

ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

MONDAY

FEBRUARY 06, 2017

PRESENT:

Eric Clifford, Chairman
Jesse Lattin, Member
Jim Curran, Member
Peggy Hughes, Member

ABSENT:

Mike Olsen, Member

The Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife convened at 6:03 p.m. in the Commission Chambers, Suite #145, Fallon, Nevada. The following business was conducted:

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment.

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 4: Posting of Agenda.

Chair Clifford verified the agenda had been posted.

Agenda Item 5: Review and adoption of Agenda.

Member Curran moved to adopt the agenda for the February 6, 2017 meeting. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent.

Agenda Item 6: Review and adoption of Minutes for June 20th, September 19th and November 14, 2016.

Chair Clifford stated he was unable to provide the November 14, 2016 minutes to the Board for review; therefore, those minutes would be approved at the next meeting.

Member Lattin moved to adopt the minutes for June 20th and September 19th as submitted. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent.

Agenda Item 7: Correspondence:

Chair Clifford said he received an email within the last hour from Judy Carran regarding recommendation for Items 23, 24, 25, and 26, but he was not sure what she was alluding to. Member Hughes said when she looked at it she was not sure either. There was no other correspondence.

Agenda Item 8: Appointments:

- A. Items listed on the Final Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission's Agenda for the February 10 and 11, 2017, meeting.

Chair Clifford stated they would be dealing first with Items #3A, #3B and #3C regarding the Nevada Lands Act. He noted item #3C called for possible action to develop a policy platform and/or designate commission representatives. He called for public comment or discussion from the Board.

Member Curran asked County Commissioner Carl Erquiaga if the County had taken a formal position. Commissioner Erquiaga stated the County had not taken a formal position at this time. He noted back when the Transfer Task Force was meeting, the County took a position that recognized their findings and recommended they go forward to the Public Lands Committee and that was where SJR 1 came from. He said in the spring of 2015 Congressman Amodei introduced HR 1484, which called for essentially everything that was in SJR 1 as a two-phase turnover of all federal lands to the State of Nevada excluding Indian Reservations, Department of Defense, Wilderness Areas and National Parks. Phase one consisted of 7.2 million acres; 4.2 million acres was in the checkerboard and the balance was in various other lands that had been approved for disposal. He said phase 2 would happen within 10 years where the balance of all BLM lands (4.2 million acres) that was not in a wilderness area would be transferred to the State. He said there were some specifics about what the State would do, but the State would use the lands to generate money for education and mental facility hospitals, but mostly education. He said one hearing was held in November but no action was taken. He noted when Congress adjourned at the end of the year the bill died and the Congressman had been redrafting legislation with the help of the Nevada Lands Council. The new draft he saw was the same for phase 1 and phase 2; instead of a direct handover, the State Board of Examiners, the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General would review other lands that would be turned over later.

Commissioner Erquiaga stated there was a study done by the Task Force before SJR 1 by Intertech Services; however, he did not think it was adequate to make that kind of decision. He informed the Board there would be a meeting Thursday morning with Congressman Amodei and some members of the Coalition, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Nevada Cattlemen, and the Nevada Farm Bureau to talk about this with the Congressman who said he wanted to hear everyone's thoughts.

Member Lattin stated he thought nothing should be turned over to the State and he was in full opposition to it. Member Curran said he took the same position. There were some

states that had a lot of private land, but he thought until it was a little bit farther along, they could not really assess what the proposal was. He thought most sportsmen in the State were going to be opposed, except for limited transfers.

Commissioner Erquiaga stated as a private citizen, he thought it was a terrible idea. He did not know of a single organization or agency in the West that dealt with sportsmen or outdoor recreation, hunting or fishing that would be in favor of this. He said his biggest fear was that the State could not afford to run it on the revenues they would generate and they would end up having to sell land to meet their needs. He noted some things could be done with the checkerboard lands across the State, four million acres, but he did not think this was the thing to do. Continuing on with the individual land bills in the counties to address their own problems was a better way.

Steve Bohrn, Nevada Houndsman Association, stated what they were looking at was when they sold public land to private landowners it would have limited, and/or no access to sportsmen or hunters or other enthusiasts. Something they did not bring up in the meetings, was the existing small mining claims and grazing rights. He said if they sold some of these lands, they could be impeding or blocking access to those claims and/or rights.

Member Lattin stated he would like to have Commissioner Olsen's opinion and take no action at this time, but keep an eye on it as it moved forward. Commissioner Erquiaga stated he was just made aware there would be a meeting next Wednesday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm with the Nevada Lands Council to discuss this.

There was no action taken on this item.

Item #9 -- Hunting near dwellings and residential areas. Chair Clifford read the item and asked if the Board had anything to add. Member Curran stated he did not know what the Board could say until they knew what the report contained. There was no action taken on this item.

Item #10 – Guidelines for Harvest Management. Chair Clifford read the item. Member Curran stated they had done several things to the item and one was to remove the small game-fur bearer portion of the original document. He noted those changes would make it a big game guideline. He stated he went through it several times and it was generic in the way of season dates and buck to doe ratios. He said unless Mr. Salisbury had seen anything coming out of the State office that was contrary to what they had been doing, he had no recommendations for change. Jason Salisbury, Biologist Nevada Department of Wildlife, said most of what was listed was what they were currently doing with different season dates and some populations. They were managing for higher buck ratios, because a lot of the counties wanted higher buck ratios. He noted there might be some limitations; he thought the Washoe County Board did not want limitations on the muzzle loader antelope tags in 15, but he was not sure why that number was there.

Member Curran moved to accept the recommendation for passage of item #10. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. There was no public comment.

Item #11 – 2018 Predation Management Plan. Chair Clifford read the item. Member Curran stated the only new project was assessing mountain lion harvest to protect waterfowl, which had been on the management areas in the past. He thought the rest of them were pretty much what was in the fiscal year 2017 Plan. He noted the Legislature put some restrictions on making sure what percentages were used for predator management and he was sure this fell within those approved guidelines.

Member Lattin moved to support the 2018 Management Plan as written. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. There was no response to the call for public comment.

Item #20 – Regulation 17-03 2017 Black Bear Seasons. Chair Clifford read the item. Mr. Salisbury stated he was going to separate the black bear units into three different subunits; Pinenut would be by itself; Mineral and Lyon Counties would be by themselves and Carson and the Sierra Front would be separate. He was not sure what the quotas would be and what the harvest limits would be on those three units. He said that was the only changes to the Regulation.

Member Lattin moved to approve Item #20 as written. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. There was no response to the call for public comment.

Item #21 – Regulation 17-04, 2017-2018 Mountain Lion Season. Chair Clifford read the item. Member Lattin asked Mr. Salisbury if the old number was 500 tags and now it was 245. Mr. Salisbury stated the change was to combine the eastern, western and southern areas where they had separate quotas. They combined 245 to all three, which was the biggest change. The harvest limits were dropped a while back by the previous predator management personnel to reflect what normally had been harvested in the past. There was some new verbiage regarding a certain percentage of the female take, which could not exceed 50 percent in some units.

Member Lattin moved to support Item #21 as written. Member Hughes seconded the motion.

Chair Clifford called for public comment. Steven Bohrn, Nevada Houndsman Association, said looking at the seasons and combining everything would be difficult for them to manage the female to male harvest. He thought they had a better chance when they were separated into the eastern, western and southern units. He stated not all the information was always posted regarding the amount of lions that were caught and released by hunters; he thought that could be done like the other harvest surveys and fishing surveys. He said the handbook did not refer to the NAC 503.147, which allowed hunting mountain lions with a hound or a dog. He said it talked about allowing you to hunt with a dog if they had a legal license and it was within the season. Mr. Salisbury said it was listed in the handbook in relation to not using

dogs to chase turkeys and deer, but he did not know where it was listed as being lawful for lions or bears.

Chair Clifford called for the vote. The motion carried 4-0, with Member Olsen absent.

Item #22 – Regulation 17-05, 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Big Game Seasons.

Chair Clifford read the item. He stated the Board would go through the different species individually starting with antelope. Mr. Salisbury stated there were not many changes in the antelope seasons, but he added 18 doe tags for Churchill County. Member Curran asked him to explain why he did that. Mr. Salisbury stated there was limited opportunity to harvest does in Churchill County. Member Curran thought ideas were more toward expansion for antelope in Churchill County, because there was more habitat and more room for growth. Mr. Salisbury concurred, but said they had also seen a lot of antelope harvested, but felt they would do fine and still increase in population with limited harvest on does. Member Curran stated he was not opposed to antlerless hunts, but it seemed this was to eliminate problems around private land and pivots. Mr. Salisbury said they did have some of that, but he was asked and he had no problem giving the opportunity for doe antelope hunts in Churchill County.

Mr. Salisbury said they could have female harvests in all species, which was driven by fawn ratios creeping up or down. He stated they did not have any major problems in relation to the winter range in Elko County where they tried to bring the numbers down to keep them off the railroad tracks. Member Curran asked if he anticipated fawn ratios going down with the amount of snow that had been received this year. Mr. Salisbury stated no, the fawn ratios were super high this year in his September count. He said he encountered some antelope the other day up high on the mountain, because we were experiencing some colder temperatures in the valleys and warmer temperatures at the higher elevations. He thought any kind of winter loss would be minimal for the antelope in Churchill County.

Member Curran stated he did not feel we were in a situation where we needed to harvest females, but he could support it if it was conservative. He made a motion to accept the Department's recommendation for Item #22 as written. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. There was no response to the call for public comment.

Item #22 Continued – Elk. Mr. Salisbury stated they extended the late depredation hunts to the end of January. He discussed the any legal weapon hunt, stating in 16 and 17 they went away from the traditional rut hunt and put some cow hunts in during October 5th to October 22nd. He said he had pretty good numbers and still had the cap of 850. He heard people from Fallon had trouble killing cows in 16 on the late hunt. He noted there were some muzzle loader seasons in Elko that they changed from August to September, because there was a higher success rate in those hunts. Member Curran said on quite a few of the big elk areas they moved the opening of the early antlered seasons to October 22nd, which had always been around the 6th of September and at the end of deer season. Mr. Salisbury said they had so many seasons and they were trying not to conflict with the cow hunters and the bull hunters, which did not leave

much room. He thought the rifle hunt in October would be a better hunt than in November because that could be the tail end of the rut in some units.

Chair Clifford stated historically the so called rut hunt on Table Mountain had been the second Saturday in September to the first part of October. He said after reviewing this, he did not see a bull hunt in 16, just cow hunts. He believed for the last six years it had been on a rotation where every year the rut dates were split between archery, muzzle and early rifle, but now under resident any legal weapon, muzzle loader or archery, there were no season dates in the Monitors during that time. He said the archery elk hunt started August 25 to September 16 and the next bull hunt in that area would start on October 22 for muzzle loader to November 5th. He said the any legal weapon hunts, both early and late, occurred after that in November and into December.

Member Curran said he thought the commission policy was to rotate antlered and muzzle loader hunts throughout the different State units. Mr. Salisbury said he remembered rotating the rut hunt to the three weapon classes in 16. He said it was mentioned about not segregating 16 out and possibly looking at additional units, but he was not sure where it went.

Commissioner Erquiaga stated it had been a few years since they cycled through the three user groups in the rut hunt in 16, but he was not sure if they ever did that statewide. He said there was a big push last winter to consolidate some of the seasons and he knew they were going to change the dates on a lot of the bull hunts. Chair Clifford said the only reason he knew it wasn't there was because he looked specifically at that, because that was the only hunt he ever put in for. Member Lattin said he would like to figure out how to get one in 16. Member Curran stated to make a recommendation for a different opening for one of the hunts; it would be any legal weapon. Member Lattin stated that was what he thought it should be.

Mr. Salisbury said they could choose that or they could put it in the harvest guidelines. He said in his opinion mid-September to middle October would be the perfect rut hunt. Chair Clifford stated to put the standard seasons listed for any legal weapon antlered elk under the harvest guidelines and then also have the non-standard seasons to include October 22nd to November 5th, November 6th to the 28th, the September 17th to the 30th and the beginning Saturday in September and running for three weeks. He said he took the harvest guidelines as more of a justification and standardization for people to see what was going on.

Member Lattin made a motion to support the proposed elk season dates with the exception of resident elk antlered any legal weapon hunt 4151, Units 161 through 165 and 171 through 173 being November 6th to the 20th, to change it to read September 17th through September 30th. Member Curran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent.

Chair Clifford called for public comment. There was none.

Item 22 Continued - Sheep. Mr. Salisbury stated he did not make any changes in relation to Churchill County. He said he could do some future splits, but he had not received that many complaints even with the amount of tags. He talked about the changes in 045 and 153,

Smaller Mountain, 213, 204 and 202. He said nothing else really changed. He said they had a Rocky hunt for 114 and added 091 this year, rotating with Utah.

Chair Clifford said he was interested in Fairview and Sand Springs and he knew the hunting pressure was evenly split, which was good to hear. Mr. Salisbury said he didn't have any problems in October. He said they switched 031 out of the non-resident pool and gave them the Jacksons, but nothing else changed there. He said they added a non-resident tag for mountain goats in 102, which had been closed for a few years; now they can put back in for one tag.

Member Lattin moved to support the season dates for Nelson Bighorn, California Bighorn, Rocky Mountain Bighorn as well as Mountain Goats. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. Chair Clifford called for public comment. There was no public comment.

#22 Continued - Mule Deer. Mr. Salisbury said there were no major changes to the Mule Deer. He said there was discussion before that they were going to end on November 2nd for a lot of units, but now all of the units that had late hunts would end on November 5th and any of them that had a standard October season would end on November 2nd. Then the two hunts, 10 and 22, would have early, mid and late hunts. He said there were some additional units because of the harvest guidelines for antlerless mule deer harvest. He said he knew they took out the late archery for 10 and 12 and he was not sure why besides surveying deer hunters or harvest success.

Chair Clifford said he saw they were keeping the late muzzle loader hunt in Churchill County. Mr. Salisbury stated he looked at those numbers the other day; the success was still close to what the normal rifle success was, but it might have been a little better for Churchill County. Member Lattin said he was in full support of this one.

Member Curran moved to support the recommendation for all the recommended mule deer hunts. Member Lattin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. Chair Clifford called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Item #23, 24, 25 and 26; Heritage Tag, Dream Tag, Wildlife Seasons and Silver State Tags. Mr. Salisbury reported to the Board that a special tag holder could go back to any unit that had more than 10 tags even if they harvested the previous year. He said that would probably not apply to bear hunts because there would most likely always be less than 10 tags.

Member Lattin said if a Silver State hunter killed a ram, the next year it would be closed. Mr. Salisbury said that was how it was now, but the exception would be that they could go the next year if the unit had over 10 tags.

Member Lattin moved to support the season dates and recommendations for the Dream Tag, the PIW Tag, the Silver State Tag and the Heritage Tag as written. Member Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously with Member Olsen absent. Chair Clifford called for public comment. There was no public comment.

Item #27 and #28, Big Game Application Deadline and Big Game Application Eligibility. Member Curran stated the change he saw was a hunter could put in for a ewe tag and a ram tag, but if they drew a ewe tag first, then the ram tag would be out the window. Mr. Salisbury stated he knew they were going through the process with the PIW, but he thought there should be a way or a solution to draw something first.

Member Lattin stated he was fine with no action. Member Curran stated he saw nothing that he was opposed to. Chair Clifford stated there would be no action from the Board.

Chair Clifford moved back to the local agenda.

Agenda Item 9: Future agenda items.

Chair Clifford stated the November 14, 2016 and February 6, 2017 minutes would be added to the next meeting. Member Lattin stated he would like to organize a chapter for the Nevada Lands Council in Fallon. He said in regard to Member Curran's discussion at the last meeting regarding how to get more of the public to these meetings, he would look in to getting a Facebook page. He said the Human Resources Department was not thrilled about putting something on the Internet that could potentially allow people to make comments. He said he was still working on that and he was not 100 percent sure of the appropriate way to go. He said he knew he could create a Facebook page and lock it down so that it was informational only.

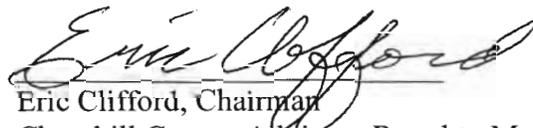
Member Curran stated there was a Fallon Facebook page and maybe we could put a notice on that. Member Lattin said if we did that, then someone could comment on that post and then that comment could snowball, and that was what they were trying to avoid. He thought this Board should create their own Facebook page.

Commissioner Erquiaga stated there were groups on Facebook, such as big game hunters, Hunting Nevada and others that could be used to post and share. He said they used the paper, but it was pretty pricey. The Board discussed the legal concerns and other avenues to get the meetings out to the public, such as the radio station and newspaper ads.

Agenda Item 10: Public Comment

Commissioner Erquiaga said at last week's County Commission meeting he asked the commission to approve the week of February 11th to the 18th as Bighorn Sheep week to coincide with the annual banquet of the Fallon Chapter Big Horn Unlimited, which was approved. His idea was to showcase the contribution that sportsmen make to hunting, that they were self-funded; to showcase that it all happened on public lands and that hunting was a \$220 million industry in Nevada.

7:27 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned without objection.



Eric Clifford, Chairman
Churchill County Advisory Board to Manage
Wildlife

*Minutes prepared by:
Jaime Deller, Independent Contractor*