

Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB)

Minutes

The Eureka County Wildlife Advisory Board (CAB) met in the Eureka County Administrative Facility (Annex) on April 25, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Evans, Trent Gordon, and Lester Porter

Others Present: Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager, Garrett, Biologist NV Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Tom Donham, Tom Donham- Eastern Region Supervising Game Biologist NDOW and Jessica Santoyo, CAB Secretary

Call to order

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. a quorum was determined to be present.

Public Comment

None.

Board Business

Approval of the agenda notice with addition of any emergency item and/or deletion of any item.

Lester Porter moved to approve the agenda as written. Trent Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Review and approval of minutes-

Chairman Evans moved to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting as written. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence and Member Reports- Review and discuss any or all items.

None.

Review and approve State Fiscal Year 2020 County Advisory Board Budget request due May 1 to NDOW.

Jessica Santoyo stated that their current balance on hand is \$6,122.49 due to no board members attending the NV Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC) meetings. The state requires that a full budget request be submitted to show that one board member will attend the meetings throughout the year regardless of the balance on hand. This year the budget request will be for \$4,934.72 which covers mileage, lodging, and per diems. The board will most likely not receive the requested funds due to their large balance on hand, they may receive a small portion of the requested budget.

Chairman Evans moved to approve the State Fiscal Year 2020 County Advisory Board Budget Request. Mr. Gordon seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Projects

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

Mr. Tibbitts stated that during their January meeting they discussed the Conservation District Grant that the Eureka Conservation District applied for, the grant is more of a maintenance project. The ECD was fully funded at \$25,000.00 and they will match the grant with \$25,000.00 for a \$50,000.00 total. The whole project is for hand crews to walk through the previous work

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sites/acres and cut the little trees that may have been missed the first time. The work has to be completed this summer into the fall.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Support Material

Action Item #6- Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Management Plan

Mr. Gordon moved to support Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Plan. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #7- Legislative Committee Report

No Recommendation.

Action Item #16A- Commission Regulation 19-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2019-2020 Season

Clint Garrett stated that in general the board will notice reductions to elk tags statewide due to trying to meet plan objectives. In the East, they had a substantial fawn loss over the winter and they will see that reflected in the numbers as well.

Discussion was had on the following: *#11 Elk-Antlered All Weapon Classes*

Mr. Gordon stated that Hunt Unit 108 B, 131, and 132 has gone from 50 tags to 65 tags and now back to 55. He would like to recommend that they keep it at 55 to promote an older age class of bulls in those units.

Mr. Porter stated that he reviewed the harvest report percentage and it looks really good. Is it possible to keep it at 55 forever and make into some kind of alternative hunt.

Mr. Evans stated that he can make that comment to the commission and provide the following support statement for that request: The reason for the request is to promote transition for an older age class of bulls in the units, reduce congestion of hunters in the area, and provide a better hunting experience.

Mr. Garrett stated that the guidelines are the majority of why NDOW regulates the tag quotas in the bull harvest. Currently, Area 13 is in the alternative hunt category which is between 35-45 bulls for two years in a row at 39%.

After brief discussion, the board agrees with all hunt units and quotas other than the following alternative recommendation for specific units. Alternative Recommendation: The board requests the Unit Group 108B, 131, and 132 be categorized as Alternative Hunt Management. This would in effect keep tag numbers for this Unit Group the same as last year. The reason for the request is to 1) promote transition for an older age class of bulls in the units, 2) reduce congestion of hunters in the area, and 3) provide a better hunting experience.

Discussion was had on the following: *#17 Mule Deer-Antlered All Weapon Classes*

Mr. Gordon stated on Area 14 Archery class be set to 200 tags instead of 225 and the reason for the request is to reduce congestion of hunters in the area and stabilize the quality of the hunt especially in agricultural lands specifically in Diamond Valley.

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Mr. Evans stated that his support comment to the commission will be as follows: the request is to help stabilize quality of hunting opportunities particularly on Agricultural Lands in Diamond Valley for Area 14 Archery Class.

After brief discussion, the board agrees with all hunt units and quotas other than the following alternative recommendation for specific units. Alternative Recommendation: The board requests that Unit 141-145 for archery class be set to 200 tags instead of 225 and the reason for the request is to reduce congestion of hunters in the area and stabilize the quality of the hunt especially in agricultural lands specifically in Diamond Valley.

Mr. Gordon moved to support Commission Regulation 19-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2019-2020 Season with alternative recommendations as written in the recommendations form. Mr. Porter seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Action Item #17- Silver State Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Trail Update

Chairman Evans stated that he sent over an email to all the board member that he received from Karen Boeger with the NV Backcountry Hunters and Anglers regarding the Silver State Trail (SST) Environmental Assessment. The email states the deadline for comments to be submitted on the SST EA as well as a request that this CAB write a letter to the ELY BLM on the issue. Mr. Evans stated that the White Pine Commission opposed the designation due to wildlife habitat and livestock concerns. The White Pine Commission' stance was and the commission' stance supported by the NV Wildlife Commission, the Cattlemen's Association, the Farm Bureau, and the NV Wildlife Coalition. Mr. Evans stated that his individual recommendation is no action, he is opposed to it and he doesn't want to see it happen.

Mr. Tibbitts stated that this board sent a letter on regarding their position on the SST through the Natural Resources office. **Please see letter below with the Eureka County CAB stance on the SST.* This same agenda item will be on the Eureka County Board of Commissioners for their comments and suggests. The CAB can also work with the BOCC to submit additional comments.

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EUREKA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PO Box 682
Eureka, NV 89316
(775) 237-6010

January 31, 2019

John Miller, Project Manager
BLM Ely District Office
702 North Industrial Way
Ely, NV 89301

Submitted via blm_nv_bfo_silverstatetrail_2018ea@blm.gov

RE: Proposed White Pine County Silver State Trail EA

Dear Mr. Miller:

It appears my office did not receive any formal notice of the scoping period for the proposed White Pine County Silver State Trail. Please ensure my office is on the distribution list for all activities within the BLM Bristlecone Field Office.

Please consider the following input as BLM moves forward with the White Pine County Silver State Trail EA (SST). The Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) met on January 17, 2019 and discussed the SST proposal. They expressed concerns regarding Alternative B and the potential impacts to resources, wildlife, and access adjacent to Eureka County, including the potential for encroachment into Eureka County by users of the SST. The CABMW does not want to see the current Alternative B carried forward.

There are specific issues tied to the SST EA that could impact the County resources and its people. We ask BLM to engage Eureka County in the EA process as a cooperating agency to ensure close coordination, especially if the current Alternative B is carried forward¹.

Please consider the Eureka County Master Plan, specifically the Natural Resources and State and Federal Land Use Element of the Plan, and Title 9 of the Eureka County Code as Eureka County's primary input in the Project. These outline policies, plans, guidance and controls for the use of lands and resources in or affecting Eureka County. Eureka County will not, and cannot, support any management option inconsistent with these. We expect BLM to fully comply with the intent of

¹ 43 CFR 46.225(e), the CEQ Memorandum on Cooperating Agency Reports (2006), and the BLM "Desk Guide to Cooperating Agency Relationships and Coordination with Intergovernmental Partners" (2012, p. 12) all affirm that cooperating agency relationships may be used for preparation of EAs.

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FLPMA and NEPA by properly coordinating with Eureka County in incorporating the land use plans, policies and controls of Eureka County into the EA and resolving any inconsistencies that arise.²

Thank you for taking into account our comments. We look forward to working with BLM on the White Pine County Silver State Trail EA.

Sincerely,



Jake Tibbitts, Natural Resources Manager
Eureka County Department of Natural Resources

² See 40 CFR 1502.16(c) and 1506.2(d) and the March 16, 1981 Memorandum for Federal NEPA Liaisons, Federal, State, and Local Official and Other Persons Involved in the NEPA Process, Questions 23b and 23c. Also, FLPMA coordination and consistency requirements are not limited to development of or amendments to Resource Management Plans. See *Uintah County v. Gale Norton*, Civil No. 2:00-cv-0482J and *State of Utah v. Babbitt*, 137 F. 3d at 1208

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Next Meeting

The board should get any other desired agenda items to the secretary for the next meeting. **The next meeting date is scheduled for June 13, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.**

Public Comment

Mr. Tibbitts wanted to let the board know that Ms. Santoyo is leaving from her position in the Natural Resources office. She is moving to another position in the courthouse. They will try to get someone in to fill her position as soon as possible to help with training.

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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Porter and seconded by Mr. Gordon. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2019.

Respectfully submitted: _____, Secretary

Jessica Santoyo

Approved: _____, Chairman

Jim Evans

DRAFT