the Department as well.

- E Sage-grouse Hunting Status Report – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa  
A presentation will be provided on the status of sage-grouse hunting: Open versus closed areas, population dynamics in open versus closed areas, WAFWA harvest guidelines, sage-grouse wing data, and where hunting ranks on the list of "threat" factors.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa went over a Power Point presentation on greater sage-grouse, which included seasons, guidelines from WAFWA, harvest estimates and effects determined through the years, research projects in Nevada discussing harvest effects, and population trends in hunted versus non-hunted populations and the findings (exhibit file).

Secretary Wasley commented that wing data comes from the harvest of birds and recently at a SEC meeting he presented a lot of values on production data. People asked how the birds are doing in the areas that are closed. This question cannot be answered because the Department does not have this data. A lot of the data they have is because they have the limited harvest.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Espinosa made a statement that some areas are closed. Additive versus compensatory. Bi-state population for example, if harvest was additive mortality we would expect to see population respond to the closure, if not, we would expect to see continuation. He said every habitat is a little bit different. If you look at bi-state with an absence of sage-grouse hunting for 15 to 17 years, and then look at a population in the Toiyabe Range they are both experiencing an uptick in trend right now. If one assumed that harvest was affecting the population you might see the population growth trend decline. It is not contributing to an overall population decline or a decrease in annual survival. They have a backing of science and not every state has that. They have placed emphasis in determining whether or not harvests are contributing to some sort of population decline and it is not.

- F Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley

Secretary Wasley provided the following report:

The Governor declared July Bear Logic Month for Nevada through a Proclamation, noting that the Department takes a proactive role in non-lethal bear management with Karelian Bear Dogs and Aversive Conditioning, as well as encouraging people to not feed wildlife, which is also against the law, to properly secure their garbage in bear-resistant containers, and to remove attractants when at home or camping.

Federal Activities/Bills:

Reviewing the Fish and Wildlife Service federal register rules. One improvement includes a rule just noticed that would require a higher standard of science and information for submission of endangered species listing petitions, limit petitions to a single species, and require the petitioner to request species information from the affected state.

The Department of the Interior has a significant increase in the appropriation to the BLM. They are looking at \$60 million towards implementation of some of the activities in the land use plan amendment. It is up from last year.

#### Game Division:

##### Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee

- Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling and Predator Staff Specialist Pat Jackson attended the June 4 meeting of the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). In response to questions from the PARC, they informed participants that the Predator Plan for FY 2016 had been finalized with the Commission in May. They informed the PARC that review comments on projects performance during FY 2015, and the draft Predator Plan for FY 2017 would probably be available for review in March 2016. Further, they affirmed that the intent of the Department was to expend at least 80 percent of the revenue generated in FY 2014 during FY 2016 on projects that the primary intent was to conduct lethal removal of predators, consistent with Assembly Bill 78.

##### Bobcat Harvest Demographic Data

- Bobcat harvest demographic data indicates that the age and sex composition of the harvest is virtually identical to the prior 10-year average. Total harvest declined somewhat this year, and subadult males made up a larger proportion of the harvest. This is indicative that harvest levels are not overexploiting the population.

##### New Ten-year Memorandum of Understanding with Wildlife Services

- On June 3, 2015, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services executed a 10-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department. The previous MOU had expired and had originally had a life span of 18 months. This new MOU should allow us to work efficiently into the next decade to implement predation management actions as needed.

##### Sharp-tailed grouse translocation update

- Sixteen males were observed on leks near the release site in northeastern Nevada, as of May 18, 30 hens have initiated nests and nest numbers are increasing, and 30 of the 40 radio collared hens are immediately adjacent to the active lek(s). Looking very favorable.

##### Sage-grouse

- Monitoring update: Lek attendance by male sage grouse in Nevada lags about two years behind production indices. Wing collections provide data on nesting effort and success as production indices as well. A production value of between 1.6 and 1.7 chicks per hen should result in a population increase, whereas at around 1.5 chicks per hen, the populations are basically stable.

##### Wildlife health

- Samples from 152 bighorn sheep harvested during fall 2014 from 46 hunt units turned up 8 units with positive detections for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*.
- Surgically implanted tracking and temperature transmitters in six banded Gila monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*) for a Wildlife Diversity Division project.

#### Game Division Meeting

- The Game Division will be meeting for implementation planning during June 22 - 24. A human dimensions expert will be analyzing data and presenting interpretations from age demographics of Nevada license purchasers.

#### Habitat Division:

The BLM has released the Bald Mountain Mine PDEIS for agency review and the Department is working through the document.

The northern crew constructed five new units and completed major maintenance on three units. The southern crew constructed two new units and completed major maintenance on five units. Additionally, the seasonal maintenance crew in the north is making good progress and has completed maintenance on 10 units.

Habitat and Conservation Education staff developed a media release on the water development program. Included in the release was a request for sportspersons to report any water development maintenance needs they observe while scouting or hunting. Each guzzler is signed with an ID and hotline number and email to report observations.

We have completed our review and comment of the Sage Grouse LUPA EIS and will be submitting our comments for incorporation into the Governors consistency review.

The EA for the Mason Valley Walker River channel modification was released and just closed on June 18. The project is cooperative effort with USFWS, Great Basin Bird Observatory and Otis Bay Ecological Consultants to restore river sinuosity on two miles of the Walker River through parts of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

Vegetation survey crews are on the ground and have worked in the Ruby Mountains, Sweetwater Summit, and Pine Nut Mountains collecting information on habitat project results. We recently awarded a contract to Summit Forests, Inc. to remove pinyon-juniper vegetation on 2,700 acres in Pine Nut Mountains. Work to begin in late summer 2015.

Pinyon-juniper removal projects continue in Steptoe Valley, Spruce Mountain, and Butte Valley and will begin in late summer at Overland Pass site in Ruby Mountains.

The Habitat Division continues to manage the internal restricted reserve funding programs which include the Wildlife Heritage, Habitat Conservation Fee, Upland Game Bird Stamp, Duck Stamp, and "Question 1" bond programs. Expenditures associated with these programs serve as important sources of state match for the Federal wildlife grants that fund the majority of the Department's expenses. For FY 2015, over \$2.1 million dollars was awarded and made available for projects under these programs.

#### Wildlife Diversity:

Diversity staff is in the thick of field surveys and are currently working on Northern Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, cliff nesting raptors, National Breeding Bird surveys, nightjars, reptiles night surveys, Gila monsters, bats, Burrowing and Flammulated Owls, water birds and shorebirds. A seasonal crew is intensively surveying the Lake Tahoe basin for goshawks and California spotted owls, among other species. We currently have telemetry transmitters on 10 Gila monsters in southern Nevada that are providing critical information on this cryptic species. Additionally, we have monitored breeding attempts at three FWS designated Peregrine Falcon territories for post-delisting monitoring.

Notably, southern Diversity staff has completed a project to deploy nine transmitters on Golden Eagles throughout the state (five eagles in Lincoln County, and four eagles in White Pine County). This important project is providing critical information regarding territory size, seasonal movement patterns and habitat use of Golden Eagles relative to renewable energy projects and power corridors. Data from this project will also be used by the Western Golden Eagle Team to generate habitat use models across all western states. There was a great deal of coordination with partners and with timing in properly deploying the transmitter; southern staff should be commended for their hard work and their professionalism.

#### Law Enforcement:

An Elko County man was sentenced on June 4 for numerous trapping violations stemming from a long term investigation during the summer of 2014. The man is a permitted commercial trapper doing predator control work for Elko and Lander County ranches. The case involved numerous counts of baited traps, and failing to visit the traps in the required 96 hour period. There were also several non-target animals caught in the traps that died due to the trapper going at least 13 days without checking, including a yearling deer and a calf elk. A plea deal was reached for three counts with sentencing totaling \$6,065 in fines and civil penalties, plus a 15 day suspended jail sentence, but no license revocation.

Boating season is in full swing around the state, but especially in Clark County as Northern Nevada waters are severely depleted from three years of severe drought. The busiest location has been the Colorado River at Laughlin. The two Laughlin game wardens are dealing with three fatal boat accidents in the last three weeks. Two of these fatalities were the result of collisions between personal watercraft. The third appears to have been caused by an unrelated health problem and only involved one person.

A foreign national pleaded guilty to felony drug possession last week in Lincoln County as a result of a contact initiated by the Panaca Game Warden and the Panaca Game Biologist. The contact apparently stopped the beginnings of a major grow operation as a bucket full of marijuana seed and growing supplies were seized. Lincoln County Sheriff's Office assisted in the case. The defendant is currently awaiting sentencing.

#### Conservation Education:

All regions participated in Free Fishing Day events across the state on June 13, 2015. The Western Region participated in an event with the Sparks Rotary and the Sparks Marina. The Southern Region participated in events at Boulder City Pond, Floyd Lamb Park and Echo Canyon State Park. The Eastern Region participated in events at Cave Lake in Ely and Chinese Garden Ponds in Carlin.

The Conservation Education Division has been promoting general second draw and second draw Junior Mule Deer opportunities for hunters through press releases, direct email and social media.

The Conservation Education and Operations Divisions are working with the State's Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) team following the crash of [www.NDOW.org](http://www.NDOW.org) website during the big game tag results period. The State's web server is running at near maximum capacity during regular business operations, when spikes in usage occur, the web server is over capacity which results in errors and failures. Options for long term solutions are being developed. A lot of state agencies rely on EITS and are looking to house their web needs internally.

Conservation Education staff has been working with the Director's Office and other Department divisions to finalize preparations for the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Annual Meeting to be held in Reno July 16 - 22, 2015. Register if you have not.

Fisheries Division:

Drought Conditions in Western and Northern Nevada:

Recent rain events have provided some short term relief particularly in eastern Nevada but conditions on most waters are anticipated to decline through mid-summer. Lahontan and Rye Patch reservoirs will remain at record-low minimum storage levels. South Fork Reservoir will remain in good condition at around 65 – 70 percent storage capacity, but other major waters including Wildhorse and Ruby Marsh will have significant drought impacts to access and fisheries. At this time we don't anticipate the loss of any major fisheries in the northern part of the state.

Stream fisheries will be severely impacted throughout northern and central Nevada. Summer conditions for the Truckee River are still uncertain but at least the lower river below Glendale will see some severe impacts to the sport fishery.

Drought Conditions in Southern Nevada:

Lake Mead continues to decline to record-low elevations but the impacts are primarily to boating and angler access. The sport fishery is anticipated to remain in good condition for both Mead and Lake Mohave, which will remain stable within its normal range of fluctuation. Other major fisheries (Kirch WMA, Eagle Valley Reservoir) are anticipated to make it through the summer with minor effects from drought and reduced storage.

Other activity updates:

The treatment project to remove northern pike from Comins and Bassett Lakes in White Pine County is still in planning to be conducted by late August. Approvals for the funding Sport Fish Restoration grant and purchase of the chemical piscicide rotenone are expected in the next two weeks.

Fisheries staff and the Director met with Ruby Lake NWR and the FWS Regional Director this week to discuss issues with water management on the refuge and impacts to the largemouth bass fishery. It was a positive meeting. Agreement for moving forward for the next 4 or 5 years.

The AIS station at South Fork reservoir has already inspected over 400 boats, including several high risk boats from Lake Mead, and conducted four decontaminations since the start of the boating season. Drought conditions are concentrating watercraft use at a limited number of locations in Northern Nevada.

Trout spawning activities will be ending this week at Marlette Lake because of low water conditions in the inlet stream. Egg take was about half of average this year but will be adequate to cover trout production needs.

Staff is working with the Hawthorne Army Depot on an agreement to allow public access to Rose Creek Reservoir, with completion expected in the next few weeks. This will provide a local "urban" fishery for the Hawthorne area.

Annual Columbia spotted frog surveys are scheduled for early July in central Nevada (Toiyabe Range). The frog is a candidate for ESA listing and we recently completed a renewal of the species Conservation Agreement (CA) along with other partners including FWS, BLM, and the Forest Service. CA has been integral in keeping the species from being listed.

Commissioner Bliss appreciates the Department's effort on the Ruby Lake water situation which was needed to be done for a long time and will have positive results for waterfowl.

G Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton said the litigation report was submitted in the support material and there are no changes at this time.

10 Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Tom Barnes, Elko CABMW, said at their CABMW meeting Ken Gray announced his retirement from the Department. The CABMW appreciates all of Biologist Gray's work over the years and he will be missed.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said there is a problem in Clark County urban ponds such as litter from anglers, and he has formed a subcommittee of his CABMW to address this issue. He plans to report back to the Department as the public believes it is the Department's issue, and they plan to walk around the ponds and figure it out.

Meeting recessed at 3:59 p.m.

Saturday, June 20, 2015 – 8:00 a.m.

11 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 8:00 a.m. Commissioner Layne is absent.

Roll Call Advisory Board Members: Glenn Bunch Mineral CABMW, Gil Yanuck Carson CABMW, Paul Dixon Clark CABMW, Craig Burnside Douglas CABMW, Raymond Hodson Eureka CABMW, Lester Porter Eureka CABMW, Joe Crim Pershing CABMW, Tom Barnes Elko CABMW, Sean Shea Washoe CABMW, Jessie Weller Lyon CABMW, Mitch Burns Lyon CABMW, and Ray Sawyer White Pine CABMW are present.

- Commission Appreciation – Chairman Drew and Secretary Wasley

Item postponed to September meeting to recognize Commissioner Layne's three years of service.

- 12 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.

Chairman Drew asked that agenda item #19, Arbitration Request by Wade West regarding Elk Incentive Tag Awards as determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, will be at the call of the chair due to commissioner conflict.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ITEM #19 HEARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

- 13 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).

Commissioner McNinch said he appreciated all the work that Game Biologist Ken Gray has done for wildlife and the community.

Secretary Wasley said that there will be big shoes to fill when Ken Gray retires from the Department.

Chairman Drew said he was contacted by Joe Royer concerning the Ruby 360 regarding heliports. Elko County Commission heard the issue but Chairman Drew does not know the result. He said Ken Gray has been a mentor and great employee of the Department who will be missed.

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

None.

- 15 Commission Regulation 15 – 08 Amendment #1, 2016 Heritage Tags Organization/Vendor Selection – Operations Division Administrator Bob Haughian – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider selection of organization/vendor recommendations for the 2016 Heritage Tags.

Operations Division Administrator Bob Haughian said the committee met yesterday and reevaluated the submission packages based on the committee's acceptance of the package submitted by WHIN. It was determined that WHIN would receive one mule deer tag rather than

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) Reno and one wild turkey tag instead of Bristlecone Family Services.

CABMW and Public Comment – None.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 15-08, 2016 WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAGS AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT OF NEVADA WILL RECEIVE A MULE DEER TAG INSTEAD OF NEVADA BIGHORNS UNLIMITED RENO AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT OF NEVADA WILL RECEIVE A WILD TURKEY TAG INSTEAD OF BRISTLECONE FAMILY SERVICES. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

16 Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck

- A Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – Informational  
The Commission will hear a report from the Finance Committee chairman.

Finance Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck said a meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner's Finance Committee was held on June 4, 2015 at the Valley Road office of the Nevada Department of Wildlife in Reno, Nevada at 9 a.m. The first item on the agenda was a roll call. Present in Reno was Chair Yanuck, attending telephonically were members Paul Dixon and Commissioner Johnston. Commissioner Layne was not able to attend. Also in attendance were: Deputy Director Robb, Head of Fiscal Services, Liz O'Brien and Financial Analyst, Bruce McDaniel. The second item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes from the Finance Committee meeting of June 16, 2014. There were no comments or correction to the minutes and a motion was made by member Paul Dixon to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston. The motion passed unanimously. The third item on the agenda was Member Comments. There were no Member comments. The fourth item on the agenda was an action item to Review the County Advisory Board State's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Requests. The Members of the Finance Committee reviewed the data provided by the Department's Financial Analyst, Bruce McDaniel. Chair Yanuck explained the process by which the information submitted by each County Advisor Board was collected together with the information from each County's Finance Officer as to the amount remaining in the CAB's account in order to determine the amount of augmentation required. Member Paul Dixon asked if the County Advisory Boards were informed of the recommended augmentation amount. Chair Yanuck replied that the CABs would see the recommendations as part of the support materials in the Commission Meeting package they will receive from the Department. This provides time for any CAB to question the amount of the augmentation. There being no further discussion; a motion was made by member Paul Dixon to approve the CAB Budget Request Recommendation to the Wildlife Commission in the amount of \$41,617. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston. The motion passed unanimously. The sixth item on the agenda was Public Comment. Member Dixon also asked a question concerning the ability to video conference additional meeting locations for the coming Fiscal Year. Chair Yanuck explained that it is all a function of available funding and the meeting site having the necessary equipment in-place. Member Paul Dixon also commented on the lack of "Action Reports" being available on the Department's website prior to a Commission meeting. Chair Yanuck said that he would contact Chairman Drew to ask if he would remind the CABs of the need for them to submit their Action Reports promptly after their meetings so that the Commissioners would have

a better perspective of how each CAB voted upon or commented on the items that the Commission was to take action upon. Chair Yanuck expressed his appreciation to the members of the Committee for their time and efforts to review the various documents and to Liz O'Brien and Bruce McDaniel for the tremendous effort put forth to assemble the CAB Budget submittals and to arrive at the Budget recommendation. Chair Yanuck wanted the record to include his appreciation to Commissioner Layne for her participation and contributions to the Finance Committee during her term on the Commission. There being no further public comment; member Paul Dixon made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnston and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Gil Yanuck said looking back at FY 2015 the total requests were \$77,531 and the recommended amount of augmentation to the CABs was \$48,888. In FY 2016 the total requested amount from the CABs was \$74,429 and the recommended augmentation was \$41,617. People ask why it varies and the answer is strictly related to where the meetings are being held. All the CABs know the process. An additional augmentation can be made during the FY if necessary. They are going to do some auditing of the county agencies and the way they keep their books and account for the monies they are charged with handling acting as paymaster for the various CABs. They do not suspect anything, it is just good practice. They want excess money to be with the Department.

Chairman Drew thanked Gil Yanuck for the great report and all the hard work and being so thorough with it.

- B Fiscal Year 2016 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – For Possible Action  
The Commission may approve budgets for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife for Fiscal Year 2015.

Finance Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck commented that the Finance Committee would like to recommend to the Commission to approve their budget request.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

**COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CABMW FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER YOUNG. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

- 17 Commission Regulation 14 – 11 Amendment #2, 2015 – 2016 Upland Game and Furbearer Amendments – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider amendments to the 2015 – 2016 Greater Sage-grouse open and closed hunt units, hunt areas and quotas for wild turkey and certain bobcat pelt sealing dates.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said he will proceed with each species section, beginning with sage-grouse. He noted the language in the regulation with the many “exceptions.” He said in the future they plan to denote the open units rather than the “closed units.”

Chairman Drew said he appreciated yesterday's presentation and the maps, as the visual picture is helpful, and he suggested that next year the language in the regulation be updated as this year was the biennial update.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said he had a problem with how it is all over the board on the sage-grouse issue. He asked about Humboldt County Unit 012 because the tables do not seem to jive. He asked why it is not unit specific instead of county specific they do not split deer units.

Chairman Drew said the plan was to send out the map.

Biologist Espinosa said in 2014 they sent out the map and made it available online.

Chairman Drew asked about the unique seasons: 1, 2, and 3. Maybe put a footnote on the table to say to reference the map.

Biologist Espinosa said breaking them up by county has to do with the diligence with which they work with sage-grouse. Example is unit 068. He said the map will help.

Commissioner Johnston said he would prefer to state the open areas 031 and 184, so there is no confusion.

Meeting break taken to adjust the units.

**COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14-11 AMENDMENT #2 IN RESPECT TO THE SAGE-GROUSE SEASONS AND HUNT UNITS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT BUT REWRITE THE REGULATION TO IDENTIFY THE OPEN UNITS; FIRST TABLE OPEN AREAS SHALL BE HUNT UNITS 031 AND 184; SECOND TABLE OPEN AREAS SHALL BE HUNT UNITS 061, 062, 064, 065, 066, 067, THE PORTION OF 068 IN ELKO COUNTY, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 077, 101, 102, 103, 104, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 121, 131, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 154, 155, 161, 162, 163, 164, 172, 173, THE PORTION OF HUNT UNIT 221 IN WHITE PINE COUNTY, AND THE PORTION OF HUNT UNIT 222 IN WHITE PINE COUNTY; THIRD TABLE OPEN AREAS SHALL BE HUNT UNITS 011, 012, 013, 014, 034, AND 051. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION, AND COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON AMENDED THE MOTION THAT THE MAP IN THE SUPPORT MATERIAL IDENTIFIES THE OPEN AREAS. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION WITH THE AMENDMENT.**

**CHAIRMAN DREW ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION TO AMEND MOTION TO PROVIDE THAT IN SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 4 SEASON, THE PORTION OF 012 IN WASHOE AND HUMBOLDT COUNTY AND THE PORTION OF 034 IN WASHOE COUNTY. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Drew said that if the Department needs to add language to the map to reflect consistency to the map that they have the latitude to make the adjustments.

Biologist Espinosa noted the changes/recommendations for wild turkey.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said sportsman Kensen Lee recommended this year the Commission consider the youth hunt start the same time as the general hunt and move the Heritage season back one week, so it might increase the value of a Heritage tag because the hunter might be alone in the field for a week. Starting the youth hunt with the general hunt would allow one week for them on the back end of hunt unit 138. Rotate the nonresident tag through the seasons on a yearly basis. There is a number of mature toms and are recommending that they increase quota so there would be 4 rather than 3 and the third hunt would remain at 3.

Commissioner Bliss asked about the season dates.

Chairman Drew asked Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton how the Commission can proceed with the new amendments proposed by Clark CABMW.

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton said the Commission is looking at what dates and seasons and it is not limited to the input they are taking.

Chairman Drew asked Shawn Espinosa if he had any concerns with the input from the Clark CABMW.

Biologist Espinosa said they advocate that they allow the youth to get an early jump. It can be difficult to hunt with a child.

**COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14-11 AMENDMENT #2 WITH RESPECT TO THE WILD TURKEY SEASONS WITH CHANGES: THE YOUTH GENERAL SPRING HUNT 0138 FOR MOAPA VALLEY IS CHANGED FROM THE START DATE BEING THE LAST SATURDAY IN MARCH THROUGH THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN APRIL. INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TAGS IN 0131 FOR MOAPA VALLEY FOR THE EARLY AND MIDDLE FROM THREE TAGS TO FOUR TAGS AND THE NONRESIDENT TAG FOR 0132 BE MOVED TO THE LATE SEASON TO THE SECOND SATURDAY IN APRIL THROUGH THE THIRD FRIDAY IN APRIL. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

Biologist Espinosa noted the change/recommendation for the bobcat pelt sealing dates.

CABMW and Public Comment – None.

**COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 14-11 AMENDMENT #2 WITH RESPECT THE BOBCAT PELT SEALING DATES AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

18 Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa summarized the Upland Game Release Plan for FY 2016 and 2017, as sent in the support material.

Commissioner Valentine asked regarding augmentations in Lincoln County.

Biologist Espinosa answered that the new biologist has surveyed turkeys and a hunt could be proposed in Lincoln County for spring of 2017. They will be receiving turkeys from Utah for that area.

Chairman Drew asked a question about the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area as that population took a dip but continued the hunt.

Biologist Espinosa answered that hunter success has increased for the last two years. It would be great to have more precipitation in that area.

Chairman Drew was happy to see the Hungarian partridge reintroduction and asked if attempt to transfer.

Biologist Espinosa said those birds are an enigma. Other western states have not translocated. Our records are from the 1920s and 1930s.

Chairman Drew said he is interested in having the Commission receive an update in the next year or two.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW, voted unanimously to support the release plan as presented with a request for augmentation of mountain quail and chukar in the Pine Nut Range.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said besides the comment by Commissioner Valentine, it was noted that the National Wild Turkey Federation's annual newsletter stated that the group spent zero dollars in Nevada to help with translocation. He asked if the Commission will work with the Department to see if Nevada could get some money.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said they will be having a board meeting this summer and staff are working with the Federation to help fund the work.

**COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

- 19 Arbitration Request by Wade West regarding Elk Incentive Tag Awards as Determined by the Nevada Department of Wildlife – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling –For Possible Action  
The Commission will hear a request for arbitration of the recommended Elk Incentive Tag Award as recommended by the Nevada Department of Wildlife

Chairman Drew said this is a new process that the Commission recently approved. The Commission will serve as the arbitration panel, will consider two items, and the Findings will be final.

Administrator Wakeling said NDOW staff involved, are clear on the process, and are prepared to proceed today.

Chairman Drew asked Mr. Wade West if he is clear on the process and is prepared to proceed today.

Wade West said he was clear on the process and is prepared for today. He said he is in disagreement on the number of tags allotted and his recommendation is for five tags.

Chairman Drew said the Department recommended two tags, and staff from the Department will provide their recommendation and justification.

Eastern Region Supervisor Ken Gray presented a PowerPoint presentation of how the Department implements the Elk Incentive Program, and answered questions from the Commission as to how the formula is used, and the Elk Incentive Tag Cooperative Agreement that is used between NDOW and the landowner. Further explaining that the landowner, Mr. West signed the agreement, but put in a note stating that he did not agree with it and would like to go to arbitration. The total number of elk times the hours of use on the property. That converts it to use days. To be able to compare it to the total number of elk in the population then it is divided by 365, elk use by year. The number 17 does not mean there are only 17 elk using his property; it means that the average number of elk using the property for 365 days a year is 17. Biologist Gray explained the difference between the Elk Incentive program and the deer and antelope compensation programs.

Biologist Scott Roberts presented a PowerPoint presentation on the recommendation for Wade West.

Chairman Drew asked if Scott Roberts has been in the field with Wade West and made observations.

Scott Roberts said it has been remote, and that they met on fencing projects but have not gone out in the field for incentive tag surveys.

Mr. Wade West explained his position and other ranchers feel the same as he as far as working with the Department. The map is the hunt unit and the second map is parcels that represent the water on the ranch. They are the only ones who are maintaining the water and doing re-seeding for all the parcels. This not only benefits his livestock, but wildlife as well. Map with cows running around but if the cow had 150 other elk with her it would make the picture different. Last year there was an arbitration meeting and Scott Roberts admitted to lying. Other years he saw 30 or 40 elk and he would call Scott Roberts and then Scott Roberts would follow-up with a letter that tracks of seven or eight was all he saw. The counts are not accurate. It is a good program, but the monitoring is not accurate. The last page is a graph with his estimate, the Departments estimates and incentive tags received. It is disproportionate from the beginning of the program to the end of the program. He has been through arbitration quite a few times. Wade West said he is usually successful in arbitration with the Commission choosing to add another tag. Magazines give credit to ranchers for water development and et cetera. With receiving just two tags he does not feel that is appropriate compensation. Since the introduction of elk he is building more fences. He has tried relentlessly to get a few materials to protect the water sources. The number of 17 head of elk for one year out of 700 is ridiculous. The number should be 50 or 60. He thinks the observations are really wrong. If they would turn around and issue tags he think they deserve they would do cartwheels for elk and do all they could to maintain the herds. He does not think they are getting what is justified.

Chairman Drew said today's process is different than the arbitrations in the past. He looked at what happened over the last year and the information that the Department has provided and the information Wade West has provided, and wants to stay out of mudslinging. Stick to the facts. Has recommendations going forward.

Commissioner Mori asked for an explanation of acreage.

Mr. West said they are the upland acreages not the lowland acreages. They saw elk in them last night. The state was founded on people water righting areas through the Taylor Grazing Act.

Commissioner Mori asked if this was acreage Wade West owned.

Mr. West said yes, he owned the acreage.

Commissioner Young asked if all are upland acreages. There does not appear to be as many orange areas in the mountain areas in the hunt unit as are listed, inaccuracy?

Biologist Roberts answered that it is totally incomplete.

Commissioner Young asked if the Department had a map that would reflect Mr. West's privately owned areas in the mountains of which he is discussing.

Biologist Roberts said Wade West's properties are spread out.

Mr. West said last year he was at a spring on Telegraph with his daughter. They took pictures of it. The Department has been devious with taking pictures. They choose what they want to take pictures of.

Commissioner Young said there is not enough information from Wade West to determine an evaluation of facts. Wade West is short on providing evidence. To make a good decision the Commission needs an accurate depiction of Wade West's situation. He would have liked to see the pictures Wade West spoke about.

Mr. West said that comes through the issuance of compensation tags so that they can pay for that. Would need a full-time person with a camera and they need that to protect themselves from the Department.

Commissioner Young told Mr. West that he does not need protection from the Department, they are not out to get him.

Mr. West said people will not speak up. Most ranchers do not speak up and that is donating everything to the Department.

Commissioner McNinch said the thought that crossed his mind is that if Mr. West is seeing enough to plead his case that it must not take the resources that he perceived to document the usage. He asked, if Mr. West has been seeing elk in the field, why has he not been reported to the sightings to the Department.

Mr. West said the last time he filed a justifiable, honest complaint; Scott Roberts came out and documented it as seven or eight head. The documentation is flawed. He asked what is point of contacting the local biologist.

Commissioner McNinch said that there might be instances when you see more elk than they are observing in any given day. Their hands are tied too. They are playing by a set of rules. There has to be a way for Mr. West to document the usage.

Mr. West said he is on the ranch every day and does not have sophisticated camera equipment. A full-time employee is needed for accuracy. Cannot run around and do this in the daily duties and have accurate information.

Commissioner Johnston said the map denotes 4,920 acres of private land in the mountains. Give estimate of distance between northerly and southerly parcel.

Mr. West guessed the distance to be 40 or 50 miles.

Commissioner Johnston understands the difficulty of observation and documenting. They saw an example of observation reports where a land owner would simply write down what they saw and where on a given day.

Mr. West said he used to document like that.

Commissioner Johnston struggles with the cooperative agreement and conveyance of data. He understands Wade West has been frustrated but he did not provide documentation of observation.

Mr. West said he made observations in past. He also made observations recently, but they were thrown out.

Commissioner Johnston said he can understand where he is coming from without that.

Mr. West agreed 100 percent.

Commissioner Mori said he and Commissioner Johnston are on same page as he was on figuring this out. There are acreages with where the collared elk have been on private lands. He asked if he is not getting credit for having elk on private lands scattered across the countryside. He asked if he is not getting credit for 50 being documented as 20. He asked if he has private land not being counted towards the elk use.

Mr. West said that is a complicated question to answer. There are a lot of parcels not getting compensation and a lot getting compensated for five elk instead of 40 or 50 elk. That is the greater concern. Tracks and pellet groups do not work. Has trailed elk and took time to look at tracks.

Commissioner Bliss asked if any of the acres have been fenced as denoted on the map.

Mr. West said he has requested to fence springs and he gets no help from the Department at all. The Department seems to look at the \$161,000 as a gift. It is a responsibility because they are their elk. Same as if he ran sheep on the Departments land. None of the acreage on map provided is fenced.

Commissioner Johnston asked a question on what county the land is in Elko County and White Pine County.

Mr. West said if he guessed that one-third would be in Elko County and two-thirds in White Pine County.

Commissioner Johnston said the map from the Department does not show much of White Pine County at all.

Chairman Drew said he is looking for a simple documentation sheet to have a log or record of elk use. He thinks it would go a long way to determine what is going on out there. The Commission has to decipher what the Department documented and Mr. West's observations. He would hope that Mr. West would have a log book to have something to look at as an observation sheet would be helpful; he does not want to diminish the value of what Mr. West does but he is in a hard place with no documentation.

Mr. West said he understood.

Chairman Drew said going forward the Commission's purpose is to resolve disputes and is aware of the distrust, and that observation logs would go a long way.

Mr. West said with that many acres and high number of elk it is obvious there are more than 17 head of elk on the property over 365 days.

Chairman Drew asked Mr. West if he does not think there are 17 head of elk what would be his guesstimate.

Mr. West said his ballpark figure is 50, which is based on what he has seen and the amount of elk in that area. There have been inaccuracies in counts over the years. He said if you talk to other ranchers they think they are getting an even compensation as they don't want to make money off the program, you will make a friend and they will do everything for elk.

Commissioner Mori asked Biologist Gray about the use dates for the tags.

Biologist Gray said the use is in calendar year, January to December. Once the Commission sets the tag quota in May then two to three weeks applications sent for tags for 2015.

Commissioner Young asked if it would be possible to collar elk in the year of use starting January 1, 2016. He is concerned with small areas and elk use.

Biologist Gray said there are 41 landowners in the area and it is extremely expensive to put radio collars on elk. Biologist Roberts spends a lot of time trying to hit the key parcels that get the most use. He said they are paring it down from elk use days to percentage of elk by dividing it by 365. It really equates to 6,205 elk use days, which equates to 517 elk use days per month. They are not saying there are only 17 elk per day. It is an average and they are boiling it down to elk use.

Chairman Drew asked for an explanation of the formula.

Biologist Gray explained the formula.

Commissioner Mori asked with the herd in this area, what are the population objectives.

Biologist Roberts answered the population is below the objectives.

Commissioner Mori knows when the Department does the surveys to assess how many animals they believed there are compared to how many they counted. He asked if it is done for the process or if the use number is documented only.

Biologist Roberts said if the Department went off direct observations Mr. West would have less than 200 per year with direct observations. From collaring data obtained, it is known that a huge number of elk leave during the winter. There is lots of use at one time but little in other times of the year.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW, asked if wild horses are on the property and if so, how many. He is concerned with the statement made on the damage to the springs/water sources.

Chairman Drew said he understands the question, but the first order is to consider whether Department is in error with awarding two tags.

Commissioner Young asked to go through the process.

Chairman Drew said per the policy that was adopted in May, the Commission, as an arbitration panel, needs to consider two things, first to determine if the Department's award of two tags was made in error or not. If the Commission believes that, the second step of the process would be to direct the Department as to the number of incentive tags should be awarded.

Commissioner McNinch struggles to argue any point that the numbers were in error. He is concerned with the counting/equivalency. The math makes sense to him, but he is struggling with Mr. West not providing information. It makes it hard to determine the Department's error.

Commissioner Valentine agreed with the numbers provided by the Department. His issue is where the cooperation broke down. Why there was no communication between the Department and the landowner.

Chairman Drew said he had that same question and would encourage both parties to diminish the gap.

Commissioner McNinch said Mr. West's disagreement is based in part on observations made in the field and they were not provided.

Commissioner Johnston said he appreciates the maps. The problem he has with the Department's map is that it only shows one piece of where the private property is and not all of it. To be fair to the landowner, when the Department makes its justification it needs to provide mapping of all of the private property. He struggles to find where the error was by the Department that would justify an increased number of tags. He goes back to the fact that this is a cooperative agreement that is entered into. He heard Mr. West clearly say that he did not want to do that based upon prior experience. This is a year to year thing. The landowner needs to abide by the terms of the cooperative agreement. Would be a more difficult case if there were observation logs that the landowner had made. He would also like to see better information from the Department that is more complete than what he received today.

Commissioner Mori struggles with this because he lives the life that Mr. West lives. He sees the same things. There is not time for documentation. This has been ongoing. The Department has done their due diligence to try to assess how many animals are actually using the property.

Chairman Drew said he is struggling because he thinks the department did their due diligence. It is hard to speak to without seeing an observation log. He has an issue getting beyond that and understands reluctance for due diligence on the other side, but it leaves a big gap. There was a signed cooperative agreement.

Mr. West said his due diligence is illustrated in the graph. When having herds of 300 elk in the past and they received two incentive tags and now it is up to 700 elk and they are still receiving two tags. With the higher numbers of elk they have more fence damage and it requires them to do maintenance.

Commissioner Johnston asked what survey method was used by the Department to observe Mr. West's property.

Biologist Roberts said the flights have different objectives. They are the annual deer or elk survey. The Department does make a point to fly to specific parcels.

Commissioner Young asked if the flights were done to specifically look at Mr. West's property.

Biologist Roberts said not specifically, they were incidental, and further questions from the Commission on property visits ensued.

Commissioner Young asked for the total size of Wade West's ranch.

Wade West estimated the total size of his ranch, private and public, to be 750,000 acres. He is permitted for 600 cows and is running one-third of that, and has five paid employees.

Chairman Drew said the first order is determining if the Department was in error.

Commissioner Young said he has been involved in a lot of arbitration and mediation. The most successful are where neither party is happy. The Department's number could be an error based on the evidence heard today. The number of tags can be increased to three. He heard a lot about the lack of communication over the last few years and that needs to be improved. He completely understands and respects what the Department did and he hates to hear someone be called a liar. He has had a glimpse of Wade West's life. There was not elk in this state in the past. The Department brought elk to this state. The ranchers never had to deal with elk and traditionally ranchers did not have to worry about elk. There have been a lot of positives with bringing elk here and he thinks a lot of the ranchers would agree with that. It can be overwhelming to have a lot of elk damage. He made the statement of three tags based on evidence heard today. He is willing to give the rancher the benefit of the doubt and increase his allotment by one tag in hopes that they do a better job in communicating. There may be frustration with government entities. The Department is not that tough. They are a much more professional, reasonable organization to deal with. Mr. West needs to use the observation sheets and take pictures of the damage.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO INCREASE TO NUMBER OF ELK TAGS FROM TWO TO THREE. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Chairman Drew said the motion is premature because the Commission needs to determine if the Department's award was made in error, then the Commission could make a recommendation.

Commissioner Johnston said he understood the first part of the motion to be Commissioner Young commenting that there was at least some probability that there may have been an undercount by the Department and that the second part was to increase the tags from two to three.

Commissioner Young said that is correct.

Chairman Drew recommended the motion be withdrawn.

Commissioner Young withdrew his motion. Commission Mori withdrew his second.

**COMMISSIONER YOUNG BELIEVES THE DEPARTMENT'S ESTIMATE OF TWO TAGS IS AN ERROR BASED ON THE LACK OF PERTINENT DATA AND POTENTIAL FLAWS IN THE FORMULA. COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO INCREASE TO NUMBER OF ELK TAGS FROM TWO TO THREE AS LONG AS WADE WEST AND HIS FAMILY PROVIDES ALL THE INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO WORK WITH AND INSURE THE COMMUNICATIONS LINES BETWEEN WADE WEST AND HIS FAMILY ARE AS GOOD AS THEY POSSIBLY CAN BE. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Chairman Drew said his problem is with the first part of the motion. He does not doubt what Mr. West is saying; however, there is a signed cooperative agreement. He believes the Department has done their due diligence. He believes there should be two tags for 2015 and going forward everyone needs to do a better job. He will not support the motion at this time.

Commissioner McNinch said he agreed with Chairman Drew and does not support the motion.

Commissioner Johnston said he will support the motion because it appears that the Department may have not covered all of the private ground. He is also mindful of this being the first time for the Commission to go through this process. He is willing to give a little bit more leeway to Wade West and the Department. He is willing to move the tag number to three but not above that. He would not be as understanding next year if Mr. West or any other landowner was to be back here without documentation. This is a lack of communication between the Department and Wade West.

Commissioner Wallace agreed with Chairman Drew and said there were problems with getting information from the landowner. The Department provided they had 13 days in the field spent on property.

Commissioner Bliss said this is the first arbitration meeting. Increasing from two to three starts the Commission on a slippery slope. It states that both sides have to do certain things and both sides have not. They are going to set a precedent for the future. Need to follow process precisely and may end up with a lot of arbitration going forward as mitigation. I would rather start with the facts on both sides and follow the letter of the law. He is not comfortable with proceeding. The increase might be deserved but cannot argue the time and effort the

Department put in as well. He would like to do the increase, but he cannot do it for the reasons stated. He cannot support the motion.

Commissioner Valentine agreed with Commissioner Bliss. This sets a precedent. He feels the Department has done its due diligence and they cannot fault the Department in the first step of the arbitration process. He will not support the motion.

Commissioner Mori said he does not agree with the first part of motion on the Department error and the second part of the motion covers the gray areas that Commissioner Johnston pointed out. A lot of this is not exact science where you get to every water source when elk are there and being able to assess the elk use. He is leaning towards supporting the motion.

Commissioner Johnston said the Commission adopted this process after Wade West requested arbitration. He would like to know what the timing was. If they adopted the process after the arbitration request was made, he does not think that the Commission can fully fault Mr. West for not following that process.

Chairman Drew said the process was formalized and adopted at the May meeting. A copy of the arbitration process that was adopted was provided to Mr. West via certified mail.

Commissioner Johnston asked if Mr. West requested arbitration in March 2015 and the Commission formally adopted this policy in May 2015.

Senior Deputy Attorney General David Newton said that was the point of the discussion prior to going on the record and the point of the Chairman Drew's opening of this particular item. Everyone agreed that they were prepared to go forward under this set of rules.

Commissioner Johnston is comfortable moving forward, but one of the reasons he is leaning toward supporting the motion is the timing of the events. The parties agreed to move forward. Willing to find the middle ground at this point in time.

Commissioner Young said as far as precedent every issue rises and falls on its own merits, there is no precedent in an arbitration or mediation. He thought this through and in this particular case he does not think it is a bad idea to give Mr. West one more tag to insure that these things get done in the future. It is difficult for him to believe that this is an exact science. The Department did a good job with the 13 days on the ground and the evidence they presented. Mr. West does not have access to the expertise, he is a rancher and he is busy. He said to give him the benefit of the doubt this time. If his request is denied, the situation will not get better.

Commissioner Wallace said first part of the motion is a problem, as we are saying that the Department did not do their due diligence.

Commissioner Young said that it is not what he is saying. The Department did a good job, but legal things were pointed out.

Commissioner Wallace said that the Department did not do anything wrong. Wade West had to sign saying he would cooperate.

Commissioner Young said he agrees. He put in his motion that he expects improvement with the cooperation.

Commissioner Wallace said there was not the cooperation that needed to happen per the agreement to even be in the program.

Commissioner Johnston said there was some cooperation with the landowner with access that was provided. Wholesale lack of cooperation? No. He sees why these disputes belong to the Commission. He does not like saying that the Department erred, but the information provided by the Department was incomplete. Local people do not want to hear these disputes. The map from the Department does not give a complete picture.

**COMMISSIONERS YOUNG, JOHNSTON, AND MORI SUPPORT THE MOTION AND COMMISSIONERS VALENTINE, BLISS, MCNINCH, DREW, AND WALLACE OPPOSE THE MOTION. THE MOTION FAILED 3 – 5.**

Commissioner McNinch said that the map is interesting, but it is not what he is basing his decision on. There is disagreement based on observations. There was a comment made that there was a refusal to submit information. The program is designed to provide tolerance from the ranchers for the wildlife issues they resolve. He respects that. He does not look at fence building as gift to any operator, owner, or rancher. There has not been any information provided regarding the number of tags the Department proposed to give.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED FINDING THAT THE ESTIMATES OF ELK USE ON WADE WEST'S PROPERTIES WAS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THEREFORE THE NUMBER OF TAGS PROPOSED WAS NOT MADE IN ERROR. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS YOUNG AND JOHNSTON OPPOSED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 6 – 2. COMMISSIONER LAYNE WAS ABSENT.**

Mr. West said they have been through arbitration a lot and most of the time he is successful and the Commissioners trying to raise the tags by one show that the Department was in error. The map is devious by not showing all of the private land.

20 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley – For Possible Action  
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 7 and 8, 2015, in Fallon, 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.

Chairman Drew said he did not have anything with regard to Committee's at this time.

Secretary Wasley explained the future Commission Meeting items: Commission elections, set and revise waterfowl regulations, temporary regulations heard to make them permanent, Commissioner Layne appreciation, and Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee topic list for circulation and discussion at September Commission meeting

Chairman Drew said he would like to discuss which regulations that are outstanding, update the Commission Calendar and he would like to attend a Leadership Team meeting. He said if possible all Commissioners should attend WAFWA in July.

CABMW and Public Comment – None.

21 Public Comment Period

Fred Voltz stated his comments for the record: At yesterday's Tag Allocation Committee, a review of the Committee's Charter reiterated that tag allocation is based on "sound biological and sociological principles." Webster defines sociology as "the study of the history, development, organization and problems of people living together as social groups." Therefore, using the word "sociology" in the context of wildlife killing decisions makes no logical sense. Sociology needs to be removed from the Charter. The bigger issue centers on altering hunt unit killing quotas based on the input of CABs and individual licensees who have no biology credentials or scientifically-based evidence supporting their requests. Millions of dollars in public funds are annually spent employing Wildlife Department biologists who have the necessary training and scientific studies supporting their killing quota recommendations. Yet in May, the Commission substantially adjusted staff-recommended Big Game killing quotas based on non-scientific input. In August, Waterfowl Seasons and Limits will be on the agenda. The question is: Will the recommendations of the subject-matter experts, trained in the scientific approach and with evidence and supporting data prevail, or will feel-good preferences of licensees trump sound biology? On a separate subject, the contentious, unresolved issue of trap registration and visitation sits in a murky, post-SB 213 state. Since the Legislative Commission hasn't approved the Wildlife Commission's trap visitation regulation passed in August 2014, what is the path forward? Of course, the responsible approach would be to require trap registration and substantially lower the 96-hour visitation, both of which are within the Commission's authority. After the recurring problems with violators, the most recent being Trevor Walch in Elko, a sufficient number of trappers have demonstrated they can't self-police their actions towards the public's wildlife. And still, no trappers have volunteered themselves or their families to remain in traps under the same conditions they advocate wildlife endure for 96 hours.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

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