

**Trapping Regulation Committee Members:**

Chairman David McNinch  
Commissioners: Jeremy Drew, Jack Robb,  
Karen Layne  
Public member: John Sullivan

**Staff to the Committee: Rob Buonamici**

(775) 688-1540  
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**NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS  
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
TRAPPING REGULATION COMMITTEE MEETING**  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**Final Agenda**

NOTE: Items may be taken out of order; items may be combined for consideration by the public body; and Items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. Individuals with a disability who are in need of special services should contact the Department at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at 775-688-1549. Individuals with hearing impairment may contact the Department via telecommunication device (TDD) (775) 688-1550.

TIME LIMITS: Public Comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item, and are limited to (3) minutes per person. 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 complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Committee will consider, Committee members may choose not respond to public comments in order to avoid 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 which antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

NOTE: Public comment allowed on each action item and at the end of the meeting for items not on the agenda.

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order – Chairman McNinch**
2. **Approval of Agenda – Chairman McNinch - For Possible Action**

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

**3. Member Items/Announcements Chairman McNinch – Informational**

Committee members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Committee. Any item requiring Committee action will be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

**4.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairman McNinch - For Possible Action**

The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the January 31, 2014 meeting.

**5.\* Overview of Recent Legislative Bills and Wildlife Commission Actions Pertinent to Trapping in Nevada – DAG Newton/Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici – Informational**

The Committee will be provided with a brief overview of recent Legislative bills, including Senate Bills 213 (2013) and 226 (2011), as well as recent Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission actions pertinent to trapping in Nevada.

**6. Definition and/or Interpretation of the Terms “close proximity” and “populated and heavily used areas” as Used in Senate Bill 213 – DAG Newton/Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

DAG Newton will provide guidance on defining and/or interpreting the terms “close proximity” and “populated or heavily used areas” as used in Senate Bill 213. The Committee may take action to define and/or interpret “close proximity” and “populated or heavily used areas” as they relate to Wildlife Management Areas 19, 29, and 02 or portions thereof.

**7.\* Possible Recommendation to Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Regarding Visitation Frequency for Certain Traps, Snares or Similar Devices Placed in Close Proximity to a Populated or Heavily Used Area – Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

The Committee may take action to recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners the frequency at which a person who takes or causes to be taken wild mammals by means of traps, snares or similar devices which do not, or are not designed to cause immediate death to the mammals must visit a trap, snare or similar device in Wildlife Management Areas 19, 29, and 02 or portions thereof. In providing a recommendation the Committee will consider requiring a trap, snare or similar device to be visited more frequently than a trap, snare or similar device which is not placed in close proximity to such an area.

**8. Future Committee Meetings and Potential Agenda Items – Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

The Committee will discuss the date, time and location of the next Committee meeting. The Committee will also review and may take action to set potential agenda items for that meeting.

**9. Public Comment Period**

Persons wishing to speak on items not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. In addition to this Public Comment Period, Public Comment limited to three minutes per speaker on each agenda action item, but not on reports or informational items.

- \*Support material provided including updates, and posted to the NDOW website ([www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org)). Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Joanne Trendler, at (775) 688-1549; and will be available at the meeting. Notice to the Public: Nevada Department of Wildlife receives Federal Aid in Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability. In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted at the meeting location, and at the following Department of Wildlife offices: 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV, 89512; 380 W. "B" Street, Fallon, NV, 89406; 815 E. Fourth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center, Elko, NV, 89801; 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301; 744 S. Racetrack Road, Henderson, NV 89015; and 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV, 89108.

**NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC**

Nevada Department of Wildlife receives Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Individuals with hearing impairment may contact the Department at 775-688-1500 via a text telephone telecommunications device by first calling the State of Nevada Relay Operator at 1-800-326-6868. Individuals with a disability who are in need of special services should contact Joanne Trendler at the Department at least 24 hours prior to (775) 688-1676.

# Attendance Register

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS  
TRAPPING REGULATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
Saturday, March 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.

Name/Please Print Legibly	Affiliation	Telephone	E-Mail
Alex Florens	WCABMW		
Charlie Cecchini	NY CABMW Director NUTA	775 482 8123	
Samuel R. Seffers Jr	NUTA	(775) 277-0109	
JJ Myers	NUTA	273-0388	
Wyatt Myers	Nuta	273-0388	
Betsy Lemons	trail safe		BetsyLemons@gmail.com
Caron Taylor	Nevada Taxpayer		Carontaylor@gmail.com
Matt Lamb	NUTA	426-8707	MATT.LAMB X3@YAHOO.COM

Name/Please Print Legibly

Affiliation

Telephone

E-Mail

Mike Olsen	Churchill CAB	775-427-4211	✓ tubby1372@yahoo.com
Jeff Simons	NVTA	—	—
Dan Reixoto	NVTA	775-427-1180	✓ Aurshedy@mail.com
SAM JEFFREY	NVTA	775-482-6678	
Jin Saling	NVTA	775 423-8230	
FRED VOLTZ	RECREATIONIST		
Jeff Westwood	NVTA	775 351 5239	✓ NUSEEDman@gmail.com
Cynthia Kumball	Self	775 425 5522	✓ cindykumball@aol.com
Jesse Hatten	Churchill CAB	775 427-3441	✓ Jesse.hatten@gmail.com

Name/Please Print Legibly

Affiliation

Telephone

E-Mail

John A Inwood	Self	775-846-6734	✓ vandhiwood@gmail.com
Bob Larson	Trail safe	360-775-7757	✓ scubaduo2@yahoo.com
Lori Larson	Trail safe	360-775-7758	✓ scubaduo2@yahoo.com
Elaine Carrick	Self	775-853-4074	✓ ElaineCarrick@gmail.com
Don Molde	Trail safe		
Karen Inda			✓ Kinda@xeriedesign.com
Dorie Guy			✓ dorieguy@gmail.com
Gary Park	Self	775 315 0484	✓ dingatspark1@gmail.com
Joe Bakesda	NVFFA	775-742-1308	✓ Labonevnd@gmail.com

Name/Please Print Legibly

Affiliation

Telephone

E-Mail

Dalley MYERS	NVTA		
Julia Myers	NVTA	442-0454	✓ jporto69@hotmail.com
Margaret Flint	Trail Safe	775-771-6137	✓ MargaretLaurenCoffinet info@trailsafe.org
TRISH Swain	TRAIL SAFE		
CARL OLNSTEAD	NVTA		
Christine Switzer	Trail Safe		
Leah Sturgis	Trail Safe	310 779 8010	✓ Leah8@mac.com
Carol L Skaley	Trail Sage	805 320 5925	✓ emarahels@yahoo.com
Don Jones	NVTA	775-741-0139	

Name/Please Print Legibly

Affiliation

Telephone

E-Mail

Lauren Cerini Jones	NUTA	775) 741.1253	lauren0044@yahoo.com
George Hughes	NUTA	775 423-6757	
Peggy Hughes		775 423-6751	peggyhughes@casisol.com
Leo Comeau	NUTA	775-233-9947	huntandfish345@yahoo.com
Everett Comeau	NUTA	775-233-9947	
LEAH JONES	TRAILSAFE / SELF	(775) 813-4625	jones.leahlin@yahoo.com
Tina Kroepel	IM	(775) 217 4587	TinaKroepel@gmail.com
CHRIS KROEPEL	NUTA	(775) 217 6601	CHRISTOPHER.KROEPEL@NAVY.MIL
Josh Ackerman	N/A	775-424-3427	Ackerman10@gmail.com

Name/Please Print Legibly

Affiliation

Telephone

E-Mail:

Name/Please Print Legibly	Affiliation	Telephone	E-Mail:
PHIL ZAMORA	NVTA	775 964-1449	NONE
John CASEY	NVTA	775-997-8343	NONE
1/6/12			

Senate Bill No. 213—Senators Parks, Manendo, Spearman,  
Segerblom; and Woodhouse (by request)

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Carlton, Ohrenschall;  
Martin, Munford and Pierce

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to trapping; requiring the registration of each trap, snare or similar device used in the taking of wild mammals; providing that any information in the possession of the Department of Wildlife concerning the registration of a trap, snare or similar device is confidential; requiring the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations prescribing the frequency of required visits for a trap, snare or similar device; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Existing law provides that any person who intentionally steals, takes and carries away personal goods or property of another person with a value of less than \$650 or who knowingly buys, receives, possesses or withholds such property is guilty of a misdemeanor. (NRS 205.240, 205.275) **Section 1.6** of this bill provides that a person who intentionally steals, takes and carries away traps, snares or similar devices with an aggregate value of less than \$650 or who knowingly buys, receives, possesses or withholds stolen traps, snares or similar devices with an aggregate value of less than \$650 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Existing law requires a person who takes fur-bearing mammals by any legal method or unprotected mammals by trapping to obtain a trapping license. (NRS 503.454) Existing law also provides that each trap, snare or similar device used in the taking of wild mammals may bear a number registered with the Department of Wildlife or may be permanently marked with the name and address of the owner or trapper using it. If a trap is registered, the registration is permanent and the registrant must pay a one-time fee of \$10 at the time the first trap, snare or similar device is registered. (NRS 503.452) **Section 3** of this bill amends those provisions by: (1) requiring each trap, snare or similar device used in the taking of wild mammals to be registered with the Department; and (2) requiring each registered trap, snare or similar device to bear a number which is assigned by the Department and is affixed to the trap, snare or similar device in the manner specified by regulations adopted by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Under existing law, every person who takes fur-bearing mammals by any legal method is required to obtain a trapping license. Existing law also makes it unlawful to move or disturb a lawfully-set trap. (NRS 503.454) **Section 4** of this bill: (1) requires every person who takes fur-bearing mammals by trap, snare or similar device to obtain a trapping license; and (2) clarifies that the prohibition against moving or disturbing a lawfully-set trap also includes any lawfully-set snare or similar device.

Existing law requires each person who sets or places a trap, snare or similar device to visit those devices at least once every 96 hours and requires the removal of trapped mammals from the devices. (NRS 503.570) **Section 5** of this bill requires the Commission to adopt regulations prescribing the frequency at which a



person who sets or places a trap, snare or similar device is required to visit the trap, snare or similar device, which must be at least once every 96 hours.

EXPLANATION - Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 501 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 1.3 and 1.6 of this act.

**Sec. 1.3.** *“Trap” means a device that is designed, built or made to close upon or hold fast any portion of an animal.*

**Sec. 1.6. 1.** *Any person who intentionally steals, takes and carries away one or more traps, snares or similar devices owned by another person with an aggregate value of less than \$650 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.*

*2. Any person who buys, receives, possesses or withholds one or more traps, snares or similar devices owned by another person with an aggregate value of less than \$650:*

*(a) Knowing that the traps, snares or similar devices are stolen property; or*

*(b) Under such circumstances as should have caused a reasonable person to know that the traps, snares or similar devices are stolen property,*

*is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.*

**Sec. 2.** NRS 501.001 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.001 As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 501.003 to 501.097, inclusive, *and section 1.3 of this act* have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

**Sec. 3.** NRS 503.452 is hereby amended to read as follows:

503.452 *1. Each trap, snare or similar device used in the taking of wild mammals ~~may~~ must be registered with the Department before it is used. Each registered trap, snare or similar device must bear a number ~~registered with~~ which is assigned by the Department ~~for be permanently marked with the name and address of the owner or trapper using it. If a trap is registered, the~~ and is affixed to or marked on the trap, snare or similar device in the manner specified by regulations adopted by the Commission. The registration of a trap, snare or similar device is ~~permanent.~~ valid until the trap, snare or similar device is sold or ownership of the trap, snare or similar device is otherwise transferred.*



2. A registration fee of \$10 for each registrant is payable only once ~~†~~ by each person who registers a trap, snare or similar device. The fee must be paid at the time the first trap, snare or similar device is registered.

3. It is unlawful:

(a) For a person to whom a trap, snare or similar device is registered to allow another person to possess or use the trap, snare or similar device without providing to that person written authorization to possess or use the trap, snare or similar device.

(b) For a person to possess or use a trap, snare or similar device registered to another person without obtaining the written authorization required pursuant to paragraph (a). If a person obtains written authorization to possess or use a trap, snare or similar device pursuant to paragraph (a), the person shall ensure that the written authorization, together with his or her trapping license, is in his or her possession during any period in which he or she uses the trap, snare or similar device to take fur-bearing mammals.

4. A person to whom a trap, snare or similar device is registered pursuant to this section shall report any theft of the trap, snare or similar device to the Department as soon as it is practical to do so after the person discovers the theft.

5. Any information in the possession of the Department concerning the registration of a trap, snare or similar device is confidential and the Department shall not disclose that information unless required to do so by law or court order.

**Sec. 4.** NRS 503.454 is hereby amended to read as follows:

503.454 1. Every person who takes fur-bearing mammals by ~~any legal method~~ trap, snare or similar device or unprotected mammals by trapping or sells raw furs for profit shall procure a trapping license.

2. It is unlawful to remove or disturb the trap, snare or similar device of any holder of a trapping license while the trap, snare or similar device is being legally used by the holder on public land or on land where the holder has permission to trap.

**Sec. 5.** NRS 503.570 is hereby amended to read as follows:

503.570 1. A person taking or causing to be taken wild mammals by means of traps, snares or ~~any other~~ similar devices which do not, or are not designed to, cause immediate death to the mammals, shall, if the traps, snares or similar devices are placed or set to take mammals, visit or cause to be visited ~~at least once each 96 hours~~ each trap, snare or ~~other~~ similar device at a frequency specified in regulations adopted by the Commission pursuant to



*subsection 3* during all of the time the trap, snare or *similar* device is placed, set or used to take wild mammals, and remove therefrom any mammals caught therein.

2. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to employees of the State Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture when acting in their official capacities.

3. *The Commission shall adopt regulations setting forth the frequency at which a person who takes or causes to be taken wild mammals by means of traps, snares or similar devices which do not, or are not designed to, cause immediate death to the mammals must visit a trap, snare or similar device. The regulations must require the person to visit a trap, snare or similar device at least once each 96 hours. In adopting the regulations, the Commission shall consider requiring a trap, snare or similar device placed in close proximity to a populated or heavily used area by persons to be visited more frequently than a trap, snare or similar device which is not placed in close proximity to such an area.*

**Sec. 5.5.** NRS 205.240 is hereby amended to read as follows:

205.240 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 205.220, 205.226, 205.228 and 475.105, *and section 1.6 of this act*, a person commits petit larceny if the person:

(a) Intentionally steals, takes and carries away, leads away or drives away:

(1) Personal goods or property, with a value of less than \$650, owned by another person;

(2) Bedding, furniture or other property, with a value of less than \$650, which the person, as a lodger, is to use in or with his or her lodging and which is owned by another person; or

(3) Real property, with a value of less than \$650, that the person has converted into personal property by severing it from real property owned by another person.

(b) Intentionally steals, takes and carries away, leads away, drives away or entices away one or more domesticated animals or domesticated birds, with an aggregate value of less than \$650, owned by another person.

2. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to NRS 205.267, a person who commits petit larceny is guilty of a misdemeanor. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order the person to pay restitution.

**Sec. 5.6.** NRS 205.275 is hereby amended to read as follows:

205.275 1. ~~1A~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1.6 of this act*, a person commits an offense involving stolen property if the person, for his or her own gain or to prevent the owner from



again possessing the owner's property, buys, receives, possesses or withholds property:

(a) Knowing that it is stolen property; or

(b) Under such circumstances as should have caused a reasonable person to know that it is stolen property.

2. A person who commits an offense involving stolen property in violation of subsection 1:

(a) If the value of the property is less than \$650, is guilty of a misdemeanor;

(b) If the value of the property is \$650 or more but less than \$3,500, is guilty of a category C felony and shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130; or

(c) If the value of the property is \$3,500 or more or if the property is a firearm, is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 10 years, and by a fine of not more than \$10,000.

3. In addition to any other penalty, the court shall order the person to pay restitution.

4. A person may be prosecuted and convicted pursuant to this section whether or not the principal is or has been prosecuted or convicted.

5. Possession by any person of three or more items of the same or a similar class or type of personal property on which a permanently affixed manufacturer's serial number or manufacturer's identification number has been removed, altered or defaced, is prima facie evidence that the person has violated this section.

6. For the purposes of this section, the value of the property involved shall be deemed to be the highest value attributable to the property by any reasonable standard.

7. As used in this section, "stolen property" means property that has been taken from its owner by larceny, robbery, burglary, embezzlement, theft or any other offense that is a crime against property, whether or not the person who committed the taking is or has been prosecuted or convicted for the offense.

**Sec. 6.** 1. This section, sections 1 to 2, inclusive, 4, 5.5 and 5.6 of this act become effective upon passage and approval.

2. Sections 3 and 5 of this act become effective upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and on July 31, 2013, for all other purposes.



Senate Bill No. 226—Senators Leslie and Parks

Joint Sponsors: Assemblywomen Pierce; and Carlton

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to trapping; requiring the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations governing the trapping of fur-bearing mammals in certain counties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Under existing law, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners is required to adopt certain regulations establishing seasons for trapping fur-bearing mammals and the manner and means of taking wildlife. Those regulations must be established after first considering the recommendations of the Department, the county advisory boards to manage wildlife and others who wish to present their views at an open meeting. (NRS 501.181)

**Section 2** of this bill specifically requires the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations governing the trapping of fur-bearing mammals in a residential area of a county whose population is 100,000 or more (currently Clark and Washoe Counties). **Section 3** of this bill requires those regulations to be adopted on or before December 31, 2012.

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** (Deleted by amendment.)

**Sec. 2.** NRS 501.181 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.181 The Commission shall:

1. Establish broad policies for:
  - (a) The protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this State.
  - (b) The promotion of the safety of persons using or property used in the operation of vessels on the waters of this State.
  - (c) The promotion of uniformity of laws relating to policy matters.
2. Guide the Department in its administration and enforcement of the provisions of this title and of chapter 488 of NRS by the establishment of such policies.
3. Establish policies for areas of interest including:
  - (a) The management of big and small game mammals, upland and migratory game birds, fur-bearing mammals, game fish, and protected and unprotected mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians.



- (b) The control of wildlife depredations.
  - (c) The acquisition of lands, water rights and easements and other property for the management, propagation, protection and restoration of wildlife.
  - (d) The entry, access to, and occupancy and use of such property, including leases of grazing rights, sales of agricultural products and requests by the Director to the State Land Registrar for the sale of timber if the sale does not interfere with the use of the property on which the timber is located for wildlife management or for hunting or fishing thereon.
  - (e) The control of nonresident hunters.
  - (f) The introduction, transplanting or exporting of wildlife.
  - (g) Cooperation with federal, state and local agencies on wildlife and boating programs.
  - (h) The revocation of licenses issued pursuant to this title to any person who is convicted of a violation of any provision of this title or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.
4. Establish regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this title and of chapter 488 of NRS, including:
- (a) Seasons for hunting game mammals and game birds, for hunting or trapping fur-bearing mammals and for fishing, the daily and possession limits, the manner and means of taking wildlife, including, but not limited to, the sex, size or other physical differentiation for each species, and, when necessary for management purposes, the emergency closing or extending of a season, reducing or increasing of the bag or possession limits on a species, or the closing of any area to hunting, fishing or trapping. The regulations must be established after first considering the recommendations of the Department, the county advisory boards to manage wildlife and others who wish to present their views at an open meeting. Any regulations relating to the closure of a season must be based upon scientific data concerning the management of wildlife. The data upon which the regulations are based must be collected or developed by the Department.
  - (b) The manner of using, attaching, filling out, punching, inspecting, validating or reporting tags.
  - (c) The delineation of game management units embracing contiguous territory located in more than one county, irrespective of county boundary lines.
  - (d) The number of licenses issued for big game and, if necessary, other game species.
5. Adopt regulations requiring the Department to make public, before official delivery, its proposed responses to any requests by



federal agencies for its comment on drafts of statements concerning the environmental effect of proposed actions or regulations affecting public lands.

6. Adopt regulations:

(a) Governing the provisions of the permit required by NRS 502.390 and for the issuance, renewal and revocation of such a permit.

(b) Establishing the method for determining the amount of an assessment, and the time and manner of payment, necessary for the collection of the assessment required by NRS 502.390.

7. Designate those portions of wildlife management areas for big game mammals that are of special concern for the regulation of the importation, possession and propagation of alternative livestock pursuant to NRS 576.129.

*8. Adopt regulations governing the trapping of fur-bearing mammals in a residential area of a county whose population is 100,000 or more.*

**Sec. 3.** The Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall, on or before December 31, 2012, adopt any regulations required by the amendatory provisions of this act.

**Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective:

1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations required by the amendatory provisions of this act; and
2. On January 1, 2013, for all other purposes.



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**  
**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**  
**TRAPPING REGULATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present

Chairman David McNinch  
Commissioner Jeremy Drew  
Commissioner Jack Robb  
Commissioner Layne  
John Sullivan, Clark County

Commissioners Present

Department Personnel Present

Rob Buonamici, Chief Game Warden  
Joanne Trendler, Administrative Assistant

Others Present

Rex Flowers, Washoe CABMW	Dorie Guy
Charlie Cecchini, Nye CABMW/Director	Gary Park, Self
NVTA	Joel Blakeslee, NV Trapper's Association
Samuel R. Jeffrey Jr., NV Trappers	Dalley Myers, NV Trappers
J J Myers, NV Trappers	Julie Myers, NV Trappers
Wyatt myers, NV Trappers	Margaret Flint, TrailSafe
Betsy lemons, TrailSaf	Trish Swain, TrailSafe
Caron Tayloe, Nevada Taxpayer	Carl Olmstead, NV Trappers
Matt Lamb, NV Trappers	Chrisian Smith, TrailSafe
Mike Olsen, Churchill, CABMW	Leah Sturgis, TrailSafe
Jeff Simons, NV Tarappers	Carol L. Healy, TrailSafe
Dan Peixoto, NV Trappers	Leah Sturgis, TrialSafe
Sam Jeffrey NV Trappers	Dan Jones, NV Trappers Association
Jim Slaing, NV Trappers	Loren Cerini Jones, NV Trappers Association
Fred Voltz, Recreationist	George Hughes, NV Trappers
Jeff Westwood NV Trappers	Peggy Hughes
Cynthia Kimball, Self	Leo Comeau, NV Trappers Association
Jesse Lattin, Churchill CABMW	Everett Comeau, NV Trappers Association
John A. Inwood, Slef	Leah Jones, TrailSafe/Self
Bob Larson, TrailSafe	Tina Kroepel
Lori Larson, TrailSafe	Chris Kroepel, NV Trappers Association
Elaine Carrick, Self	Josh Ackerman
Dr. Don Molde, TrialSafe	Phil Zamora, NV Trappers Association
Karen Inda	John Casey, NV Trappers Association
Pat Kleam	Sherry Goozey
Karen Inda	BobBrunner
Peter Cypers	

**Saturday, March 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order – Chairman McNinch**

Chairman McNinch called the meeting to order at 1:05. Chairman McNinch said they were in Elko the day before. He said there are new faces in the audience and he wants to inform everyone how they conduct the meetings. He said the issue that is being talked about is complex with several prior meetings. He said the committee understands there are emotions on both sides. He asked the audience to please be respectful with your comments and address the board. He said it is important you understand where we are in the process and will try to provide opportunity to ask questions. He said please be civil with your comments, there is no need to make it personal. He reminded everyone to fill out a yellow card if they are going to speak. He said when you make your comments be sure to stay on the agenda items. He said there is a public comment period at the end where you can stray from the agenda items. He pointed out there were maps in the back. He said at last night's meeting there was a feeling that the maps were representing a done deal. He said the maps were more of a guide to show the committee where current closures and restrictions are for trapping. He said the committee is trying to focus their conversations to the specific areas they are in. He said the focus today is areas 19, 02 and 29. He said the reason we went specific is because when they tried to discuss the entire state it was hard to focus and people were bringing up specific areas.

Dr. Molde asked Chairman McNinch would say something about the recommendation that the committee made yesterday in Elko regarding no action across the state except the Reno and Las Vegas areas.

Chairman McNinch said yesterday in Elko there was a motion that passed to recommend leaving the rural areas (everything except 02, 19, 29, 26 and 28) at a 96 hour trap check. He said the recommendation will go back to the Commission where they will have public hearing. He said it's a process and will work its way back through the Commission.

John Sullivan responded to Dr. Molde's question. He said there was a recommendation made but statewide issues are not on the agenda today. He said there is a public comment period at the end and if you need to make comments regarding yesterday's decision that is the proper time to address.

Chairman McNinch briefly explained there are four wildlife commissioners. He introduced each one. He said anything that comes out of the committee goes back to the full Commission. He said whatever leaves the committee is not a done deal.

**2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman McNinch - For Possible Action**

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

COMMISSIONER ROBB MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN.  
COMMISSIONER DREW SECONDED THE MOTION.  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Member Items/Announcements Chairman McNinch – Informational**

Committee members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Committee. Any item requiring Committee action will be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

There were no comments made.

**4.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairman McNinch - For Possible Action**

The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the January 31, 2014 meeting.

Chairman McNinch said the minutes are processed but the committee and the committee did not get the opportunity to review them. He said the committee would defer taking any action until next meeting.

**5.\* Overview of Recent Legislative Bills and Wildlife Commission Actions Pertinent to Trapping in Nevada – DAG Newton/Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici – Informational**

The Committee will be provided with a brief overview of recent Legislative bills, including Senate Bills 213 (2013) and 226 (2011), as well as recent Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission actions pertinent to trapping in Nevada.

David Newton (DAG) said SB226 passed in the 2011 legislative session. He said it has changed in section two of that bill and it instructed the commission to adopt regulations governing the trapping of furbearing mammals in residential areas whose county population is 100,000 or more. He said the following legislative session in 2013, SB213 was passed. He said section five of that bill is the most pertinent to today's meeting. He said it amended NRS 503.570. He said the third section of that bill states that the commission shall adopt regulations setting forth a frequency at which a person takes or causes to be taken wild mammals by means of traps, snares or similar devices which do not or are not designed to cause immediate death to the mammal must visit a trap snare or similar device. He said the regulations require a person to visit a trap, snare, or similar device at least once every 96 hours. He said in adopting the regulations the Commission shall consider requiring a trap, snare or similar device placed in close proximity to a populated or heavily used area by persons to be visited more frequently than a trap, snare, or similar device which is not placed in close proximity to such an area.

Chairman McNinch said back in 2011 there was a senate bill that approved by the legislature that mandated that the Wildlife Commission review and take action to modify regulations pertinent to counties or cities that have more than 100,000 population, which is basically Las Vegas and Washoe County. He said the committee conducted a number of meeting and recommendations were made and then passed by the Commission. He said they limited the types of traps that can be used in some areas, limited trapping areas, designated distances from trails and roads. He said they were pertinent to areas in Clark County and Washoe County. He said during those discussions a number of folks were asking for revisions to provisions that are in the Nevada Revised Statutes relevant to registration and visitation. He said as a board he said they didn't have the authority to address those issues, those are legislative issues. He said during the legislative session, SB213 was

introduced and eventually ended up in a modified format. It passed and required the Commission to consider certain things while determining visitation frequency of traps. He said the key words are close proximity to populated or heavily used areas. He said it was vague language without a lot of guidance provided. He said he thinks that was intentional. They wanted the Commission to take a look at visitation and registration. He said as part of the timing of the process this bill was effective in July. He said there was a determination that it is null and voided the 96 hour trap check time. The Commission took action and placed the 96 hour visitation rule back in place for the upcoming trapping season so there would be a visitation on the books. He said it was done through a number of discussions with the legislature that the Commission was taking this seriously and they would come back and discuss the issue. Since that time there has been discussions on the registration aspect. There was a proposed regulation change that was forwarded to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) and was then put on the backburner until the next legislative session. He said they determined the language was too vague on what we were supposed to do. He said so now we move forward with the visitation aspect where the committee is charged with considering populated and heavily used areas. He said it is complicated and has a lot of moving parts.

**6. Definition and/or Interpretation of the Terms “close proximity” and “populated and heavily used areas” as Used in Senate Bill 213 – DAG Newton/Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

DAG Newton will provide guidance on defining and/or interpreting the terms “close proximity” and “populated or heavily used areas” as used in Senate Bill 213. The Committee may take action to define and/or interpret “close proximity” and “populated or heavily used areas” as they relate to Wildlife Management Areas 19, 29, and 02 or portions thereof.

Chairman McNinch said they had a tough time getting started on this in Elko because there is a twofold occurring. He said the committee recognizes there are a lot of things on people’s minds. He said last night in Elko the committee opened up the floor for people to make public comment recognizing that the audience hadn’t heard anything from the committee. He said he’ll open it up for public comment, at that time the committee will provide their feedback, and then again for public comment.

Public Comment

Dolly Myers said she doesn’t think the committee should do a 24 hour check because some people have to go to work. She said trappers do a lot; they keep predators from coming in and eating all of our pets. She said she likes it when her dad goes trapping because she gets to spend more time with her family out in the hills.

Pat Kleams said he is a Sierra Club Member and he leads hundreds of hikes in the Reno area. He said he does not think going from a 96 hour check to a 24 hour check will help anything. He said on all of his hikes he gives a two minute demonstration on how to open a trap. It’s a non-issue. He said he has led hundreds of hikes and this anti trapping and close proximity is not an issue.

Carol Healy, Trail Safe said she is here in two capacities, to write an article and to tell a story. She said she is here because she recently moved to Nevada and took a job on a ranch in Gardnerville as

a caretaker. She said it was Christmas time and she was walking the family dogs on their private property. One owner was gone and the other was there. She said she is taking her time because even as she tells the story she finds herself still traumatized. She said she had really been enjoying Nevada and thought it would be a great place to live. She enjoyed the beauty and being out in nature here in Nevada. She said she was walking the dogs in the canyon and on her way back to her house; one of the animals went off the path they were on and started screaming horrifically in pain. She said she had no idea what it could be and that it was close to a road and a no trespassing sign. She tied the one dog off and went off running to the other dog. When she got to him, his paw was in a trap, and he was pulling his paw out of it causing more damage in the process. She said he was biting with his teeth on the metal trap chipping his teeth with blood everywhere. It was the most horrific thing she had ever seen in her life. She said she is not a hunter. She has had people in her family who hunted. Her ancestors did hunt the old fashion way, they used a gun, killed it, and ate it. She said this was something she didn't know about Nevada, let alone that it could happen so close to a road or a trail that people walk on every day. She said it seemed like it was self-explanatory but she just couldn't figure it out. She was very lucky she had a cell phone in her pocket. She said she got a call through to the owner of the dog who came as quickly as she could. She said at that point she had tackled the dog and was on top of him to try to keep him from doing more damage than he already had. She said it's a new family dog only two and a half years old. She said the owner got there and the dog was fear biting and she ended up needing to go to the hospital for stitches in her hand. She said while they were trying to get the trap off a man who had heard her screaming came in the canyon with a gun. He had lived here his whole life and had seen traps before. She said he couldn't get the trap off and they had no clue how to get help. She said she didn't know what she would have done if she had walked off the trail and her foot had gotten caught in the trap.

Chairman McNinch interrupted her to tell her that they like to keep things around 3 minutes. He said but they do allow some latitude. He said while people are speaking up here leave the management to the committee.

Ms. Healy asked for clarification on what management meant.

Chairman McNinch said he is asking for the people in the audience not to chirp in while people are speaking at the podium.

Ms. Healy said she noticed how much time he was taking from her testimony.

Chairman McNinch said he was not going to argue with her but was simply setting the stage so people aren't talking or making faces in the background.

Ms. Healy said she wanted him to know that she did not hear any comments going on behind her and that it was up to the person if they wanted to make faces.

Chairman McNinch said we are just trying to be civil and respectful here.

Ms. Healy said she didn't see anyone being disrespectful and asked Chairman McNinch if he had.

Chairman McNinch said yes he had and asked her to continue her testimony.

Ms. Healy said she is dealing with realizing her foot could have easily been caught in a trap and most days she doesn't have a cell phone. She said she loves enjoying nature and that's one of the reasons she enjoys Nevada. She said nobody would have known she was there and she would have died in that snow that night. She said she was in that snow kneeling and holding this animal down for over an hour and a half. She said when they finally received help from animal control they were able to put a muzzle on the dog. She said they were able to get the trap off after two hours only because this woman was familiar with the trap. She said it is unbelievable in the news recently and throughout the history here there have been plenty of domestic animals caught in traps. She said she had no idea how many are actually reported by trappers. She asked where you go when this happens. She asked if they even report it when it happens or if they take their animal to the vet. She said when she went to the vet there were all kinds of people with domestic pets that had been caught in traps.

Chairman McNinch asked Ms. Healy to wrap it up.

Ms. Healy said she finds it hard to believe that the state of Nevada can't do better and that it's willing to continue to put people, animals, and children at risk. She said especially on private property which is a federal offense. She said this has taken place before and it will continue. She said she sees all kinds of problems with this. She said she hopes it doesn't take a child or adult getting caught in one of these things and dying to make things change. She said there needs to be a place for people to report these incidents, oversight on trappers, and whole lot more on what she wants to say but she knows the committee wants her to wrap it up. She said she would be writing an article on what is going on at the meeting that day.

Chairman McNinch said he needed everyone to stick to the agenda. He said they will provide additional opportunities.

Steve Nelson, Nevada Trappers Association said he said Joel Blakeslee would say enough because they have agreed on everything in the past.

Karen Inda asked if they were talking on agenda item six or seven.

Chairman McNinch said they were on number six but the two agenda items were very similar. He said you'll see they tend to run together. He said he is allowing latitude especially since there are so many new faces.

Karen Inda said she has gone on lots of Sierra Club hikes and she doesn't know how to get out of a trap because no one has ever showed her. She said any animal or person that gets caught in a trap shouldn't be left there for more than 24 hours, it is inhumane.

Gary Park said he lives in Yerington. He said commenting on agenda item six, he supports SB213. He said especially the registration of the traps. He said visitation wouldn't have helped with the situation he ended up in. He said it's a long story that ended in the death of his dog, but he wouldn't get into that right now. He said he supports SB213 and the registration of the traps. He

said he also supports Trail Safe and all the things those people are doing. He said he wanted to speak during the open comment period. He said he does have one thing on close proximity. He said he would personally read close proximity as any house. He said where his incident happened was less than 300 feet from a house, in someone's backyard. Even though it was private property he had permission to be there. He said he knows a lot of the people behind him and they all have brains. He said the trapper that set this trap exhibited very poor judgement. Most people wouldn't have put a trap in that situation. There are always one or two people out there that read things differently. He said close proximity in his view is any home.

Caron Tayloe said several people, including Trish Swayne, sat down and went through all the wonderful sights that are in Nevada. She said they were thinking the Governors push to get people out in the wilderness has been a great program. She said that they were thinking any place that's visited by tourists or residents would be considered close proximity. She said trapping happens in the winter, but we are all out in the winter it's not just the season of use. She said when you are trapping in the winter time you are diminishing the possibility of seeing wildlife when people go out in the spring or the summer. She said Nevada has been trying to get people in the outdoors enjoying these sights for a long time. Her concern is trappers might diminish what we might see or enjoy during the seasons when people are out there.

Sherry Goozy, Sierra Wildlife Coalition said they are people who promote safe, humane, and practical solutions to living with local wildlife. She said they live in both Nevada and California but all of them use the public trails in the area for hiking and walking their dogs. As far as the definitions for close proximity and populated and heavily used areas she feels that no matter how that is defined by the committee she feels that it is confusing and is deliberately leaving loop holes. She said they feel for ease of enforcement and clarity the visitation should be reduced statewide. She said it's not just about pets it's about basic humanity.

Mike Olson, Churchill County member said he wanted to talk to them first as a farmer and a rancher in Nevada. He said the comment had been made about keeping it away from houses to solve this so called problem. He said he runs a 1000 head of cattle in Churchill County and they use trapping to make things safer. He said he has neighbors who have houses within 300 feet of his property line. He works with his neighbors to use trapping instead of rifles because we feel it is safer. He said that being said he is protecting his livestock from being eaten. The coyote doesn't care if it is a newborn calf. Trapping is a way to protect his investments and his livelihood. He said more specific on area 02. He said he sits on the Farm Service Agency Oversight Committee and works with producers in 022 quite a bit. He said it seems very vague without a lot of foresight put in why the committee would say the smoke creek road is a populated or heavily used area. He said that is not a heavily used road. He said there are producers up there that work with the Farm Service Agency that encourage trapping in these areas because they need the free service of trappers to keep their livestock healthy and able to survive and livelihood. He said if you say one side of Smoke Creek Road has to be checked every 24 hours but the ones on this side of the road are going to get eaten. He thinks it's very vague and more consideration needs to take place. He said these are very rural areas north of Pyramid Lake, but these livestock need protection. He said trapping is a very good way to protect them.

Trish Swain, Trail Safe Nevada said that she will speak about agenda item #6 but would like the chance to speak on agenda item #7 as well. She said she is still not able to let go of a uniform state wide regulation. She isn't sure that they have any compelling legal reason not to consider that as an option. She would need more convincing not to consider that. The committee is heading for a patchwork of regulations that will slice up the state in an arbitrary fashion. This is no favor to law enforcement because it will be harder to determine where and what is going on if they have a violation. It will do nothing for animal suffering and that is what this is all about. She said she keeps repeating herself and the ones who keep asking what is this all about and the problem is the suffering that an animal goes through. She said she even toyed with the idea of bringing in pictures to show what she is talking about. She said that would provoke a great outcry for a couple of reasons, but that is why we started this. We talk about other states and there are 33 states in the country that have 24 hour visitation. Those states have different criteria such as is it a land set, is it a water set, what area is it in, and what species is it. She hopes Nevada doesn't get into considering that because it just makes the issue more confusing. She doesn't think the issue needs to be so confusing. She thinks the confusion comes from what the legislature stuck the committee with, which is indeed big language. She said something the trappers have said, and she agrees, that if the Commission creates yet another definition of congested areas (currently using close proximity and populated and heavily used areas) for purposes of trap visitation it would be confusing to both trappers and law enforcement to keep track of the inconsistent maps of areas where traps have to be checked more frequently, where trapping is not permitted and where traps have to be set a certain distance from roadways. She said that creates a can of worms we could avoid by creating a uniform trap check statewide. She said it would do us a favor. She said the assumption made is that only the urban areas care or are upset about trapping. She said that is not so. She said that she gets emails, the committee gets emails, and that there are people at the meeting who are not from the greater Reno/Sparks area. She said you will see them in increasing numbers. She said that as Mr. Park said the committee needs to consider everyone in the state and consider a uniform regulation that is acceptable to everyone. She asked if the committee wanted to drag out this issue for several more years. She said she is sure that is not the case and that it is not what she wants. She said it was not the intent of SB213, and that in the original writing of it was very clear that the reason this is being done and that is because animals feel fear and pain. She said they suffer, this a biological fact confirmed by veterinarians and all the humane groups. She said anybody who calls that anthropomorphism, which is attributing animals with human emotions, why don't you consider how ludicrous it is to make the coyote a villain to attribute to an animal who is a predator human intention. She said this is to her a ludicrous argument because the coyote is what he is. She said there is ample evidence on the NDOW website and many more that there is non-lethal coexistence with predators. She said animals are not the villains, she said politics is the problem in this whole issue.

Dr. Molde said that if there is any area that is populated and heavily used would be the Sierra front around Reno. He said he calls for more frequent trap visitation rather than a longer interval for the reasons that have already been articulated. He wants to make a couple things clear. He said the committee just heard about a rancher trapping for livestock protection. He doesn't need to remind the committee but for the audience, the protection of livestock through trapping, shooting or poisoning is a function of an organization called Wildlife Services. He said that is a quasi-federal government program that does as its main mission. He said when ranchers talk about how private fur trappers who really go where they please and only trap for money are saving ranching from

destruction that is not true. He said Wildlife Services is tasked with that. He said later he will give some information about how trapper's suggestions on how to get rid of coyotes actually make things worse. Trappers are in his view are uninformed about the population dynamics of coyotes and what causes things and what doesn't. He wanted to disabuse them of that notion. He said he will provide information about that during public comment.

Fred Voltz said that many anecdotal rationalization for maximizing trapper convenience and opportunity were offered by trappers yesterday in Elko. He said there was a pecuniary interest in continuing the cruelty toward wildlife while simultaneously imperiling people and domestic animals. He said that we have seen many athletes such as Pete Rose, Koby Bryant, OJ Simpson and many others justify their antisocial actions by claiming some imaginary rights entitlements to behave as they do. He said mass murderers such as Charles Manson and Hannibal Lector killed because of a warped sense of reality. He said trappers have become enmeshed in a trap of their own information spin without considering any other reality or facts. He said we don't try witches in Salem, condone human slavery or use child labor in factories and mines any longer in this country. He said the country has evolved and improved in many ways. He said however suggesting that unfettered trapping close to concentrated human activity is a prudent practice in 2014 is about as responsible as cigarette makers suggesting there is no link between smoking and the development of human cancer. He asked if anyone can seriously suggest that public safety is well served by having hidden lethal devices indiscriminately scattered close to people. He said the wildlife killers anxious to continue their plunder of the public's wildlife without paying any severance fees for the conversion of public property into private use care little about such considerations. He asked since most of the state's land is in public ownership should not safe use be geared towards the overwhelming majority of residence and tourists who don't kill wildlife. He said yes this state is unique in the amount of public land it contains which calls for a heightened not a degraded standard of responsibility toward protecting people and the state's wildlife from human predators. He asked shouldn't the overwhelming majority of people have the freedom to enjoy public lands without fear of injury or death. He said for those trappers that fain ignorance that safety and cruelty problems exist take the plunge and place your own body or family member in one of the harmless traps under the same conditions and time frames that wildlife face. He said then try to honestly claim that there are no safety or cruelty issues present. He asked what the public had already given up and will continue to give up for fear them or their companion animals will be caught in one of the unforgiving, unmarked, and individually unidentified traps. He said that should be the question but it has been ignored to perpetuate trapper interest. He said the need is clear for no trapping in cities, towns, and heavily used public recreation areas across the state on a year round basis. He said keep the traps out of those areas altogether.

Chairman McNinch addressed the audience from clapping and cheering and to be respectful.

Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association (NVTa) said as much as he wants to respond to the stories and the anecdotal information that has been presented, he will try to limit his comments to agenda item six. He said the NVTa position has no change and provided a map that shows that. He said their feeling is that close and heavily used areas were adequately addressed in SB226. He said they have set distances away from trails and have outright closed significant areas in Washoe and Clark County. He said those populated and heavily used areas. He said considerable effort and action has been taken in those areas. He has to repeat again and ask the question what we are trying

to solve with a shorter trap check. He has heard animal suffering and he isn't downplaying that. He said we have a solution that's looking for a problem. Most of the things he is hearing won't be any different with a shorter trap check. He pointed out if you talk about areas 26, 28, 19, 02 and 29 we are effecting 32% of the trappers in region one. He said that is significant to us. He said in region three we are effecting 24% of trappers, based on the numbers from 2011-2012. He said that is 18% of the trappers statewide. He said the point is we self distribute. He said this is what looks to be a fairly small geographic area but it affects a large number of the trappers. He said any action that you consider will be significant.

John Inwood said the first thing he wants to talk about is close proximity. He said we are talking about moving trap checks to 24 hours. He said he hopes that people realize if the time is changed from 96 to 24 hours the trappers will be moving from the top of the hills to your backyards. He said that for a lot of people this is their lifestyle and some people don't realize that. He said he knows there is one gentleman who does it year round. He said during furbearing season he traps and sells his fur. He said in the fall spring and summer he traps gofers, moles and stuff like that in the hayfields of Yerington. He said he does it successfully. He said he makes enough money to buy a new truck every year. He said he used to work on a cattle ranch and had a bad year one year. He said there was a lot of snow and he did see coyotes eating calves while they were born. He said they lost five calves this year and he got in trouble for it. He said another gentleman was mentioning that it is Wildlife Services is responsible for controlling the coyote population. He said that is true unless it is inside city limits. He said at that point it is up to the ranch to hire a trapper. He said he was the trapper the rancher hired and he killed 22 coyotes on his property that year. He said that's a lot of coyotes in one year to catch on a 5 acre field. He said he was checking his traps every 24 hours because that is a lot of coyotes to be pulling out of traps. He said he had 12 traps set in that field which was in the backyard of an elementary school. He said he wanted everyone to know that yes check you traps every 24 hours but you will have trappers in people's backyards that you really don't want trappers in. He said so if you want trappers close to town that's what's going to happen, but some people would rather have trappers up in the hills. He said if you want to learn how to get a dog out of a trap go on you tube.

Chairman McNinch addressed comments being made in the background.

Mr. Inwood asked why it was ok for them to make comments.

Chairman McNinch said the committee will address it. He said that they were in a room with 65 trappers and a couple other interests in the room and they were all very respectful to one another. He said you owe it to the process. He said he is asking to have respect for the people coming up with interests of their own and coming to the table and speaking to the committee. He said we are offering the same courteous and he is imploring everyone to have enough respect for the process and the people in the room to give them the time to speak at the podium without concerns of people making comments in the background. He said it is a very reasonable request and expectation. He said please respect the process he doesn't care which side of the aisle you are on.

Elaine Carrick said her comments are more on the 24 hour visitation but there is an overlap. She said what hasn't been brought up is there are a lot of non-target animals in addition to dogs and cats that get caught in traps. She said she believes Dr. Molde will be bringing up. She said there was

also a letter given to Chairman McNinch. She said animals don't know if they are close to town or out in the boondocks. She said the non-target animals may not be what the trappers want are getting caught in those traps. She said the information that has been provided to you, thousands of non-target animals are being caught over the years. She said unless those traps are visited every 24 hours these animals are simply going to die. She asked if it was considered collateral damage that it's ok for animals that belong to the public to die. If the traps have to be visited every 24 hours it can happen inside or outside of a populated area. She commented on is trappers really aren't part of wildlife management per say. She said it is a business and they get a license every year she believes \$43. They trap to make money. On one hand you have a trapper with a business, who might have an inconvenience to go to traps more frequently than 96 hours, but they are making money off of federal property and the animals belong to the public. She said one of those things that can be done as a compromise is to visit the traps every 24 hours and keep the non-target animals alive for wildlife viewers instead of killing them if they don't want it. She said she knows pelts can bring money and some trappers can trap more than 100 bobcats in a year. She said she believes that bobcat pelts bring somewhere between \$600-800. She said that is a lot of money. She said yes it's an inconvenience but she thinks they can deal with that.

Leah Sturgis, Trail Safe said she grew up on a ranch for the last 36 years. Her father has had a ranch since the 1940's where he raises cattle. They have never had a coyote kill a cow or a calf. She has seen cow carcasses on the ranch, but has still never seen a coyote on the ranch. She wondered what the other ranchers were doing to have a coyote eat a calf as it's being born, she said that was ludicrous. She said she has seen coyote mingling in with the cows and the cows don't even react, but when the cows see her dog they run from the dog. She feels there has been some misinformation. She said she is here today because she believes that if you can do one good thing in life and make a stand for the innocent then you have lived a life not wasted. She said she has decided she is making a stand for the bobcats and the innocent animals that get caught in traps every year. The animals don't have a voice or way to fight back against man and all the gadgetry. She said this is not a fair fight. She asked how trappers can feel justified setting these traps and killing random animals that pass by. She said at least a hunter shows some skill and prowess to shoot down an animal. She said the same cannot be said of trappers. She said there is no skill involved, all trappers can do is set more traps to increase their odds. She said that hardly shows skill. She believes the archaic and cruel torture of animals will one day come to an end. She said it is a cruel and reckless pastime that puts many innocent lives at risk. She said she grew up in Douglas County and didn't even know people were setting traps until her dog got trapped. She said a man set an illegal trap on their land. She didn't see any repercussions when that happened. She said when you find the trap you can't find the man involved. She asked how she can have respect for a process when there are no regulations going on. She said the things that are putting a check and balance in place are being taken away, like licensing on traps. She asked how can we respect this process. She said a lot of dogs in the Carson area have been getting caught in traps, some have lost their paws and some have broken bones. She said the fact is trappers are endangering people and their animals. She asked for what, to sell furs to China and Russia. The trappers are basically doing business with the Comi's. She said the pelts aren't even staying in this country. The American animals should be cherished and honored for their beauty and majesty are being caught in a crude medieval style and left to writhe in pain for four days until someone shoots it or brutally beats it over the head. She said she has had enough and is extremely angry about it. She said she is representing a younger generation and is overwhelmingly in favor of animals. She said times are

changing and these barbaric practices will fade away one day into the past. She said you can't just keep killing animals forever. She said at some point there won't be any left. She said in Africa they have to set up game parks to protect the few big cats they have left. She said this too will happen here. She said when she was on Safari in South Africa she went to the conservation parks for the big cats. She said ironically were started by the hunters who came from Europe and started killing all the lions and tigers. They later realized that after they were all gone they better do something to preserve the animals if they wanted to hunt again. She said she tried to find the number of bobcats in the wild and you guys aren't doing the surveys so there aren't accurate numbers on the bobcats or mountain lions in this area. She said she is imploring the trappers to do a little self inquiry for what's going on and what is the thrill and satisfaction for killing and snaring. She said not for the meat but to sell the furs overseas to questionable nations. She asked why China would have to buy our bobcats if they hadn't already decimated their own wildlife and killed all their tigers for a \_\_\_\_\_ stew. She asked how you can justify that. She said most of the trappers would agree. She said once you wipe these animals out there is no going back. She said the little that would remain would become semi tame and spend their years in a protected park. She said this is what happens when you don't consider conservation. She said she is imploring the committee to look to the future and respect America's indigenous cat population and wildlife to make sure they will always have a place to roam and be free to live out their existence.

Bob Bruner said he has the data from the department regarding the bobcat harvest from last year. He said it has each area, each cat, how many, male or female, how many hunters, and how many hunt days. He said he brought this up to show that there is a very even distribution throughout the state and each of the hunt areas there is a very set number of trappers. He said making changes or choices on this is going to negatively affect how the wildlife is managed. He said he wanted to address all the stories and point out that they all start out with someone doing something illegally. He said we have been hearing it for six years. He said you can enforce more and more regulations, but they are already ignoring the ones in place. He said that is not a trapper, that's not what licensed trappers are doing. He said he also wanted to point out on the close proximity that there are already laws such as half a mile from a house. He also mentioned for those that weren't in the legislature to see how this went down that SB213 and SB226 were crushed. He said the reason why the language is so vague is because Senator Ford was not able to find a compromise but worked very hard at it. He said the overall response from the public was they would leave it the way it is. He said there was a supermajority in Carson, and in Vegas and unanimous Elko on video all at the same time saying leave it the way it is. He said that is why it was thrown back. He said there was an overwhelming public push to leave things the way they are.

Robert Larson, Trail Safe said that on agenda item six he wanted to reiterate that he lives 15 miles off of a paved road in Palomino Valley on an 80 acre ranch. He said according to him, his family, and the ranch owners we are heavily occupied up there. He said they take a deep concern that all of you live in subdivisions, not out in rural Nevada. He said he didn't feel like their view points are represented. He said they have lost livestock to coyotes in the last year. He said there are two traps in the barn that just collect dust. He said the owners of the ranch do not want to see traps or use them. He said he personally found six traps within 1,000 feet of their house. He said to date none of the landowners have given permission for anyone to trap on their land. He said he did go through the gruesome discovery of finding his own dog in a trap. He said he had no problem getting that trap open. He said he carried his dog 1,000 feet until a neighbor picked him up. He

said as far as he is concerned close proximity is any residence. He said given some of the views of the trappers and ranchers he thinks they should be able to trap on their property as long as they have written permission from all the landowners within half a mile. He said he doesn't think that would be an unrealistic expectation. He said he loads and casts his own bullets. He said he can't go to a tire store and pick up lead he has to go through added expenses to get the lead. He said the burden needs to be placed on the trappers who want to trap and let those who are concerned about their safety is addressed and say every residence.

Karen Inda asked if they were on agenda item number seven.

Chairman McNinch said no. He said he would return to the committee for comment, but would take a ten minute break.

Chairman McNinch called the meeting back to order. He opened comment up to the committee. There were no comments. Chairman McNinch explained that agenda item six and seven are similar and under the advice of DAG Newton the committee was told that anything that pertains to agenda item six can be handled under agenda item seven. He said they would move on to agenda item seven. He said the board will probably make comment under agenda item seven.

**7. \* Possible Recommendation to Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Regarding Visitation Frequency for Certain Traps, Snares or Similar Devices Placed in Close Proximity to a Populated or Heavily Used Area – Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

The Committee may take action to recommend to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners the frequency at which a person who takes or causes to be taken wild mammals by means of traps, snares or similar devices which do not, or are not designed to cause immediate death to the mammals must visit a trap, snare or similar device in Wildlife Management Areas 19, 29, and 02 or portions thereof. In providing a recommendation the Committee will consider requiring a trap, snare or similar device to be visited more frequently than a trap, snare or similar device which is not placed in close proximity to such an area.

Commissioner Robb said talked about this in Elko and he will bring it up again today. He said the Trappers Association and Trail Safe have submitted maps and a bullet point list of areas of recreational use. He said they considered those and he made a motion for trap visitation in the rural areas. He said from the beginning he has taken heat for a map that he presented in the beginning, but he pointed out that neither NDOW nor the other commissioners have produced a map. He said those have been public and there has been discussion and phone calls over them. He said between SB213 and SB226 there has been over forty hours at these tables discussing urban interface issues. He said in similar fashion to what his belief is on the bear boundaries in the Tahoe basin and the urban interface of Reno, Carson City, and Douglas County there are some high use areas in Northern Nevada that need to be considered in Northern Nevada. He said he doesn't know if everyone has the map but it was circulated at previous meetings. He said the areas that it covered were 196, 194, 192 and 195 (everything on the West Louse Town Road, Largomacino Canyon and the Virginia City Highway to Highway 50). He said the committee has never taken any action on

that. He said we keep hearing 24 hours and 96, but he has never discussed either of those with this urban interface. He said he threw out an idea in Las Vegas was a different way to look at a 24 hour period. He said one side wants only 24 hours and the other wants more than 24 hours. He said but from a business perspective there is a time management issue, and if a trapper gets off at 4:30 and checks his trap by 5pm he would have to check it again the next day by 5pm. He said 24 hours would be hard to manage for everyone so he is suggesting a calendar day. He said that gets a daily trap check but it allows a trapper to have his own life. He said it provides some flexibility but gets something done. He said that it can allow for a trap check time up to 47 hours and 59 minutes. He said that could happen but it can't repeatedly happen. He said the reason he is putting that out there is because there are some areas of conflict and those areas have been addressed with setbacks on trails and other heavily used areas. He said they are areas that have potential for user group conflict. He said this goes back to the bears and that he doesn't see it as one side getting and one side giving. He said the trail setbacks and the time frame he is proposing is if he were a trapper would be the prudent way to handle things to avoid a potential conflict. He is recognizing both sides, but he is trying to look at the world as if he were participating in an activity what he would be comfortable doing. He said that is why he proposed the map as he described. He said that might be a good starting point on the committee and for the public comment.

Commissioner Layne said she would like to ask Commissioner Robb to describe how that ties into the city limits. She said she was assuming that all of these are incorporated city boundaries.

Commissioner Robb said they are not incorporated city boundaries. He said area 196, Peavine Mountain; it does come down into city limits. He said it's also the Stead area West and South of 395. He said it is primarily forest service. He said area 194 has the Mount Rose Wilderness Area in it. He said area 192 is the Heavenly Ski Resort down into the Carson Valley. He said it is not at all in conjunction with city limits, it's strictly hunt areas where there is the biggest urban interface with the Sierra Front. He said a great deal of people recreate on it. He said he used to do a great deal of hunting when he moved out of Tonopah up on Peavine Mountain. He said he has been up there in the last couple years and has seen mountain bikers and walkers. He said the areas use has increased tremendously. He said that is why he included area 196.

Commissioner McNinch got confirmation that that map was posted at a previous meeting. He said there are a number of people in the room who have and have not seen the map. He asked the recording secretary to make copies of the map.

Commissioner Layne said that since there is a hunt unit map in the support material the only one that might be difficult for people to understand would be hunt unit 195. She said her understanding is it's the western third of that unit.

Commissioner Robb said he thought this would be the fairest way to get this discussion started. He said that is his starting point.

Chairman McNinch said he has expressed concern with populated and heavily used areas. He said out in most of the rural areas the concept of heavily used is different. He said we are talking about an activity that is most seasonal and those areas that are heavily used typically aren't heavily used other parts of the year. He said around here he has a different opinion of that; there is more activity

year round. He believes there are areas that are more used year round. He said with the term populated, how we differentiate between populated. He said the legislature left things very open and vague for the committee and Commission to prompt discussion. He said it is very challenging. He asked if one house is considered populated or in terms of a population center like Reno or Las Vegas. He also asked how that related to places like Austin and Elko. He said those were the comments he made last night. He said there is no doubt in his mind that Reno, Sparks and Las Vegas are populated areas. He said he sees a strong need to address the visitation frequency in these populated and more heavily used areas.

John Sullivan said he takes notes while people speak and he wanted to summarize some of the things that he had heard. He said this is a hearing and he has gotten to know the Commissioners very well in the last few months. He said they are very ardent and very careful to give everyone an opportunity to be heard. He said what he heard from the anti-trapping side was pets, humane issue, public safety and non-target animals. He said on the pro-trapping side he heard family values, predator control and livestock, 24 hour visitation will move trappers close to town and new information was the distribution of bobcat harvest and trappers. He said this is a hearing and thanked everyone for coming here today and providing all the input.

Chairman McNinch said he would give a few minutes for everyone to absorb the maps that Ms. Trendler was passing around. He opened up the public comment period.

Margaret Flint, Nevada Humane Society and Canine Rehabilitation Center and Sanctuary (CRCS) said she represented in 2013 at the legislature. She said that for those that aren't familiar with it is a new non-profit dog rescue that has taken over the old Cattlemen's in Washoe Valley. She said that off the top of her head after dogs were moved in there, she was a little leery with all the land behind the building, that she called a meeting with the volunteers to discuss her fears on trapping because there aren't any trails they walk the dogs through sage brush. She said it is often covered in snow. She addressed Commissioner Robb and said that initially looking at the map she is pleased to see that that area is actually covered. She said without talking to her colleagues she doesn't want to touch on anymore of the map. She said she does want to tell the committee her interpretation of Senator Ford's actions in the 2013 legislative session because it would differ from Mr. Brunner's. She said she doesn't want to debate that right now though. She said she wanted to talk about the fact that in the original version of SB213 there were actually four areas that were addressed, registration, visitation, & flags. She said she would like to see further discussion on flags as she feels it would eliminate a lot of the discussions and animosities between both parties if there was something up that would tell people don't come out there. She said maybe post signs that say there is trapping in that area so that people with their domestic animals aren't in those areas. She said the only problem you may run into is tourists that don't know what that means. She said it would eliminate a lot of problems if there was something telling you not to take your dogs out there. She said they had also proposed that if they came across an area that they would be able to tamper or set off the trap if it posed an immediate danger. She said that both the flags and the tampering were killed. She said she could live without that one, but she thinks it's really a shame that we keep going back to the legislature when we all live here and share these lands. She said it would be really great if we could all sit down at a table and work out a solution we can all live with. She said we keep hearing we can't do this or that, but we don't hear what we can do. She said we don't get any feedback on what we can do. She said we all have to cohabitate here. She said she will admit

that she thinks trapping is inhumane but she wants to get out and enjoy the area. She said there are kids that drive around on the dirt roads of Peavine Mountain, let's put up a flag or a sign.

Lori Larson said she lives in the Palomino Valley and she supports shorter visitation statewide. She said this map does not include her area, Palomino Valley and Spanish Springs. In her opinion those areas are heavily populated. She said she was walking past her home and realized there could be traps and was extra cautious about keeping her dogs close. She was also in support of marking the traps but she would like to see the map travel further north if not encompass the whole state. She said respectfully with regards to the 24 hour visitation vs the daily visitation she would support 24 hour visitation. She said she travels daily to get to Reno. She said if she chooses to make extracurricular activities she chooses to accept the responsibility of being there when she needs to be there to meet that. She said it's a long drive and she does it all the time. She said if you can't get back within a 24 hour period then you can pick up the trap and reset it the next day. She said you can have someone else check on it for you. She said there are ways to meet your obligation.

Gary Park said he thinks he has gotten more confused since he arrived at the meeting. He said there are good points on both sides. He said he liked Commissioner Robb's suggestion of the calendar day. He said he was walking his golden retriever next to the Walker River in Mason Valley on land that he had permission to walk on. He said unfortunately he had gotten in to the procedure of letting his dog off leash when he got to the river so his dog could run. He said he doesn't think there is a dog owner that wouldn't like to see their dog run. He said his dog got used to running down the beaver trails and he knew the beavers were there. He said it is unfortunate that this day she ran into a conibear trap. He said he looked online and this thing had to be 10 by 10. He said the trap shut over her torso and squeezed the life out of her. He said he had never seen one before and had no clue how to get her out. He said he injured his thumb and had to get several stitches. He ended up calling the police who never showed up and everyone at NDOW was tied up. He said he never got his dog out of it. He called a couple young lads to get his dog out of it and by then she was long dead. He said he learned from this is he would like to see some changes done. He said there are two sides to this. He said in his opinion the trap was too close to homes. He said there were homes directly across the river. He said if you wanted to stretch out a tape measure, he said the trap was less than 400 feet from the homes. He said all these homes have kids and animals. He said he would like to see is he likes the registration of the trap, he had no clue where to go to find out whose trap it was. He said he would like to see some sort of legislation for close proximity to populated areas. He said in his opinion a house with people in it should be considered populated. He said it should be no closer than half a mile to a house. He said 503.580 said 200 feet from a major highway or county road. He said he would like to see that looked at. He said he doesn't know if he is in the right spot, he asked if he should go to the legislature or state his case with the committee.

Commissioner Robb said he wouldn't have wanted to be in your situation at that point and he apologized for what happened to him. He said Mr. Park had permission to walk on that land and he isn't discounting that. He asked if the trapper had permission to be on that property to do a service for the residence.

Mr. Park said it turns out he knew the trapper because he sat on the trap the next morning. He said the trapper did have permission to trap there which is what really sunk him. He said the trapper

wouldn't show him his trapping license. He said he doesn't know who polices the traps. He asked if it was the game wardens. He said the traps are set without them knowing so they don't know where to go. He said that is something that should be looked at. He said to get back to Commissioner Robb's question; yes the trapper did have permission to be there for beaver nuisance. He said that river hasn't flooded since 1997 and that's the excuse they use to set traps there. He said as far as he knows he could have set live traps just as easily. He said he doesn't know if there are live traps that would do justice to beavers. He said the gentleman in the audience said he knows someone who traps all year long. He said he talked to the son of a federal trapper about the incident that day. He said that they came in and trapped beavers along a stretch of river where he lives. He said the trapper used live traps. He said people should use live traps in that situation. He said he would like to see NRS 503.580 addressed for the distance you can set a trap off a public road or from a residence.

Chairman McNinch said the short answer is some of these things can be handled through the Commission while others need to be handled legislatively. He said the visitation and registration, because the legislature created SB213, opened the door for the Commission to handle it. He said it took that door to be opened to have any kind of discussion on it. He said it's complicated, right now is not the best time to describe the process, but there are some ways to do that through petitions. He said Ms. Swayne is actually very versed in that but he said they can talk afterwards and explain some of the processes available.

Mr. Park said he supports Trail Safe and all the things that they do.

Caron Tayloe said she wanted to reiterate what Ms. Larson said regarding the population of Spanish Springs. She said Spanish Springs is very populated. She would recommend that the committee put an extension on the map. She said she has been tasked to look at research as to why the committee might want to reduce trapping to 24 hours statewide. She said she has been looking at the Journal of Mammology and in the February 2011 Volume 92 issue 1 journal there is some evidence that's relative to reduce visitation statewide. She said the people who wrote the study are biologists through well known universities. She said they do talk about trapping techniques. He said they are trapping for research. She said they are biologists that do acknowledge that animals suffer. She said their biggest thing was, regardless of method, to look at the fact that there is potential for pain, distress, and suffering that must be considered including adequate insulation and food. She said adequate measures should be taken so the animal is protected from predation. She said they made a big deal about non-target data. She said the difference she sees is between scientists doing the trapping and people doing it for their own convenience. She said the real question is the committee interested in the science that is being found in the journals or the people who are going to be inconvenienced by the 24 hour rule. She said what she is finding is that biologists who don't necessarily disagree with trapping take a look at pain, suffering, and shorter visitation times.

Sherri Goozy, Sierra Wildlife Coalition, said they have members in California and Nevada but they all come to Reno to shop so they all use the public lands. She said the group was formed in response to the beavers being killed in Kings Beach. She said for the record beavers can easily be caught in live traps, they love apples and are very docile. She said they fully support Trail Safe's recommendations. She said they looked at the information that Dr. Molde compiled from NDOW.

She said she understood this wasn't available when they were debating all of this in the legislature. She said for self reporting with just 20% of the trappers reporting there are thousands of non-target animals that are caught. She said of these 5500, 2/3 was found dead and 3/4 were found dead or injured. She said they didn't specify what kind of injury. She said it seems that they strongly support reducing the trap visitation from 96 hours to 24 hours because reducing the time for visits would be a simple and effective way to save many unwanted deaths. She said an animal would be highly unlikely to survive four days and four nights. She said it is their view that the Department of Wildlife should represent wildlife and not reforming out dated and inhumane regulations gives trappers a bad name and does not represent the majority of Nevadans who don't want to see animals suffering and dying needlessly. She said convenience does not justify suffering of target and non-target wildlife. She said the fact that something has gone on for a long time does not mean it is right and should continue to go on.

Mike Olsen said that he notices the map covers a lot of land where cattle are run. He said if the map extends any further he would ask that private land be excluded from the 24 hour check. He said he is also posing the question of whether this includes gophers or moles. He said this would put a heavy burden on ranchers who just raise hay because they would need to trap those animals to keep rodents out of your feed. He said it would increase their cost fourfold for no other reason than because somebody said. He said in closing his credibility has been attacked here today. He said he holds an ivy league degree in animal science, he does have his whole life experience in cattle and his parents had the decency to tell him when someone is up talking you don't scoff or poke jokes, you keep your mouth shut.

Trish Swayne, Trail Safe said there has been many good ideas brought up today. She said she thinks Spanish Springs should be included in any map. She said she didn't know which area that would be because she is struggling to read the map. She said she believes it is necessary. She said Ms. Flint brought up the flagging but she wanted to know if this is a matter can be taken care of by the committee or if she needs to go back to the legislature to get action on that. She said Ms. Flint's arguments were very good. She said she thinks many traps are already flagged even though there are arguments that traps will be stolen. She said perhaps some of these regulations can be handled by the committee. She brought up the argument that trappers will have to trap closer to town, which sounds to her like a threat. She asked why the trappers think they are going to catch what they want if they change where they are trapping. She said the animal isn't going to follow them and come close to town. She asked what it means when they say they are going to trap closer to home. She said there are buffer areas that run afoul to SB226. She said the assumption is that folks in the rurals don't have a problem with trapping, but she pointed out that people here who live in the rurals are saying otherwise and want to see tighter regulations. She said as far as biological research she has a book that contains quotes from veterinarians around the country and she said there is no question that any animal with a central nervous system feels pain and fear. She said she didn't bring the book but would be happy to pass along the reference. She said 75% of human DNA is similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ (3:46:11) animals. She said the assumption that it is a side issue really bothers her because it is a central issue of what is being discussed. She said in the matter of conflicts and where the incidents takes, the Trail Safe website has 17 pages of incidents that have happened all around the state. She said the assumption that Nevada has one of the longest visitation times; she said some states do not even state a limit so she is glad Nevada at least as a limit. She said many of the states listed have banned recreational and commercial trapping so it's kind of a

mute point. She said Utah has a three cat limit. She doesn't want to see any animal suffer but she said it is sensible to have some kind of a bag limit on the animals. She said maybe that is something else we can discuss with the committee without having to go to the legislature. She said as far as Commissioner McNinch's comment about some of these areas being seasonal use, she feels it is hard to say. She said the question in her mind is how many incidents have to occur before it is too many. She said there was an incident near Gardnerville where a man, Matt McCann, stepped into a snare that was right on the trail. She said he was not injured but it was extremely painful. He was able to open the snare and get it off of his foot. She said he is going to be interviewed by the newspaper. She said the incident occurred in February so it is hard to define what time of year this is going to happen. She said it happens randomly and more frequently than you might think.

Cynthia Kimball said she is representing herself and in her opinion the majority of Nevadans who unfortunately aren't aware of this issue as they might be. She said she does not have a personal story. She said she is a former resident of Palomino Valley and a current resident of Spanish Springs. She said this map does not include Spanish Springs. She said they are a congested area. She said due to the location of her house she can attest to a large amount of activity by adults, children, and pets in those hills. She said she submitted a letter yesterday and understands that the committee already has a copy of it. She said she would like to read it into the record. The letter reads "Dear members of the trapping regulation committee, I am writing to express my strong support for reducing the time traps are visited to 24 hours or at least once a calendar day. Such a decision would not only reduce the time the traps cause needless suffering for target and non-target animals it would also show that the committee respects and is informed by the evidence based views of the majority of Nevada citizens. The fact that Nevada has the longest mandated visitation time in the United States is just one of several indicators that our current practice is outdated and serves the few at the expense of the many. It also gives the false impression that Nevada citizens are inhumane. Please do the right thing by respecting and responding to the humane voices of the majority of Nevadans and pass regulations that will mandate 24 hour trap visitations statewide with no exceptions."

Dr. Molde, No Bear Hunt Nevada said it sounds like he owes an apology, so he would render one. He said it used to be that he would offer an apology for his conduct at every meeting but he has forgotten to do that. He said maybe he should start again. He said the map that Commissioner Robb put together was an interesting start. He said he would characterize it to window dressing as opposed to substance. He said to exclude Spanish Springs and the area towards Wadsworth, Dayton, Silver Springs, Wellington, Yerington and the Pine Nuts are used all year long. He said the whole thing should be included with a shorter visitation. He said speaking of window dressing it gives him a lead in to talk about what he really wanted to talk about. He said he wanted to comment on Chairman McNinch's and Mr. Brunner's characterization of the history of this. He said his recollection is for 40 years, he and others have come here complaining about the 96 hour visitation. He said that is what started the whole thing. He said over the years nothing was done and Commissioner McNinch is correct that previous Commissions have said they had to go to the legislature because the 96 hour interval is in NRS and not done by regulation or NAC. He said it is also true that no Commission in the last 40 years has ever gone to the legislature to request authorization to change the time interval knowing that the public hasn't been happy with it for 40 years. He said that is the other side of that part of the history. He said SB226 and SB213 were not

the committee's idea. He said they were Trail Safe's idea and believes that they were opposed by the committee and certainly by the trappers. He said the legislature saw fit to pass both. He said from his standpoint that represents the public speaking and that is why he made his comment about window dressing. He said when SB213 was passed he suggested that what would come out of it was window dressing, a minimalist amount of conformity to the law. He said that was their prediction privately. He said he is concerned that it is perhaps coming true. He said given the nature of the history of this, if they wind up with window dressing instead of something of substance he doesn't feel they are doing their job as an agency.

Jim Sailing, Nevada Trappers Association said he might be coming at this differently than most people in the audience, both the trappers and anti-trappers. He said he does this for a living and is a licensed predator control officer in the State of Nevada. He said he is a member of the Nevada Trappers Association, he is licensed, bonded, he gets permits, and does everything the right way. He said he would like to say that most of the problems that we are talking about aren't here. He said it's trappers that might rob a bank too. He said it is different people than we are talking to here. He said he gets paid for his work, but everyone in here gets paid for their work. He said on the 24 hour check he said his job is 96 hours. He said he'll ask everyone in here to change their work week to a 24 hour work week. He said he wouldn't survive. He said he pays his dues, he pays the government, he traps on government land, he traps for farmers and the City of Fallon. He said he has some statistics. He said the City of Fallon and Churchill County 85% of his predator control is nuisance animals which are non-target animals in the city. He said wildlife management was an issue. He said no they don't take care of everything, some of the trappers do. He said he can show pictures of the animals he traps killing animals in the city. He said they are terrible too. He said the asked about game wardens, he said they get checked all the time. He said the wardens are always out there, even when they know his license by heart they still check him. He said the game wardens are out there doing their job, the robbers just don't get caught. He said he is for no change, because it is his livelihood. He needs the 96 hour work week because like everyone there he can't do his job in a 24 hour work week.

Chairman McNinch said he was going to hold off on public comment. He said he was hoping they wouldn't get to this phase but he had to read something to everyone. He considers clapping, cheering, audible comments, smirking, and laughing while people are conducting their public comment as disruptive to the meeting. He said it prevents the ability to conduct an orderly meeting. He said these actions make it uncomfortable for people to make appropriate comments to the board and may be intimidating to other individuals wishing to participate in this public process. He said if it continues you will be asked to remove yourself from the meeting. He said he has implored, he has been patient and has asked for respect, now he is requiring it.

Fred Voltz said shorter trap visitation intervals would minimize the suffering and carnage inflicted on wildlife by hidden traps. He said the longer an animal remains in a trap the less likely it is to survive. He said the dictionary defines conservation as preservation from loss, decay, injury, or violation. He said to suggest that maiming and killing wildlife in traps is conservation fails any manner of logic or rational thought. He said killing something is not conserving something. He said trappers do a decided disservice to the biological strength and diversity of wildlife species when they kill wildlife. He said trapper's traps don't selectively destroy the wildlife. The traps indiscriminately disrupt wildlife species by killing the strong as well as the weak. He said the fittest

of the species cannot survive if they have been killed in a trap. He said trappers don't seek veterinarian assistance for non-target wildlife they catch. He said keeping animals in traps for 96 hours because it is too expensive or too much trouble for the person who set the trap to act responsibly and with mercy towards the animals suffering is equally indefensible just as it is irresponsible to drive recklessly on a public highway or procreate children without the means to support them. He said it was particularly disingenuous for member Sullivan to attempt the dismissal of non-target wildlife casualties yesterday in Elko. He said objective consideration of all factors before coming to a decision on any subject, requires each committee member to gather and process as much pertinent information as possible even if it doesn't agree with their preconceived notions. He said rather than exclude information a reasonable effort should be made to include any data that would shed further light on conditions. He said the non-target data became available only after SB213 was enacted, so the legislation does not reflect the shockingly large numbers of additional wildlife casualties which surfaced last summer. He said since self-reported data is inconsistently received from all trappers and not subject to any oversight or reporting there is a strong probability that the death toll of non-target wildlife species is considerably higher than what NDOW was able to assemble from eight years of archive files. He said responsible trappers should be concerned about non-target casualties but have collectively decided they needn't be bothered with such considerations because it won't lead to more dead pelts for selling. He said we humans need laws because everyone will not do the right thing if left to our own devices. He said a 24 hour statewide trap inspection interval may not be convenient for trappers but it is sound public policy for human safety and animal protection considerations. He said in closing he wanted to agree with Dr. Molde that the map is woefully inadequate and there are many areas that are heavily used and it needs to be updated to include each of the wildlife management units listed.

Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Association, said that he would speak to the subject in hand and then would comment on some of the things that have been said because he feels the need to defend. He said the daily check is a better concept than the hourly one. He said it is still inadequate because it creates a law that is pretty much impossible to obey all the time. He said there are things that are out of their control that happen. He said the 24 hour check won't work. He said if you get a call from the school that your child is in the emergency room, he asked if you are going to check your traps or are you going to the emergency room. He asked if your truck blows a transmission will you be able to make it. He had an incident the other day where he had to take someone back out of the desert because they locked their keys in their truck out of cell phone range. He said there are all kinds of things make that constriction impossible to do. He said he hears people tell him that you have to have someone as a backup or have a truck as a backup, to make sure everything is covered. He said that is easy to say, but how many people can afford two trucks to check their trap lines. He said if you have a back up to help you check your traps, many people have jobs. He said these are valid things to think about on a short time frame. He said it's unfair because on one hand if we say that the shorter time is justified in an urban area, then maybe a longer time period is justified further out. He said we are limited on this end, yet we are going between 66-75% the other way. He said why we aren't going 25%. He said the point he wants to make on that is you have heard people say what about Spanish Springs, and what about Yerington, etc. He said there have been some experiences that have been brought up today and he is sympathetic. He said that he has to ask how a shorter trap check would have solved any of these experiences. He said if a dog is going to get caught he is going to get caught whether it's a daily check or a 96 hour check. He said the subject at hand is not solving the problems that have been articulated today. He said live traps for a beaver

is about \$500 and he said the animals are \$15-\$30 in value. He said the government can afford them, but a guy making \$15 that's not cost effective. He said he has heard about animals being protected from temperature, predation, thirst, and hunger. He said he has sent emails to the committee regarding that. He said for temperature, where that animal the night before it was caught. He said they don't go home and sit in front of the fire. He said they are caught because of a wonderful fur coat that protects them. He said as for thirst there are some bobcats here that he is convinced only take a drink a couple times a year. He said there are big populations of them that are 20 or 30 miles from the closest water source. He said their metabolisms take the water out of their urine and feces in the really dry areas. He said he has checked that. He said non-targets could be managed by education which he is all for. He asked if they knew how many domestic animals were killed in Spanish Springs. He said there were over 100 incidents in the valley. He said maybe if the trappers were killing some of those animals it would set the balance scales straight. He said flagging was talked about in the legislature but the question was where to place the flags because it would have to be a 360 degree circle. He said as far as Dr. Molde's comments about running to the legislature he has no doubt that they will be going back to the legislature. He said he is prepared to go. He said it has been heard by eight different legislatures and rejected every time. He said now we are in front of another body. He said as far as the 17 pages on the Trail Safe website, he has read them and believes that some of them are true but most of them are not. He said as a trapper he can read through the lines on some of this and know what's true and what is not because he knows what he is talking about. He said for instance, Mr. McCannon and the snare, he said if any of you know the logistics of a snare to say that is extremely painful, there is no way. He said he has heard about bobcat kittens starving to death in December. He said they don't have their kittens in December; they have them in March, April, and May. He said so when you know what you are talking about and you see these things you know it is just coming from people who are trying to promote their agenda. He said they don't know enough about the subject to tell the truth. He said Dr. Molde requested to go to the legislature and he had done the same thing yesterday. He said he'd make a recommendation that if you are going to shorten it up close let's lengthen it further out. He said we are not going to support doing anything. He said yesterday they talked about compromise but he isn't hearing that today. He said he is hearing the same stuff that they heard when dealing with Mt Charleston, here is where we start and here is where we end. He said he has been there done that and is not willing to do it again.

John Inwood thanked Commissioner Robb for being the first and only one to draw up a map. He is hearing people saying to incorporate these areas, but said Commissioner Robb is the only one who drew it up and it was a draft and he did what he thought was best. Mr. Inwood said if people don't like it then they can draw one up themselves. He said as far as flagging on the traps, it is not a good idea. He said he has done that for his own behalf just so he would know where they were at. He said all that did was mark them for someone to come along with a stick and set them off. He said he staked out his own trap and caught the guy. The guy said he was protecting his dog. Mr. Inwood asked the guy where the dog was. He didn't have a dog with him. He told the guy to stay away from his traps and told him he had no right to be there. Mr. Inwood said he was on private property trapping 22 coyotes for a rancher. He said he had written permission and he asked the guy where his written permission was. Mr. Inwood told him he would call the cops next time he saw him out there. He said he didn't catch him out there so he didn't have to get law enforcement involved. He said the point he is trying to make is that all you do when you flag a trap is giving someone a big red sign saying come set off my trap. He said he doesn't like the 24 hour check. He

said he doesn't have time in his life because he doesn't have a 9-5 job; his hours shift from day to day. He said a day check he likes that idea, but 24 hours would screw him up big time. He said he would prefer a two day that would make it even better. He said one lady made a statement that she felt she had been threatened, he said he didn't mean it as a threat but if you shorten it up people will come closer to town. He said if they want to trap they are going to have to travel less. He said they will trap coyotes because there are coyotes right here in town. He said he lives in Spanish Springs and he said those coyotes are jumping six foot fences to get to dogs. He said he can stand in his backyard and hear eight different coyotes howling at night. He said there needs to be control in these areas.

Leah Sturgis said that to me the issue is simple. She said there are 1400-1500 licensed trappers and then you have the rest of Nevada on the other side with their safety, recreation, and the things they enjoy in life. She said when her dog got trapped it was by a guy trapping illegally on the property; however he was a licensed trapper. She said she thinks a lot of that happens too. She said she doesn't see a lot of repercussion for people doing those things and they have licenses. She said in comment to Joel's remark about the Trail Safe website, she was on the Nevada Trappers Association website and said she hadn't seen that much propaganda in a long time. She said trapping is inhumane, and he goes to disprove that by saying in the world of nature a trapped animal is often treated much more humanely by a trapper than the same animal would ever be treated by Mother Nature. She said that is complete BS in her opinion. She said humans and pets are often caught in traps and pet dogs are seriously injured. She said Joel Blakeslee writes there is zero evidence that humans have been caught or injured in traps; he said that only happens when trappers sometime catch their fingers in traps. She said a small number of dogs get caught in traps every year but it's not a small one it's a large number of dogs. She said Nevada has a lax furbearer management program and less trapping regulations than other states. She said that isn't true, Nevada is the only state with a 94 hour trap visitation and it says Nevada is considered by many wildlife professionals and experts to be the best. She said no other state has a bobcat management program comparable to here, but she asked why don't we have statistics and numbers of how many bobcats are in the wild. She said there are no numbers for that only the ones who have been trapped. She said this is a remark on your website, she said this is a lot of propaganda and complete BS when it comes to trapping facts and fiction. She said she would finish up by saying that on her way here she saw a white coyote prancing around doing its thing. She said she loves the beauty of nature and wildlife. She said she lives on a ranch and the coyotes haven't killed the cattle but they do kill the gophers, so we haven't needed to trap. She said she really wanted to stress that there is a really small minority of trappers vs. the safety and freedom of the rest of the Nevadans. She said after her dog was trapped she won't go into the wild or take walks on her private property without feeling like something could happen. She said it was a traumatic experience. She said a lot of other people feel that way and there needs to be some sort of compromise on the trappers side and she isn't hearing that today.

Robert Larson said he is not in favor of the map that was presented. He said he is excluded from that map and the other property owners he represents are excluded from that map. He said it seems like you are discriminating against him because he is a rural Nevadan. He said the message is that he isn't important when it comes to laws but all these people in tight knit communities are. He said that is upsetting. He said he also wanted to point out that NAC 535.320 pertains to emergency action plans when it comes to dams' referenced one person. He said they meet the requirement

because their dam is one foot over the limit. He said he has worked with the two neighbors to put an emergency action plan in place. He said if the state recognized that two people are important then why isn't the four people at his house. He said just because we are out in the middle of nowhere it feels like the committee is saying we aren't important. He said he thinks everyone is important and should be included in it. He said he doesn't understand why this can't be seen on a ballot and let the state decide instead of a handful of people. He asked if the figure is correct that there are around 4,000 licensed trappers in the state of Nevada.

Chairman McNinch asked Chief Game Warden if that was correct.

Chief Game Warden Buonamici said he didn't have the exact number but it's somewhere around 1200.

Robert Larson said it is much less than 4000 which is only about .5% of the total population. He then asked why they were even here and suggested banning it all together.

Bob Bruner said if you look at the map that was handed out at the beginning of the meeting it shows areas that are closed to trapping and areas with trapping stipulations already on there. He said that Spanish Springs is already covered with stipulations including Palomino Valley and Wilcox Ranch. He said those are areas where it is illegal to place a trap within a half of a mile from a house. He said so he totally agrees with Commissioner Robb on the Peavine example he provided. He said with all the people up there it is crazy, but he said when you change the law it forces him to change. He said he doesn't mind driving to the Santa Rosa's but when you change what's going you change what he has to do. He said they are removing his flexibility to stay out of there. He said someone spoke at the December meeting about trapping in Wilcox ranch which is already illegal, going 120 hours which is already illegal, and within 800 yards of his house which is already illegal. He said you can pass more and more, but like a bank robber they are not going to obey the speed law. He said that is a bad person and suggesting calling the department to get a hold of a Warden who is paid by the 1314 trappers. He said to call them, get them involved, and stop that activity. He said those things are already in place and changing the laws will pull legal trappers into areas where we really don't need them.

Chairman McNinch addressed Ms Swayne who had indicated she wanted to speak again. He told her that if she was commenting on something someone else said they wouldn't do that today.

Trish Swayne said her credibility and honesty...

Chairman McNinch addressed Ms. Swayne her and said everyone has had an opportunity.

Trish Swayne said she wants an apology. She said she has been a journalist and knows what a fact is and knows what an affirmation is. She said she knows how to confirm a story.

Chairman McNinch said he understands everyone is taking their shots today and understand people are going to have to weigh the comments like the committee has to. He said everyone has to process them in a different way. He said he feels they have provided a fair balance of comment. He said there are a number of people who feel slighted by comments on both sides of the table. He said we will move forward unless you have a comment relative to the map that is being looked at.

Commissioner Robb said that he has one side saying he went too far and one side saying he put a window dressing out there. He addressed area 021 and 022, Spanish Springs and Red Rock area, saying he took them into consideration. He said they were taken into consideration during SB226 when they did the setbacks off of public roads and houses. He said the setbacks still apply unless there is a fence. He said to say 021 and 022 have not been addressed is false. He said he also recognized what Mr. Olson brought up about the rodent issue. He said that is what hung them up on registration. He said that is why it died and will not get out of the legislative commission because the definition of rodent. He said they had no way of moving it forward with what was given to the Commission and what they could give back would not get through the legislative commission. He said it's a very valid point when you bring up trapping rodents on private property for the protection of private property. He said if he makes a motion for the map that he put out it will most likely exempt private property from this requirement. He said it would apply to BLM, Forest Service, and public lands like White Creek, Thomas Creek, etc that were addressed in SB226 and prior actions done before the trapping committee was formed. He said the public comment made him think about things that needed to be discussed and thought about. He said in no way does he see it as window dressing, he sees it as a good step forward to address user group conflict issues that could occur in areas that are colored in. He said he believes the calendar day is a reasonable approach on both sides. He said people will shake their head, but for the areas that are colored in he thinks it is a reasonable approach on the public land excluding private property. He said there has been a lot of talk about what's going on in the urban area and he has heard it mentioned many times that people were on private property. He said there are laws against that, trespass laws, trapping laws, etc there are ways to deal with that. He said the assertion that there is no regulation then Mr. Buonamici is spending a lot of money on four or five game wardens in the area that he isn't getting his money's worth out of. He said there are hunters alert hotlines to call in and report violations of wildlife laws. He said they are used and there is enforcement. He said if you see something illegal NDOW needs to know it and it will be addressed.

Commissioner Layne said if the recommendation was sent to the Commission for this area at one calendar day she asked if Commissioner Robb would take that visitation time down to Southern Nevada. She said she is struggling because they never defined the idea of a populated area. She said Commissioner Robb has defined this area but would you see that happening in a similar area in Southern Nevada.

Commissioner Robb said yes. He was able to put this map together because of his familiarity of Northern Nevada. He said he struggled with a map of Southern Nevada since the original meetings. He said we have some drafts of maps of Southern Nevada that have been looked at in a couple different ways. He said he would amend the original map he put together that would be similar to this. He said and in response to your question of a calendar day he said one type of regulation for North and south would be better. He said if it is recommended something out of this committee he would see something similar happening in Southern Nevada.

Commissioner Layne said those on the committee from Southern Nevada would also be able to present. She said they requested some of those maps so that they could better understand the no trapping areas in Southern Nevada. She said they have spent some time with the county GIS team to create interactive maps which has helped her feel confident in moving forward knowing there is

no trapping coverage. She said that is what she is trying to understand how what Commissioner Robb is doing today will impact Southern Nevada.

Commissioner Robb said Commissioner Layne brought up having the Southern committee members submit a map. He said that's why there is a committee. He said if they didn't have this meeting it would be a different motion if he hadn't heard the public comment. He said the public comment cleared things up for him. He said without being as familiar with Southern Nevada as Commissioner Layne and John Sullivan are he said their ideas would definitely shape where this moves forward in Southern Nevada.

Chairman McNinch said what it boils down to is Commissioner Robb put together a map to get the committee talking. He said if Commissioner Layne has a map that you think best reflects what is needed in the Southern part of the state it needs to be given to the committee members and posted on the website. He said it can be brought forward to a meeting down there for a similar discussion. He said that is how we will move forward in deciding on visitation in those areas. He said if you continue down that path we will bring whatever you come up with to the table.

John Sullivan said at the start of the meeting he was introduced as the trapping representative on the committee. He said that is true. He said he has been heavily involved in this issue as a Clark County CAB member for five years and as a committee member. He said he has supported new trapping regulations for several years and so has the Nevada Trappers Association. He said this is not an organization that is unwilling to compromise or aren't willing to look at difficult situations and make hard decisions. He was very heavily involved with SB226 that closed several areas up here and closed major areas in Southern Nevada. He said Mt Charleston was very popular with the trappers and every trail and campground was closed to trapping. He said in both the North and the South they closed 1,000 yards of residences. He said he supported the majority of those recommendations because they made sense for the state, the wildlife, and for trappers. He said you might be surprised to know that a few years ago the trappers' whole heartedly supported a shortening of the bobcat season by six weeks because trappers in the field saw a resource problem with this species. He said biologists recommended a shorter season and the trappers and Nevada Trappers association universally supported a major shortening of season. He said they supported it because they saw it was a resource problem. He said the trappers aren't uncompromising and will whole heartedly support a reasonable idea on the table. He said he will support that if it's good for trapping but particularly if it's good for the resource. He said he does think that on this map and the new round of visitation changes is unnecessary. He said he doesn't see anything being accomplished. He said if you change it to a daily trap check in this area, he asked what it would accomplish. He said if it's a pet issue it won't change a thing. He said he thinks it will get worse. He said trappers work really hard not to catch pets. He said trapping won't be eliminated in this area, so trappers who are hiking to the top of a ridge will now only be able to go to the bottom of the ridge. He said the bottom is where more user group conflicts will happen. He doesn't see what is being accomplished by this. He said they also haven't had time to analyze the effects of SB226 which he largely supported. He said there were major changes with SB226 and he asked what had been accomplished. He said no one knew because they hadn't had time to analyze it. He said he thinks there needs to be a pause after SB226 to see if we fixed things in the first round of regulations. He said he has been criticized because he questioned the accuracy of the non-target data. He asked what a non-target is. He said there is a lot of confusion that needs to be cleared and

the Commission has asked for clarification from the biologist. He said they learned repeatedly that a trappers targets bobcats but catches a fox. He said a fox is a very valuable, is that a non-target animal. He said the trapper catches a badger, so some of the trappers are putting them down as non-target but some aren't. He said he thinks the data is unusable in its present form and the program needs to be revisited and revised. He said the data is extrapolated upwards by a factor of four to five for reasons he can go into if need be. He said the numbers are very inaccurate and the very premise of identifying non-target when we don't know what a target animal is makes the whole program flawed from the get go. He said if that is important to NDOW to do that program then it needs to be addressed because there is a great deal of confusion. He said the humane issue came up again and again. He says he is a humane person and would challenge anyone on his beliefs and value systems. He said he has dogs and cats, knows a great deal about animals, and spends a lot of time in the outdoors. He said he has seen how nature handles the same animals he traps, he has seen diseased animals, animals starving to death. He said a coyote or fox suffering from mange slowly freezes to death. He said we don't have much of that in Nevada because we have a healthy furbearer population because the Commissioners and NDOW work together to have a renewable resource that is very carefully managed. He said the young lady that spoke about seeing a beautiful coyote today, he said you go to a part of the country where they don't allow trapping the coyotes aren't beautiful they are dying of disease. He said the animals he catches animals that are beautiful because there are programs in place to keep these populations in balance. He said just a couple of quick quotes "the Wildlife Society and the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies are the largest international organization representing professional wildlife conservation employees and governmental wildlife agencies. Both groups actively support & promote trapping & leg hold traps as invaluable management tools." He said people brought up the veterinarians so he would read a quote on what they say, "The American Veterinary Medical Association policy recognizes that current trap designs with modified features such as offset jaws (which is required in this state) and swiveling devices (which they all use) and other similar features that minimize injury, pain, stress, and suffering are acceptable." He said that is what the professionals say about humane trapping and Nevada is fully in sync with that. He said those are his views on this. He told Commissioner Robb that he respected the amount of time he put into this map, since he knows the area so well. He said he knows Commissioner Robb has taken guff from both sides and he respects him for that.

Commissioner Robb said he wanted to follow up on some comments that John Sullivan had. He said when it comes to not solving the problem he said he is not naïve enough to think that a 24 hour trap check is going to solve the problem. He said the calendar day trap check addresses the user group conflict in a shorter time frame. He said he isn't going to say if they go to a calendar day trap check that the problem goes away. He said he is also going to say that a calendar day trap check in this area it's not going to solve an illegal person doing an illegal activity on somebody's private property. He said that is a law enforcement issue regardless of the length of the trap check. He said he has been asked if the map solved anything. He says no, it is addressing a problem in a shorter amount of time.

Commissioner Drew said he said this yesterday and he would say it again. He said this meeting hasn't gone as smoothly as the previous day's meeting but he still got a lot out of it. He said that in these meetings he doesn't talk much because you learn more by listening. He said he learned as much if not more than he learned yesterday. He said he appreciates everyone being here and

sharing their input. He said he was part of the committee when they addressed the issues under SB226 and he supported them. He said they made sense to him and he could see what was trying to be accomplished which was a user group issue. He said he appreciates what Commissioner Robb has done with his map. He said through the legislature what was seen was the attempt for them to provide the Commission the opportunity to address a multitude of issues. He said one of the biggest was the issue with pets getting caught in traps. He said he looks at the map and asks himself what happens if they adopt this and he sees two potential issues that could actually reverse the trend on that. He said he can see more access by trappers in areas that are easily accessed which would be more in conflict with companion animals and he sees the potential for more instant kill traps which isn't the best for pets either. He said he doesn't know if things would be any better with this map, his fear is it would actually make things worse. He said at this point he isn't comfortable supporting it.

Chairman McNinch said the reason we are here is we were asked to be by the legislature. Everyone that testified at the legislature certainly had a reason for why they are opposed or for. He asked why either interest wasn't able to move their agenda through the bill or kill the bill. He said the answer to that is because no one is sure which way to go because of the complexity of the matter. He said he doesn't know how trappers will respond to a 24 hour check in these areas. He said based on the action taken yesterday the areas outside of the areas we are talking about are recommended to be left at 96 hours. He said he can see where some trappers would decide to go outside of the area and use 96 hours. He said he is trying to process Commissioner Drew's comments but he can see where that potential exists as well. He said the potential is you decrease the runins. He said they went from 96 hours to 24 hours, but said there are other numbers in between. He said there have been suggestions to go longer than the 96 hours. He said personally he can understand the concerns with the 96 hours but he also understands that a trapper walks away from a set and the animal gets in it that very second. He said it is a difficult to process where the average occurs. He personally believes 72 hours is reasonable. He said the humane aspect was really driven home at the legislature. He isn't sure to what extent those concerns are going to be alleviated. It will depend on people's tolerances. Some people the fact that any animal gets caught it is unacceptable while others say it's ok for an animal to die in a trap regardless of the time frame. He said to handle the humane side by setting this map it may not address any humane treatment issues. He said what he does think the map does that if one of the conflicts has to do with a dog getting caught it does shorten the time frame for it to be addressed. He said he does have concerns that things will move more toward the kill style, but at the same time it's not resolving conflicts. He said he feels bad about Mr. Park's situation it's hard to hear. Those situations are not acceptable to anyone but they do happen. He isn't sure where he is headed with it but his inclination is they are largely dealing with perception. He said Dr. Molde referred to it as window dressing and I might see it as that. He said Margaret said there was some validity to it. He said there are varying degrees of opinions throughout the room.

Commissioner Robb said he recognizes John Sullivan and Commissioner Drew's comments. He said he wishes he could put something in place and look a year down the road and have the answers, but we don't. He said whether it will draw people down the ridge and because more conflict is yet to be seen. He asked if it would change the trappers' habit and they would decide to trap further out and do it in a 96 hour area. He said those are questions we can't answer because we can't probe each person and their thought processes. He said Commissioner Drew has valid point

in his apprehension. He said those are not things he hasn't considered but his fall back when it came to the bear and trap boundary is that if he was a trapper he looks at how he would conduct his own business. There are some people here who don't think he is an ethical honorable man but in his own opinion he is. He said if he was trapping this would be the area he would expect himself to be at every calendar day in case of conflict. He said he relies on his own gut to rely on making decisions. He thinks that is why the governor put the four commissioners on the Commission. He said they aren't afraid to make unpopular decisions and this wouldn't be his first time taking heat from both sides on a decision. He said unless there was more comments he would go ahead and make a motion.

John Sullivan said that he wanted to make one other point. He said the motion we are about to hear involves regulations. He said he looks at new regulations, particular ones that involve law enforcement, judges, and people paying fines, is perhaps the last thing to look at. He said this is a regulatory body and we need to ask ourselves is there another way and have we explored all the alternatives before we impose new regulations. He said in Elko we heard a lot about education. He said a lot of the problems can be solved by trapper education. He said currently there is only voluntary education, he would be in support of mandatory education similar to the hunter education program the department has now. He thinks public education as well. He said he would support taking a look at increased leash laws in the congested counties. He said the dogs running loose or being away from their owners is a serious issue for not only trapping but also with wildlife. He said dogs are a big problem in certain areas. He said the issue can be addressed and he would suggest the county game wardens talk to their county commissioners who appointed them. He said we can use the game wardens in the two congested counties to talk to their commissioners about a need for heightened leash laws. He said leash laws and education are things he would prefer over new regulations.

Chairman McNinch said the important part for him is eyes are being opened up to certain things. He said this whole process is complex and dynamic. He felt on the opposite side of the boat yesterday. He said he wasn't sure if the direction he was thinking was the right way to go. He said it felt like what was ultimately approved might have been better but he still isn't convinced he would know what that is today. He said this committee has been marching along with the thought that we would have a look at the rural, the Reno area, and down in Clark county. He said unfortunately the committee is feeling some time pressures and he said the committee has to be very careful about moving forward too quickly. He isn't sure if things would get better, but he thinks the committee might almost benefit from a cool down period as well. He said the committee needs to keep their minds open for additional meetings regardless of what motions are made today.

Commissioner Robb said he understands Chairman McNinch's cool down period but he also thinks that the committee needs to make a few steps forward. He says they do believe they have a cool down period because the soonest they could act to make this a regulation would be at the June meeting in Tonopah. He said even if he makes a motion today, if there is new information that comes to light, he has been known to change his mind. When he does that he will explain why he changed his mind. He said if he makes a motion today and believe it is the right way to go, they have a cooling down period and the chance to do more research between now and June. He asked if this is totally the right way to go if he makes a motion he couldn't tell you but he thinks it's time to move something.

Commissioner Layne said she was on the opposite side of the motion that was passed last night and she feels this gives the more populated areas an opportunity to try to deal with the user conflicts that we are continuing to have. She said this is a huge issue down in Southern Nevada. She said the Nevada of today is not the Nevada of 30 years ago. She said there are 2 million people in Southern Nevada. She recognizes the issues and understands the trappers concerns but it seems to her the trappers have an unwillingness to budge. She said she is sure the trappers feel they have budged and made steps, but she said to look at the user conflicts that were occurring on Mt. Charleston. She pointed out all the time that it took address some of those user issues. She said she doesn't want to see this committee continue to go down the path where they have to deal with one issue, then another, and another. She said she thinks there needs to be a more comprehensive approach and she doesn't feel that 96 hours is the way to do it. She said if they are going to have problems in urbanized areas then the best way to handle it is as quickly as possible. She said the way to do that is to reduce the visitation time. She said she is willing to support this and sees it as a model that can be moved to Southern Nevada to try to deal with some of those user conflicts.

COMMISSIONER ROBB MADE A MOTION THAT UNITS 196, 194, 192 AND IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF UNIT 195 BORDERED BY THE LAGER MACINO LOUSE TOWN ROAD AND THE HIGHWAY FROM VIRGINIA CITY TO HIGHWAY 50 THAT WE IMPLEMENT A CALENDAR DAY TRAP CHECK ON PUBLIC LANDS ONLY EXCLUDING AND EXEMPTING ALL PRIVATE PROPERTIES. COMMISSIONER LAYNE SECONDED THE MOTION.

MOTION PASSED 3 TO 2 WITH COMMISSIONER DREW AND JOHN SULLIVAN OPPOSED.

Chairman McNinch asked Commissioner Robb to clarify the lower portion of the map that it was in fact area 192 and not area 291.

Commissioner Robb said yes it is area 192 it follows 395.

Chairman McNinch asked for confirmation that the motion was for a calendar day.

Commissioner Robb said yes.

Chairman McNinch asked Commissioner Layne if that was how she understood the motion.

Commissioner Layne said yes.

Chairman McNinch took the vote and asked if there were any additional comments.

Commissioner Robb said just for the record there has to be two 3 to 2 votes in the last two days and they don't reflect one another. He said the only person in common is the motion maker. He said it's not a done deal; it still needs to go through the commission process. He said it needs to be discussed and people need to know what is being discussed.

**8. Future Committee Meetings and Potential Agenda Items – Chairman McNinch – For Possible Action**

The Committee will discuss the date, time and location of the next Committee meeting. The Committee will also review and may take action to set potential agenda items for that meeting.

Chairman McNinch said that some of the discussion from last night was deferred to today. He said a tentative date of April 5<sup>th</sup> was thrown out. He said the committee would be discussing the areas in Southern Nevada. He said whether it would be a full committee meeting in the same room we don't know. He asked the committee for thoughts on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Layne said she had indicated she had a problem with the two dates but she would deal with April 5<sup>th</sup>.

John Sullivan said it is good for him.

Commissioner Robb asked what time.

Chairman McNinch suggested 1pm.

Commissioner Robb suggested noon so there would be plenty of time and they could still catch a plane home.

Commissioner Drew said that is good for him.

Chairman McNinch said it looks like April 5<sup>th</sup> at noon. He said potential agenda items, Commissioner Layne had suggested bringing in some veterinarians and the other was to include non-target data.

Commissioner Robb said that the agenda reflects 262, 263, 266, 286 and 268.

Commissioner Drew suggested adding public and trapper education.

Chairman McNinch opened it up for public comment.

Dr. Molde said that he can't make the meeting so he would like to be present for that but unfortunately he can't. He said he could submit a report and have somebody else present it.

Chairman McNinch said he knows it's important. He said he can talk to the department about the alternatives. He asked if there were any alternate dates. He said he knows the two weekends prior to that are out of the picture.

Commissioner Robb said the weekend after that they start pushing deadlines.

Chairman McNinch said with no more public comment they would move on to the public comment period.

**9. Public Comment Period**

Persons wishing to speak on items not on the agenda should complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. In addition to this Public Comment Period, Public Comment limited to three minutes per speaker on each agenda action item, but not on reports or informational items.

Public Comment

Carol Healy said that she is new to Nevada and this has been quite an education. She said that she not only looks forward to the print press but also the local media covering this from here on out and conveying what is happening here to Nevadans. She said if what Dr. Molde said is true about the forty year history he spoke it is only a matter of time before changes are made or they are made for you. She said something was said earlier about robbers not getting caught when cops don't go after them, she said that is true. She said she is going to do everything she can to make sure that Nevadans and beyond are well aware of what's going on. She said she was very troubled by the statement that the committee has never talked about user conflicts. She said she wanted to point out that the person who set the trap on their land did have a license. He said the only thing she wanted to say was the game warden, who is supposed to protect the law, asked her to give the guy the benefit of the doubt. She said excuse me what benefit of the doubt is there to be given. She said there is a no trespassing sign that he ignored, he lied to us and said he was quail hunting, but didn't have quail hunting guns, and then evaded getting caught and took off. She said she was surprised to find out that it is a slap on the wrist with a fine and that you don't even get arrested. She said she heard someone say there are things in place and ways to deal with it. She said the man has not paid the fine and he has not been arrested. She said if there are things in place then they are not working. She said there is a whole lot going on that needs to be exposed. She said she is appalled and plans to do whatever she can to make some changes.

Rex Flowers said he is representing himself but is a member of the Washoe County Advisory Board. He said comments were made that there is a good situation in the counties for the CAB's to work with the county commissioners. He said by law they can't. He said the CAB takes the public input and reports it to the Commission that is the direction given to them through regulations. He said it would be nice if it could go the other way, but they aren't allowed that.

Dr. Molde said that Mr. Blakeslee was correct that people say weird things on your website and apparently on Trail Safe's as well. He said some of the weirdest things he has ever heard are things that trappers say about coyotes. He said on one hand trappers say they are controlling coyotes, by diminishing populations, or fending off livestock damage. He said but on the other hand you can stand in one place and hear eight coyotes cry. He said you can't be controlling something but then also have them all over the place, it doesn't make sense. He said what he has brought is the best description he has seen written by Robert Crabtree with the Yellow Stone Eco System Project and has been a coyote researcher for 30 years. He said it describes two important things that trappers appear to not know anything about. He said one is that coyotes have under certain circumstance had their own population control. He said if coyotes are left unmolested a coyote pack has an alpha

male and an alpha female which is the only one to breed. He said the sub-adult females don't breed but take care of pups. He said if coyotes are allowed to have that social structure they regulate their own population. He said the second thing that trappers appear to not understand is that coyotes have a remarkable ability to withstand targeted destruction. He said when coyotes are killed intensely they increase litter sizes and more juveniles are produced. He said there is evidence of that in Nevada and he believes he has sent it to the committee before, NDOW's write up on project 14 and 15 which was a coyote/mule deer project in Pioche. He said it went on for five year, cost \$400,000, produced no deer but tripled coyote litter sizes in five years and reduced the age of the coyotes killed by hand (more juveniles). He said anyone that knows anything about coyotes knows that the coyotes that cause trouble are the juveniles. He said when coyotes are not managed in a way that allows them to do what they do best then circumstances are created where they cause trouble. He said juveniles are produced that are not supervised, not raised properly, don't have a home territory, cause trouble for livestock, everything that you say they are controlling when in fact you are part of the problem. He said what he is telling you are nothing new, the information has been around for decades. He said it seems to be information that escapes the deliberations of these halls. He said it would have everything to do with how it should be managed if somehow it could get into the decision making process. He said after sitting at the meeting he had his fill of nonsensical and illogical comments about coyotes to the point where he knew he would have to do something. He said he has given you the best document he knows that describes in detail what he is talking about. He said he has a few extra copies if anyone would like one.

DAG Newton asked for a copy for the minutes.

Fred Voltz said it is important to debunk another myth that has been heard repeatedly through the various meetings. He said he had a document that NDOW submitted to the legislature for its budget hearings. He said the most important page related to finances and economic hardships is one where it says that hunting and trapping contributed \$11,717,000 to local and state tax revenue and \$145,000,000 in retail sales. He said however, wildlife watching which doesn't involve any wildlife killing or maiming generated \$362,000,000 in retail sales and \$53,000,000 in local and state tax revenue. He said it is 250% larger than hunting and trapping in retail sales and 400% larger in local and state tax revenue. He said when we are talking economic hardship and trying to promote economic activity in the state it would seem really important to be focusing on how to increase the wildlife watching because that is where the money is.

Joel Blakeslee said he wasn't going to say anything else but since his friend of 40 years had to get up and talk about what we don't understand. He said he figured he should get up and talk about what he doesn't understand or doesn't choose to put in public forum. He said the first thing he said is that we can't have it both ways when eight coyotes are howling. He said that makes his point about SB226, he said that is an area that is closed to trapping so of course there will be 8 or 80 coyotes in that valley. He talked about the alphas and the family structure of coyotes. He said it's not that simple and he can refer to a study they did at the Scientific American those family structures depend on the prey basis. He said there was a study done on the coyotes in Yellow Stone park where the coyotes rely quite a bit on large ungulate kills by larger predators. He said they have bigger pack sizes and different family structures than a coyote that lives in an area where they eat mainly kangaroo rats and jack rabbits. He said it is completely different, so that is a generality. Mr. Blakeslee said his point is he cherry picks things and then takes shots at him so he is getting up

to take shots at him. He said a larger litter is a density dependence function that performs differently in any number of things like carrying capacity, habitat, prey basis, etc. He said he is just taking a shot back; it really has nothing to do with what the committee is doing today.

Jon Inwood said thank you to Mr. Blakeslee for not being able to trap the eight coyotes because that area is closed. He said he can't trap inside city limits on public grounds, but if it were to open up to him he could catch those coyotes and save people's dogs. He said the coyotes he was catching was on land on a ranch whom he had gotten permission from.

Leah Sturgis said that she wanted to applaud the committee for moving in the direction of shorter visitation times. He said he thinks it does impact the illegal trapping because it will be easier to catch a guy in 24 hours rather than waiting four days for him to come back to his trap.

Bob Bruner said that if the sportsmen didn't pay for the officers there wouldn't be any wildlife to view. He said if there was more of Nevada that supports the wildlife officers then it would be great. He said he got into this process just trying to promote sportsmen's rights. He said he went out and followed a trapper around with his permission so he could get up here and speak to the committee without knowing what he was talking about it. He said he has also gone around and tried to find out their view. He said he knew the committee had a difficult job because sportsmen can go right to him and ranchers go right to the ranch representative. He said he wanted to know how the committee would collect information on what the general public is thinking. He said he is representing a very small portion of the population but the governor assured him that the committee would represent the opinions of the general public. He said he went around his office complex which has 21 different offices and an array of businesses. He said he also asks people when he goes to the store what they think about bears, trapping, or any of these things. He said he can't get any passion out of them at all and don't really care. He said he would consider his sister as part of the general population because he doesn't talk to her about wildlife issues. He said she lives in the North Valleys and has lost two dogs in the last ten years. She doesn't know anything about this process or the fact that the committee represents her opinion. He said when she loses a dog she calls the dog pound and puts a sign on the phone pole. He said the telephone pole is covered with those same kinds of posters. He said we all know that dog wasn't lost it was eaten by coyotes. He said there are thousands of pets being lost in all the valleys around Reno. He said it is the committee's job to manage wildlife. He said he knows it's difficult to get the public's opinions, but he wanted them to know there are many more to the public than a few people who get a feel good idea about helping out. He said there is a bigger picture and he thinks the legislature couldn't come to a conclusion because they realize there is more to this issue. He said there will be unintended consequences for opening this up that are detrimental to live here in Nevada.

Peter Cypers said he is not a trapper, but he is a hunter. He said he didn't know anything about trapping and hadn't been exposed to it until last year. He said he has a friend who traps who has showed and explained to him everything he can about trapping. He said everything his friend tells him is nothing but respect for the animal. He said he dispatches the animal as humanely and quickly as possible. He said he couldn't agree more about the public education. He said he is an avid backpacker and he has never found a trap. He said one thing about education, when you are out in the wild you are looking for everything. He said you can't go out there and look around and be aware of your surroundings. He said if we can educate the public about not only predators but

also about the traps that would be illegal near a trail, they won't be harmed. He said if he isn't mistaken it has to be 200 yards or more off a trail. Any hiker knows to stay on the trail. He said you aren't finding the legal sets you are finding the illegal sets. He said education is all he can say.

Chairman McNinch adjourned the meeting at 5:30.

**NOTE:** The meeting has been recorded and is available upon request. The minutes are a summary of the meeting. At the Department of Wildlife Headquarters in Reno is a complete record of the meeting, recordings, support material, summary of minutes and exhibits received/referenced during the committee meeting. The record is available upon request.

DRAFT

3/8/14 #9

March 7, 2014

Dear Members of the Trapping Regulation Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for reducing the time traps are visited to 24 hours, or at least once a calendar day. Such a decision would not only reduce the time these traps cause needless suffering for target and nontarget animals, it would also show that the committee respects and is informed by the evidence-based views of the majority of Nevada citizens. The fact that Nevada has the longest mandated visitation time in the United States is just one of several indicators that our current practice is outdated and serves the few at the expense of the many. It also gives the false impression that Nevada citizens are inhumane.

Please do the right thing by respecting and responding to the humane voices of the majority of Nevadans, and pass regulations that will mandate 24-hour trap visitations statewide, with no exceptions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Kimball". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Cynthia Kimball  
5565 Wedgewood Circle  
Sparks, NV 89436-3716

5814 -11 via #9  
hand out to  
Commission

# PROJECT COYOTE

F O S T E R I N G   C O E X I S T E N C E



Dear Interested Person or Party:

The following is a scientific opinion letter requested by Camilla Fox, Executive Director of Project Coyote. This letter outlines a response to the general question "What effect does reduction of coyotes (older than 6 months) have on the remaining population?" This question is central to the repeated claim that reduction (mortality) of adult coyotes from human control practices lessens predation on domestic sheep or game animals such as mule deer or antelope. Before I cover the three basic biological responses by coyote populations to reduction (described below), it is important to understand the type of "predator reduction" or "coyote control" in question. Most reduction programs, often referred to as control practices, are indiscriminate in nature, meaning the individuals removed (coyotes are killed not relocated) are probably not the offending individuals. Research (mostly funded and conducted by USDA Wildlife Services) has shown that offending individuals are most often breeding adults provisioning their pups. Breeding adult coyotes are very difficult to target and can be rapidly replaced (another pack member takes over their role). Even if some offending individuals are removed, there is great likelihood that the responses described below will take place anyway. Although removal of offending individuals may temporarily alleviate predation rates on the protected species, the alleviation is usually short-term and has long-term side-effects that can result in increased predation rates and increasingly ineffective control activities.

It cannot be over-emphasized how powerfully coyote populations compensate for population reductions. Such density dependent responses to exploitation (human-caused mortality) are common in mammals and present in all territorial populations at or near habitat saturation. Both evolutionary biology and the results of research (e.g., recently completed 20 year study in Yellowstone National Park before and after gray wolf reintroduction) indicate that the basis of their *demographic and behavioral* resiliency is embedded in their evolutionary history. Coyotes evolved, and learned to coexist, in the presence of gray wolves—a dominant competitor and natural enemy that overlapped the historic range of coyotes in North America. Prior to widespread human persecution starting in the mid-nineteenth century, wolves have provided a constant selection factor inflicting mortality, competition, and numerous other sub-lethal effects.

Collectively, these intense selective pressures by wolves resulted in a species that exists in a relatively constant state of colonization with many specialized adaptations. These demographic and behavioral adaptations are numerous and diverse and allow coyote populations to easily overcome the relatively mild effects of human control practices which are short-term and intermittent compared to sustained presence of wolves, from every month to many thousands of years.

### Demographic compensation

The following demographic responses are based on published research, results of preliminary analysis of coyote study populations subjected to various levels of reduction or exploitation, and the work I have conducted with coyote populations in three study areas over the past 28 years in Washington (an unexploited population, not subject to human control or mortality), California (exploited), and Wyoming (unexploited then wolf mortality after reintroduction).

There is little, if any, scientific basis to justify control (reduction) programs that indiscriminately target adult coyotes. Wildlife Services often points out the lack of academic research demonstrating effectiveness. However, as with any federal action, the burden of proof is upon them to demonstrate both the biological and economical effectiveness of their proposed control activities. In fact, the mechanisms described below suggest that widespread control (even selective control) increases immigration, reproduction, and survival of remaining coyotes. It has been reported that sustained reduction of coyote numbers can only be accomplished if over 70% of the individuals are removed (exploited) on a sustained basis. Review of field research and modeling exercises (including my own) indicates that even with intensive control efforts, this level is rarely, if ever, achieved. A thorough review and synthesis of coyote ecology and demography can be found in a recent book chapter (see Crabtree and Sheldon 1999).

- (1) Actual reduction in the density (and number of coyotes) does occur and is primarily a function of lower pack size for one year (betas, yearlings, and 6 month old pups are killed more often than reproducing adults or alphas). However, this reduction is compensated for in a wide variety of ways. First off, immediate immigration occurs in the reduction area by lone animals or from spatial shifts by surrounding social groups. At exploitation rates below 70%, the reproducing alpha males and females are replaced (seldom in the same year but always in the succeeding year). This is the expected response by most territorial species with surplus (non-breeding) adults. Their primary objective is to find a temporal opening, defend and exploit the food resources in that social group, pair-bond and breed.
- (2) Human control resulting in density reduction results in a smaller social group size which increases the food per coyote ratio within the territory. The food or prey surplus is biologically transformed into somewhat larger litter sizes and almost always much higher litter survival rates (which are low in unexploited populations). Review of literature indicates that the increase in litter size at birth is not as great as was previously reported by Knowlton (1972). In addition to increased food availability for fast-growing pups, the surplus food improves the nutritional condition of breeding and associate adults, which translates in higher pup birth weights and higher pup survival. Alpha male coyotes and associate adults in the pack help feed the pups.
- (3) Density reduction allows the pups that normally die during the summer months in populations with low to no mortality, to survive. Exploitation causing higher pup survival is fundamentally a function of the general mammalian reproductive strategy that delays the majority of reproductive energetic investment beyond the gestation period, the post-partum and neonate state (e.g., young pups). The caloric demand of offspring reaches an apex in May, June, and July when coyote pups grow very fast. Thus, the normal litter of six pups has a good chance of (a) surviving the typically high summer mortality period and, (b) being recruited into the pack

the following winter as adults thereby returning the previously exploited population to normal densities. By contrast, in the two unexploited populations I investigated, the average litter size at birth was 5 or 6, but due to high summer mortality, only an average of 1.5 to 2.5 pups survive. In populations subjected to less than 70% removal annually, there appears to be an ample number of breeding pairs to occupy all available territory openings and litter sizes of 6 to 8 enjoy high survival rates (most pups born survive to adulthood). This results in a doubling or tripling of the number of hungry pups that need to be fed. "Large packages" of prey, (such as sheep, as opposed to the more natural and common prey species of voles, mice, or rabbits) make for more efficient sources of nutrition because hunting adults have to invest less energy per unit of food obtained. Research funded by Wildlife Services clearly indicates that the primary motivation to kill domestic sheep is to provide food for fast-growing pups.

(4) Reductions in coyotes capable of breeding (at 10 months of age) result in smaller pack size which leaves fewer adults to feed pups. This may further add incentive for the remaining adults to kill larger prey as well as putting pressure on the adults to select for the most vulnerable prey and venture close to areas of human activity. Because predators like coyotes also learn what is appropriate food when they are pups, and are reluctant to try 'new' food sources unless under stress (such as having to feed a large litter of pups), reduction programs, in effect, may be forcing coyotes to try new behaviors (eating domestic livestock) which they would otherwise avoid. Research has clearly shown that higher numbers of adult pack members provide more den-guarding time and more food brought to pups. Without pressure to "maximize" efficiency in hunting for food for pups, packs may be able to subsist on larger numbers of smaller prey (e.g., rabbits and small rodents) rather than going for livestock or other, larger prey like antelope and mule deer fawns. Although, coyotes are exposed to significant risk of injury when hunting and killing larger prey, larger litter sizes might 'tip the balance' in favor of selecting larger prey and livestock.

(5) Reductions (non-selective, indiscriminate killing of adults) cause an increase in the percentage of females breeding. Coyote populations are distinctly structured in non-overlapping but contiguous territorial packs. About 95% of the time, only one female (the dominant or alpha) in a pack breeds. Other females, physiologically capable of breeding, are "behaviorally sterile". Exploitation rates of 70% or higher are needed to decrease the number of females breeding in a given area. Either a subordinate female pack member, or an outside, lone female can be quickly recruited to become an alpha or breeding female. My research has shown that light to moderate levels of reduction can cause a slight increase in the number of territories, and hence the number of females breeding.

(6) Reduction or removal of coyotes causes the coyote population structure to be maintained in a colonizing state. For example, the average age of a breeding adult in an unexploited population is 4 years old. By age 6, reproduction begins to decline whereby older, alpha pairs maintain territories but fail to reproduce. This may eliminate the need to kill sheep or fawns in the early summer in order to feed pups. Exploiting or consistently reducing coyote populations keeps the age structure skewed to the younger more productive adults (average age of an alpha is 1 or 2 years). Therefore, the natural limitations seen in older-aged, unexploited populations are absent and the territorial, younger populations produce more pups.

(7) Reductions in adult density of coyotes also cause young adults (otherwise prone to dispersing) to stay and secure breeding positions in the exploited area. This phenomenon is well-

documented by research conducted by Wildlife Services and other researchers. Research also indicates that this is the age class most frequently involved in conflicts.

### Alternate prey

An aspect of coyote predation on livestock that is often overlooked is the availability, or dearth of alternate prey. Wildlife Services' research has demonstrated that coyotes will avoid novel prey, such as domestic livestock. In addition, it is risky for coyotes to predate upon domestic livestock because of human control actions associated with this behavior. Related research indicates that predators switch to alternative prey when a preferred prey item is absent or in low numbers. Voles and other rodents like jackrabbits are a preferred major staple of coyotes in the West. These prey species require cover and ample supplies of forage (grass and forbs). On many western rangelands grasses, forbs, and protective cover have been greatly reduced by domestic livestock grazing, leaving predators with fewer preferred prey to utilize. Present or historic grazing impacts should be assessed as a likely means of predicting overall predation rates on other prey species, especially prey like domestic sheep, which are already vulnerable to predators due to their lack of anti-predator behaviors.

### Accelerated selection pressures and learned behaviors

A relatively unexplored, but promising avenue of research is the long-term genetic and behavioral changes in coyote populations subjected to decades of exploitation. It seems obvious that the type of selection pressures and selection rates have been greatly changed for coyote populations, after a century of exploitation at 20% to 70% per year. More nocturnal, more wary, more productive, more resilient individuals have probably been intensively selected for. This in turn may cause coyote populations to resist control practices that previously were effective. In addition, the possibility of social facilitation and learning may be altered or reduced. Coyotes, like many mammals, learn to habitually use certain prey or habitats from other individuals in the population, especially from older adults in their social group (if they have one). Coyotes, already a highly social and adaptable species, are held in a younger colonizing state when they are exploited, and learned or traditional behaviors may be lost. Individuals are therefore more susceptible to learning novel prey sources or trying out novel habitat types, and are frequently associated with conflicts such as livestock predation.

There are many questions to be answered such as, "How will coyote populations respond once predator reduction or control programs are terminated?" or "Are there other management alternatives, both lethal and non-lethal, that may be effective in reducing predation on domestic livestock"? "How do economics figure into management options"? This letter and scientific opinion only addresses the narrow, but important topic of the impacts of human-caused reduction or 'control' on coyote demographic parameters. We see little, if any, evidence to justify control practices on an ecological basis. This letter also addresses a long-held belief that human control of coyote populations are 'necessary', similar to 'mowing a lawn' to keep it from growing out of control. This belief has no scientific basis whatsoever. Even research conducted by Wildlife Services reports a variety of factors that keeps the lawn from growing. Their research repeatedly concludes that the primary means of population limitation is territoriality itself, which imposes an upper limit on density (or lawn height). Paradoxically the prevalent use of lethal control by Wildlife Services opens up a 'Pandora's box' of behavioral and demographic responses that negate any long-term effectiveness of control. The predominant responses of coyote populations to lethal control efforts are to: (1) increase the number of pups produced (recruitment), (2)

increase immigration into the conflict area, and (3) increase behaviors that further exacerbate the conflict. Collectively, this results in higher predation rates on domestic livestock and wild ungulates.

Coyotes are still products of their evolutionary past. Biological, economical, and ecological evaluation of control practices should be a requirement undertaken before any public or private effort to reduce losses due to coyotes or any other predator. In conclusion, it is my opinion based on decades of field research that the common practice of reducing adult coyote populations on western rangelands is most likely ineffective and likely causes an increase the number of lambs, fawns, and calves killed by coyotes.

## A Summary of the Effects of Exploitation on Predator Populations

The 20 responses listed below are divided into four general categories: (1) demographic compensation, (2) behavioral response, (3) changes in culture/society, and (4) ecosystem impacts. How many of these occur—and their individual magnitudes—will vary by species, the severity and type of control action taken, habitat, season, prey availability, and presence of competing carnivores in the target area. Interactions between the 20 responses listed below can be unpredictable; however, scientific findings and biological common sense both indicate that they ‘amplify’ in a manner that renders indiscriminate killing ineffective and results in a multitude of detrimental effects on individuals, species populations, and the entire predator-prey ecosystem.

*Demographic Compensation:* (this is a particularly strong response for coyote populations because the primary reason they kill ungulate neonates, both domestic and wild, is to feed fast-growing pups)

- Breeding adults produce more pups when there is direct reduction in territorial pack size. There is a weak to negligible effect on litter size at birth; however, the compensatory response of litter survival is remarkable. For example, prior to wolf restoration, adult coyote mortality averaged only 9%, pack size was 6, and litter survival was 28%. After wolf restoration, adult coyote mortality increased to 30% to 50%, pack size fell to 3, and coyote pup survival abruptly rose to 78%—a nearly three-fold increase. Analysis from 20+ field studies indicated a similar response to human exploitation.
- Immigration of breeding adults into the exploited area to fill vacant territories and find available mates. This response can be immediate. I have documented successful coyote litters in territories where the pregnant female was killed one month earlier (ascension by

a pregnant beta female—Wildlife Service’s own research documents this phenomenon—nearly all non-alpha females are pregnant on an annual basis).

- A higher percentage of females breed and produce pups. Two litters per territory can also occur with abundant/available prey.
- The average age of reproductive females is lowered, eliminating older, less productive alpha females. First-time breeders (young alphas) have higher pup survival than older breeding pairs.
- Increased natal philopatry—yearlings and young betas tend to forego dispersal and continue to reside in the exploited area.
- Regardless of the level of exploitation, the number of breeding pairs in a target area is consistent from year to year unless 70% or more of the coyote population is removed annually. This level of control is extremely difficult and costly to achieve let alone document.

#### *Behavioral Responses:*

- Lower pack size results in selection of larger prey items (e.g., ungulate neonates) over more numerous small prey items (e.g., rodents). This is particularly detrimental to livestock when alternate prey abundance is low which is often due to overgrazing practices.
- Adjust vocal communications—less vocal around humans.
- Activity cycles—more nocturnal and less diurnal.
- Denning behavior (guarding and location)—less susceptible to enemies.
- Avoidance of novel stimuli including control techniques. Perceived avoidance of sustained control activities.

#### *Changes in the Culture/Society:*

- Increases in information sharing within and between new territorial pack members; this leads to increased exposure to novel prey (livestock).
- Because there is a strong shift to fewer subordinates—betas are immediately recruited to alpha breeding status—livestock-killing alpha adults are predominant in the population structure.
- Killing the alpha male results in immediate replacement or the remaining pack breaks apart and disperses to form breeding pairs elsewhere.
- Indiscriminate control methods have accelerated and amplified selection pressures to perpetuate a ‘dispersal genotype’ adapted to rapidly colonize and successfully reproduce. Remember that during the predator eradication era (approximately 1860’s to 1960’s), large carnivore populations declined substantially (with regional extirpation) while coyotes tripled their abundance and distribution across North America.
- Their cultural evolution likely interacts with their biological evolution to further accelerate and amplify selection pressures.

*Ecological Impacts:*

- Mesopredator release: Decrease in apex predator populations reduces the competition and/or intraspecific killing rates with other predators or mesopredators (e.g., foxes, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, etc.). This causes an increase in their abundance (i.e., release), which in turn, can have detrimental effects on other species (e.g., ground-nesters, songbirds, amphibians, and rodents) and other unintended 'ripple' effects or trophic cascades.
- Loss of ecosystem services: alleviation of control pressures on prey populations (e.g., rodents, large herbivores) can lead to vegetation changes.
- Loss of ecosystem services: Disruption and increase of disease spread.
- Loss of ecosystem services: Loss of subsidies to scavengers (e.g., wolves provides food for many other species).

**Written by Dr. Robert (Bob) L. Crabtree**

Science Advisory Board, Project Coyote

President and Founder Yellowstone Ecological Research Center, Bozeman, MT

Research Associate Professor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT

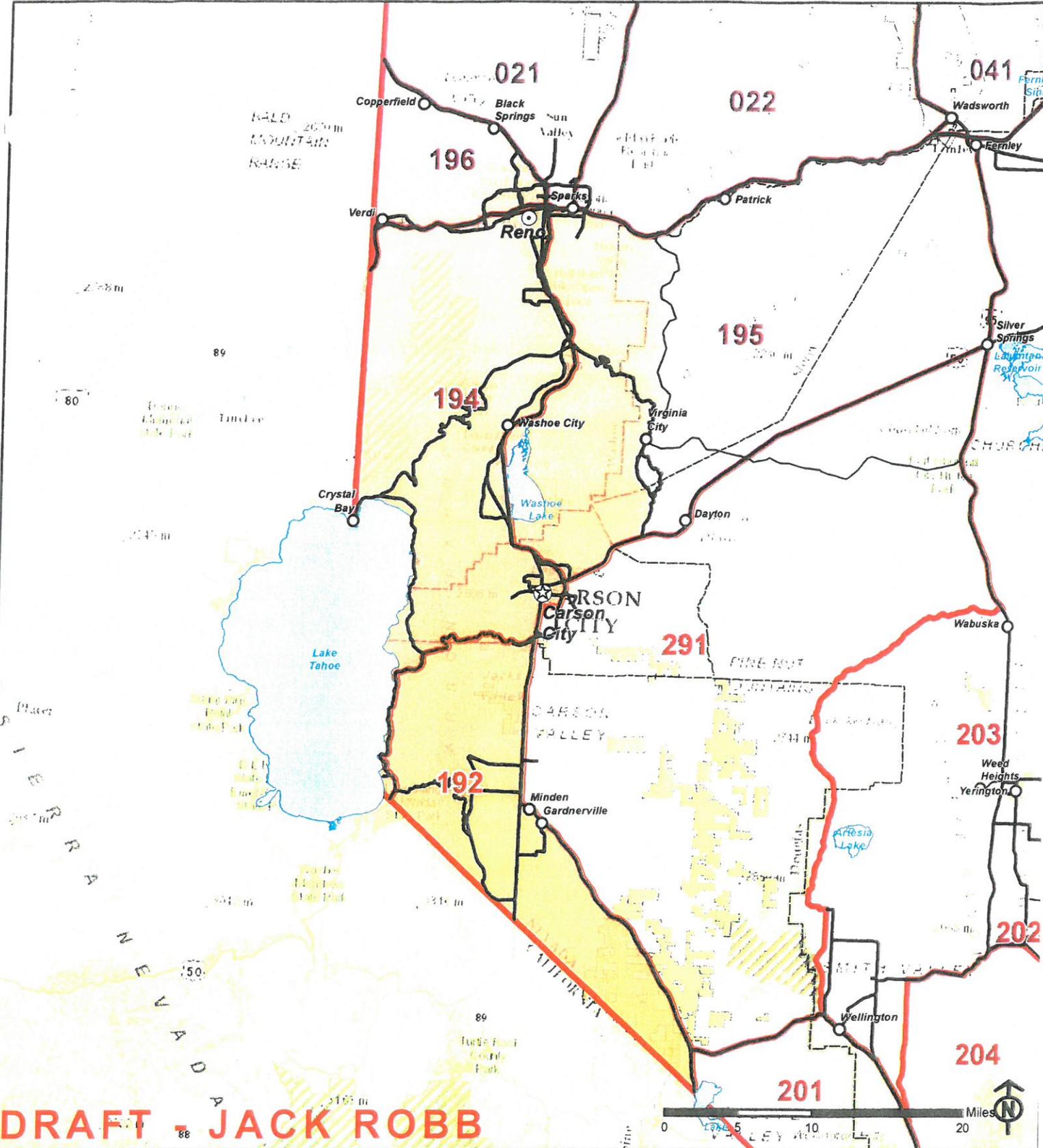
Visiting Scholar, University of Victoria

Dr. Robert (Bob) L. Crabtree,  
President and Founder Yellowstone Ecological Research Center, Bozeman, MT  
Research Associate Professor, University of Montana, Missoula, MT  
Visiting Scholar, University of Victoria  
Science Advisory Board, Project Coyote



3/8/14

Handout - McEninch



**DRAFT - JACK ROBB**

- Proposed Shortened Trap Visitation Area
- Capital
- Large City
- City/Town
- Major Road/Highway
- Connector Road
- Management Units
- Closed to Hunting
- Tribal Lands
- Wilderness Areas
- Bureau of Land Management
- Humboldt-Toiyabe NF
- National Park Service
- Wilderness Study Area
- County Boundary

### Proposed Shortened Trap Visitation Areas

### Northern Nevada



January 13, 2014

Projection: UTM Zone 11N, Datum: NAD83

## Joanne Trendler

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**From:** Stephanie Myers [steph\_myers@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 01, 2014 8:37 PM  
**To:** David McNinch ; Jack Robb ; Jeremy Drew ; Karen Layne  
**cc:** Cory Hunt ; Joanne Trendler; Suzanne Scourby  
**Subject:** March 7 & 8 Trapping Committee Meetings  
**Attachments:** Molde.TrappingCommitteeNon-targetletter022014.doc

March 1, 2014

David McNinch, Chairman  
Trapping Committee  
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512

RE: Upcoming Trapping Committee Meetings and non-target trapping data

Dear Chairman McNinch and members of the Trapping Committee;

You recently received a letter from Dr. Don Molde and from Trish Swain of TrailSafe (attached) specifying non-target deaths and injuries caused by Nevada trappers in recent years.

This information was meticulously researched and reviewed. The material is significant and bears directly upon SB213 and your upcoming action regarding the issue of trap visitation, and should be described and discussed in detail by your Trapping Committee.

While showing a massive number: 5138 non-target deaths and injuries – compiled by voluntary self-reports (notoriously under-reported) by Nevada trappers, this incredible number must be given your full attention. (Trapper reports must be REQUIRED, not voluntary). That's nine Golden Eagles and almost 200 domestic dogs, just to begin! The large number of rabbits caught is not surprising, but the issue of "baiting" (too many traps set close together, catching rabbits which act as bait for the other traps) is one that I have not heard the Trapping Committee debate. Why is that?

How many of these animals could have been saved if trap visitation time were 24 hours instead of the unjustifiable FOUR LONG DAYS? We'll never know. Trap visitation must be shortened throughout the entire state of Nevada.

Not being able to afford to attend the next trapping meetings in Elko and Reno, please know that if I could be there, I would point out once again the inadequacies of Mr. Jack Robb's map, which he devised as, I hope, only a starting point for shorter trap visitation.

As far as the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area:

- This map does not include Mountain Springs, which we visited and which had experienced a number of dogs injured from traps.
- This map does not include the western slopes of the Spring Mountains, where federal agencies plan to expand their picnic and camping facilities due to the overcrowding on the eastern slopes in Kyle and Lee Canyons.
- This map does not include any area north of Lee Canyon – the very area where my own dog was captured by trap years ago (you may think you fixed the problem by designating 200 feet from Macks Canyon Road, but Sunshine was caught beyond the 200 foot mark on Macks Canyon Road, north of the Lee Canyon Road).

- And this map does not include the area where the most recent dog trapping occurred just last week in Cold Creek, south of Indian Springs and north of Lee Canyon. Here is link to KTNV 13 trapping story in Cold Creek.

<http://www.jrn.com/ktnv/news/Community-warning-pet-owners-about-hidden-traps-247405711.html>

The ENTIRE AREA OF THE SPRING MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (Hunt Unit #262) should have a 24 hour limit for trap visitation. The entire area is only a short distance from Las Vegas, so that these traps could and should be visited, as any businessperson would visit the site of his/her commercial activity, every day. The state of Nevada encourages visitors from all states and nations to visit the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area – as a result, we have tourists of at least 2 million people every year...if that is not “heavily used,” then I don’t know what is.

It’s obvious that the 96-hour statewide trap visitation interval is sadly out of date. Trappers claim that, “it’s not broke, so don’t fix it,” but it IS “broke.” The suffering of so many animals, domestic and wild, for such extended periods is a tragedy, but it is one that can be fixed, or if nothing else, shortened. Visitation means boots on the ground at the site of the trap, not some tech method or binoculars.

Once again, I am dismayed by the public appointment of avid trapper John Sullivan to the Trapping Committee of the NBWC. A long-time trapper has no business on a board which should be devoted to the highest respect for wildlife and the lives of wildlife, not devoted to the death, skinning and commerce of trapping. Then to deny a seat on that committee to a member of TrailSafe is inexcusable. We hope that your next public appointment will right that wrong by selecting a member of TrailSafe for the Trapping Committee instead of a fervent trapper.

Trapping practices must be restricted. So long as trapping is a hidden activity with no oversight, and few law enforcement officers administering the insufficient present restrictions, it is unacceptable in any civilized state. So long as there are no signs or flags to warn the public about present trapping activities, it is unacceptable for the public safety. Snares and conibear traps should not be a legal means of killing wildlife. That owners of domestic animals injured in traps cannot even identify owners of the offending traps for restitution is indefensible. It is your job to propose these restrictions and, with certainty, see that they are enforced. Trappers, such a tiny group, and their convenience, have no place in this discussion. Trapping is a commercial activity and should be treated as one.

The public is presently asleep because they are not aware of what is happening to our wildlife. But the capture, injury and death of thousands of animals is inconceivable to the non-trapping public. Animal abuse will not be tolerated by the more cosmopolitan citizens of Clark County, where most of the state’s population reside. When the giant awakes, watch out!

**Meaningful trapping reform** (not just “a smidgeon”) is long overdue. This is your job: your action, or inaction, will follow you.

Thank you for your kind attention to these matters.

Yours truly,

Stephanie Myers

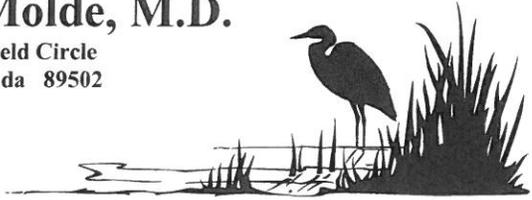
1995 Canyons Eye Circle

Lee Canyon

Las Vegas, Nevada 89124

**Donald A. Molde, M.D.**

3290 Penfield Circle  
Reno, Nevada 89502



**March 5, 2014**

**Dave McNinch, Chairman  
Trapping Committee  
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, Nevada 89512**

**Regarding: Non-target trapping deaths and injuries**

**Dear Chairman McNinch**

**On behalf of TrailSafe, this letter provides information to your committee regarding non-target deaths and injuries caused by Nevada trappers which directly bears on the issue of trap visitation, and perhaps on needed modifications to trapping practices as well. Surely, this deserves a place on the agenda at some point before final decisions are made by your committee.**

**None of this information was seen by the legislature during its deliberations regarding SB 213. Had it been part of the discussion, we believe many members would have found it of interest and pertinent to their deliberations.**

**First up is the data compiled by NDOW from trapper self-reports for the time period noted. You have seen these numbers before but the committee has never discussed them.**

**Non-Target Summary Data Reported to NDOW by 20% or Fewer Trappers  
Years 2002-2004, 2007, 2010-2013**

**Animals**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Released Unharmmed</b>	<b>Released Injured</b>	<b>Dead</b>
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<b>Rabbits</b>	<b>4190</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3145</b>
<b>Dogs</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Cats</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Mountain Lions</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Livestock</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Game</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Badger</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Bear</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Bobcat</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Chipmunk</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ermine</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Feral Pig</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Ground Squirrel</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Pack Rat</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>Pond Turtle</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Skunk</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5138</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>3579</b>

### Birds

<b>Golden Eagle</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Hawks</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Owl</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Blue Heron</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chukar</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Coot</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Ducks</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Geese</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Magpie</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Quail</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Rail</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Raven</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>158</b>

## Cold Weather Foot/Other Injuries Due To Traps

Recently, Wild Felid listserv, a discussion group where academics, researchers and biologists compare notes about large and small cat issues in the Western Hemisphere, had a discussion about thermal injuries to bobcats:

The discussion was prompted by a researcher who posed the following question:

We are trapping bobcats with MB550s with offset jaws to radiocollar them. Our trapping protocol calls for traps to be closed if wind chill dips to -10F or below. I think that is too low, however, we did not have problems during the first 2 years. **This year, on the other hand, we had a bobcat's paw freeze below the point of capture when the ambient low was 16F above. We warmed the paw and our vet thought it would be okay. Nonetheless, I do not want that to happen again.** Can anyone recommend a safe protocol? Any help would be appreciated.

Winston Vickers, DMV, MPVM of UC Davis Wildlife Health Center was one of several who responded. (A portion of his lengthy comments is presented here. His entire email response is attached, including tourniquet studies. Bold/italics/underline are ours.)

Hello Suzie,

Thanks for posing this question because **it brings up issues not only with temperature but also as Ivonne says of time in the trap**

**Both issues, appropriate temps for trapping and frequency of checks deserve a lot more discussion than has occurred to date in the wildlife research community in my view.**

Of course on the issue of ambient temps, one is assuming that at either high or low temps animals in the environment have coping mechanisms to handle them. However, **when confined the animal may not be able to use some mechanisms such as seeking the coolest shade or water for high temps, or warmer den environments in cold temps.** In either case, since we researchers often are not place trapping devices in the most ideal location for avoiding extremes (ie a shady spot or sheltered spot chosen for a trap might still not be the "best" location the animal would choose to mitigate temp extremes), **it is incumbent upon us to not allow the animal to be in confinement long enough for temperatures to be damaging. So time-in-trap becomes the first area that we can minimize through protocols and technology.**

**As to effects of the trap or snare itself on the tissues distal to the gripping point and likelihood of damage at a particular temp, the medical literature and research on tourniquets is the best guide for expectations of injury related to foot hold traps** (since no one has to date that I know of done any detailed comparisons of biochemical parameters, nerve conduction, or nerve / muscle fiber condition, and pain that compare trapped limb versus matching limb in field trapped animals). However, **typical foot hold traps and snares often produce some level of complete or partial restriction of blood flow to the limb distal to the mechanism and / or damage at some level to the tissues at the gripping point. Adding extreme hypothermic conditions would presumably make the situation worse,**

Going back to the *tourniquet-like effect of many foot hold and snare trappings - the net of the research suggests that after 2 hours of full or partial (which is sometimes even more damaging) blood flow restriction, pain (sometimes significant) is present from the get-go and emanates from nerve fibers both distal and proximal to the gripping point, and damage to tissues begins to occur distal to the gripping point or at the gripping point that can result in long term loss of neuromuscular function or persistent pain. Damage also occurs with release of the restriction (reperfusion syndrome) that can be local or in worst cases systemic, potentially leading to organ damage or even death. After 2-4 hours in many experimental models damage and chronic pain can be significant and permanent.*

*I have attached several review publications and a collection of abstracts relating mostly to the experimental research on tourniquets which is normally conducted in rats, rabbits, cats, and dogs – with the latter two having the most direct potential for comparison. The net of all of it in my view as a veterinarian and wildlife researcher is that the axiom of “first do no harm” should be uppermost in any trapping activities – recognizing that even a short period of any confinement generates stress “harm” that researchers have the greatest obligation (of all people who deal with wildlife) to minimize, and that leg holds have the most potential of all of our techniques. When one moves from something like cage traps (least potential physical harm) to foot holds and snares, it becomes incumbent on the researchers to use every means possible to not cause damage to the animal. Too often I think in the past, wildlife researchers have assumed that if an animal did not die post trapping that techniques were probably fine. The ability to detect less than lethal negative effects has been minimal, or those effects have not been looked for (“see no evil” syndrome).*

To my mind *this very extensive research into the effects of vascular restriction suggests there is no excuse for not monitoring foot hold traps / snares either continually or at a minimum every 2 hours once set. and tendencies to bite at traps and damage teeth*

I am just urging clear-eyed assessment of the likely realities for the animals, versus hopeful but perhaps unrealistic views of the effects of our capture choices.

Winston Vickers

T. Winston Vickers, DVM, MPVM

Associate Veterinarian, Wildlife Health Center, UC Davis

Co-PI and field lead – Southern California Cougar Project

Hazing group coordinator, Oiled Wildlife Care Network

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[www.wildlifehealthcenter.org](http://www.wildlifehealthcenter.org)

Staff Veterinarian, Institute for Wildlife Studies

[vickers@iws.org](mailto:vickers@iws.org)

## More on Frostbite

In response to a question from us about trapper claims that bobcats cannot suffer frostbite in traps in below freezing weather, Dr. Vickers said this:

Hello Don – *I agree that trappers are full of hooey if they say an animal can't suffer hypothermic damage* to tissues, especially tissues that are deprived of circulation in a foothold, though as I mentioned in my email some research suggests “cooling” the tissues (not freezing them) reduces the damage from circulatory impairment a little.

Winston

**There is evidence of probable frostbite injury to ears and tails of lions. For example, the entry of 5/17/13 on the 2013 NDOW lion check in data spreadsheet, reads as follows:**

Part of ear missing as well as several inches at tip of tail.

**Other examples of ear and tail injury can be found throughout the spreadsheets, suggesting that frostbite has to be strongly considered as a likely cause for these findings.**

**Why would Nevada lions suffer frostbite injuries to ears and tails? One possibility is that lions caught in traps and unable to move around can suffer frostbite to ears and tails by virtue of confinement in the trap. If ears and tails can freeze, it's clear that foot injuries due to freezing conditions can also occur.**

**This data also supports the possibility that one of the ways lions in Nevada escape accidental trapping is by suffering frostbite to foot parts, leading to sloughing of dead tissue...e.g. toes/pads....and release from the trap.**

## Conclusion

**It's clear that the 96-hour trap visitation interval is woefully out of date, trapper claims that there are no problems with current trapping practices are strongly contradicted, and the carnage inflicted upon Nevada's non-target wildlife and domestic animals demands modification of trap visitation intervals, and perhaps modification of trapping practices as well.**

**trapping reform is long overdue.**

**For your convenience, and for the convenience of your committee members, we have attached the NDOW trapper self-report data, NDOW lion check in data spreadsheets, Dr. Vickers' WildFelid complete email response, and Dr. Vicker's tourniquet studies**

**Sincerely**

**Donald A. Molde**

**Trish Swain, TrailSafe**