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Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility on May 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chairman Lester Porter, Raymond Hodson, and Jim Evans

Members Absent: Dale Hornickel

Others Present: Mike Podborny-Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Ken Gray-NDOW, Jessica Santoyo-Natural Resources Asst./CAB Secretary, and Chad Bliss-NV Wildlife Commission Member

Call to order

Chairman Porter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. A quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None

Board Business

Review and approval of minutes-

Jim Evans moved to approve the minutes as written from the March 12, 2015 meeting. Ray Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports-

None

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects-

Update on pinyon-juniper thinning project, wildlife guzzler installation, and other potential projects, and consider further efforts to move forward for successful implementation of projects.

Chairman Porter stated they should consider getting the guzzler project done sometime in June after graduation.

Mr. Hodson stated that he would like to take the tanks out to the site sometime in the next few weeks. He would like to drop them off out there and have them there for when they install them.

Mike Podborny stated he would like to go out with Mr. Hodson to drop off the tanks and take inventory for the supplies they will need for the project.

Brief discussion was had on setting a date to drop off the tanks and setting a date to get the project accomplished.

Chairman Porter asked if there has been any progress on the pinion/spring tree removal.

Mr. Podborny answered no, it has been pulled back. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) pulled back because they are trying to do a district wide program.

Chairman Porter stated he will ask Jake Tibbitts about the status on the pinion/spring removal.

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Jessica Santoyo stated Mr. Tibbitts couldn't make it tonight due to having to testify in session. Mr. Tibbitts wanted the board to know that he is still on track with having the Pinion Juniper (PJ) tree cutting being on June 1st. They will be starting in the Pine Valley/Union Pass area with Glenn Guttry's place and Leroy Sestanovich's place. If the board has any questions on any of the PJ removal or anything else, he can follow up with them next week.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item 6:

Commission General Regulation 456 LCB File No. T004-15 (Temporary LCB File) -Elk Arbitration Panel: Proposed Changes to NAC 502.42283 – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling- The Commission will hear a temporary regulation concerning amending NAC 502.42283 by which the Commission may facilitate decisions by appointing or serving as the arbitration panel should arbitration of elk incentive tag awards become necessary.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners conducted a workshop on March 20, 2015 and the Commission approved the regulation as presented to move forward to take action at the May 2015 Commission meeting.

Mrs. Santoyo stated at the last meeting the board supported regulation 456.
Mr. Evans asked how is the incentive vs the depredation separated with this initiative.
Ken Gray answered they will have to go to a local panel for damage arbitration.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to support Commission Regulation 456–Elk Arbitration Panel. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 7:

Draft Process for Use by the Commission in Arbitration as Described in NAC 502.42283 – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – The Commission will review a proposed process for arbitration as described in proposed amendment to NAC 502.42283 arbitration panel that will outline the responsibilities of the Department and landowner applicant when contesting issues associated with awards of special incentive elk tags, the establishment of a subcommittee to hear the contest, timelines associated with contest and decision, and recommendations to the Commission as decision-making arbitration panel. The Commission may provide the Department with direction on further revisions or approve the draft process pending adoption of temporary regulation CGR 456 re: NAC 502.42283.

Mr. Podborny stated this is the process for the arbitration.
Mrs. Santoyo stated at the last meeting the board didn't make any recommendations.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 8:

Request from the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington for up to Fifty Pronghorn Antelope during Winter 2015 – 2016 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox- The Commission may consider and act on a request by the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington regarding a request to capture and translocate up to 50 pronghorn antelope from Nevada to tribal lands in Washington.

Mr. Porter asked where will the antelope come from.

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Mr. Podborny answered they will come from somewhere north of Elko or Winnemucca.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to support the Colville Confederated Tribes request for 50 pronghorn antelope. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 9:

2015 Legislative Session Update and Commission Bill Positions – Chairman Drew and Kim Jolly Management Analyst 3 – Staff will present a status update of tracked legislation since the last Commission meeting, and the Commission may consider any additional legislative positions or actions.

Chairman Porter stated he noticed that Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 11 made it past the first deadline. That is the SJR where it gives the state of NV the right to hunt, fish and track.

Chad Bliss stated it will have to go through another session, if it survives another session, then it will go to the general public to vote on.

No Recommendation.

Action Item 10:

Commission General Regulation 457 LCB File No. T003-15 (Temporary LCB File) – Awards, Issuance, and Use of Tags – Proposed Changes to NAC 502.42279 – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – The Commission will hear a temporary regulation amending license issuance and use clarification for elk incentive tags. Elk incentive tags were designed to be issued in association with "bull" hunts and seasons. Subsequent to initial NRS and NAC adoption, "spike" hunts have been developed, and "antlered" tags do not clearly denote the appropriate quota or season for which the incentive tags are intended. The amended formula will account for the harvest of "spike" elk, but identify seasons for incentive tag use.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners conducted a workshop on March 20, 2015. The Commission discussed the language with changes to Section 1, rewriting the formula to read as follows: $(NP \div NE) \times (DP \div 365) \times (NT + TSH)$ and adding $TSH =$ *The total number of spike elk harvested in the previous year in the unit or units within the management area or areas in which the private land is located.* The regulation has been updated to reflect the changes requested by the Commission. The Commission approved to move forward to take action at the May 2015 Commission meeting.

Mr. Evans stated is this regulation an amended formula.

Mrs. Santoyo stated the board supported this regulation at the last meeting. At the last meeting, Mr. Podborny stated that they were clarifying the language regarding that all incentive tags will only be issued on bull tags not elk tags.

Mr. Gray stated at the last commission meeting they corrected the formula but it will be the bull tags plus the number of spike tags given.

After brief discussion, Mr. Evans moved to support Commission General Regulation 457-Awards, Issuance, and Use of Tags. Mr. Hodson seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 11:

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Humboldt County Elk Species Management Planning Process – Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling – The Commission will continue the elk sub-planning process in accordance with the Nevada Elk Species Management plan for Humboldt County, and the Commission may select members of the Steering Committee from volunteers for this elk management sub-plan.

Mr. Hodson moved to support that Humboldt Count create their own Elk Species Management process. Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 12:

Fiscal Year 2016 Draft Predation Management Plan (Third Draft) – Commissioner Bliss, Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling, and Wildlife Staff Biologist Pat Jackson – The Commission will consider an updated third draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Predator Management Plan. The Commission may take action to modify or approve the plan.

Mr. Bliss stated there was a change on the study regarding the coyote project in the diamonds. The committee did not support it going forward, the committee took the funds from the study and it was added to the Diamonds coyote removal project. Therefore, there is now \$60,000 available in funds towards the coyote removal project. The committee took the suggestions from Eureka County and included in this draft.

Mr. Evans asked how will this project impact the local project.

Mr. Podborny answered this will basically will be a coyote denning project on the Diamonds with funding up to \$60,000 for the work.

Mr. Bliss stated the justification for the project is habitat restoration that will benefit mule deer habitat.

Mr. Podborny stated next spring the predation management plan will pay for a coyote denning project in Eureka County mainly on the Diamonds.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to support the Fiscal Year 2016 Draft Predation Management Plan (Third Draft). Mr. Evans seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item 19:

Commission Regulation 15 – 12, 2015 Big Game Quotas for the 2015 – 2016 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox and Cody Schroeder – The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and black bears for the 2015 – 2016 seasons. Note: Support material will be sent separately.

After brief discussion, Mr. Hodson moved to accept all recommendations made on the Big Game Quotas for 2015-2016 Season. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was scheduled tentatively for the second week of June 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

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A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Hodson. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2015.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary
Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman
Lester Porter