



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 30, 2019

Location: Clark County Government Center
500 S. Grand Central Parkway ODC1
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Time: 5:30 pm

Board Members Present: Paul Dixon, Chairman John Michael Reese, Vice Chair John Hiatt
Brian Patterson Molly DiBlasi Dave Talaga

The agenda for this meeting was posted in the following locations;

- Nevada Department of Wildlife, 4747 West Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89107;
- Clark County Government Center, 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89108;
- City of Henderson, City Hall, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada, 89015;
- Boulder City, City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, Nevada, 89005;
- Laughlin Town Manager's Office; 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, Nevada, 89028;
- Moapa Valley Community Center, 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, Nevada, 89040;
- Mesquite City Hall, 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, Nevada, 89027.

Date: April 24, 2019

1. **Call to Order – Roll call of Board Members for determination of quorum**

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by the Secretary, Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested all stand and led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance

3. **Approval of Minutes of the March 12, 2019 CCABMW Meeting (*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*)**

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Board and attendees for any comments or corrections to the Minutes of the March 12, 2019 CCABMW Meeting.
- Board Comments:
- John Hiatt noted that in the Informational Reports for Members, Dave Talaga mentioned the Nevada Firearms Coalition that was incorrectly referenced in the minutes.
- Public comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of March 12, 2019 CCABMW Meeting with the correction.
- Motion passed 6-0

4. **Approval of Agenda for April 30, 2019 (For Possible Action)** Unless otherwise stated, items may be taken out of the order presented on the agenda, and two or more items may be combined for consideration. The Board may also remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic
 - Board comments: None
 - Public Comments: None
 - A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for April 30, 2019 as written.
 - Motion passed 6-0.
5. **CCABMW Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence: (Informational)** CCABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the CCABMW. Any item requiring CCABMW action will be scheduled on a future CCABMW agenda. CCABMW board members may discuss any correspondence sent or received. (CCABMW board members must provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record).
- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
 - John Hiatt stated that it seems like there may be a possible motion on the issue of Wild Horses. The ASPCA and United States recognizes there is an issue with Wild Horses. They are looking for a more viable management plan. There has been some push back from other agencies. The horses are headed for extinction. This is one of the most tractable issues facing land managers. People are beginning to realize that with the numbers we have now and the geometric increase, we are going to have a true catastrophe. The numbers now are estimated at 50K in Nevada. When it reaches 100K, it will be a disaster of our ranges. NDOW has produced a video Horse Rich Dirt Poor on You Tube.
 - Vice Chairman Reese noted that May 18th will be the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Banquet at South Point. It will be huge with over 1000 attendees. Doors open at 5 pm.
 - Brian Patterson shared that the State of Maine is “taking the air out of helium balloons”. They have pending legislation to ban helium balloons. There are other states banning the Mylar balloons because they hamper wildlife. CA already bans the balloons. It is about time Nevada gets on board. He found and picked up 282 balloons while on his sheep hunt. He has also found the plastic balloons. Not sure if we can put on our agenda or if it needs to be at the state list.
 - Brian Patterson also shared the cost for tag applications he paid for. It cost 206.00 to pay for tags on top of the \$75 for the combination hunting and fishing license. A family of four cannot afford to pay this. So far he has spent \$281 for an entry fee. If he gets tag, it is another \$120. It was irritating to him that there is an application fee, predator fee, \$1 sur charge fee. He called NDOW to complain. NDOW wants to be transparent. Why do you pay \$1 for every time you click on a tag? They are charging him every time he pushes a button. How does a family of four afford to hunt? How are we going to get youth involved at these costs? Maybe we should boycott. He doesn't see non-consumptive users paying for the support of wildlife in the state. It is all on the backs of hunters and fisherman. Management of wildlife species is on the back of sportsman.
 - David Talaga seconded what Brian said. They are nickel and diming us.
 - Brian Patterson added that he felt he was getting nickel and dimed with the \$1 transaction fee for every transaction. He does this in 7-8 states. He plays the game. He feels we are pricing ourselves out of the market.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon asked Brian for a copy of the Helium Balloon article so he can take it to the Commission and said we should put on our next agenda a discussion about the tag application process. We went to license simplification; we could simplify other parts of this. You could bring in other hunters. We are bringing in record amounts of Silver State, Dream Tag, PIW, and Heritage funding. Brian stated a lot of them are non-resident.

- Chairman Paul Dixon public lands meeting will be discussing wild horse and bureau update. Silver state trail update, why sportsman and groups are concerned about this. Important discussion. Want to go to committee with our opinion.
- Closed agenda item.

6. **Recap of March 15th and 16th, 2019 Commission Meeting Actions (*Informational*)** A recap of actions taken by the Wildlife Commission will be compared to Clark CABMW Recommendations will be presented by Board Member David Talaga who attended the meeting on behalf of the Clark CABMW.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. David Talaga attended the meeting.
- Dave stated that he addressed the Commission on SB120, High Risk Behavior, AB24 the licensing in order to sell Antlers, and SB85 Chronic Wasting Disease. They looked like they listened. He restated what was discussed in the CCABMW. He was particularly concerned with SB120. Tiffany East said they would change some of the language. He is not sure what happens with the committee.
- Chairman Paul Dixon explained Tiffany's role with the Legislative Committee and the Commission.
- Dave Talaga asked how much force she has?
- Chairman Paul Dixon indicated she is connected and talks common sense.
- Dave Talaga noted there was a big discussion on opting out. A software guy came in. Based on the discussion it looked pretty good online. One of the guides came in and spoke. He was put out that people could opt out, because it was his business. The Commissioner from his area said he had not heard anything. Surprised there was not more discussion with the Commissioner.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the guides have been to the last few meetings discussing this. Guides get most of their business by word of mouth. They like to know if the clients are out of state business. He stated he understands from a business perspective. We were allowing the information to go out. Now we are allowing the opt out. He added that the Nevada Guides Association has been to three meetings now and has been very outspoken on this issue.
- Dave Talaga noted that the opt out link was very clear, and it was also stated that you can opt out and back in.
- Vice Chairman Reese said that they did not make it clear who could buy that list. There should be guidelines on how to restrict the sale of the list.
- Dave Talaga said it is very easy to change the language.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated the Nevada Attorney General said there is not a way to restrict the list to a specific third party. Once the list is made public, anyone can obtain the list. Opting in makes it available anyone who asks for it.
- Dave Talaga said that in his perception, a big concern of his is the divide between the politicians and the hunters/outdoorsmen. It is a danger when you have a political set up like this. There is no advocate for the sportsman. We are the means to justify their end, to sit on a Commissioner Seat. He was concerned that NDOW operates almost independent of anything. In particular, some comments made by Chief Game Warden Turnipseed validate this assertion. It seems like they are doing their own thing, and we have to catch them. Tied to that, there appears to be a disconnect from CAB to CAB. Each CAB is a separate entity. Together we could approach the Commission and speak as one voice. He is not sure if he is wrong.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that in general if there is something high level, the CAB's share what they do with each other. Lincoln and CCABMW are the last two meetings before the Commission meeting if there are hot topics that need coordination. The commission is there to represent the greater picture. If they don't accept the CAB position, they must provide justification by NRS mandate.
- Brian Patterson asked when was the last time Commissioner were at our meeting?

- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that Paul Valentine works late on this night. Kerstan Hubbs is the public member of the Commission. She does not feel this CAB represents the interests of her constituents.
- John Hiatt said he would like to communicate to her that she should hear all opinions. The public is everybody. We are all members of the public.
- Closed item

7. Action Items:

Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners May 3rd and 4th, 2019 meeting agenda, as well as additional items brought forth to the CCABMW from the public for discussion. CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Stacy Matthews (702) 455-2705 or smatthews@co.clark.nv.us. The final Commission agenda & support at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/.

A. Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) (*For Possible Action*)

The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2019 Draft Predation Management Plan.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic
- Board Comments:
- Vice Chairman Reese noted that we are at an all-time low for Mule Deer. What % of the predator fee is put in for Mule Deer. A lot is spent on ravens, etc., but nothing for Mule Deer. Would like to see more tactical type predation being done for mule deer. We haven't had a Fawn mortality study in years. His observation is that in the first 60 days we lose 80% of our fawns. He looked at over 500 deer in area 231 and only saw 13 fawns to 100 does. NDOW reports in their Big Game Status book say they have 25 fawns to 100 does in that unit. He does not feel the NDOW numbers are accurate. He would like to see a more concentrated effort on mule deer restoration.
- John Hiatt stated that we had a presentation from NDOW some time ago on Mule Deer where the biggest issue is really rain fall and habitat. If you look at private property, in Lincoln County, deer are doing really well, and there are lots of coyotes there. We need to improve habitat if we want to increase our Mule Deer.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that we set quotas for 2 months before that presentation. We had been told the population was 92K. In the presentation, the population was listed at 82K, we lost 10K in 2 months. We made our recommendation on 92K, and NDOW made a request for 15% increase on deer tags. Utah put \$500K on habitat and \$500K on coyote removal. He thinks it is an accumulation of things. Cody came in Feb to Woods & Waters and did stats in Western United States. Utah 2018/2019 is one of the premier Mule Deer states. Utah concentrated on habitat and predator control.
- Brian Patterson said we got sidetracked.
- John Hiatt when we look at predator management plan, we are basically obligated to spend \$600K a year on lethal predator control projects.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted projects 37, 38 and 40 are big game projects.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he has 1000 acres fenced in. Looking at the herd on his land he sees only 2 or 3 does that have more than one fawn. When there are 45 fawns to 100 deer where are the other 135 when there should be two fawns per doe? We lost ¾ of them, where

and why. The sheep guys look at this very seriously. We are looking 1 -2 years out. There needs to be a stronger focus on Mule Deer in our state in general.

- Public Comment: None
- Chairman Paul Dixon recommends we approve this, but we need a better feel for how this impacting habitat and predation for Mule Deer.
- John Hiatt noted that everything is tied to everything else. We need to address habitat and meadows being degraded. Degradation goes on, and if we don't look at restoring areas with water and vegetation, we will see a continued decline.
- Public Comment:
- Vicki Werner said keep proceeding if we are using population, predators, habitat. NDOW sees records, poachers. Until you know why how you can find anything. So many issues they need to fix big problems.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted we can put a water source in to grow a population, but you need to do other part of it. A new water source will attract predators, be they animal or human. As we see in our dry states, the new habitat is basically in farmed agricultural areas. The animals will concentrate where there is solid habitat.
- John Hiatt stated that when you are seeing some does with only 1 fawn that suggests you have habitat issues.
- Brian Patterson asked if this is year 1 of a 3-year study. We need more detail. We always point out we need more detail. We need it clearly defined. We need a conclusion or synopsis.
- Chairman Paul Dixon pointed out that there is a separate predator status report that comes out. They are not linked. We are always looking two years in the future. He references comments by John Hiatt where we are required to have 80% of funds use for lethal predator control. We had major fires that destroyed habitat. The Plan is for next year's projects, the Report is results of last year's projects. He added that we can look back, but we need to have more specific impact on mule deer.
- Vice Chairman Reese referenced project 43. They did what we asked for. He wants to see uptick. Two weeks ago, he called Utah Division of Wildlife and talked with Phil Tuttle who said that right across from Area 23 on Pine Valley Mountain, they are exceeding carrying capacity. On Pine Valley Mountain, they have 21K deer. That is 50 to 60 miles from Nevada. 21K deer on mountain, and we are trying to get some here. It's 25% of our population. Habitat restoration and predator control. \$50 bounty on coyotes. Our population is going down on Mule Deer. Our deer cannot stop the decline, yet we are not focused on it. We need to elevate this issue to a future agenda.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Management Plan as proposed with the caveats that more specific call out in this plan for how these projects impact our major declining herd of mule deer and that these projects should have an initiation date so we can see how much progress has been made.
- Motion passed 6-0

B. Update of actionable bills for NDOW (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about draft BRD's of interest. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bills/List>. Support material is as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on March 16, 2019.

The CCABMW will discuss the following bills ((For Possible Action)

AB291 Revises provisions relating to public safety. (BDR 15-759)

- Vice Chairman Reese noted that this bill is for gun safety. Started out addressing bump stock and blood alcohol, and triggers. Triggers have been amended out. The fourth part is the preemptive law. There is a law for the State of Nevada, but this is going to delegate the power to write ordinances for every county in the state. In Las Vegas you could have five different gun ordinances, one for Boulder City, one for Las Vegas, etc. It is your responsibility to know the law.
- Chairman Paul Dixon asked which of the four should this Board be concerned with?
- Vice Chairman Reese responded the Preemptive law is the killer. Someone from Washoe is hunting in the Muddies and doesn't know there could be a gun law violation, it's a class d felony. As for the trigger and bump stock, those were taken out and replaced with nothing can activate a trigger other than a finger.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said he had no issues with AB291, anything that causes a trigger to actuate, but he said have a population of handicapped hunters who need an electronic trigger.
- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to provide comments on AB291. The CCABMW would like the legislative committee to consider # 4. We think is bad addition to this and should be removed. There also needs to be a Handicapped exemption.
- Motion passes 6-0.

AB404 Authorizes the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to establish a program authorizing certain persons to transfer, defer or return certain lawfully obtained tags if certain extenuating circumstances exist. (BDR 45-1029)

- Vice Chairman Reese stated this gives NDOW the right to write the regulation of how a tag can be redistributed. It can go to a family member, but it cannot be sold. AB404 was passed in the Assembly. It is now in the Senate side.
- David Talaga asked what are the extenuating circumstances?
- Vice Chairman Reese said in the NAC they will define this.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said NDOW will create the Regulation and send back to us.
- Vice Chairman Reese added if you turn in a tag, NDOW can call up an alternate.
- Motion approve the bill with the amendment in it.
- Motion passes 6-0.

AB474 Revises provisions relating to wildlife. (BDR 45-902)

- Vice Chairman Reese stated that AB474 has two provisions. The first would give NDOW the ability to approve a project in an emergency situation, such as a devastating fire where they want to replant. There are \$9 million in Heritage Fund. They cannot take the balance down any lower than \$5 million dollars. If this is approved, that means there is \$4 million dollars for a project.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said if you open the piggy bank there could be an issue with future NDOW directors and Commissioners. You could have people with different moral values. The sportsmen or advocacy groups could be very unhappy. Under Jerry Lint there was a problem with using Heritage funds.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that it is not growing like it once was. Right now, the 9 million dollars is just sitting there.

- Chairman Paul Dixon said it is earning interest for the next year's programs. He is against opening it because you have no control.
- David Talaga noted a Commissioner can take money out for special project or what?
- Vice Chairman Reese responded there must be an agenda item. All CABS will be able to look at it and could oppose project, and there is nothing to say they can't do what they want.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the unintended consequence could be worse.
- Brian Patterson transferring the tag is good intention, \$5 million could be glossed over.
- Vice Chairman Reese added that the second provision in AB474 is that you can turn a tag in, and it goes to an NGO. The NGO can then decide who the tag goes to. They must be 16 years of age or younger with a life-threatening illness.
- Dave Talaga asked what are they are trying to accomplish?
- Vice Chairman Reese responded that they try to take kids out. Just used three tags for 3 kids recently. It is like a land-owner tag, but you don't have to buy it from the landowner.
- Brian Patterson they can take down to \$5 million for anything.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that everyone is well intentioned, things change. \$5 million is not always going to be the ceiling.
- Dave Talaga stated we need separate legislation to address the emergency.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that 50% of the funds went into the projects back when this started. What is it doing for wildlife? 75% of revenue can go into Heritage Funds. This will be amended.
- John Hiatt said there is a need to spend money on habitat. We can open the door and say it can only be used on Habitat Restoration.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the NRS is already written. The NAC can do that.
- John Hiatt reiterated we have tremendous need for habitat restoration.
- David Talaga said he is not opposed to habitat restoration; he is concerned about drawing it from the right source. Based on this discussion, that's what he is concerned with.
- Public Comment:
- Ryan Werner stated that the Governor appoints our Wildlife Commissioners. Commission has gone against our CAB and NDOW. With our new Governor. Even our CAB has changed. Consumptive users have changed. On the first part a lot more needs to be put into that. On the second part, we have a lot of disabled veterans and handicapped kids, those bills should be separated, they don't have anything to do with each other.
- Closed public comment.
- Vice Chairman Reese said there was talk to merge AB404 & AB474. Fire hits, he likes that we can go address it right then and there. He likes that there is a bottom level of 5 million. He likes that you can turn tag back in and you can give to another organization instead of NDOW. It can go to disabled youth.
- Motion accept AB474 as written, second.
- John Hiatt add suggestion that there be specific language identifying what the balance over \$5 Million could be used for. Perhaps limited to habitat restoration.
- Motion passes 5-1. (Nay: Chairman Paul Dixon)

C. Wildlife Heritage Proposals Submitted for FY20 Funding (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the Wildlife Heritage Proposals Submitted for FY20 Funding.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic stating we are about \$85K short. They are looking at other funding sources. Cory could give some funding there; he has been running back to back projects the last few years. Sheep trap and transplant.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, before we do major translocation and capture, we have to do a sampling and getting results back to see if the herd is a source population for Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae. Before we take a capture and translocation we have to capture and test the recipient population to see what the pathogen is on the receiving end. In Northwest NV there are some acceptable risks. But overall in the State, there is very little common-sense planning to do that work. Harvesting Ewes. The Muddies population is the clean sheep herd since 2017. There is no other current information.
- Vice Chairman Reese asked Pat Cummings to confirm his understanding that testing needs to be done on the sheep being translocated and on the herd where they are to be released.
- Pat Cummings responded yes.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that he is planning to abstain on this vote as he is presenting one of the Projects, #20-18, Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project. Las Vegas Woods and Waters is proposing to capture 25 does, and collar them, and do a 3-year study. The goal of the study is to determine if they are migrating, where are they migrating to?, how long does the migration take?, how much time do they spend there, and when do they start to come back? Once it is determined where they end up, whether it's in Utah or Nevada, it will be easy to figure out what are the water sources and what is the quality of the habitat on that migration route. We can get the data on fawns related to the habitat. Until we can get data we won't know. He said he drove over 450 miles but couldn't find a doe. Where were they? It would have been nice to know where they should be. Mule Deer population going down, landowner tags are going up. We would like to do three captures. Utah is counting deer and 25% could be Nevada deer. Cody Schroeder has partnered with them. Woods and Waters raised \$25K cash. This will be centered in Area 23. We hope we can find a lot about this.
- Brian Patterson asked if he should abstain as President of Woods and Waters?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said no, as long as he has disclosed his affiliation.
- Public Comment: None
- Dave Talaga noted that the budget is \$979,702.65, and the requested amount is \$1, 065,545. How do we reconcile?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said sometimes at the Heritage Committee meeting there are other funds.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve all projects except project 20-18 as presented.
- Motion passes 6-0.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve Project 20-18, Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project
- Motion passed 4-0 with 2 abstentions. (Vice Chairman Reese & Brian Patterson abstained due to their association with Las Vegas Woods & Waters.)

D. Commission General Regulation 19-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2019-2020 Season (*For Possible Action*) Wildlife Heritage Proposals (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2019 - 2020 seasons.

Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item.

Black Bear

- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that since there is a season established, the minimum quota is 1. They are recommending quota of 45 resident and 5 for non-resident. Three different hunt units and groups. Once you reach harvest limit or female harvest limit that area will be closed. The estimated population is 500 animals. They are looking to harvest 8 – 20. Currently we kill about 60 bears on the road or for nuisance removal. Vehicular removal is much higher, so that's why the limits are so low.
- John Hiatt asked how many bears were harvested last year?
- Vice Chairman Reese responded 14, 11 males, 3 females.
- Public Comment:
- Stephanie Myers stated that she continues to oppose the black bear hunt and consider it a trophy hunt.
- Close Public Comment
- John Hiatt stated that using dogs to hunt bears is wrong because those people with dogs want to exercise their dogs. They are out there all year long harassing wildlife. He objects the use of dogs to hunt bears due to the collateral damage from exercising dogs and they chase wildlife. The harassment factor is more important than using dogs the day of the hunt.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Black Bear Hunt.
- Motion passes 6-0.

Antelope

- Brian Patterson discussed the high percentages of changes from last year to this year.
- David Talaga hunt success
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the hunt success from 2018 feeds into this, as do aerial surveys. They break it into polygons, use population statistics, etc., and they decide how many animals can be removed, and then decide quotas based on weapon class.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, said Paul forgot hunter demand also plays a big role in quotas by weapon class.
- Brian Patterson continued to cite inconsistencies in the new quota in relation to the 2018 quotas.
- Chairman Paul Dixon referenced Pat Cummings' statement that demand is a factor. They will put tags to see if someone will do muzzleloader.
- Dave Talaga questioned the quota for Resident Antelope - Horns Shorter than Ears that shows a slight decrease from 1329 in 2018 to 1285 for 2019. Does this suggest a trend? Do antelope and deer share habitat?
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that antelope eat grasses, but deer are browsing animals.
- John Hiatt noted that Antelope have great eyesight. They will be the first to leave. Antelope are range animals; deer will go to higher ground. Antelope don't need as much water as deer.
- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the antelope quotas as presented.
- Motion passed 6-0.

Bighorn Sheep and Goats

- Brian Patterson asked about Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt area 183 went from 14 quota in 2018 to 4 in 2019.
- Pat Cummings responded that there was some die off. They had *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*.
- Public Comment: None
- Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep the unit 183 is the only thing that stands out.

- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Bighorn Sheep and Goat quotas as presented.
- Motion passed 6-0

Elk

- Brian Patterson questioned the season dates ending January 5th when Shed hunting was to stop January 1st.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that January 1st is a Wednesday, and this allows you to hunt the rest of that week and thru the weekend.
- Brian Patterson asked if Elk are at Management objectives.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, stated that is true and that is why we are seeing drop in some of the quotas.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that when you look at the Antlerless quotas, you will see there is a drop of almost 700 tags. The cow elk hunt was very successful, but now we have 70 plus bulls per 100 elk.
- Brian Patterson non-resident any legal weapon vs muzzleloader vs archery. Since archery success rates are lower why are there not more archery tags.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, when you look at weapon class, the way the apportionment goes, non-resident gets 10% that is it.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that Delk tags still going on. You can apply for Mule Deer and Delk tag when you apply.
- Public Comment:
- Mark Transue stated that last year, most of area 6 burned down. Did the resident antlerless any legal weapon change 06-106 went up in late and stayed the same in early. He added that last year there was no Cow Elk. They must have gone to Idaho.
- Closed public comment
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Elk quotas as presented.
- Motion passed 6-0.

Mule Deer

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduce this
- Brian Patterson referenced the various deer quotas that showed a dramatic increase.
- Pat Cummings, NDOW, stated that the numbers are there, they have just been moved to the appendices so that there is only one place to look for population numbers in the document.
- John Hiatt noted that these numbers are not exact, they are a range. If you look at that plus or minus 15.
- Brian Patterson this one species just declines, every year it's fire, global warming there is something we need to do different for deer. We have done it for other species. It is the stepchild of all the species we manage.
- John Hiatt added that if you look at antelope, deer, and elk, deer have come from a relatively large population, where antelope have been depressed for a long time. The antelope had a low ratio of animals to habitat, but deer had higher ratio to habitat. When the habitat declines, the deer suffer more than the antelope. Deer are browser eaters, and as such they are limited in what they can do. Elk are adaptive to their environment and can feed on a wide variety of stuff.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that he has a strong feeling he knows where the deer are going to be and where are they migrating to. That must change some of the habits. To see the deer population go down as low as they are and watch our neighbor, who changed their management style, have their deer population skyrocket, is upsetting.

Bottom line they started investing in habitat and predation. The amount of predation in the Diamonds, Area 14, they are doing it the right time of the year, and as a result, that small population has rebounded a little bit. Other areas going further. Is NDOW more revenue based than science? What is the real issue of Mule Deer, and why can't the population go up or stay steady?

- David Talaga asked Pat Cummings if he is Mule Deer expert.
- Pat responded no.
- Dave Talaga asked Pat if habitat reduction is primary cause.
- Pat Cummings responded yes.
- Dave Talaga speculated that if there is a concentration of herds in various places that would make it easier for coyotes.
- Pat Cummings said that is an oversimplification. He noted that large range fires started in 1997, and range conversion impacted sage grouse. Elk are generalists and they can make it work. It's different for deer. When you lose critical winter range by hundreds of thousands of acres, it's not coming back. When you look at the scale to improve habitat that has been lost since 1997, it is a huge job. We need to figure out how to conserve what we have.
- Dave Talaga asked what would you recommend?
- Pat Cummings said he is not a fire science expert, but in his view some of the wildland fires could be fought in a different way without putting undo risk to firefighters. Be more effective at conserving what we have.
- Dave Talaga then said we have means to control the herd.
- Pat Cummings stated that coyotes are extremely adaptable. Small farm or ranch and losses is apples and oranges. They are exploring wildlife habitat.
- David Talaga stated that his point is decline in mule deer population, habitat is number one, control the predators that hit the herds, maybe we can do more, and we can also reduce the number of tags.
- Pat Cummings countered you cannot stockpile herds.
- Chairman Paul Dixon pointed out that we have doe hunts because in some areas, we have a carrying capacity issue, so we must limit the ability of the herd to grow beyond what the habitat can support.
- Pat Cummings said we are really where we want to be. He referenced NDOW Big Game Status Book.
- Dave Talaga asked Pat if in his opinion is the current balance of tags effective?
- Pat Cummings responded yes.
- Brian Patterson noted that we can't stockpile wildlife. Yet, an unmanaged species like the wild horse manages to thrive and grow and grow no matter what you do.
- John Hiatt noted that when you talk about how things have changed since 2000, take a look at Lake Mead. The decrease in precipitation happened all over interior west. Not all habitat is created equal. Livestock is hammering watering areas. We need to establish habitat where there is water.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that of our five big game species, the only one failing is deer, and has been for a quarter century. We can't stop the slide?
- John Hiatt responded saying go look at the 1.6 million acres burned in 1997. It has not recovered at 100%.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he toured where the fire was four years ago. There is some green habitat.
- John Hiatt said that is cheat grass it's not necessarily good habitat.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that we have less than 700K acres of agriculture fields in the state today. Deer starting to move to those areas. It gives them food, water, and some cover.

- John Hiatt 2017 – 2018 NDOW surveys deer on one of the ranges doubled in one year. Coyotes are all over the place. It seems to have no effect on them. Coyotes will increase output of pups.
- Vice Chairman Reese stressed that the number of coyote pups in a litter outweighs the number of fawns born to a doe.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of the Resident and nonresident Mule Deer quotas as presented.
- Motion passes 5-1 (Opposed: Vice Chairman Reese - think it should be a 10% cut.)
- Motion to approve Resident Junior Mule Deer accept as is. Second.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that for Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation Tags, by NRS, the maximum number of Landowner Compensation Tags allowed is 2.5% of the total tags. That puts the maximum at 535. 375 is the number of tags that have been requested this year.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he would like to know which areas are receiving tags.

E. Silver State Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Trail Update (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the Silver State OHV proposals.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item and discussed the HOV trails and sensitive trails.
- John Hiatt stated that people who ride ATVs want to end up where they started, not 200 miles away. So, people were making their own circular trails. What we are finding a proliferation of circular trails. The user made trails are not laid out so they are sustainable, and they do degradation. Comparing ATVs vs trucks, the amount of dirt moved by an ATV going around a turn is astounding. They have a disproportionate impact on the landscape. There is no thought in how trails are laid out. Silver State trail being expanded will use trail heads as starting points. You will see a problem with new trails created from the trail heads.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the new expansion trails go across critical sage grouse habitat and mule deer migration trails. That could have dramatic impact on species. It is all promoting ATV's. Back country and hunters have an awareness of how bad this could be if not addressed. The trails cannot go through critical habitats. Make them as sustainable as possible.
- Brian Patterson said that Utah has a pretty extensive UTV and ATV trail system.
- John Hiatt added that they make their own trails off of that ATV trail. They have added onto that. He also noted that they have done a number of surveys in Utah asking why you bought this vehicle. What is your intended use? Half the people use it off trail. John has real concerns about extending trails.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he has used the Utah trail system. He was impressed and amazed with quantity and quality of trails and the mapping system. Why would they go off trail? In Lincoln County they are not big, they don't go very far. He has reservations about them going through some of the areas where people pick up sheds. Go to Yellowstone certain times of year you can't use trails if we found out it is detrimental.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said once you run a trail through a sage grouse lekking area, it will be changed forever. Just go look at the habitat condition around the trails behind Jean, NV and the McCullahs. This landscape has been dramatically changed. You forever change the landscape in the desert with OHV use. There are real impacts of changing the trails.
- Dave Talaga said he has ridden many of the trails around Las Vegas. He sees it as important around metropolitan areas
- Chairman Paul Dixon said that the Silver State trail exists in Lincoln County. The proposal is to expand it into White Pine County and eventually into Elko County.
- Ray Phillips, NDOW, notes that ATV's going off trail happens all the time.
- Board Comment:

- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to express our great concern at expanding the trail through White Pine and Elko counties due to sensitive habitat.
- Motion passed 6-0

8. **Public Comment -Members of the public may provide public comment (*Informational*)**
Comments will be limited to three minutes. Any item requiring Board action not on this agenda may be scheduled on a future agenda.

- Public Comment:
- There is no public left for comment.
- Closed public comment.

9. **Authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Wildlife Commission for its consideration at its May 2nd and 3rd, 2019 meeting in Reno, NV. (*For Possible Action*)**

- Public comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to authorize the Chairman to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Wildlife Commission for its consideration at its May 2nd and 3rd, 2019 meeting in Reno, NV.
- Motion passed 6-0

10. **The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for June 18th, 2019 in the Clark County Government Center Pueblo Room, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas. This meeting will be in support of the June 21st and 22nd, 2019, Commission meeting in Mineral County, Nevada.**

11. **Adjournment**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.