

LANDER COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

March 16, 2015
Lander County Fire Hall
15 East Second Street
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6:30. Chairman Matheus led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- II. Members present were: Ed Taylor, Phil Gray, Scott Torgerson, James Matheus, and Jeremy Lutz. Ken Gray & Matt Jeffress were also present to make presentations.
- III. Scott Torgerson moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.
- IV. Scott Torgerson moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2015 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.
- V. CORRESPONDENCE
 - A. Chairman Matheus mentioned the correspondence received that is about a group of people wanting to make it unlawful to have coyote hunting contests in the future.
 - B. Chairman Matheus talked about SJR11 which is currently trying to make it a constitutional right to allow hunting/trapping/fishing in the state of Nevada a right. He will email everyone the information about this and encouraged everyone to call and support this issue.
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Discussion on the Antelope and Elk Waiting Periods. Chairman Matheus discussed that he emailed his possible proposal about changing the waiting period on antelope and elk. He received about 90% response from everyone that he emailed, 75 people were in favor of changing the waiting period on these two animals. He also gave us some figures on the number of elk hunters in the waiting period (7,180) and the number of antelope hunters in the waiting period (11,662). He stressed that changing the waiting periods could be used as part of the management plan. Chairman Matheus will have a new plan ready to present at the next meeting.
 - B. No other old business.
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Scott Torgerson made a motion to table Item #1 (Raven Permits) to the next meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

B. Discussion on Area 6 Elk Population

Ken Gray explained the basic sub plan situation. The current sub plans for Elk Management in Areas 6 and 7 were created by NDOW starting in 1995 and completed in 1995 which established the current numbers.

There are three factors that we must be in control of in order to have support for reopening the sub-plans so that the Ranchers do not fire back that we are not controlling the elk herds:

1. Control Elk Problems (we are meeting this obligation)
2. It is proven that elk are not having a negative impact on the range.
3. We need to be able to prove that we can control elk through hunting (we have improved, but not met this obligation).

Matt Jeffress explained the current status of Elk in the areas and the plan for eventually meeting that third factor. In 2003, we were at around 500 elk; however fires have burned more than 2 million acres which has increased the grass range and therefore has increased the survival rate, cow-calf ratio and caused quite an increase of elk in the areas.

The plan is to continue to raise the number of tags available to show that we can control the elk herd by hunting the next few years so that they can go back and ask for new numbers in sub-plans (hopefully within 5 years).

In the last meeting LCABMW made a motion to shorten the last hunting season on elk from January 31st to December 15th. Ken and Matt explained why they need that late January hunt so that they can show control of elk by hunting. We cannot afford to lose the harvest numbers during that time frame.

C. Update from Biologist Jeremy Lutz.

1. Reported that there are over 100 sheep in the Sheep Creek range.
2. The sheep survey was very positive.
3. They did reseed the Sheep Creek range, but due to lack of any weather he doubts if it will do any good.
4. The guzzler project is still in the hands of the BLM.

D. Future Agenda Items:

1. Raven Permits
2. Waiting Periods on Antelope & Elk.

E. Next meeting will be May 11 at 6:30 pm.

F. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.