



Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 6, 2019

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

Time: 5:30 pm

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

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.

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

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Chairman Paul Dixon.
- Roll call of Board Members was performed by the Secretary, Stacy Matthews. A quorum was present. 7 members present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- Chairman Paul Dixon requested all stand and asked Dan Gilbert to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes of the June 18, 2019 CCABMW Meeting (*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*)

- Chairman Paul Dixon asked the Board and attendees for any comments or corrections to the Minutes of the June 18, 2019 CCABMW Meeting.
- Board Comments: None
- Public comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of June 18, 2019 CCABMW Meeting as written.
- Motion passed 6-0 with one abstention (Dan Gilbert).

- 4. Approval of Agenda for August 6, 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 August 6, 2019.
 - Motion passed 7-0.
- 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.
 - Brian nothing.
 - Vice Chairman Reese stated that he received a phone call from Director Tony Wasley after the June commission meeting in relation to Heritage Project 20-18. There was a lot of uproar in Commission meeting about this project from NDOW. Mike was the presenter from Las Vegas Woods and Waters. Director Wasley told Mike that NDOW will do the project, but probably not this year. They will do it and want to expand the project beyond Lincoln County. He wants to do a State-wide migration study. NDOW said they don't currently have the manpower to do this project. Tony Wasley gave his word that NDOW will go forward with this project and similar State wide projects.
 - John Hiatt noted that BLM has published a Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Fuel Breaks in the Great Basin proposing 11,000 miles of fuel breaks over 223 million acres of land. Initial cost \$55 to \$190 Million. No estimate of annual maintenance costs. Between 2007 and 2017 there were 21 fires over 100,000 acres. We have to do something. The EIS does not analyze big fires. Big fires are caused by big winds. A 500-foot fire break does not stop big fire.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that ignition sources for wildfires are rated on a scale from 1-10, where 1 is feet 10 is a quarter mile. Most fires we see in Nevada are 8, 9, or 10, where sparks are blowing and igniting secondary fires. Comment closed yesterday.
 - John Hiatt added that the EIS was not well publicized, but it's a problematic EIS, so they will need to tie off the EIS before they can move forward.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon noted that Vice Chairman Reese will be representing him at the Commission meeting. He asked Mike to follow up about the EIS and fire break.
 - Vice Chairman Reese asked John if he knew if White Pine County or Lincoln County commissioners put in any letters?
 - John Hiatt said he didn't know.
 - Dan Gilbert asked if there were any maps?
 - John Hiatt responded yes, but there are all of these different colors signifying the type of habitat, but he could not tell if there was any juniper along the roads.
 - Vice Chairman Reese asked does this effort include just Nevada or the Great Basin?
 - John Hiatt said it is for the Great Basin, so it includes portions of Idaho, Oregon, Washington, California, Nevada and Utah.
 - Chairman Paul Dixon stated that the EIS did not come to Commission or CABMW level.
 - John Hiatt said it is one of the biggest projects ever by BLM

- Chairman Paul Dixon officially introduced Dan Gilbert. He is a 4th generation Nevadan and a 3rd generation from Las Vegas.
- Dan Gilbert 3rd generation outdoorsmen. Practice in actuals. It's what he lives and breathes, humbled glad to be here and do some good and hopefully for future generations.
- Closed agenda item.

6. Recap of June 21st and 22nd, 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 Chair Paul Dixon who attended the meeting on behalf of the Clark CABMW.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Actions taken about Wildlife Meeting. Duck stamp request Commission approved unanimously.
- Asked about financials are done to a raw estimate there is a reserve.
- Upland Game Bird Stamp passed with no changes.
- Heritage Vendor Recommendations approved with no change.
- Project extensions - kept all projects we recommended.
- Heritage Committee went to meeting with Mike.
- Heritage proposals: project 20-18, Mule Deer collaring in Lincoln County, passed the Heritage Committee, but was not followed by commission. NDOW not in support of Mike's proposal, timing was not right, underfunded and understaffed. Committee said you can adjust what you are doing. There are 45 minutes on tape of the Commission when a motion was made to approve all projects except 20-18. It ended in a split vote 5-3 got rejected. All projects got accepted except Mike's 20-18. Both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission were not happy at how NDOW handled this project. There were 3 meetings and then at the last meeting they decided not to support.
- John Hiatt was there money?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said yes, Mike went out and raised money. And, Commissioner Paul Valentine said why not buy collars now and by 2020 put in for Pittman/Robertson money to fund the Project. That was rejected too.
- Vice Chairman Reese reviewed the timeline for his Project. On March 4th he presented to the Heritage Committee and it passed unanimously and unanimously again in May. Move forward to the June meeting, no word from NDOW, Commissioners, etc. Brian Wakeling said we don't have the staff to do this. It threw Paul Valentine and Brad Johnston for a loop, why are we waiting to the 11th hour to find this out. Brad started saying if NDOW was not for this, he was against the project. Then he changed his mind and said this committee exists only to disburse funds and should direct NDOW on which projects to pursue. If NDOW has veto power, then is board should cease to exist as it has no purpose. Mike had raised an additional \$15K by then. Came to table to 40K. He was waiting for two NGO's to go to their Boards to see if they wanted to contribute, which they did. Paul Dixon said even without Heritage Funds, why not buy the collars. Mike pointed out that NDOW spent money on a ticket to have a NDOW biologist come to Woods and Waters Luncheon to discuss the project. Mike met with Tony twice face to face back in March to discuss project. Tony said he never knew a biologist came down and talked to LVWW. It was a character assassination against Mike. Mike even called Utah. Utah said if he could prove Utah had deer from Nevada, they would even be willing to put money and manpower into the project for a bi-state migration study. Tony called a few days after the meeting and we need to do the study in Washoe and Elko Counties. Mike said he would like to do this throughout the state. Mike recently talked with folks in Wyoming. They are doing migration studies as is Utah. Why isn't Nevada doing this study yet? They asked Mike to wait 2-4 years for this project. He responded we need to do something now, but if the only way to schedule this is to schedule it 2 years out, then we need to. It really upset the whole wildlife community. NBU said when project comes up again, come back and they'll add more money. NDOW says it is not money, its manpower.

- Chairman Paul Dixon said he has never seen this in 11 years. Commissioners were unclear. Vice chair and Chair voted to include this project.
- David Talaga said he has never seen a public group give up money.
- Paul Dixon it was bizarre. Between Brian and Tony talking they might have confused commissioners. He talked to Tony after meeting. Tony said they want to get maximum Pittman/Robertson funds for this project. Currently every other Heritage project has higher priorities. Tony did not have a strong answer as to why that was the case. Christopher J. Cefalu said NBU collars sheep every year. Tony was a mule deer biologist for 6-7 years and then the chief mule deer biologist. You have to trust he is making the right decision.
- Upland Game Seasons, approved.
- Rough Grouse are doing extremely well in state, mountain quail have a two/three-year life expectancy With drought they were not getting to 2 years.
- Closed item

7. Action Items:

Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners June 21st and 22nd, 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. Landowner Compensation Tag Committee (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about Landowner Compensation Tag Committee topic from their August 8th Meeting.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. More and more landowner tags, people are buying land 50 acres and irrigating it to get landowner tags. If 2.5 does not give you enough tags. It is a first come first serve, everyone gets at least one tag, and people who got 30 are going to get 25. Mike Reese will be attending meeting. Between now and December the board is going to discuss.
- Board Comments:
- Vice Chairman Reese said we need to grow more deer, protecting the deer will solve everything. Habitat, etc. Alfalfa fields let predators know where the deer are congregating. The landowner compensation tag amount used to be 1.5 % of the quota, but the legislature changed it to 2.5%. With the deer population goes down it will max out. The biggest fallacy with the landowner tags is we have checkerboard ranches. Cory Lytle has taken NDOW out and they count 200 deer in one field, and the next night the same 200 deer are in the next guy's field. So both get 4 tags for the same 200 deer. This is a huge issue in Lincoln County. You have 1500 acres chopped up between owners. Count 1500 acres and count deer divided by 50 is how many tags we give out. John Q Public you own 20%, you get 20% then deer only get counted one time.
- Dave Talaga asked if that is what is discussed in Commission meeting.
- Vice Chairman Reese we can make a recommendation. Repeated same points. Grow more deer, and count one time will help the issue.
- Dave Talaga said the problem becomes exasperated by people who are supposed to be managing the problem are creating problems rather than managing the problems. If 1K people buy land and grow alfalfa they will get mule deer, heritage tag comes into play, how do the managers apportion the tags to landowners, whether they are gaming the system or not. That is the issue.

- Vice Chairman Reese stated that for every 50 deer on your property, you get a tag. Spend all night in valley count that. So many deer in Lincoln County they get counted multiple times.
- Dan Gilbert stated that letting wildlife use property. How do you vet process so it's fair. Trophy quality to produce. Count is one of the worst things there is. You pick the day and they come out and count.
- David Talaga proposed the solution to managing this is to put collars on the mule deer and count the collars.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that the Elk incentive program, designed to provide compensation for landowner for elk on their property. They must count Elk every day of the year and normalize over the year. Landowners must work to earn an Elk landowner tag. The biggest thing you can do to change the way mule deer are counted is to require that during the time you are growing your fields, you have to have x number of counts. X counts gets averaged. It may be 10, 100, divide by number of counts. Even if you are double counting, that will be taken care of in the math. For an Elk tag, they have to count. If they are in a prime area like 22 or 23 you get a lot of money for the tags.
- Dan Gilbert suggested to have NDOW set cameras set to take photos at 2 dawn 2 dusk, average, you would be compensated. If you put a system out there you will have someone game the system.
- Vice Chairman Reese clarified that if you have antelope and deer on your field, you need to have 50 antelope and/or 50 deer to get a tag.
- John Hiatt offered that not all fields are equal. Grass vs alfalfa. Deer don't eat much grass, more likely eating the weeds. The idea of looking at all land in the valley is not equal. Also, 50 deer get you one tag, you could have 90 deer and you still only get one tag. In the past he has proposed that carry the difference over to the next year for more value. It can give a fairer estimate of property.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that Albert Ceno's attorney brought up the idea to the Commission they were against it. It has been brought up before about two years ago.
- John Hiatt added that irrigated fields are very important for herbivores. Ask ranchers for help by giving them some incentive for helping improve the deer population. Why are we penalizing them for extra 40 deer? They are providing hiding habitat. They are not out there all day. Hedgerows and areas not cut along irrigation ditches, that is where they hang out during the day.
- Brian Patterson with your scenario, carry over 40 and next year have 80 and get one tag. Still not apple to apple. Getting something.
- Vice Chairman Reese said if we had a population of 135K, you would not have this problem.
- David Talaga sees the issue as how you count the deer in order to assign the tags. The more deer the better if they are grazing on alfalfa.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that they are going to discuss reached quota of 2.5%. So now, do we change the way we count, or do we change the number of tags per landowner. And if you change the number to 60 deer for one tag, what other compensation can you offer? Carry-over?
- John Hiatt stated that what is important is not counting same deer five times. And then, how do you deal with statutory limits. A proportional amount as you go up cut down the number of tags. There is a formula you can work out.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that this was not a big issue the last 4 decades, it is only an issue now that deer have declined. This year's quota was based on 1.5%. We are not even knocking on the door of the 2.5%. Applaud NDOW for having a plan. How do we get the population to 110K? Any action we take should focus on growing the population.
- John Hiatt said the first thing you need to do to grow the population is to understand the population you have and NDOW just shot it down.

- Vice Chairman Reese stated that instead of wanting to change the system for what if, we should grow more. No one is planning Heritage projects to grow more deer. How many gallons of water are there for mule deer? That is where our money is going. Landowners know 50 deer is one tag. We can tighten up process with our method of counting. If we hit 50K deer, we should ban deer hunting. Pittman Robertson funds coming on hunting licenses.
- David Talaga deer count is the titanic a deck chair is putting together a committee to count Mule Deer. Now what do you do?
- Vice Chairman Reese said NDOW will say we won't have money to pay.
- Public Comment:
- Jana Wright asked how many ranchers are getting compensated?
- Robert Gaudet, Nevada Wildlife Federation and WHIN, said we have to do something to increase the herd. He compared what it was when he moved here 50 years ago. Look where we are today. We have to do something. He does not know the answer, but we have to do something. If it takes this project that Mike is trying to get done, let's get it done. If we do not get more Pittman Robertson funds, we will be in trouble. Our numbers are dwindling, because deer are dwindling. Guys have put in for years to get a deer tag. It was not that way ten years ago. This is crazy we need to do something. This project or any other.
- Closed public comment
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that you can submit an information request to licensing office to ask who received the tags and ranches. He did it 2 years ago. There were 72 ranches received compensation.
- A motion was made and seconded for the upcoming meeting Heritage Tag for Mule deer that committee concentrates how to effectively count the deer in order to provide a fair number of tags for each landowner. Second.
- Brian Patterson feared that leaving it that vague would let them keep the status quo.
- David Talaga talked about statistics, and number of count days. Especially with Mike on it they will go into great detail.
- Vice Chairman Reese suggested adding the carry-over aspect to the motion. He doesn't want to discourage the ranchers.
- David Talaga when you come up with a motion it will be a couple of pages long.
- Motion Amended to change the status quo of methodology we are using. Second.
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend,
- Retract the motion. Second retraction.
- A new motion was made and seconded to recommend a new methodology that will concentrate on effectively counting the deer using a more than a 1 day count the goal is to arrive at a more accurate and fair accounting than we are currently using.
- Motion passed 7-0

B. Possible Alternatives Regarding Shed Antler Collection (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about information regarding the seasonal closure on shed antler collection, including possible alternatives for future consideration.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item stating that Elko County came in and said this was too restrictive. This had to do with caching antlers. April is too late for the end of the closure, and collectors are caching. Elko prefers February 1st (the end of Cow Elk Season) through March 31st.
- Board comment:
- John Hiatt noted that January 1st is the end of all except some Elk hunts.

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that Elko County wants the shed closure season shortened by 50%. NDOW will hold hard for January 1st. April 30th, because it is the lekking season for Sage Grouse, and having people in the field will disturb the Sage Grouse. NDOW might push back to April 15th.
- John Hiatt stated if people are caching antlers before the season, which is illegal.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that by April you have pretty good snow melt, you have people getting into the field being able to shed collect. This year, it was clear there were people in field collecting and caching shed, because when opening day came around there were multiple complaints about people leaving with truckloads of antlers. When you are one Game Warden it is virtually impossible to police this. The only thing we can do in the eastern part of the state we will need greater enforcement. When trappers were not checking traps, one officer is frozen in space. Shortening the season makes it less likely to be illegal for doing something, but it doesn't mean we should be doing it.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he feels it should be illegal for non-resident pick up shed. In Lincoln County the amount of Utah plates got under people's skin. Scientifically can it be shown that shed collecting has an impact on wildlife? Is there a diminished Fawn recruitment rate, is it pushing deer off habitat? We have no science to back what action we want to take.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that NDOW by doing shed collection in January – April, we are harassing animals during critical winter months. How many people have been ticketed?
- Brady Phillips, NDOW, stated that he can't provide that, but it will be a very low number. The legislature just changed the information on what is harassment.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said it appears we have had an unenforceable harassment law up until this last Legislature. We have a better law, but we are resource limited.
- David Talaga noted that in previous discussion, we noted that we were putting a law into place that is unenforceable. We had three recommendations we discussed.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said he does not agree with changing the seasons
- David Talaga said the recommendations we discussed were education, enforcement and licensing. We have people violating a law we can't enforce.
- Brady Phillips, NDOW, stated it will be easier to enforce the harassment law.
- David Talaga said changing season won't help. Giving more teeth to the laws could help. If we create shed licensing would be easier to enforce that law instead of harassing wildlife.
- Vice Chairman Reese said Cory Lytle proposed that and it was shot down with \$25 fee. We have people from Utah running our roads. If you saw Utah license plate even with binoculars, ticket them.
- David Talaga repeated his statement to license it and tighten it down and make it enforceable.
- Chairman Paul Dixon addressed the question if you are walking with your son and he picks up shed, will he get ticketed? The answer is with Law Enforcement, there is an amount of discretion in the law.
- Brian Patterson said he thinks licensing has the most merit. The season limit Elk hunts going to so many seasons, one thing contradicts the other. By moving back to Jan 1 that eliminates that conflict.
- Paul Dixon noted that except for two areas, every Elk Hunt ends 12/31.
- Dave Talaga asked how many people collect sheds in January? The answer: "a lot".

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that “green” antlers go for \$40 a pound. White antlers are \$15 a pound.
- Vice Chairman Reese asked the Board members in favor of licensing is it either licensing or a season or both? What would you accomplish with license?
- David Talaga said it gives law enforcement more ammunition.
- Vice Chairman Reese responded but the season is already open.
- David Talaga said it might slow down.
- Dan Gilbert asked if the proposal is for a separate license or just a valid hunting license to collect shed.
- Paul Dixon noted since we have year-round license it would put your month end. He thinks an online education course for shed antlers is required. People will be more educated.
- Brian Patterson suggested education and certificate of completion every 2-3 years. There is a constant paper trail.
- Dan Gilbert said participation is conservation and limit conservation to wildlife. Is there more funnel orientated? Someone in Utah buy hunting license, closed roads if necessary. Cart blanch to extend season, don’t agree with.
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded that a few people unethical grand scale no trail cameras during hunting season, shed regulations. The commercialization of it, NDOW has to put seasons or close roads. Trail camera or triangulate from three cameras, easiest way is no one can use one now. It is an extreme way to deal with it.
- John Hiatt noted that the real issue is commercial activity. Its guys running search patterns on ATV’s. If they are doing it in April, things are melting and soft. A friend ran into 8-9 guys collecting shed on quads. The friend told them it is illegal. They were from Arizona and said they do this in Grand Canyon National Park where it is clearly illegal, they could care less. Motorized collectors are doing great damage. His take is licensing, no non-residents, and you have to take the course.
- Vice Chairman Reese asked if licensing would affect Pittman Robertson. He would be more likely to go with this if it required a hunting license. That drives number of licenses up. If season is already going what do we accomplish.
- John Hiatt said we need separate license.
- Dan Gilbert asked if you can limit the number of sheds one can collect?
- David Talaga said we need to give NDOW more power to enforce. Stop the people from doing it. Perhaps we give them more ammunition to do it.
- Vice Chairman Reese said if we did the perfect license what are we going to gain?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said the way they are collecting commercially.
- David Talaga said if we come up with the perfect plan what is the result if they don’t have the manpower?
- Chairman Paul Dixon said we can give them more impact.
- Dan Gilbert stated buyer put a limit on it. Have pounds of antlers, maximum amount paid. Arizona makes them have new license and three draws. Entice people to participate.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he feels MDOW does not have authority to manage it. Once the antler falls off, it is a mineral.

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that what you are trying to do is limit the disturbance and impact to wildlife on the range during critical times. January thru the end of April. That is what they are managing. Effecting wildlife and habitat during critical times.
- Brian Patterson asked why not have a limit of so many pounds per day and a possession limit.
- John Hiatt said that is hard to enforce.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he is not opposed to addressing this for the next three to five years and get it right. Must be resident that could help. Have law enforcement come back and give us data. It is a pastime for them.
- David Talaga said the problem is commercial people tearing up land, which is the target. We need to screw down more and more. Trying to make it easier to catch them.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he has collected three in his lifetime. Scouts sell antlers at \$20 a pound. Elk arches. The pastime of picking up sheds has been there for years. The money incentivizes people. The use of antlers is more widespread. One of the first steps is keep it in state and residents only.
- Chairman Paul Dixon offered that residents can collect non-residents need a hunting license.
- Public Comment.
- Jana Wright stated that from her perspective, she doesn't feel that the Elko Cab met the threshold having a position to change anything. She agrees with Mike: don't allow non-residents to come in during season. Who are 44 people that are against the regulation?
- Robert Guadet said he has a hunting partner who collects shed. But there is no education telling why people should not be collecting at that time of the year. He never heard why we should not do it. You should put more emphasis on why you should not. Get a grant for public education for NDOW.
- Public Comment closed.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said we should look at shed antler collection and take a graded approach over 2-4 years and implement more rules or restrictions on yearly basis to address issues. Ethics course, and information.
- David Talaga – maintain current restriction Jan 1st – April 31st recommend the committee look at online education, licensing and non-resident restrictions.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept maintaining current restriction of shed collection between January 1st through April 31st, and recommend convening a committee to evaluate the merits of public education, shed-collecting licensing, and non-resident restrictions on collections.
- Vice Chairman Reese thinks it should be later into January. Quail and chucker season run through that as well. He is okay with voting January 1st. Will vote yes if January 1st.
- Dan Gilbert suggested adding limits on annual pounds to be collected by any person.
- David Talaga said that would be in license.
- Dan Gilbert said he would not limit non-resident; the biggest abuse would be off road. We need stiffer penalties.
- Vice Chairman Reese asked Brady Phillips how big of a priority is this with NDOW?
- Brady Phillips will not give you a scale of 1-10. First few years' education didn't seem to make a difference, but we are giving citations now.
- Motion passes 7-0

C. **“Smart Scopes” (Informational)** The CC ABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the current legal status of archery and rifle “smart scopes” which have an internal range finding function and compensate for target range and/or angles.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this topic. Discussion we had for handicapped people. Smart Scope does everything but pulls the trigger at the right moment. There are scopes that do that they are not cheap. Is that something we want to see restrictions on in the state. No different than a hunter doing a 1.5-mile shot. There are handful of people who can do that. Smart scopes that range something before you shoot it, so you don't wound an animal. Tracking scope everything has to be moving as fast as they are. There may be draft regulation coming.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he shot a 308, 500 yards with a Smart Scope. You have a smart phone, find your bullet, how many grains it will tell you hold over. Estimated wind at 30 mph cross wind, shooting at 500 yards, hitting at right hand corner. It will tell you red dot and hold over, you have to mentally gauge wind. Shot five shots never hit the target. Turned it off. Sixth shot put it dead center. In my head was the ballistics. Held higher and farther left. Liked the fact that it gave you a reference point of where to go. Better than taking a 500-yard shot that have not shot that many rounds through a gun at a range. We all shoot off a ballistic chart. We know trajectory of shot. If they read the articles, they don't understand how fast it drops. A smart scope puts them in the range.
- David Talaga said he views this the same as fair chase. They can integrate a lot of information into a scope, comes into fair chase. Add wind down range, you take guess work out of wind drifts. What definition of smart scope you are using? See what is out there.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that at the Commission Meeting they will discuss the top technologies out there and start draft regulations.
- Vice Chairman Reese agreed but pointed out that with a rangefinder and ballistics chart, you have most of the information you need. So, there is equipment that you are eliminating and putting the same information into the scope.
- Dan Gilbert said he is an avid long-range shooter, and long-range gear is expensive. Long range community is small. There is a selectivity to it. You are enhancing the ability to harvest an animal in an ethical way. They are being selective. Most hunters cannot afford the equipment. This is not an issue.
- David Talaga noted that it is not yet an issue, however how many women and children who have never shot a gun, but with coaching from a long-range shooter on how to get site picture, squeeze trigger, etc., and they hit a gong at 1000 yards. You gave them your knowledge. Now you take all of that information and put in scope, some dude starts blasting away at an Elk. It's a good time to have this conversation, what type of information is going into Smart Scope.
- Chairman Paul Dixon stated that 6 years ago, Mike Reese brought up Trail Cameras and how they can do GPS. 3500 cameras put up so Utah guy could watch.
- Vice Chairman Reese added that at shot shows they are gathering data. They are looking for ways to improve for next year's model. He will never shoot 1000 yards unless in tournaments.
- David Talaga stated people will mount scope on 30.06 and shoot a deer. Is it ethical or unethical? Trail cameras were never an issue, now it's a big issue.
- Brian Patterson brought up the desire for the Handicapped person get out in the field. As technology changes we need to be aware of it.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that this is informational. If it ends up getting on the Commission Agenda, we need to start to get our ducks in a row if sportsmen want to keep it. 50 caliber is a cleaner and ethical kill. If someone sites gun they can kill an animal at 1000 yards. Banning the gun does not change anything.

D. Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program, LCB File No. R022-19 (For Possible Action) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would provide direction for allowing the transfer, deference or return of tags under certain extenuating circumstances after the passage of Assembly Bill 404 of the 80th Legislative Session.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he followed 404 and 474 through the Legislature. 474 died this one passed. One thing he likes about this, if you draw tag and you elect to transfer it you lose all of your points. Because you elected to transfer it. The fact that there are parties out there the wife turns hers back in, so she keeps points back in. Like the fact that they lose the points. This helps people who buck the system.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that there may have been dozens of people doing that, but he agrees once you draw you lose your points. If they all turn in tags do, they get point back. That is the fair and ethical way to do things. Military transfer etc. enhancing system.
- Vice Chairman Reese said the only problem is there is no way to track if you sold your tag for cash, it is a slippery slope.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that if you transfer to a family member, NDOW has to re-issue the tag, and the family member must meet the definition in 404 before it can be transferred. You can't give to anyone other than defined family member.
- Brian Patterson noted if they turn it back in, they still keep their points.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated if you got sick and would rather give it to your brother, we are not affecting quotas or population. It is opening the door for transferring tag.
- Brian Patterson asked about a family party of four. Two boys and dad draw every year but mom turns hers back in.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said it is under another regulation you lose your points.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he thinks it still exists.
- Brian Patterson said if for a group, one drops out, they should loose points.
- Dan Gilbert asked for clarification, it's just for extenuating circumstances, right?
- Vice Chairman Reese answered yes
- Dan Gilbert said in Utah can bequeath to minor.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted we are headed to that path.
- Vice Chairman Reese said this is the first step. Nevada never had a transfer ability.
- Dan Gilbert feels this can get next generation of sportsmen involved.
- Public Comment: None
- A motion was made and seconded to recommend approval of Commission General Regulation 485, Tag Transfer, Deference, and Return Program, LCB File No. R022-19 as written.
- Motion passes 7-0

E. Mule Deer Survey and Inventory (For Possible Action) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about methods and strategies used to inventory mule deer abundance, distribution, and herd composition.

- Chairman Paul Dixon introduced this item and a presentation on Mule Deer and other Big Game Population Surveys to Quotas aimed at educating the board and public.
- Chairman Paul Dixon read information into record.

- Vice Chairman Reese interrupted to state that part of research he wants to do is to help validate when the surveys are done. If we collar deer that are in a migration, they will rut and migrate. If we could do study for a three-year period, we might find that the rut is two weeks before or after the migration starts. Count fluctuates due to migration. Even though they try to, weather or mechanical issues can impact when the survey is done. They might not be able to do count as well.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said he will show you how they determine ruts. He continued with the presentation.
- John Hiatt asked why are low medium and high so different in the areas?
- Chairman Paul Dixon responded some areas extremely low counts and others had extremely high.
- John Hiatt asked why is definition of low medium high for different polygons?
- Chairman Paul Dixon answered perhaps it is normalized against number of animals in area? He asked Mike Reese to ask at the NDOW meeting. Paul discussed the ratios and how they collected them.
- Vice Chairman Reese wondered in a perfect world and you have 100 does then you should have 200 fawns. So, if you end up with 60 fawns, what happened to the other 140? Why didn't they make it? He added, if you had even a few collared deer you might understand the migration patterns.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said they are trying to use statistical information there.
- David Talaga said you have to have good data. Garbage in garbage out.
- Chairman Paul Dixon went on to say when you don't see does spread out much, they are in rut. As Mike points out, NDOW is wondering what is driving the fawn/doe ratio. Even if half of the does had two fawns, that's still 150 fawns, but with the numbers we're seeing, we are losing a minimum of half of the fawns in most years.
- Vice Chairman Reese said we lose 80% of fawns in first 60 days based on his own observation. He added that he had two fawns born on his ranch. He took photos and was excited to have two fawns. The next weekend, the doe was still there but the fawns were gone. Not sure what happened to them.
- John Hiatt notes that when deer bed down in alfalfa and they cut the alfalfa, the harvester just chews them up.
- John Hiatt said a person he talked to just got 5 deer.
- Vice Chairman Reese stated that they are only cutting every 6 weeks and we are losing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the recruitment.
- John Hiatt most does are not having 2 fawns.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he agrees, either does are having none or 1.
- John Hiatt said it comes down to doe condition during the fall and winter.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said that where you see twins being born are in areas with high amounts of agriculture.
- John Hiatt agreed that it depends on foliage and habitat.
- Vice Chairman Reese noted that this year we had more precipitation than normal, hopefully more fawns. He will film the mating. The bucks may only mate with one or two of the does because they are in heat. If there are three bucks in the herd, two may move to find another herd. Will make the big circle, non-stop.
- Dan Gilbert said there should be lots of double fawns this year. Utah has the map already for predation. When Utah started to manage predator issue, the population exploded. The habitat is able to carry the population.
- Vice Chairman Reese mentioned the herd population growth in Utah (275K to 400K) since they placed a \$50 bounty on coyotes, while we have dropped 20% in the Pine Valley Mountains.

- Chairman Paul Dixon stated if you want balance between predator/prey. You can suppress predator to get larger herd size, but you need to continue to control the predators. Otherwise you will see declining herds. Why did they reintroduce wolves in Yellowstone? Because it is all natural. What happened is that the wolves decimated the elk and bison herds because there was an unlimited food source. When you get in check, you will have smaller herds and fewer predators.
- Vice Chairman Reese said he is with John, doesn't understand why.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said it is the drought. The last time water went over Hoover Dam 1983 – 1984. Just because we have wet year this year, the issue has been ongoing.
- Vice Chairman Reese noted that back then coyote hides went for \$100 a pelt. There is not as great an incentive these days. Trappers are the only ones working on this issue.
- Chairman Paul Dixon noted that today we are only removing 5-7% of the population. When we were making dramatic inroads in the herd population, we were removing 60-70% of that population. The population will only crash when something happens to prey species. There is not the public will to remove predators from landscape. We have much more urban mentality in this state. The hunters are the minority.
- Dan Gilbert went back to the earlier point and asked how they count for migratory movement in the surveys?
- Chairman Paul Dixon they try to do the count during the rut because the deer are less likely to migrate.
- Dan Gilbert said in his experience, at least in the southern area, the rut is after the migration.
- Vice Chairman Reese said they deal in trends where they fly will go back 3, 4, 5 years is trend going up or down. If you don't hit it right that is where the numbers vary. The collaring would help. They are missing or some years they hit the migration just right. They are trying to fly same week every year.
- Dan Gilbert said there are parts where there are no deer. In late fall or summer range they will be gone. Disproportionate number of animals they are surveying.
- Vice Chairman Reese said they take it off hunter survey.
- David Talaga would like someone to come from NDOW.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said for deer it would be Steve Kimble, NDOW.
- David Talaga asked how many people on the survey plane
- Vice Chairman Reese answered four.
- Chairman Paul Dixon added that they are classifying the bucks and aging the deer as well.
- David Talaga Said he understands counting deer in Nevada is difficult.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said yes. You have brown deer on brown rocks.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said they use harvest data and survey data to establish quotas. They have looked at a ton of different models.
- Vice Chairman Reese said they use the data to get a trend. We can argue about data.
- David Talaga said as long as data fits a trend you can do a trend analysis. As soon as data changes, you need statistical data. How can you accurately develop a trend?
- John Hiatt noted that a decline of 150K to 80K is a trend.
- David Talaga asked how do you know what is causing that.
- John Hiatt answered that you can't tell the cause from the trend. You need other information to determine the cause.
- David Talaga asked how do you accurately measure what is taking place to create a trend without looking back. 10 years ago, I was here and now you are here that is not the way you do it. It does not tell you how.
- John Hiatt said you need to have information on predation, habitat, road kills, and causes of mortality.
- David Talaga said that is a multi-faceted approach to determining the population.

- John Hiatt agreed saying the more things you can study the better your understanding of what is going on.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said they are changing to polygon method.
- Dan Gilbert is the presentation based on collared data.
- Vice Chairman Reese said that the one given we know is how many landowner tags need to be given before we set the quota.
- David Talaga brought up statistical analysis. Look at alfalfa fields very easy variable to control, because you are limited in geography and habitat. Anecdotal data on it. Up in the mountains one day here one day gone. Now you have many more variables that are difficult to track. Look at big hammer flying over something then try to refine hammer by going into polygons. Not enough. With deer herds we need to.
- Vice Chairman Reese said we need to look at bigger herd.
- David Talaga said if you go into alfalfa fields and see twins doing, deer herds are more there.
- Chairman Paul Dixon said part of Mike wanting to do collaring program, we need to do on a large scale. Tony Wasley wants to do it but it is too large of program.
- David Talaga asked based on presentation how much are tracking collars.
- Vice Chairman Reese said collars cost \$1500 plus \$500 a year for data. He had \$10K in cost for one day for a helicopter for 25 deer. You can set up the collar to get a ping every 12 hours. You can have volunteers or NGO's go out with binoculars where the does are pinging and look every week to see if they could see fawns, record what they see and go back 1 week later to observe and record.
- David Talaga said if you were able to collar 10% of the herd, then the ping and data can build a statistical database.
- Vice Chairman Reese said this is why collaring would help. Tony Wasley came down a few years ago and gave presentation for a few hours at Arizona Charlie. Asked Cody Schroeder at state the meeting will you take presentation and come to Woods and Waters. Active group that can do question and answer and get data. It was the most beneficial and it educated Tony and Cody. He is at his desk, he is not getting feedback that he actually needs. Mike will talk to him in Ely and ask him to do a presentation. If we are changing methods, tell u why and what method. Help educate us.
- John Hiatt noted that one thing that happens when you change from Tony Wasley to Cody is you reset the baseline. You have a new guy.
- David Talaga agreed saying that it is not getting acclimated, it is a new way of looking at data.
- John Hiatt said the baseline he is talking about is habitat and how it has changed in the past 70 years. What did this mountain look like in 1950s sage brush, grass, etc. Now its juniper, a lot less grass and sage brush. What does it support in deer? It has very little that deer need to survive. You are seeing less and less of that. In the Spring Mountains towards ridge separates Lovell Canyon from Kyle Canyon. Before the Carpenter fire, it was mostly dense PJ. Since the fire most PJ is gone it is all coming back as chaparral. That is great deer habitat. In Lovell Canyon, there are Elk and Deer there now that were not there prior to fires because there was nothing for them to eat. We have had huge fires in recent years. Overtime we lost a lot of quality deer habitat because of trees. Trees do not provide much forage for deer.
- David Talaga said he is less concerned about things changing than he is with the accuracy of counting deer. A tool that worked 20 years ago, does it still work today? Will change in habitat make my counting scheme obsolete? If it does work, prove it to me. This is a big deal.
- John Hiatt said he understands and doesn't disagree. But part of knowing if count is any good is understanding population movements and where the animals hang out during the day when the survey is done.
- David Talaga said if your counting technique take that into account. If it does, great. If it doesn't, you have problems. He is not sure it does.

- John Hiatt responded that he feels the guys doing the counting know it is almost impossible to count in PJ forest.
- David Talaga said but there are other methods and are those methods deployed?
- Chairman Paul Dixon interrupted the discussion to say that Mike to go to NDOW and get more information and presentations to discuss at the next CAB Meeting.
- Public Comment:
- Robert Gaudet said years ago, he and his partner traveled the Eastern side of state with. We met a lot of NDOW manually in field spending a week out there counting deer. Stay overnight in their trucks. Talked to 30-40 of them, and that was what they did and that was when we had the greatest population. Get a better count when you have people in the field. When a plane flies over, they scatter. You cannot get an accurate count. People in the field every day counting them. That way you can see if there are too many predators out there. They will be hiding. That is what part of the problem is. We need people in the field.
- Discussion of this item closed.

F. Models and Population Estimates (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about how survey and inventory data, along with other statistical parameters like age-specific survival estimates and information on migration, are used to estimate population size and trend.

- This Item tabled due to lack of time.

G. Development of Quotas from Survey and Population Data (*For Possible Action*) The CCABMW Board will review, discuss and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about how quota recommendations are developed based on a targeted management objective, like a post-season mule deer buck to doe ratio, using data on harvest success and hunter demand (often referred to as the demand-success formula).

- This Item tabled due to lack of time.

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:
- Robert Gaudet, Nevada Wildlife Federation, stated that we are facing a crisis. NDOW has concocted a scheme to do away with hunter education, more or less. They have set up a target of 21 years old. If you are 21 years of age or older, you no longer need to take the hunter ed course anymore. If you take it on-line, there is no proof you took it or filled it out. Someone else can do it for you. There is no way to know you took it. Person with IQ of 10, he can apply online and someone else can take the test for him. He may not even know what end of the gun to shoot. 17 other states are doing this. Sooner or later someone is going to kill somebody or ½ dozen people. Look at problems with gun violence. Without the training, teach them which end of the gun to use. If you have any influence, call up there and tell them it is crazy to do it this way. We are going to end up with a big problem.
- 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 August 9th and 10th, 2019 meeting in Ely, 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 August 9th and 10th, 2019 meeting in Ely, NV.
- Motion passed 7-0.

10. The next Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2019 in the Clark County Government Center Pueblo Room, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas. This meeting will be in support of the September 20th and 21st, 2019, Commission meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm

DRAFT