

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting
Draft Minutes
Videotape of the entire meeting is available at ndow.org**

Final Agenda

Great Basin College
1500 College Parkway
Greenhaw Technical Arts (GTA) Building, Room 130
Elko, NV 89801

Videoconferencing Locations:

Truckee Meadows Community College
7000 Dandini Blvd
Sierra Building, Room 100
Reno, NV 89512

College of Southern Nevada – Cheyenne Campus
3200 E. Cheyenne Ave.
Building C, Conference Room 2638
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Public comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item, and is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, 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.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Members:

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

*Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs excused absence from two-day meeting

Secretary Tony Wasley	Deputy Attorney General David Newton
Recording Secretary Suzanne Scourby	Administrative Assistant III Jordan Neubauer

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

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Division Administrator of Operations Bob Haughian
Biologist 4 Tom Donham	Conservation Education Division Administrator Teresa Moiola
Division Administrator Habitat Alan Jenne	Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger
Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark	Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme
Administrative Assistant 2 Natalie Pannunzio	Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Administrative Assistant Katie Simper
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg	Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Wildlife Staff Specialist Matt Maples	Conservation Educator 4 Joe Doucette

Others in attendance – Elko Location/two days:

Gil Yanuck, Carson County Advisory Board Member (CABMW)	Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Sean Shea, chairman Washoe CABMW	Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Joel Blakeslee, NV Trappers Association	Monty Martin, Systems Consultants
Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW	Dave Drew
Paul Dixon, chairman Clark CABMW	Rex Flowers, self
Don Molde, Nevada Wildlife Alliance	Jason James
Don Sefton, Systems Consultants	Justin James

Lance Stitzl
Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association
Meghan Brown
Bert K. Gurr, Elko CABMW

Robert Pogoda
Josh Vittori, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Matt Murray, Nevada Outdoorsman in Wheelchairs

Others in attendance – Las Vegas Location/two days:

Stephanie Myers
Karen Layne
Julius Fortuna, Nevada Firearms Coalition

Jana Wright
Mike Reese, Clark CABMW

Others in attendance – Reno Location/two days:

Fred Voltz, public
Elaine Carrick
Caren Tayloe

Bobbie McCollum
Bob Brunner
Dave Drew

Friday, June 24, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Drew called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on Friday, June 24, 2016.

Roll call of the Commission, Commissioners present at roll call: Chairman Drew, Vice Chairman Wallace, Commissioners Bliss, Johnston, McNinch, Mori, and Valentine.

Commissioner Hubbs has an excused absence from the two day meeting. Commissioner Young will be late and is to be marked present upon his arrival.

CABMW Roll Call: Gil Yanuck, Carson; Rob Boehmer, Carson; Joe Crim, Pershing; Sean Shea, Washoe; Paul Dixon, Clark; Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas; Jim Cooney, Elko; and Glenn Bunch, Mineral.

- Tenure Recognition of Hunter Education Volunteers – Conservation Education Supervisor Joe Doucette and Secretary Wasley
Several Hunter Education volunteer instructors will receive recognition and awards for various years of service.

Conservation Education Supervisor Joe Doucette recognized hunter education volunteers Jerry Windous for 40 years of service, Bob Loncar for 30 years of service and Barry Adkins (not present) for 30 years of service.

- Operation Game Thief Award Presentation – Rob Boehmer Operation Game Thief Board Member

Rob Boehmer of Operation Game Thief (OGT) presented the OGT award to NDOW Game Warden Scott Giles for 2014. Mr. Boehmer said Warden Giles had many OGT cases.

- Wayne E. Kirch Award Presentation – Chairman Drew

Chairman Drew presented the Wayne E. Kirch Award to Carol Evans. The Kirch Award is presented to a person who went above and beyond for the wildlife of the state. Ms. Evans was a biologist for the BLM. Her work with Lahontan cutthroat trout was the basis of her nomination. Chairman Drew spoke of her true passion and true understanding and her many accomplishments. Ms. Evans said she wanted to share the recognition

with NDOW employees, Connie Lee, Steve Foree, Jeff Peterson, and Alan Jenne. She recognized many progressive ranchers in Elko County. She hopes the spirit of collaboration and partnerships continue.

Secretary Wasley reviewed the Kirch Award, and the importance of partnerships.

- Ted C. Frantz Award Presentation – Secretary Wasley

Secretary Wasley presented the Ted C. Frantz award to NDOW Pilot Dale Coleman. Secretary Wasley said employees nominate the recipient and this year's recipient received nominations from two regions, and two different divisions. Chairman Drew expressed his appreciation to Dale for keeping our people safe.

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

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

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WALLACE. COMMISSIONER HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

- 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). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Commissioner Mori said he appreciates the Commission meeting held in Elko. Attendance shows that having meeting in rural areas allows the Commission to have contact with others in these communities. He said a lady attended a previous meeting from Maggie Creek Ranch and mentioned the ranch had been nominated for a national stewardship award. The Maggie Creek Ranch did win the National Stewardship Award. He is proud that Elko County and a local ranch won for operating the ranch in the best possible way. Commissioner Mori said he had an opportunity to visit with NDOW employee Matt Jeffress and Mr. Jeffress mentioned sage-grouse surveys and most know that sage-grouse is important to the resource dependent industries. One of the largest leks in the state is in Elko County. Commissioner Mori provided an example of Biologist Matt Jeffress checking lek counts, and said the work the biologists do is not exact science, but due to their diligence to get things right the public receives a better product. He said these details need to be known by the public. He also had a positive

contact with Biologist Caleb McAdoo who had been away in the Rubies conducting mountain goat wildlife surveys for many days.

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

Paul Dixon, chairman Clark CABMW, had three items: Appreciates the Commission for videoconferencing meetings to Clark County; requested if the support material for all of the committees and the Commission support material could be compiled into one PDF on the website to make it easier to find; and he requested that action reports be forwarded to each CABMW member.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, said his CABMW requested to introduce elk in Mineral County and the request has brought excitement to his community. He wants to keep the request on the Commission's radar.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said his CABMW also requests to have the support material in one PDF. They are in favor of cost savings by not printing and mailing. Carson CABMW is requesting that the Commission get involved with the Pine Nut Mountains Herd Management and remind the BLM to plan and deal with this matter. BLM is issuing a 10 year wild horse management plan for the area and the herd is reported to consist of 536 horses, Appropriate Management Level (AML) is between 119 – 179 horses. He said Commissions' in year's past had been active urging BLM to bring herds to AML, however in the report there is no plan as to how get down to AML. The horses are a nuisance and a safety issue to motorists and horses.

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, requested revisiting shotguns as a legal weapon for bear hunting.

- 5 Approval of Minutes – Chairman Drew – For Possible Action
Commission minutes from the May 13 and 14, 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Bliss and Valentine abstained from action on approval of the minutes because they were absent from parts of the May meeting.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS BLISS AND VALENTINE ABSTAINED. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0.

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 Farman reviewed the projects as denoted in support material. He said the wood duck project is complete.

Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Zahradka provided an update on completed projects duck stamp projects: Duck Stamp Funding was once again used for Nevada Division of Forestry support on prescribed burns on several WMA's. This funding helps to offset their costs to operate the Conservation Crews and Fire Engines they provide. Controlled burns were conducted at the Carson Lake Wetlands last fall and Mason Valley this spring. NDOW's annual contribution of \$10,000 was made to Ducks Unlimited for land purchases, wetland restorations, and conservation easements on private land in the Prairie Pothole Region of Canada. Over the past 18 years, NDOW has contributed over \$130,000 to this effort. We request that the funding be used to support projects in Alberta since waterfowl band recovery indicates that it provides a substantial portion of the waterfowl that migrate through Nevada. Wetland Enhancement projects continue on Key Pittman WMA at the north ponds by the Office and Shop area and Overton WMA at Pintail and Wilson Ponds. Ducks Unlimited wetland engineers performed surveys on these areas and created project designs for us in Phase 1. The second phase, which currently happening this FY, is the purchasing of water control structures, culverts and other necessary materials needed for the final construction phase of these wetland enhancements. We plan to move forward with work at Key Pittman WMA first. We will be receiving construction plans for Overton WMA soon but those will need to reviewed and approved by the National Park Service before work can be started. Overton WMA property unlike many of the other WMA's that we manage is not owned by the state, it is situated on NPS property that we manage as a WMA under a cooperative agreement. This year's proposals as opposed to what had been done in the past is a lot of the annual maintenance projects costs such as weed spraying and well pumping have been incorporated into the annual WMA grant, and was done based on past Commission and CABMW recommendations. Mr. Zahradka answered questions from the Commission.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said although his CABMW approved this item he asked why some projects had cost breakdowns and others did not. He referred the Commission to page 21 and page 24. The section with equipment costs, and under (4) b "corn bags." The cost would be cheaper if bought in bulk from Wal-Mart.

Rex Flowers said on page 18, under budget status that administrative costs are listed at 10 percent, and he asked why those administrative costs are so high. That money could be used to put projects on the ground.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Farman said he will investigate the cost. He explained that all of the costs were not included in the report to minimize paper/printing costs. Also, authors were instructed to only include that breakdown if there is more than one cost item to the proposed project, some projects are very simple with only one item bought. Mr. Farman said the 10 percent indirect cost pays for overhead and are for things that are not project specific, such as fiscal staff and 10 percent is only charged to revenue accrued.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 DUCK STAMP PROJECTS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,955. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

- 7 Upland Game Bird Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mark Farman and Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action
The Commission will review and may take action to approve projects submitted for upland game bird stamp funds.

Wildlife Habitat Staff Specialist Mark Farman said staff is requesting approval of projects for fiscal year 2017 as denoted in the Annual Upland Game Stamp Report. Page 20 summarizes the new projects, the majority were proposed by Game Biologist Shawn Espinosa. Mr. Espinosa uses the expenditures under the program as a source for match for the Department's sage-grouse conservation grant. The other programs that use this as a source of match are the water development program, the game management grant, as well as the WMA grant. Staff is requesting that the Commission approve \$274,530 for new projects. Biologist Shawn Espinosa said he has 10 projects proposed for this fiscal year. Mr. Espinosa explained the 10 projects, and answered questions from the Commission.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said the Clark CABMW unanimously approved the projects, they had discussion on statement that sage-grouse is an important species and should be noted that sportsmen have really stepped up with studies and predator control to try to help and understand sage-grouse.

Bobbi McCollum asked what is the raven population and the percentage increase.

Mr. Espinosa said he does not specifically have numbers on raven population increase, but cameras were placed on sage-grouse nests. The video showed ravens as the number one culprit for removing sage-grouse eggs off the nest. Sage-grouse nest success was so low, that drove the population down. He said this is an informed choice as we know what pre-treatment nest success looks like.

Commissioner Bliss asked if there will be a transition for funding of monitoring back to actual projects. He said projects such as pinon-juniper removal are important to continue. On his property there is a crested-wheat seeding which became so overgrown

that the birds left to strut on a clear county road in order to be seen. Areas like that need improvement to get the birds to return and there are many projects that could be done.

Biologist Espinosa said he does not foresee this level of monitoring to continue past the next three years.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2017 UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP PROJECTS AS PROPOSED BY NDOW IN THE AMOUNT OF \$274,530. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 7 - 0.

8 Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck and Deputy Director Liz O'Brien

A Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – Informational
The Commission will hear a report on the committee's recent meeting.

Chairman Yanuck read the minutes (exhibit file). Highlights from committee minutes: Minutes approved; CABMW budget request in the amount of \$39,186 approved; and discussed auditing CABMW budgets accounts.

B Fiscal Year 2017 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 2017.

Committee Chair Yanuck explained how the augmentations are determined, and Chairman Drew said footnotes could be added to the spreadsheet in the future to the support material to explain the augmentations and to send the spreadsheet to the CABMWs.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, said he had contacted the editor of the local newspaper and the paper will publish their meeting notices for free.

Public Comment from Reno location –

Fred Voltz said auditing accounts should apply to CABMWs as well as county. The responsibility should be placed where it belongs. No effort to cut these costs over the years. Mr. Boehmer and Mr. Yanuck made no effort to participate from the Reno location.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CABMW BUDGET REQUESTS AS PRESENTED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$39,186. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

- C Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019 NDOW Biennial Budget – Deputy Director Liz O’Brien – For Possible Action
The Commission may make recommendations to the Department for the biennial budget request.

Deputy Director O’Brien reported: With the 79th Regular Session of the Nevada Legislature less than a year away, staff is working hard on preparing the NDOW agency request budget for the 2017-2019 session or state fiscal years (FY) 2018 and 2019. The Governor’s Office, Budget Division and the Department of Wildlife are working closely to submit an Agency Request budget that aligns with the current state of Nevada’s economy and the new Strategic Planning Framework developed by the members of the Governor’s Cabinet in which NDOW’s Director is a member. The Agency Request Budget is the first phase in the process due September 1, 2016. FY 2016 expenditures serve as the base amount for the budget. These expenditures are then adjusted up or down as needed to continue operations at the current service levels. For example, the removal of one-time costs and the annualization of partial year spending. As information becomes available, we will continue to let the Commission know.

- 9 Wildlife Heritage Committee – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace

- A Heritage Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace – Informational
The Commission will hear a report on the committee’s recent meeting.

Commissioner Wallace said the Heritage Committee met last night and reviewed two Commission policies, Policy #10, Wildlife Heritage Tags and Vendors, and Policy #11, Wildlife Heritage Grants for clean-up changes. He said those two policies will be on the August agenda. The committee reviewed the sealed bid process for remaining tags that were not necessarily allocated, and after receiving input from the CABMWs and Commission, the committee decided to leave the process as is for time being.

- A 1 Heritage Project Extension Requests – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action
Pursuant to NAC 501.340, the Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve requests for extension of projects approved in previous years.

Chairman Drew said he will abstain from voting on the next three agenda items as some of the proposed and past projects are projects that his firm works on.

Commissioner Wallace said 10 extension requests; committee reviewed each request, and the committee voted to extend all of the projects as submitted. Commissioner Wallace said one project, 16-04, Atlanta Road Project, had a modification to the project scope.

Wildlife Habitat Staff Specialist Mark Farman said for Project 16-04, Atlanta Road a separate motion was approved. Staff recommended that the scope of work be the same but \$50,000 be allowed to be used for any project element, not just tree removal.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE AS PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS 13 - 04, 13 - 08, 14 - 04, 15 - 02, 15 - 05, 16 - 03, 16 - 04, 16 - 06, 16 - 09, and 16 – 13, ALSO AT SAME TIME CHANGING THE SCOPE OF PROJECT 16 - 04 FOR ANY ELEMENT OF THE PROJECT. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT, AND CHAIRMAN DREW ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

A 2 Heritage Funding Reallocation – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will review committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to any other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.

Commissioner Wallace said for fiscal year 2014, there was a remaining balance of \$41.33 which the committee voted to reallocate to Project 14 - 04. For fiscal year 2015 projects there was a balance of \$2,123.91 and the committee voted to apply those funds to project 15 - 02, and the remaining funds from Fiscal Year 2016 apply \$50.42 to project 16-04, the Atlanta Road sage-grouse habitat project.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said for the record that for agenda items A 1 and A 2 had no support material, therefore they took no action. The support material was available on Friday and their meeting was scheduled the previous Thursday.

Commissioner Wallace apologized to Mr. Shea as he had told him he would bring that up today. He said the reason the information was not posted earlier was to have the most up-to-date fiscal information from the Department.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO REALLOCATE FUNDING FOR THESE PROJECTS: FISCAL YEAR 2014 OF \$41.33 AND APPLY THAT TO PROJECT 14 - 04, FISCAL YEAR 2015 OF \$2,123.91 AND APPLY THOSE FUNDS TO PROJECT 15 - 02, FISCAL YEAR 2016 APPLY THE \$50.42 TO PROJECT 16 - 04. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT, CHAIRMAN DREW ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

A 3 Fiscal Year 2017 Heritage Project Proposals – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Wallace – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear the recommendations from the Heritage Committee and may take action to approve 2017 project applications for funding.

Commissioner Wallace said for Heritage projects in fiscal year 2017, that a total of \$688,231.51 was available for allocation. There were eight projects with enough funding for all along with generous donations from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to assist with NDOW's helicopter purchase.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, commended the committee that no predator projects submitted for Heritage funds.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2017 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED IN SUPPORT MATERIAL AND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS AND YOUNG ABSENT. CHAIRMAN DREW ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 0.

10 Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Tony Wasley – Informational

The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide detail in addition to summaries provided as part of the regular Department report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley said there would be three project updates using PowerPoint: Comins and Bassett Lake Restoration Project, Nevada Mule Deer Program 2015 – 2016 Project Update, and Nevada Outdoorsman in Wheelchairs Program presented by Matt Murray.

Commissioner Young arrived at 1:19 p.m.

11 Reports – Informational

A Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Brad Johnston

The Commission will hear a report on the committee's recent meeting.

Commissioner Johnston reported the committee met yesterday. Proposed regulations reviewed in draft form were: Regulations to amend the NAC to have the sequence of the Partnership in Wildlife tag drawing occur prior to the initial main draw; establish a waiting period for bull elk tags of five years regardless if successful or unsuccessful in a hunt; and a regulation to make antelope waiting period three years regardless if

successful or unsuccessful in a hunt. Commissioner Johnston explained that the draft antelope regulation proposes a uniform waiting period of three years. His understanding when proposal was first considered was to take the five year waiting period to three years, not a three year waiting period if successful. Commissioner Johnston said he misunderstood. Key topics were identified for future agendas: A Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association recommendation to allow nonresidents who apply for guided hunts to also allow them to apply for main draw; deciding whether “high bonus points and or high age” should be an advantage allowed in the draw; address issues with active military losing bonus points; and bonus point eligibility for multiple hunts. The TAAHC looked at addressing specialty tags related to bighorn sheep and the closing of some units. The Department came up with three options, and the committee will work with NDOW staff, CABMWs and the public, to look at potential solutions. The committee may also consider discussing the order that quotas are set in relation to the draw.

- B Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP) Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman David McNinch
The Commission will hear a report on the committee’s recent meeting.

Commissioner McNinch reported at their meeting they discussed: Policy #1, General Guidelines for the Commission due for action tomorrow; proposed changes to NAC/appeals process, petition process with recommended changes to NAC to assist with determining Commission authority over the proposed regulatory change, and if Commission does have authority the petition would be heard by the Commission. Wildlife killing contest policy discussed as the Department had prepared a draft policy. He said a major issue was to consider regulating contests if contests are not banned. Commissioner McNinch said several suggested to split coyote contests out separately as the primary issue/concern was coyote killing contests and they said to leave current proposed policy in place for chukar and other contests as important components in there.

Commissioner Wallace suggested as a committee member that the contest policy should be heard by the entire Commission as the comments received were all over the board and hard for three Commissioners to determine the direction the Commission would like to head.

Commissioner Valentine agreed with Commissioner Wallace’s comments and suggested bringing back a separate policy for coyote killing contests so that all nine Commissioners can be involved.

Chairman Drew said his opinion is that there is much interest in Wildlife Contest Policy, and he received correspondence accusing him of hiding that we had policy or even discussed one. Because discussion was at the committee level, there was no intent to hide anything, and he finds that comment curious as over the past three Commission meetings he stated contests would be discussed. Chairman Drew said he was also told that the Commission had no authority to develop policies, and he pointed out to the person that the first three duties in NRS listed for the Wildlife Commission includes

“establishing broad policy.” The policy will be on the agenda for discussion at the August meeting.

C Sage-grouse Update – Secretary Wasley

Secretary Wasley will provide an update on the status of sage-grouse.

Secretary Wasley said as mentioned at previous Commission meetings, sage-grouse was found not warranted for protection under the ESA in September and lately most sage-grouse effort has been implementation of the Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA) led by BLM. Over the past month Nevada Department of Agriculture and BLM hosted workshops across the state to engage with permittees and landowners the provisions in LUPA. He attended the Western Governors’ Association Sage-grouse Task Force and had further discussion with federal and state agencies to insure consistent implementation throughout the west. Secretary Wasley said at this point he does not think there is a sufficient amount of information to keep this agenda item as a reoccurring update. From this date Secretary Wasley will provide updates on sage-grouse in the Department activity report.

D Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley

Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Four Game Division personnel attended the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Conference. Staff presented papers, in collaboration with Iowa State University and Washington State University entitled "Disease Transmission between Sympatric Mountain Goats and Bighorn Sheep" and "M. ovipneumoniae Detection in Pneumonic Mountain Goat Kids" and a third paper in collaboration with Colorado Parks and Wildlife entitled "Sinus Tumors of Bighorn Sheep."

Game Division staff initiated an analysis of factors that have contributed to the spatial expansion and population increase of pronghorn in Nevada, especially as it relates to historical wildfires. Game and Diversity staff are developing a presentation to be presented at the Upcoming Pronghorn Workshop which will be held in Montana during late August.

An antlerless elk landowner hunt is likely to be initiated on the Winecup Gamble Ranch in 2016. The hunt is intended to discourage elk use on private irrigated meadows along the Thousand Springs drainage. Twenty tags will be issued to the ranch to strategically remove elk when they are using the meadows.

At the May 2016 Commission Meeting, the Commission appointed an elk arbitration panel to hear the request for arbitration by a White Pine County landowner. The arbitration request will be heard this Monday evening (June 27) in Ely at the Mt. Wheeler Power Board Room. Coincidentally, the amended elk arbitration NAC approved by the Commission will be heard by the Legislative Committee June 28 in Carson City.

Due to an oversight during the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources season setting process, the season structure for the interstate antlered elk rifle hunt in Unit 091-Box Elder County is changed for 2016. Because hunters for both Utah and Nevada are eligible to hunt in both states when drawn for this hunt, the season dates are typically identical in both Nevada and Utah. In 2016, this will not be the case. Nevada Unit 091 season dates authorized as September 10–30, 2016, whereas Utah's Box Elder Unit season dates were authorized as September 17–October 7, 2016.

A domestic sheep herder reported observing two bighorn sheep rams with a large herd of domestic sheep in Pumpnickel Valley, east of Winnemucca. NDOW game biologists contracted with El Aero to search for the rams. The Buffalo Mountains, portions of the Sonoma Mountains, and portions of China Mountain were surveyed, but no bighorn sheep were located.

The Eastern Region Game Division Staff obtained diagnostic samples from an elk mortality in Area 6. This female elk was radio collared during a 2015 capture. This mortality event is similar to a number of unexplained elk mortality cases that have been noted annually in Area 6. To date the causes for these mortalities have not been isolated, although tests have been run for a variety of diseases and exposures including anthrax.

The Wildlife Health Specialist participated in a steering committee meeting of the WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group and Wildlife Health Committee Wild Sheep Disease Management Venture and in a Technical Advisory Group meeting the Wild Sheep Foundations, Rocky Crate Endowed Chair for Wild Sheep Disease Research at Washington State University.

The Wildlife Health Specialist surgically implanted radio telemetry tracking transmitters in two banded Gila monsters for a Wildlife Diversity study within the southern region. In addition, staff provided training in conjunction with USFWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Unit staff to associated biologists. This training is required for certification to perform health assessments on free-ranging tortoises as required by the USFWS Recovery Plan.

All NDOW Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) stations are fully operational for the boating season in both northern and southern Nevada. At Lake Mead AIS staff have performed over 150 full decontaminations as well as performing inspections and decontaminations at several major bass tournaments. A new AIS station was set up this summer at Boulder Harbor on Lake Mead to better contact and assist local watercraft users.

Good water conditions this spring have allowed us to purchase and stock channel catfish and wipers in a number of northern Nevada waters to enhance fisheries impacted by the drought, including Squaw Creek, Rye Patch Lahontan, Chimney and Jakes Creek reservoirs, and several urban ponds. The stocking occurred in late May and early June.

Fisheries Division is working with the Habitat Division, Engineering Division and a private landowner to develop a project to improve Bilk Creek Reservoir north of Winnemucca. Project options and preliminary cost estimates are expected to be completed by this fall.

Annual trout spawning at Marlette Lake was completed this week and was very successful thanks to a good water year maintaining flows in the Marlette Creek. Over 600,000 eggs were collected including Tahoe rainbow, Lahontan cutthroat trout and rainbow/cutthroat hybrids.

A modular office was delivered to Overton Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on June 13. This unit replaces the leased office that was damaged by a fire in December of 2013.

Implementation of the greater sage-grouse land use plan amendments by BLM and U.S. Forest Service has resulted in NDOW handling over 122 seasonal habitat delineation requests to date.

A Memorandum of Understanding with the BLM clearly defining roles and expectations in coordination on sage-grouse management and coordination requirements under the revised plan amendment is under development with anticipated completion this summer.

The Habitat Division held a statewide coordination meeting in Eastern Nevada focusing on "Partnerships in Projects." Field visits were conducted to multiple collaborative projects where agency resources were pooled to implement on the ground projects. There is no doubt that bringing the collective resources, funding, personnel and experience of the agencies together is a model to influence landscape level change.

The Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development's habitat project effectiveness monitoring efforts are underway for 2016 with three-four person crews working at project sites across northern Nevada and in the Bi-State sage grouse Population Management Units (PMUs). Since 2010, the crews have surveyed approximately 1,450 separate plots addressing effects of conifer thinning, post-fire reseeding, targeted grazing and sage grouse lek sites.

The statewide water development program is fully staffed and has completed six volunteer projects in the north and four volunteer projects in the south since the beginning of the year.

Memorial Day Weekend boating activity was slightly busier than recent years because of the renewed water levels. Eastern and Southern Nevada wardens contacted 252 vessels with 815 persons on board, issuing 82 citations and 186 warnings. We had zero arrests for boaters operating under the influence, and only investigated one boat accident. These numbers are very low for Memorial Day Weekend. We also assisted 27 vessels in need of assistance.

A boating checkpoint was conducted at Katherine's Landing on the Arizona side of Lake Mohave on June 4. This was a joint operation to detect boaters operating under the influence (OUI) with NDOW, Arizona Game & Fish, and the National Park Service. This checkpoint saw a total of 95 vessels contacted, with 426 people on board. Forty six percent of the operators admitted to drinking some alcohol. Twenty percent of those that had been drinking were impaired by drugs and alcohol to the point of being arrested for the crime. Eight OUI arrests is much higher than we've seen in the last three years for an operation like this. Two of these OUI's will be charged as felonies since there were children on board and that's an enhancement in Arizona. In addition to the 8 arrests, there were 33 citations issued for safety equipment and registration violations. Conditions were brutal for this operation as temperatures flirted with 120 degrees.

A recent drowning at Lake Tahoe is another in a long series of cold water drownings at the lake. Many of these drownings involve fit young people who were known to be good swimmers and otherwise healthy. We are partnering with other agencies at the lake including the U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Boating and Waterways, and several Sheriff's Departments in a marketing and public information campaign to highlight the dangers of cold water shock that can lead to drowning. The majority of these problems are from paddle sport users that are not wearing a flotation device.

We will be conducting a statewide enforcement effort this weekend (June 24-26) to detect boaters operating under the influence. This is part of a nationwide campaign called Operation Dry Water that we have participated in for many years. Since the inception of the Operation Dry Water Campaign in 2009, law enforcement officers have removed 1,875 OUI operators from the nation's waterways and made contact with over 604,250 boaters during the annual three-day weekend event.

A license fraud investigation was recently completed and sentencing handed down from a plea agreement in New River Justice Court in Fallon. The defendant had killed a bull elk and then filed a return card falsely stating he was unsuccessful. This shortened his waiting period from 10 years to five. The very first year he was eligible, 2015, he drew another bull elk tag. Game wardens learned of the fraud and seized the tag prior to the season. The man was fined \$500 and sentenced to 180 days of jail time, which will be on hold for three years and dropped with good behavior. The defendant's license privileges were ordered revoked by the court for five years, and during that time, he cannot even accompany another hunter in the field. There is also a no-alcohol clause for the five year suspension.

The Law Enforcement Division is moving forward with a hiring process attempting to fill six game warden vacancies. When these six start employment in July, half of the field of wardens in Nevada will have been hired in the last two years.

Free Fishing Day was held June 11. On this day, anglers may fish in any public fishing water in the state without needing a fishing license or trout stamp. NDOW, with the help of many local partners, hosted events statewide.

Each year, the Conservation Education Division makes it a priority to host a Hunter Education Volunteer Instructor Academy in order to provide training to volunteer instructors for their recertification. This year volunteer Hunter and Angler Education instructors from across that state gathered to engage in this training academy which included topics such as proper cape techniques, urban wildlife interaction, advanced optics, archery and bow hunting among others.

As the first fiscal year of this program draws to a close the Conservation Education Division is evaluating data gathered by the Urban Wildlife program. Through April 2016, 2,478 urban wildlife calls have been taken, 1,327 staff hours have been logged and 13,936 miles traveled in support of urban wildlife activities. The two coordinators have participated in nearly a dozen meetings and given ten educational programs, in addition to producing outreach materials on living with bears, living with coyotes, leaving young wildlife alone, and others. In addition, educational videos on living with bears and living with coyotes are wrapping production.

Nevada Wild, the agency podcast and radio show wrapped its third season of production.

Bird surveys that have recently been conducted include several Breeding Bird Surveys statewide. Diversity biologists conduct these surveys annually as part of the national breeding bird survey network that monitors the status and trend of North American bird populations. Night jar surveys have been conducted statewide and in southern Nevada, Southwestern Willow-Flycatcher surveys are happening along the Virgin River with at least five occupied territories documented. A rare Black Rail was also documented as part of these surveys. Flammulated Owl surveys were done in the Clover Mountains and Burrowing Owl surveys are being conducted statewide. Finally, two adults and five nestling Peregrine Falcons were banded in four territories and feather samples were collected as part of our ongoing mercury contamination project.

In the Western Region, biologists have initiated a study on pond turtles in the Carson Valley. Over the past several weeks, staff has been trapping turtles at various locations, measuring and marking individuals with radio-transmitters, and then tracking daily movement patterns. An intensive study like this has not been conducted on pond turtles in the state so we know very little about this species, how they use their aquatic resources, and the extent and status of their populations. This study is partially funded by the American Turtle Observatory and The Nature Conservancy. Tracking will continue throughout the summer.

Staff attended a WAFWA meeting focused on science needs for sagebrush dependent species. The meeting was attended by BLM, WAFWA, USFWS and state agencies. A list of 88 sagebrush dependent species of mammals, reptiles, birds and some amphibians was distributed. The list was then focused to a core group of sagebrush obligates (8) and near obligates (15) that spend most of their life cycle in sagebrush. Of note: better biological and trend information is available for nongame birds than the other guilds. Next steps are to gather as much information as possible and consult state

databases, wildlife action plans and prevailing research to develop a peer reviewed document (Conservation/Monitoring Strategy) and ultimately a RFP to conduct focused research.

Finally, the Diversity Division has hired a summer field crew through the Great Basin Institute to focus on trapping shrews throughout northern Nevada for the summer. These two biologists are using the shrew trapping protocol prepared by Division staff. This protocol uses a mixture of trap types and focuses on live trapping of shrew species. In general, shrews are very poorly understood in both distribution and abundance in Nevada and several species are Wildlife Action Plan priorities.

The Department is working with the Department of Natural Resources and Public Works to plan for the design and construction of a new joint natural resources office complex in Las Vegas. Presently the Department shares an aged, inadequate facility with the Division of State Parks and the Division of Forestry in Las Vegas. We've occupied the current facility for many years and have outgrown it. Furthermore, over the years vandalism and increasing crime in the community has presented a growing concern for our employees. This planning effort for a new facility will bring together staff from numerous other conservation and natural resources organizations under one roof, with much improved office and lab space, warehouse storage, expanded employee and state vehicle parking, and improved customer services for the public.

In April the Department concluded our annual big game tag draw. Again, this year we saw continued growth in the number of applicants and tag applications. Over 65,000 applicants submitted in excess of 229,000 applications for the main draw, exceeding last year by 5 percent. Over 99 percent of these applications were submitted online.

The Department is in the early stages of developing mobile-friendly tag application and licensing purchase capabilities for our two major websites. Once available, these enhancements will provide additional convenient services for our customers. Presently our tag application processes are available online and by paper, and our license-purchasing services are available through our regional offices, over the internet, by phone and through our network of 100+ license agents.

The 2016-2017 Electronic Federal Duck Stamp is available at NDOW offices, through the Department's licensing website at www.ndowlicensing.com, and from most of our license agents statewide. The electronic stamp will cost \$27 and is valid for 45 days to allow for receipt of the physical Federal Duck Stamp in the mail from the USFWS. With this temporary stamp privilege printed on the license, the holder may hunt waterfowl under the same authority as if he or she is in possession of the actual physical stamp. This is the second year the electronic stamp is being offered in Nevada.

E Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General David Newton

Report submitted (exhibit file), no additions.

12 Public Comment Period

Meghan Brown representing herself provided comments in appreciation of Chairman Drew. Ms. Brown said that although they have disagreed at times, she has great respect for Chairman Drew, and the inclusion of all in the process. Commissioner Mori was recognized by Meghan Brown for his work on the Commission.

Jana Wright thanked the Commission for videoconferencing. She voiced concern with CABMW participation and their budget. Ms. Wright said, rarely are 17 CABMWs represented at a Commission meeting, and she asked if County Commissions know how poorly they are represented. Ms. Wright also objects to CABMW members taking “CABMW hat off” and giving personal representation, objects to groups being allowed six minutes, as no definition of “group.” Requested the Department activity report be posted before or after the meeting.

Stephanie Myers, Lee Canyon, said although many persons don't know videoconferencing is available she appreciates the opportunity to participate.

Friday, June 24, 2016 – Tour Will Start at Close of Agenda Item #12

Commission Tour – Informational

The Commission will tour Jiggs Reservoir Area. Following completion of the Commission tour, the Commission will be in recess until Saturday, June 25, 2016, at 9 a.m.

Meeting Recessed at 2:20 p.m.

Saturday, June 25, 2016 –9 a.m.

13 Pledge of Allegiance, 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, and the roll call conducted; eight Commissioners present. Commissioner Hubbs excused absence.

Roll Call of CABMW Members: Gil Yanuck, Carson; Glenn Bunch, Mineral; Paul Dixon, Clark; Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas; Jim Cooney, Elko; Bert Gurr, Elko; and Joe Crim, Pershing.

- Commissioner Appreciation – Chairman Drew and Secretary Wasley
Commissioner Bliss and Commissioner Mori will be recognized for their years of service on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission.

Chairman Drew and Secretary Wasley recognized Commissioner Mori and Commissioner Bliss for their respective years of service on the Commission.

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

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HUBBS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0.

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

Commissioner Young said he received quite a bit of correspondence on the firearms issue. Commissioner Young said that he serves on Nevada's Firearms Background Check Board, and he responded strongly to some of the emails. He received a letter from the NRA questioning him for not supporting the Second Amendment and that is not correct. He has gun safes full of guns. He knows factually that guns get on the street that should not be out there by people who should not possess firearms. While attending a gun show in Reno, he noticed that if Nevada Background Check law was in effect that the gun show could not be in business. Commissioner Young said his over 20 years of law enforcement experience provided him the understanding that the law won't solve all of the problems such as San Bernardino or Orlando. Common sense has to come in there somewhere. As someone who believes in the Second Amendment he believes that people should be able to possess firearm if they are legally allowed to possess the firearm. The Background Check will not take anyone's right to own a firearm away, and if they say it does, they are liars. The bill was passed two sessions ago by the Nevada Legislature and Governor Sandoval did not sign the bill into law which was a disappointment to him. Commissioner Young said he is tired of the letters and if they are a NRA supporter who thinks something is wrong with his thinking that is fine, but he knows he is right on this issue. The loophole is gun shows and private sales; however if you go to a sporting goods store, you will have be subject to a background show. Talk to him personally instead of writing letters. He apologized to those senders who he responded to in an angry manner.

Chairman Drew said he had emails asking why the "trail camera" regulation wasn't on the agenda and the reason is the re-drafted regulation had not been received back in time from Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). Chairman Drew said he and Secretary Wasley sent a memorandum to CABMW members relative to the differences between CABMW and Commission season recommendations. Chairman Drew said he is open to hearing comments from CABMW members about the differences.

- 16 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

- 17 Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission, Second Reading – Commissioner and APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission, and may take action as recommended by the APRP Committee. Recommendations include editorial changes from the May committee and Commission meetings, changes to reflect current practices and standards, including a section on Commission record-keeping, and spacing the number of a Commission Policy’s “first and second readings” from one meeting to the next before a change to a policy is adopted. This is the final reading to adopt revisions to Commission Policy 1.

Commissioner McNinch reviewed Commission Policy #1.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION POLICY #1 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HUBBS ABSENT. MOTION CARRIED. 8 – 0.

- 18 Nevada Department of Wildlife License Simplification Strategy Update – Director Tony Wasley and Loren Chase, Chase and Chase Consulting – For Possible Action
The Department will provide the Commission with an update on the comparative, qualitative, and quantitative data collected regarding the formulation of the License Simplification Strategy that the Department plans to implement through the upcoming legislative session. The Department’s consultant, Chase and Chase Consulting, will provide a detailed briefing on the data obtained through comparisons of license structures with other states, qualitative data collected through focus groups, and quantitative data collected through a phone survey. The Commission may choose to provide the Department with guidance on license structure, strategy, and associated costs.

Secretary Wasley said license simplification has been before the Commission several times as an agenda item. Today he will be addressing why there is a need for simplification with Game Division Administrator Wakeling providing specific details followed by Loren Chase of Chase and Chase Consulting. Director Wasley said over decades, stamps and license privileges have been added, with nothing being taken away. There is a regional trend to simplify license buying for the public and the purpose is to determine if the agency can do better.

Secretary Wasley, Game Division Administrator Wakeling and Mr. Chase continued with two PowerPoint presentations covering the background for license simplification, western states comparison, and provided qualitative and quantitative information from focus groups held statewide. The PowerPoint presentations are in the meeting’s exhibit file and are available in Commission archives on the Department’s website at ndow.org.

Questions and comments from the Commission were taken at the conclusion of the power point presentations,

Public Comment -

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, suggested that television spots be used to notify persons or try having sportsmen/NGO groups notify their members, to reach a different cross-section of the population rather than the same 15 people usually present in the room. He prefers to buy his license in person as the size is smaller than online. In regard to fees, with combinations you get a discount, and would suggest to be revenue neutral or to offset increases is to not change tag fee structure because that will be where you lose people. If you give people a combination license that allows them a lot to do, and keep tags priced where they are, you will lose less people applying for multiple tags.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, asked if this PowerPoint or something could be shown at their meetings. Simplification is a great word but still does not eliminate the need to know and be aware of regulations.

Public Comment Reno -

Caron Tayloe, Washoe County resident, said she has concerns with usage of term "the public." She said the term "the public" is used differently by people speaking today, and if she was part of the 2 percent of consumptive users would think this is excellent study, but she is not, she is one of the 98 percent of non-consumptive users. Would like to be included in this research, believes there may be some confounding variables related to this research. It may be better if someone conducted the research that is not part of the consumptive community. She said she has a lot of questions, such as does terminology include "trappers"? Director Wasley mentioned working with non-consumptive users and knows that NDOW has worked with the Great Basin Wildlife School run by Sue Jacox.

Fred Voltz said he is concerned by study and operational considerations as opposed to license simplification as this seems to have morphed into how to sell more killing licenses to a diminishing base of prospects. Customers are all residents of the state not just statistically small number who happened to buy killing licenses. There is a comparable study about the deer hunters, and that cost \$50,000 of public money. Where is the valuation of the killed wildlife? There is no severance fee paid to the public treasury for the loss of a public asset in any of the proposed fee changes. Most of public does not know the Commission, the CABMWs, or that NDOW even exists, or anything they do.

Bobbi McCollum said she noted that hunters comprise 2 percent of the population, with that number declining, yet most of the comments after the presentation only related to hunting and fishing. She hopes the Commission recognizes the 98 percent majority of Nevadans.

- 19 Commission Resolution of Support for the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources – Chairman Drew and Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider and may approve a resolution of support for the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel that Congress dedicate reliable annual funding from existing revenue towards implementation of the State's Wildlife Action Plan and state delivered conservation.

Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark made a short PowerPoint presentation (exhibit file and website) on the Blue Ribbon Panel as discussed at the last Commission meeting. The information will support the “whereas” statements in the Commission Resolution which was sent in support material.

Chairman Drew said he appreciated Ms. Newmark's presentation especially for persons who were not at the June meeting. He read the “Resolved” statements on page 2 of the resolution. Chairman Drew said he personally believes in broadening the base of support for all wildlife species in the state, and he reviews and often uses the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (WAP). Chairman Drew said he trusts the members of the Blue Ribbon Panel who are involved in industries that would be used to derive this funding and that their dedication is unmatched. The members represent a broad cross-section of general public, sportsmen and industry, all the major players in what they are requesting and recommending. Chairman Drew said the WAFWA Conference is approaching and is an opportunity to show leadership, and he would ask that Nevada's federal delegation consider the Resolution, as now is an opportune time for state and federal lawmakers to make this a priority. Those are the reasons he requested that the Resolution be drafted for the Commission.

Commissioner Johnston said he would not limit the encouragement for adoption to western Commission's only but would change the language to support from Commission's nationwide.

Public Comment Reno –

Caron Tayloe appreciated NDOW and Commissioners in their endeavor to bring money to wildlife in Nevada. She said she is excited to bring this money to Nevada for wildlife, but does open up idea that the dreaded 90 percent will get to participate in managing wildlife. As a board member of Nevada's Wildlife Alliance they are looking at this and very interested in raising some of that funding. They are excited to assist and let Nevada Wildlife Alliance know if anything needed.

Public Comment Elko – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2016-1 AS PRESENTED WITH REMOVAL OF THE LIMITATION OF “THROUGHOUT THE WEST” AND CHANGE TO “ALL WILDLIFE COMMISSIONS.” COMMISSIONER

JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS ABSENT.

- 20 Amendment of Biennial Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 Upland Game Release Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action
The Commission will hear a request to amend the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 to consider additional release locations for wild turkeys.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Espinosa said the amendment is to add a release site in the North Snake Range of Mount Moriah in Hunt Unit 114 for Merriam turkeys. The National Park Service and Forest Service are favorable of capture and transport.

Commissioner Bliss said White Pine County wants additional turkeys throughout their county. He said residents asked why additional sites in the Schell Creek Range are not utilized to provide opportunity, and is curious why no other augmentations at other sites.

Biologist Espinosa said transplant release sites are rigorously considered for forage and other factors such as potential effect on other native upland game species currently there. Biologists have those concerns for blue/dusky grouse, and other birds. We do not want to add competition to limited food sources.

Division Administrator Wakeling said the list of sites provided to him was shared with field staff and will consider and evaluate those areas.

Commissioner Valentine asked if NDOW coordinates with National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) on these and future releases.

Administrator Wakeling said NDOW does coordinate with NWTF and NDOW has sponsored symposiums.

Public Comment Elko –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said both Mason Valley and Overton WMA had lots of predation on nests from skunks, raccoons, and foxes. He said a result is a disproportion of jakes, and they did not see predator control recommended in the amendment.

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they are in support of this amendment.

Chairman Drew asked if there is a predation issue in Great Basin National Park.

Biologist Espinosa said there is no predator control in the Great Basin National Park and have not seen that effect on that population.

COMMISSIONER BLISS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE BIENNIAL FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017 UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS ABSENT.

Commission Regulations and Commission General Regulations – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- 21 Commission Regulation 16-13, 2016–2017 and 2017–2018 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialists Shawn Espinosa and Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action
The Commission will establish regulations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for upland game birds, rabbits, wild turkey, furbearers, and falconry seasons for 2016 – 2017 and 2017–2018 seasons.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa introduced youth chukar and Hungarian partridge season, youth California and Gambel’s quail season, and youth rabbit season.

Chairman Drew said he appreciates the changes, thinks they are positive and provides hunter opportunity.

CABMW Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they would like to have an asterisk next to the pygmy rabbit season to draw attention to the special regulation.

Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16-13 YOUTH CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE SEASON, YOUTH CALIFORNIA AND GAMBEL’S QUAIL SEASON, AND YOUTH RABBIT SEASON AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH ADDING AN ASTERISK TO YOUTH RABBIT SEASON FOR PYGMY RABBIT SPECIAL REGULATIONS. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa introduced Sage-Grouse Seasons and Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Special Sage-Grouse Hunts.

Chairman Drew asked for the map that depicts the different seasons by hunt unit.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said the Department will post the map.

Chairman Drew asked if the Sheldon Hunts were recommended by or closely coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said yes.

CABMW Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked about the harvest numbers for the last couple years. He would like a one page fact sheet on sage-grouse to read to the public at his CABMW meetings.

Public Comment Elko –

Sean Shea said he would like to see information at the Department's wing barrels. People drive by and ask what the barrels are for and information would be helpful.

Chairman Drew asked about harvest numbers. Have we seen anything in the last few years that shows we are pushing the harvest guidelines? Also, please provide a one page handout in the support material going forward. Maybe it would be good to have information about wing barrels at the barrel location and for the CABMWs.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said we are not exceeding the 10 percent harvest rate. We are in the 4 to 6 percent range of the total population estimate. There have been some more recent investigations into how all states are doing in terms of harvest and the type of effect that has. The ultimate conclusion is that states are being very responsive in managing sage-grouse in a conservative manner. Seasons are short with conservative bag and possession limits.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16 - 13 SAGE-GROUSE SEASONS AND SHELDON NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SPECIAL SAGE-GROUSE HUNTS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa introduced seasons for blue (dusky and sooty) and ruffed grouse; snowcock; chukar and Hungarian partridge; California, Gambel's and mountain quail; pheasant; and cottontail, pygmy and white-tailed jack rabbits.

Chairman Drew asked about mountain quail. Are we concerned about where we are at population wise with not moving it to six in possession? He asked about pygmy rabbits too.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said they did not discuss this during the upland game meeting. He said the Department is being conservative; however six in possession would not be a big deal for mountain quail or pygmy rabbits.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16-13 BLUE (DUSKY AND SOOTY) AND RUFFED GROUSE; SNOWCOCK; CHUCKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE; CALIFORNIA, GAMBEL'S AND MOUNTAIN QUAIL; PHEASANT; AND COTTONTAIL, PYGMY AND WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBITS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH ADDING AN ASTERISK TO COTTONTAIL, PYGMY AND WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBITS FOR PYGMY RABBIT SPECIAL REGULATIONS AND ADDING AN ASTERISK TO MOUNTAIN QUAIL FOR THE SPECIAL REGULATIONS. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VALENTINE.

Chairman Drew asked for a friendly amendment to include changing mountain quail and pygmy rabbit possession limits from four to six.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO ADD CHANGING MOUNTAIN QUAIL AND PYGMY RABBIT POSSESSION LIMITS FROM FOUR TO SIX. COMMISSIONER VALENTINE SECONDED THE AMENDMENT. MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa introduced wild turkey seasons.

Chairman Drew asked about closing Unit 192 and he thinks there were private property access problems anyway. He also asked about changing the shooting hours back to sunset. What was the discussion on that? He would anticipate a tremendous increase in success, particularly in Mason Valley and to some degree Overton. He thought 4 p.m. was reasonable.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said this idea came from many members of the public. The public support was overwhelming. The concept is adopted in virtually every state besides California. Hunt success is dramatically high on most of these hunts already. The effect on the harvest will be negligible. The tag numbers are conservative as well.

Chairman Drew asked about Mason Valley, do we have two seasons that overlap?

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said no, it has always been three, but he had to break it out this way because putting a standard start date did not work. It has to do with the leap year.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said in the Moapa Valley of Clark County portion of the junior wild turkey they asked last year for the season to be moved to be a week earlier. Now they want it moved back to match the other seasons because of the Heritage Tag. Under the limited entry they would also like to move the nonresident tag to be rotated each year. Based on last year, they would like it to be the March 25 to March 31 season.

Public Comment Reno –

Elaine Carrick said she has heard a lot of extensions of the seasons and bag limits increased without any data given. There was no justification or information given to the public.

Rex Flowers said the Heritage Tag ends at 4 p.m. this year and next year. Others will have longer if you change it to sunset.

Chairman Drew said he will not be supportive of changing from 4 p.m. to sunset.

Commissioner Valentine said turkeys do not fly up to roost until it is nearly dark. He does not see a problem going until sunset.

Commissioner McNinch said with the Heritage Tag it does bother him.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling said we have the ability to amend the Commission Regulation for Heritage Tags in August.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa asked for clarification about the nonresident tag for Clark County. Would the nonresident tag remain as recommended right now?

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said yes.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16 - 13 WILD TURKEY AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: ADJUST THE JUNIOR WILD TURKEY SEASON MOAPA VALLEY OF CLARK COUNTY TO MATCH ALL OF THE OTHER SEASONS, AND CHANGE THE LIMITED ENTRY FOR MOAPA VALLEY PORTION OF CLARK COUNTY NONRESIDENT HUNT ADD A TAG TO MARCH 25 TO 31, 2017. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 - 1. CHAIRMAN DREW OPPOSED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa introduced falconry seasons for upland game birds and rabbits.

CABMW and Public Comment Comment –

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, asked why the possession limits are different for falconry.

Chairman Drew asked about the difference on possession limits.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa said eight to 10 years ago there was a movement by falconers and this is the structure they wanted. There were no negative biological impacts.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16 - 13 FALCONRY SEASONS AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme introduced Commission Regulation 16-13 furbearing animals: Beaver, mink, and muskrat; otter; kit and red fox; gray fox season; bobcat season; and bobcat pelt sealing dates.

Commissioner Wallace asked about the opening.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said it is the last Saturday.

Chairman Drew asked about the ratios and who collects the data on bobcats.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said they use ratios derived from young and adult bobcats as determined through bobcat jaws collected from trappers as part of the sealing process. They get 100 percent return rate on the questionnaires. For the current year the ratio is 94 kittens per 100 females. They also look at the male and females ratios, this year the ratio is 149 males per 100 females. Harvest effort was lower this year. The Department has recommended a slight increase because we are trying to move towards a 3 tiered system. We will recommend a shorter season when we need to be more conservative and a longer season when we can be more liberal.

Chairman Drew asked about a 120 day season.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said everything is doing fantastic. We are coming out of a couple of years of reduction. We rely on three years of data to be less reliant on a single year that may be an anomaly and helps from having large changes in regulation.

CABMW Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, approved with a Nov. 1 start.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, they had a discussion on this. They wanted a season of 120 days starting on Nov. 1.

Gil Yanuck, Carson CABMW, said when they saw the data they could not figure out why it was restricted to 94 days.

Public Comment Las Vegas –

Jana Wright said she does not understand why quotas aren't set for these animals. We have excellent data on bobcats because they are sealed. She has no info on the other

furbearing animals. If the biologist says 94 days she thinks the Commission would listen to the biologist.

Julius Fortuna, said he supports the Nevada Trappers recommendation for a 120 day season.

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW, concurred with Mr. Fortuna. Historically we are conservative and he commends that, but he has a hard time understanding why the season is dropping.

Stephanie Myers said there is a humane revolution going on. She provided examples. Trapping is a commercial enterprise. Leg-hole trapping is animal cruelty and needs to be banned.

Bob Brunner asked for the 120 day season. We went from 120 days to 95 days due to range conditions three years ago. He explained the "general public" and the interpretation.

Fred Voltz said one year of prior reproduction should not be used to extend the season. He would like the 83 days season.

Elaine Carrick said the population is healthy now, so why kill more. Leave the trapping season at 83 days. She asked for the survival rate of the kittens and the methods for obtaining the ratio. She read her comments into the record:

I've read the support material for agenda Item #21 & would like to comment on NDOW's suggestion to extend bobcat trapping season from 83 to 95 days. Several questions come to mind. If the bobcat population is considered healthy now, why would a season be lengthened to kill more bobcats with the risk of making the population unstable? Why not leave the trapping season at 83 days to make sure the population stays healthy?

Second, the support material states this past year there were 94 kittens born per 100 adult females. There is no data that has the survival rate for kittens or how does the past year survival rate for kittens compare to previous years? What was the method for obtaining the information on the kittens per adult female? How large was this sample? What areas was this information obtained? If sound science is used to make decisions regarding killing the public's wildlife, that information should be given to the public before lengthening the trapping season.

Third, having a number like 95 kittens, does not mean the next season will produce the same number. There is always the possibility of drought conditions next year which would affect bobcat reproduction. One year does not make a trend.

Fourth, bobcats are a great predator for rodents. With the current plague in the mountains, (the campground at So. Lake Tahoe was closed due to the plague) killing more bobcats does not seem logical if bobcats help keep the rodents under control & prevent disease from spreading.

Lastly, extending the bobcat trapping season is not a management tool nor does any science say this should be done. Lengthening the season simply gives trappers more opportunity to make more money off the public's wildlife. With the current season of 83 days, trappers can kill as many bobcats as they want. The only part of the animal used is their fur which is sold for big bucks to be used for fashion accessories, like an elephant's tusks are used to make trinkets. Is this really what the public's wildlife

should be used for, to make more money? Does the bobcat season really need to be lengthened for this reason?

Please, do not extend the bobcat trapping season. There is no sound science to back this up and there's good science that points to using bobcats to keep rodent diseases from infecting people.

Caron Tayloe read comments from letter. She is concerned about the non-target data:

After attending the Washoe CAB last Thursday evening I have several concerns and questions regarding NDOW's procedures and both the CAB's and NDOW's recommendations to increase the length of the trapping season for Bobcats. Based on the following concerns I recommend that you do NOT increase the length of the trapping season for bobcats.

1) How did NDOW come up with 94 kittens to 100 females' ratio? Was this determined by field observation by wildlife biologists or, only physical evidence and self reports provided by trappers? The only raw data I have seen is the tooth data summary 2015-2016. Is there more data than that summary? The only report on bobcat populations that has made any sense is Don Molde's extensive analysis of 35 years of NDOW data which shows the bobcat population could be in trouble. A memo from Mr. Wakeling to the Commission about undefined "healthy" populations is not enough to convince the Public that an increase in the length of the bobcat trapping season is warranted.

2) In their endeavor to increase the bobcat season to 4 months, a trapper testified at the CAB that he knew NDOW would agree with the trappers. The trappers reported that they met "for hours" with Russell W. the fur bearer biologist. The aforementioned NDOW biologist was not at the CAB meeting. It is unclear if Russell W. is responsible for the 4 month season the trappers recommended even though NDOW recommended an increase to 95 days. The trappers appeared to know of the recommendations from NDOW before the Washoe CAB meeting. It is also unclear as to why the support material for increased length of bobcat trapping seasons was not posted with the agendas for the Washoe CAB and the NBWC meeting in Elko.

3) One year of increased precipitation is not an end to the drought - other species have been given more than a year to recover. Bobcat pelts bring in substantial income to trappers. This writer hopes that decision making is based on reasons other than trapper inquiry and pressure. I have yet to find data that indicates bobcat populations can rebound in one year. A NBWC decision made this year lasts the next 2 years. It is interesting to me that a reported one year change in bobcat populations is good for 2 years. Wouldn't it be better statistically to make a 2 year decision on data from the last 2 years?

4) How will an increase in the length of the trapping season help the bobcat as a species? Bobcats are known to eat rodents, therefore helping humans with pest and disease control. I would suggest that NDOW compare rodent and bobcat populations in studying pest control, disease management, and even the control of feral cats in the foothills of Washoe County. Feral cats outside of city limits are difficult to care for and to provide for. I would also suggest looking at how bobcats may help bird, amphibian, and reptile populations outside of city limits recover from an introduced predator, such as a feral cat.

5) How will you account for the increase in the non target deaths during increased length of trapping seasons? In fact, who is responsible for the non target deaths and the waste of the public's resources during trapping seasons? Is the responsibility for non target deaths on the Commission who approves the season lengths or NDOW employees who recommend the season lengths?

This letter is also being sent out in an email to the various groups and individuals associated with the Nevada Wildlife Alliance. Thank you for your consideration of the above.

Bobbie McCollum said data collection shows bobcats are healthy in Nevada. She said "healthy" is not defined.

Rex Flowers asked to support the Trappers Association and the 120 day season. It gives them an opportunity to get out before the snow comes. Most trappers do not want to trap when the hunters are hunting chukar.

Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association (NVTa), provided a letter sent to the Commission with NVTa's rationale for their recommendation to return to 120 day standard season for bobcat and grey fox. Concur with NDOW recommendation for all other species.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association, supports the NVTa.

Don Molde, Nevada Wildlife Alliance, handed out trend data from 1980 to last year received from the Department and explained it.

Jason James said a lot of people are concerned about this issue.

Karen Layne said that she does not agree with the longer season. It may be a moot point because likely you will see with the Fallon fur sales they are starting to catch up with what is going on with only 23 percent of the pelts were sold. She thinks the Commission needs to look at the economics in regard to this season, and other issues like climate change.

Commissioner Wallace reported for Pershing CABMW, they support the regulation, and would like the season to be raised to 120 days.

Commissioner Valentine asked setting the season next year to revisit.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme said we can make an amendment to the season next year.

Commissioner McNinch talked about wanting to see another way of doing this. He is leery about the 120 day season.

Commissioner Johnston said he could go with the CABMWs and the NVTa with 120 day season.

Commissioner Mori said he may look at this different than most. He likes the Department's theory about smoothing out the bumps in the road. He wants to support the Department's recommendation.

Commissioner Young agrees with Commissioner Mori.

Commissioner Bliss appreciates all the angles. He likes the balance talked about. He enjoys trapping. He is along the lines of the Departments recommendation.

Commissioner Wallace falls in line with the Department too. Chairman Drew reviewed the CABMW reports. He is split on this. He is conservative. The Department's recommendation is conservative. He also thinks there will not be a huge biological problem if they changed it to 120 days. He thinks it is driven by economics like Mrs. Layne said.

Commissioner Valentine would like to set the season for only one year, and wants to support the Department on this.

Chairman Drew said to adopt this for the biennium with direction to the Department to bring an amendment next year.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULAION 16 - 13 FURBEARING ANIMALS: BEAVER, MINK, AND MUSKRAT; OTTER; KIT AND RED FOX; GRAY FOX SEASON; BOBCAT SEASON; AND BOBCAT PELT SEALING DATES AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER MORI SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Johnston would have supported a 120 day season, but he will support the motion today.

Chairman Drew said he is in the same boat. Update next year on this please. Bring as a potential amendment.

Commissioner McNinch said he would add that.

Commissioner Mori is fine with adding it too.

Commissioner Bliss asked if the bobcat pelts sealing dates were included.

Chairman Drew said this motion is for all furbearing animals and related regulation.

MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

- 22 Commission Regulation 16-03 Amendment #1, 2017 Heritage Tag Organization/Vendor Selection and Special Regulations – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider selection of the 2017 Heritage Tag vendors/organization recommendations; and will also consider language changes associated with the sealed bid process to potentially address any outstanding Heritage tags not allocated to vendors.

Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger read the support material.

Commissioner Valentine said he was able to get a hold of Cory Lytle and their banquet is on March 18 this year and they will accept an additional turkey tag.

Commissioner Wallace said they wanted to bring it to the committee.
Commissioner Bliss said they were nervous for the sealed bid process. They do not have to give five tags. Maybe approve these tags a year in advance.

Commissioner Wallace said with the sealed bid a tag could be devalued.

CABMW Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, said they approved this.

Public Comment –

Sean Shea said he would make a recommendation where it said no recommendation. Give the tag to Carson Valley Chukar Club.

Rex Flowers said to allow for a fall turkey hunt.

Chairman Drew said he thinks both would do an excellent job. He would love to see Carson Valley with a turkey tag.

Commissioner Bliss said he agrees with Chairman Drew. He does not think it is possible to give Carson Valley one this year.

Chairman Drew said the buyers would find the venues.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 16 – 03, AMENDMENT 1, PAGE 1, AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITH THE REMAINING TURKEY TAG ALLOCATED TO MEADOW VALLEY WILDLIFE UNLIMITED. COMMISSIONER BLISS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Chairman Drew said the Heritage Committee gave no recommendation.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED FOR NO ACTION ON COMMISSION REGULATION 16 - 03 AMENDMENT 1 PAGE 2. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

Chairman Drew said he wants to hold Agenda Items 23 and 24 at the call of the chair.

COMMISSIONER WALLACE MOVED TO ASSIGN AGENDA ITEMS 23 AND 24 TO BE AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

23 Commission General Regulation 458, Electronic Rifle Triggers, Caliber and Cartridge Length, and Smokeless Powder Restrictions, LCB File No. R144-15 – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed –For Possible Action

The Commission will consider amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The proposed regulation amendment contains several changes. The first change will clarify the use of black powder substitutes that are considered smokeless powder. The second change would make it legal to hunt big game mammals with a handgun if the handgun uses a centerfire cartridge of .22 or larger [and has a barrel length of 4 inches or more]. The third change would make it unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with a rifle using a centerfire cartridge of caliber .50 or larger or case length longer than 3 inches. The amendment would also make it unlawful to hunt a big game mammal with any firearm equipped with any sighting system using a computer or electronically controlled firing mechanism.

Two workshops have been held on this regulation change; one on January 29, 2016 and one on March 25, 2016. The Commission directed the Department to change “3.8 inches overall loaded length” to “3 inches case length”, change “.46 caliber” to “.50 caliber”, change the minimum legal handgun cartridge to “caliber .22 or larger”, and change “electronic or computer controlled trigger” to “sighting system using a computer or electronically controlled firing mechanism.”

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed reviewed the regulation changes on pages 3 and 4.

Chairman Drew said he received additional correspondence.

Public Comment Las Vegas –

Julius Fortuna, Nevada Firearms Coalition, said he submitted letters in opposition to this regulation. He wants them entered into the official record.
and he read the letter into the record:

For the record, my name is Julius Fortuna and I’m the conservation director speaking for the Nevada Firearms Coalition; the state association of the NRA, representing 35,000 firearm owners and thousands of sportsmen and women in NV. I have submitted letters from the NVFAC, the NRA-ILA and Fifty Caliber Institute in opposition to this proposed caliber ban. Please add them to the official record. Our opposition to this rule was published recently on our social media pages which generated thousands of likes for our opposing position.

The Nevada State Legislature granted the Commission the authority to promulgate regulations: *NRS 501.105. The Commission shall establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat.*

Within the statutory authority there are three primary reasons to enact regulations in NV

First, a proposed regulation must be based on scientifically documented data that justifies that the new regulation will improve wildlife and or its habitat.

Second, it must be based on scientifically documented data that justifies that the new regulation will prevent a negative effect on wildlife or its habitat.

Third, must be based on documented facts that justifies that the new regulation protects public health or safety.

We strongly object to the proposed regulation banning these centerfire cartridges and cartridge lengths. All of these potentially banned cartridges are safely used for hunting big game around the world, such as the .500NE, .50 BMG, .577NE and the 505 Gibbs. The proposed rule change does not meet any of the three criteria presented above. The proposed rule is focused on hunter morality, and theoretical unsportsmen like conduct. The justification for this rule is nonexistent and unfounded. No justification documentation has been provided showing dangerous or criminal acts for these effected calibers! The rationale I did hear was five part.

1. Hunters with this caliber are taking too long a shot at big game. Again how do we regulate hunter morality, and bad choices on shots? All of which can be done with a 30-06 or any other big game rifle.
2. The top articulated reason for the proposed rule was “wanton waste” (of game meat) issue. The 50 calcs “will literal blow big game animals to bits,” leaving unacceptable amounts of usable meats. And at first blush that sounds logical...if your knowledge is based on what you see on the silver screen! Problem with that rational is the following;
First, wanton waste issues are already regulated in NV statute. NDOW should enforce existing laws rather than burden law abiding sportsmen because someone believes it might create an undocumented violation of the current law.
Terminal performance laws of ballistics also prove this rational false. The 50 BMG shoots a 570-700 grain projectile at slower than 308/30-06 velocities (2500-2700FPS muzzle velocity) The 50 caliber cartridges which meet the criteria for legal hunting bullets are very thick/heavy, bonded core, jacketed bullets that expand slowly, but very effectively from any shot angle on big heavy boned animals like elk. This makes it a great elk hunting caliber. Bottom line, its slow impact velocities (under 2200 fps) and thick bonded core bullets equals much less risk for wanton waste, than let's say a 30 cal magnum driving a thin jacketed 150 gr bullet at 3400 fps. That's just projectile terminal ballistic performance facts.
I'm probably one of the few people in this room that have watched a 50 caliber with Hornady 570 grain soft point cleanly harvest an elk at 275 yards...and the one thing that stuck in my mind was just how UNIMPRESSED that the 750 pound bull elk was on impact. It walked 25 yards after the shoulder shot and expired! It had a 50 caliber entrance hole and normal golf ball sized exit wound, with minimal meat damage while still impacting both shoulder bones!
3. According to the language in the proposal, “It's just too big a MILITARY caliber for hunting”. Really, by who's standard?? I didn't think NDOW had an expert on that subject. Where in NRA 501.105 has the commission been given rule making authority between civilian and military center fire ammunition?
While the 50BMG is steeped in military history, we should not forget that the most popular hunting caliber to this day is the 30-06, which was also built for military application. As was the 308, 223/556/300 win mag, and the 338 lapua (current long range champion) which combined would represent 70% of NV firearms choice for hunting. So with so little rational statutory adherence is it really hyperbole or farfetched to ask the question; which one of the above “big military type calibers” will be next to be banned?
4. Public Safety concerns. This is also not accurate as there have been zero previous felonious acts with this caliber in NVs wildlife history, NV civilian history, or in any state in the USA. I can provide facts presented at two senate subcommittee hearings last year by the Fifty Caliber Institute. Unless of course you consider that our own federal government sold 34, 50BMGs to the Mexican drug cartel in now infamous “[operation fast and furious](#)” which resulted in deaths of hundreds of innocent lives, including one US law enforcement officer.
5. A way to limit unethical “*technology creep*” like other regulatory banned items on this proposed regulation. Drones and electronic sighting/firing technology are indeed new technologies, the 50 calibers listed here are NOT! They have been around since the early 1900s, and the 50BMG in its civilian/competition configurations have been here since late 1970s, all with zero problems for Nevada wildlife, or the public at large.

Now we get to a potential dangerous reason for this proposed regulation ban which is an anti-second amendment attack. It's disconcerting that no one in our LV CAB meeting 6/21/16 (included commissioner Paul Valentine) this week could determine why this proposed regulation came to them with full legislative legal language ready to become law, which was the first time any of them had seen that happen in years.

Who's driving this? Realistically no one seems to know where, or why this proposed ban is here in the first place... Is it Political correctness....social science gone amiss, or is it more cynical in nature?

I believe that the majority of NDOW and this commission do not have an anti-second amendment agenda, especially since they clearly know who "keeps the lights on for them." But when NDOW and the commission abandon statutory regulation guidelines and promote bans on calibers with "*he said she said*" logic...your critical consumptive users/firearm owners trust slides down the slippery slope of... oh boy here's some more "anti-gun, emotional contagion"

Hunter numbers are declining in NV while the number of hunting regulations increases each year, it doesn't take another sportsmen funded scientific study to realize that NV hunters don't want nor need more rules that discourage participation in this critical conservation funding practice. This is especially true of regulations that are, in essence derived by "someone's perceptions" of what's too big for hunting big game. Also to be taken into consideration is that a majority of the grant funding for NDOW comes from the Pittman Robertson act which is funds derived from the sale of firearms and ammunition. It would be extremely detrimental to NDOW and its programs for the shooting community to perceive that NDOW and the commission are anti-gun and do not support the Second Amendment.

This rule change is not proposed for the betterment of wildlife, or habitat, or for public safety, but is based upon illogical and subjective restrictions that are not really under the authority granted by the State Legislature to this commission. US Firearms history has proven that once the door swings open for one type of ban, its will remain wide open for others in the future. All of which has little or no effect on criminals getting firearms.

Finally, the failure to provide any documentation, scientific or otherwise that this caliber and cartridge length BAN will have any effect whatsoever on wildlife management or public safety, the Nevada Firearms Coalition, NRA-ILA, 50 Cal Institute and others all oppose this proposed rule and respectfully recommend that it be eliminated for lack of justification and more importantly for not being applicable under the rule making authority given to the commission by NRS 501.105.

CABMW and Public Comment -

Robert Pagoda, standing in for Shannon Scott, read section of letter submitted by his organization BHC (exhibit file) and said that they support the regulation as written.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, his CABMW was concerned with handguns and handgun caliber especially .22 or larger caliber and a four inch barrel used for shooting big game animals. If the NAC is open that should be fixed because a regulation was enacted to allow six inch barrel and certain caliber and this regulation states something different. The concern is having a larger caliber gun bowhunting then you do to shoot big game.

Joel Blakeslee said as member of the general public he is opposed to this. This is a complex regulation. Long-range shooting has nothing to do with calibers, you need to talk about scopes. Speaking for Coalition of Nevada's Wildlife they are opposed to this regulation. No one has showed him that there is a problem with hunting and this is a lose/lose situation.

Rex Flowers said all the evidence is anecdotal, and brings up questions of ethics and fair chase. This may be two or three people and if left alone will take care of itself.

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW, said they are in opposition to this regulation, feel there are enough regulations already. Know you can never regulate morals and ethics no matter what regulation is accepted.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association, said he is opposed to any regulation on calibers.

Chairman Drew concluded the workshop without action. He said that the regulation will be back on the agenda in August for another chance to discuss.

- 24 Commission General Regulation 459, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones), LCB File No. R145-15 – Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed –For Possible Action
The Commission will consider amending Chapters 501 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code. The proposed regulation amendment contains several changes. The first change would make the prohibition of using aerial devices for the purpose of hunting and scouting from July 1 to the last day of February each calendar year rather than the current prohibition of 48-hours prior to and during any open season. The second change is to clarify existing language that prohibits the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for the purpose of hunting, locating, or observing big game animals. The changes would extend aerial scouting prohibitions and clarify the existing regulation by explicitly listing unmanned aerial vehicles. The third change is to clarify real-time satellite images. The proposed amendment would also add game birds and fur-bearing mammals to the aerial scouting and hunting prohibition.

Two workshops have been held on this regulation change; one on January 29, 2016 and one on March 25, 2016. The Commission directed the Department to add “game birds and fur-bearing mammals” to the season closure on aerial scouting and hunting, change the closure dates to say July 1 to the last day of February each calendar year, and to add and define the term “real-time” to clarify satellite imagery.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed said LCB said the private land exemptions do not need to be in there because it has the hunting clause. He explained the rest of the regulation.

CABMW and Public Comment –

Bob Rittenhouse, Douglas CABMW, asked about incidental information being sold by ranchers when they are observing cattle, how do we prevent that?

Robert Pagoda, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said they support the regulation.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Guides and Outfitters, said he supports this. In Alaska they do not allow helicopters or drones. They are circumventing the law. Look into their law.

Chairman Drew said Elko CABMW is in support however they wanted concerns represented.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 459 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Johnston said he agrees with LCB on the private land exemption.

Commissioner Mori is not supporting the motion. He thinks the changes are more directed at airplanes. Drones got thrown into it. There are other changes too, not just adding drones.

Commissioner Young disagrees with Commissioner Mori.

MOTION CARRIED 7 – 1 WITH COMMISSIONER MORI OPPOSED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

- 25 Commission General Regulation 460, Definition of "Spike Elk," LCB File No. R013-16 – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting amendments to NAC 502.104 and 502.1045 to define "Spike Elk" in a manner that limits inadvertent errors in the field. The intent is to consider and possibly broaden the definition of spike in a manner that is consistent with the management objective of defining a spike while reducing the likelihood of errors in harvest identification. A workshop was held in Yerington on March 25, 2016 and further discussion on the proposed amendment occurred in Reno on May 14, 2016. The Commission amended the version of language for consideration at the June meeting that defines "spike" as any antlered elk having no more than two points above the top of the ear on either antler.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling described the definition and the benefits.

Chairman Drew clarified the definition.

CABMW Comment and Public Comment –

Sean Shea, Washoe CABMW, approved the regulation.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, said they talked about it last time and are in support.

Commissioner Wallace said Pershing CABMW said they do not support it, they think it should be a true spike without branching.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULAION 460 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

- 26 Commission General Regulation 461, Industrial Artificial Pond Permits (IAP), LCB File No. R014-16 – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne – For Possible Action
The Commission will consider adopting regulation changes relating to Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). It revises provisions relating to artificial industrial ponds; adds a provision on the purpose of permits; adds definitions for permanent closure and stabilized; adds new provisions and revises existing provisions relating to application, compliance, modification, renewal, and transfer of permits; and modifies provisions relating to assessment fee structure and payment tiers.

A workshop was held in Reno on May 13, 2016, where the Commission asked that the following language be added to Section 8 "...specifications for the design of any facility associated with the artificial or artificially created body of water according to the highest applicable payment tier within any of the following schedules:" This language was added to provide clarity that only the maximum amount found in any one of the applicable tiers will be assessed and that calculation will not be additive.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne explained the regulation.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 461 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

27 Commission General Regulation 462, Issuing and Verifying Hull Numbers of Vessels, LCB File No. R015-16 – Management Analyst 3 Maureen Hullinger – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider the adoption of regulation changes to address federal regulatory changes the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has requested states to implement pertaining to hull numbers for vessels and the verification and issuance of these numbers; the processing of certificate of number applications for vessels to include language definitions, standardization of terminology regarding vessels and personal identification information of owners.

In order to receive federal matching funds associated with the Dingle Johnson Act, all states report vessel information annually to the USCG. In an effort to modernize and standardize their vessel database information, which the USCG collects from all of the states, the USCG amended federal law. This federal change standardizes terminology across all of the states and provides direction regarding the method that states assign and verify hull numbers. Ultimately, these federal changes are expected to improve state reporting. As a result the Department must amend state regulation to implement this standardization effort in order to meet the USCG reporting requirements. These changes must be implemented by Jan. 1, 2017. A workshop was held in Reno on March 13, 2016. The Department provided several cleanup language changes, which were accepted by the Commission.

Management Analyst 3 Hullinger reviewed the support material and noted that U.S. Coast Guard had no other changes and agreed with the Department changes.

CABMW and Public Comment – None

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 462 AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. COMMISSIONER WALLACE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 - 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.

28 Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Drew – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 12 and 13, 2016, in Reno with time allocated for a Commission and County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife workshop. 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 will not adjust committees at this time, and listed potential August agenda items: Carson City BLM Wild Horse Plan, Commission Policies 10 and 11, policy on Wildlife Contests, NACs on appeals and petitions, the Commission's Public Lands Committee should meet to review what has been assigned as far as policies, APRPC and TAAHC may meet.

Secretary Wasley said the August meeting is in Reno and recently staff learned that TMCC is unavailable for the meeting. An alternate location will be sought. Additional agenda items that he noted for August are: Update on license simplification effort and input from July stakeholder meetings; election of chair and vice chair; regulations pertaining to appeals, trail cameras, boat drains relative to Aquatic Invasive Species concerns, game retrieval, bonus point transfers between residents/nonresidents elimination of form, Lower Truckee River tackle restriction; Commission Regulations to clean-up the discrepancy between Nevada and Utah elk seasons; and Heritage turkey tag legal shooting hours amendment.

Las Vegas Public Comment –

Jana Wright said in view of Secretary Wasley's statement that TMCC is not available in Reno for the August meeting it sounds like that meeting will not be video conferenced?

Chairman Drew said in regard to videoconferencing that will be dependent on a whether a site is located that can host enough people with capabilities to reach Elko and Las Vegas. Chairman Drew said he would encourage all the CABMW chairman to attend the August meeting as well as other members to have discussions and a productive workshop.

29 Public Comment Period

Las Vegas Public Comment – None

Reno Public Comment –

Caron Tayloe thanked Commissioners Bliss and Mori for their service and time to wildlife and the state. She appreciated Commissioner Mori speaking to her at a Las Vegas meeting.

Elko Public Comment –

Joel Blakeslee, NVTA, requested a copy of the Commission Memorandum that will be

sent to the CABMW's explaining why the CABMW recommendations were not accepted on the bobcat season. He respectfully requested that NVTa receive a copy of the explanation.

Closing remarks were made by individual Commissioners to Commissioners Bliss and Mori whose terms have ended, and for DAG Newton who has accepted a promotion.

Meeting Adjourned at 5 p.m.

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