

## LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAG COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

January 24, 2019

6980 Sierra Center Parkway

Reno, NV 89511

1. Roll call: Brad Johnston - present by telephone; Tom Barnes - present; Paul Valentine - present; Casey Kiel - present; Larry Johnson - present; Cory Lytle - present; Bevan Lister - present; Tom Donham (NDOW staff) - present; Mike Scott (NDOW staff) - present
2. Agenda - Moved to approve by Commission Chairman Johnston; seconded by Commissioner Valentine - approved
3. Member Items - none
4. PowerPoint presentation by NDOW Game Division Supervising Biologists Tom Donham and Mike Scott depicting changes and trends to the Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag Program.
  - Larry Johnson asked for clarification on the access issues. Tom Donham responded that NRS and NAC specify that access is required only during the deer or antelope seasons to parties holding a deer or antelope tag.
  - Larry Johnson asked how the increase in Landowner Comp tags compares to the number of general tags issued.
5. Chairman Johnston: Discussion about the program including a solution to the statutory cap.
  - A. Bevan Lister asked if we have exceeded the 1.5% cap other than in 2017. There was a somewhat long discussion to clarify the years involved and actions taken. NDOW Chief of Game Brian Wakeling responded that although he did not have data in front of him, he did not believe we had.
  - B. Larry Johnson spoke about the history of the program and noted that the program will never make everyone happy.
  - C. Cory Lytle spoke about how much interest people have in this program. He continued with several points about the program that have been discussed by the Lincoln County CAB:
    - c1. With regard to the 2.5% cap, if we exceed the cap we could increase the threshold to qualify from using 50 deer or antelope to 55 deer or antelope and increase that threshold in increments of 5 until the cap is no longer exceeded.
    - c2. To qualify a landowner should have to have a harvestable crop and hobby farms (farming for deer) should be eliminated from the program.
    - c3. Avoid “double counts” where adjacent property owners have counts conducted at different times and the same animals may allow multiple landowners to receive tags.
    - c4. Eliminate the stratified hunt
    - c5. Split unit 231 into two units that would result in landowner tags being used closer to the areas that the private lands with deer complaints are located.
  - D. Casey Kiel asked if the number of program participants is increasing. Tom Donham and Mike Scott explained that it has increased slightly over the long-term, but has remained relatively stable.
  - E. Paul Valentine suggested creating one cap for deer tags and another cap for antelope.

F. Bevan Lister echoed the double cap suggestion and also suggested that higher quotas for deer and antelope could reduce the potential to exceed the statutory cap. He also asked why the cap exists.

G. Tom Barnes said that hitting the cap in 2017 was the first big issue for this program in 26 years, which indicates the program has worked and is working.

H. Brad Johnston expressed thoughts about the timing of landowner counts related to the cap, counts being manipulated, involvement of guides, and wealthy people being able to purchase tags and hunt every year, while other people have to wait to draw tags. Various issues appear to be coming from certain areas of the state and not all areas of the state. He also mentioned access and timing of counts related to when the last cutting of a crop occurs vs. when the count is scheduled.

Public Comment:

Giovanni Giordano spoke and suggested that we shouldn't try to fix a program that isn't broken and mentioned that Landowner Comp Tag Biologist Rodney Johnson holds landowners accountable to qualify for the program.

Brad Johnston suggested that he would like to identify each issue and discuss each one and take public comments before making decisions.

Bevan Lister asked why landowner tags continue to increase while draw tags are going down. This doesn't make sense.

Larry Johnson said that sportsmen demanded that the cap be put into place many years ago. He also mentioned that having deer or antelope on agriculture in the non-growing season still has an impact on the value of the crop since it may be used for domestic sheep or cattle.

Cory Lytle mentioned that the Public Lands Commission discussed the excessive number of wild horses on public lands may be forcing deer or antelope to seek forage on private lands. He also discussed the increases in town deer and agriculture deer around the state.

Brad Johnson mentioned that this program needs support from landowners as well as sportsmen.

6. Discussion of topics delegated to Landowner Compensation Tag Committee by TAAHC Committee:

- Private Land Season: Larry Johnson - expressed disfavor; Cory Lytle - expressed disfavor; Casey Kiel – does not have enough knowledge to form an opinion; Paul Valentine - expressed disfavor; Bevan Lister - this would not allow his entertainment of watching people watching deer on his property; Brad Johnston - expressed disfavor.
- Private Land Season: Did not discuss for reasons above.
- Doe Hunt on Private Lands: Larry Johnson - expressed disfavor; Casey Kiel - expressed disfavor; Bevan Lister - suggested that 1-2% kill would not equal the amount that coyotes take - expressed disfavor; Paul Valentine - idea has no merit; Brad Johnston - expressed disfavor.

Public Comment: Tom Cassinelli: NDOW already has the ability to hold a depredation hunt, so that tool is already in the toolbox.

- Review Process: Larry Johnson - Rodney Johnson does a good job; Cory Lytle - Don't increase the burden on the department; Paul Valentine - asked about the regional comparison (Tom Donham and Mike Scott responded); Bevan Lister - likes how simple the program is.
- Eliminate the Stratified Hunt: Larry Johnson - the stratified hunt buys tolerance and adds value to the tags; Cory Lytle - supports elimination of stratified hunt because it results in negative perspectives by sportsmen; Casey Kiel - expressed disfavor about elimination because it adds value to the tags; Paul Valentine - this needs to be discussed further; Bevan Lister - asked what would be accomplished by eliminating the stratified hunt; Tom Barnes - Suggested very few comp tag holders hunt other weapon classes than ALW; Brad Johnston - the stratified hunt adds value to the comp tags.

Public Comment: Giovanni Giordano; Tom Cassinelli; Steve Marquez - White Pine County CAB members are not in favor of a stratified hunt. Mr. Marquez also asked if NDOW staff could provide information depicting numbers of tags by unit; Rex Flowers suggested the tag per unit information is in the Big Game Status and Trend book. Mike Scott agreed but said that is only by a single year. NDOW can provide that information in spreadsheet form for the next meeting; Paul Dixon asked if NDOW may be counting the same deer more than once in the Panaca area. Mr. Dixon also suggested that the program should be changed to be like the Elk Incentive Tag Program where deer are counted multiple times through the year.

7. Public Comment: None

8. Future Meetings: Commission Chairman Johnston suggested that the next meeting could be associated with the March Wildlife Commission meeting. He would gather various issues for discussion on the agenda. Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Mike Scott