

Lander County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

March 13, 2018
Lander County Fire Hall
15 East Second Street
Battle Mountain, NV 89820

DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Meeting was called to order at 5:33 by Chairman Scott Torgerson
- II. Members present were: Phil Gray, Shawn Mariluch, Worth Nelson & Scott Torgerson
- III. Shawn Mariluch motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and carried.
- IV. Shawn Mariluch motioned to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.
- V. Correspondence--
Secretary read a letter from the Coalition for NV Wildlife asking us to contact the commissions and state that we believe that the Safe Hunting Distances should be left to each counties decision. Mr. Tingle stated that he believed that Douglas County was where it originated to make a change in the "Safe Hunting Distances." Shawn Mariluch made a motion that our CAB should also be in support of allowing the individual counties to determine the "Safe Hunting Distances". The motion was seconded and carried.

Chairman Torgerson talked about the 9-page letter we received concerning a change in the military's use of land around Area 51. There was discussion about what all areas this affected. Mr. McElvain stated that from the publics' view you are at the mercy of the military and at Indian Springs you have to walk to the areas to hunt for the bighorn sheep so if they are increasing their acreage you will be walking a lot further. Phil moved to table action on Military use of land. This motion was seconded and carried.
- VI. Public Comment
Secretary Torgerson brought up that Mr. Lutz is welcoming us to go to his office for a more thorough discussion about the deer, antelope & elk herds. Mr. Dorham and Mr. Lutz stated that they would like a gentleman to also be there that has done his master's work on this issue. Mr. Lutz stated that if it is a larger crowd we could not meet at his office. We will hold a workshop at, hopefully, the courthouse meeting room on April 19th at 2 pm. Chairman Torgerson will be contacting Bert Ramos to find out about obtaining the use of that meeting room.
- VII. New Business
 1. Approval of letter to be read at NDOW Meeting
Copies were given of the letter drafted by Mr. Mariluch that is to be read at the Commissioners meeting at Laughlin, NV. Revisions were made. Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the edited letter. The motion was seconded and carried.
 2. Update from NDOW Biologist Jeremy Lutz
Mr. Lutz snowmobiled into the Toiyabes to see how the planted turkeys were doing after the snowfall we recently had. All 12 collared birds were alive and good. They had released 82. Jeremy feels they are legit mountain birds and are going to make it. Mr.

Lutz stated that they plan to release valley quail this fall; possibly throw another 50 turkeys in there.

Mr. Torgerson asked about hearing a story of 5 Elk being killed at Callahan. Mr. Lutz & Mr. Tingle are unaware of this. Mr. Torgerson also asked about the sheep how they are doing after the fire in that area and Mr. Lutz said by all indications they made it through. They saw 15 lambs which is great & 115 sheep.

Mr. Mariluch asked about the die-off of Elk in area 6; and Mr. Dorham stated that it is probably not as bad as you've heard but it is continuing. He continued to tell us that they are getting reports of dead bulls out around Tuscarora 051 & southeastern Oregon was also seeing something similar. So they collared a bunch of does & it is hard to get a useable sample within the 12 hour period. So now they have a better monitoring system which will hopefully enable them to get better samples to find out what the problem is. He thinks it looks just like it is Larkspur. They are spending a lot of money to try to find out the problem.

Mr. Nelson asked if the deer and Elk herds are at, above, or below population. Mr. Dorham stated that the Elk are at the population objective in Big Area 6; the deer in Area 6 is about where they want them which is 10,000; and that the summer range there is the best in the state. He also stated that deer still stay on their winter range even if it is bad. Elk & antelope will move to better areas.

3. Discussion and possible action on Wildlife Commission Issues
Chairman Torgerson will read the letter at the meeting this weekend in Laughlin.
4. Discussion and possible recommendation for future agenda items
Add to the usual items the steps to take to pursue the matter of youth antelope hunt and also splitting Area 15.

VIII. Workshop Date is Thursday, April 19th at 2 pm.
Our next meeting will be April 30th at 5:30 pm at the Firehall.

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.