

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## MINUTES

**Thursday ~ May 2, 2013 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Regional Emergency Operations Center**  
**Conference Room**  
**5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada**

## MEMBERS

Rex Flowers, Chair  
Daryl Harwell, Vice-chair  
Michelle Spencer, Secretary  
John Reed  
Sean Shea

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]

Member Shea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Rex Flowers, Daryl Harwell, John Reed, Sean Shea and Michelle Spencer.

**ABSENT:** None.

### **3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

Bob Brunner - Coalition for Nevada Wildlife, asked that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife ask the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to ensure that sportsmen and the County CABs (County Advisory Board) receive information on the Sage Grouse Ecosystem program. Additionally, Mr. Brunner suggests that the funds expended on the program are considered a loan and repaid over the next several years. While the Coalition for Nevada Wildlife wishes to be supportive of the Governor's Program, it is critical that the loan be repaid.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 28, 2013, MINUTES** (For possible action)

Hearing no public comment on the meeting minutes Chair Flowers asked for a motion.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Shea, to approve the March 28, 2013, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.***

### **5. BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT** (Non-action item) – *A discussion and selection of member(s) to attend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings on: 1) May 10 and 11, meetings in Reno, Nevada; and 2). June 21 and 22, meetings in Ely, Nevada.*

Member Spencer commented that she is unable to attend the May 11, 2013, meeting.

Member Reed will attend the May 10 and 11, 2013, meeting in Reno.

Chair Flowers will attend the June 21 and 22, 2013, meetings in Ely, Nevada.

### **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** (Non-action items)

**6-2). Overview of the April 5, 2013, telephonic meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners** [taken out of agenda order] – Chair Flowers commented that he had not been able to attend the meeting.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 2 of 18

**6-1). Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Chair Flowers noted that Governor Sandoval had appointed Tony Wasley as the Director and that public approval of hunting was at the highest level since 1995. Chair Flowers commented that the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan was now available on-line at <http://www.fws.gov/sheldonthartmtn/sheldon/>. Chair Flowers noted that he had submitted the 2013-2014 budget.

Member Shea noted that he had contacted NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Game Warden about the non-resident hound permit who had indicated that someone else may have to bring forth the permit concept.

**7. UPDATE ON WASHOE LAKE MITIGATION WETLANDS** (Non-action item) – *An informational update on recent discussions between the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Nevada State Parks (NSP) and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) intended to improve the quantity, quality and sustainability of the mitigation wetlands at the south end of Washoe Lake.*

Chair Flowers noted that Elmer Bull could not be present at tonight's (May 2, 2013) meeting and had indicated that the surface water pump at Washoe Lake had been repaired and was operational. However, the continuing drought makes it unlikely that the pump will remain operational for an extended period of time and that the other well is not very productive. Mr. Bull will be leaving NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) on Friday, May 3, 2013, as he has accepted a position with another agency.

**8. RUBY PIPELINE MITIGATION PROJECT PROPOSALS** (Non-action item) – *An informational update on potential Ruby Pipeline Mitigation Project proposals.*

Chair Flowers noted that Mark Freese was not able to attend tonight's (May 2, 2013) meeting and had sent a list of approved projects (copy on file). Additionally, the following proposals are being reviewed; USGS (United States Geological Survey) Sage-Grouse mapping/modeling; Wildlife suppression equipment (e.g. bull dozer) purchase; Hubbard Vineyard Allotment fencing; and a revegetation research proposal for the rehabilitation of cheat grass inundated areas.

**9. 2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE AND COMMISSION BILL POSITIONS** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify legislative proposals being tracked by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).*

Chair Flowers commented that nearly all pending legislation had been through one branch of the legislation and opened public comment.

Bob Brunner drew attention to AB461 noting that the amendment would support mining and ranching with the Sage-grouse Management plan at the expense of sportsmen. Mr. Brunner believes the legislation should be modified to require reimbursement of expended funds from those benefiting from

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 3 of 18

the program. Additionally, as stated earlier Mr. Bruner would like to have Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners provide periodic updates on the Sage-grouse research.

Member Reed noted that AB213, which deals with trapping had again been modified and that while the board can provide input he believes that it may be too late.

Member Harwell expressed his opposition to SB132 and questioned what the cost would be and who would absorb the cost and maintenance of the database.

Chair Flowers commented that AB213 had not been moved forward as it had missed the deadline.

No specific action was taken.

- 10. PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FY (Fiscal Year) 2014** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the Draft 2014 Predator Management Plan.*

Chair Flowers opened the agenda item and explained that he had added this to the meeting agenda to provide an opportunity for this body to provide input on the Predator Management Plan. The Predator Management Plan and project proposals will be discussed at the June 13, 2013, meeting.

## **Project 21 Greater Sage-Grouse Protection (Statewide)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Don Molde drew attention to Condition D of NDOW's (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Raven Killing Permit from USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service) which requires non-lethal efforts to control Raven depredation before and during lethal control. Mr. Molde explained that he would like to see some documentation on the costs associated with both lethal and non-lethal practices.

Gerald Lent commented he does not believe the state has sufficient personnel to remove all road-kill along roadways in the state and that this program does not appear to be successful and should be terminated.

Hearing no further comment Chair Flowers closed the public hearing and asked for board discussion or a motion.

During a brief discussion it was noted that there is some concern about the extension of the project through 2015.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 21, as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.***

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 4 of 18

## **Project 22 – Mule Deer and Other Big Game Protection (Statewide)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Gerald Lent noted that the conclusion in the report indicated that this had been unsuccessful without any significant long term benefit.

Chair Flowers noted that this particular project used a targeted approach in specific areas to assist herds with below sustainment recruitment levels.

Don Molde concurred with Mr. Lent's comments noting that the total expenditure for this project is approaching \$700,000.00 to kill Coyotes and Mountain Lions since the project's inception. Mr. Molde stated that there is not a need for this type of project in his opinion.

Chair Flowers suggested that action on this particular project be delayed as he believes that Projects 33 and 34 can secure funding from other sources such as the upland Game Bird Stamp thus allowing a reallocation of additional funds to Project 22.

Members Harwell, Reed, Shea, Spencer and Chair Flowers expressed support for the project.

Chair Flowers stated he would table this particular project and reopen public comment later in the meeting.

## **Project 25 – Coyote Mule Deer Predator/Prey Analysis (Areas 16 and 17)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Gerald Lent commented that, in his opinion this was a "boondoggle" from the start recalling that a previous NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Director had reallocated federal matching funds for other uses. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners has initially approved the project with a 3:1 match requirement for one year. Mr. Lent questioned how much of the money expended had been used for helicopter time and use of the net gun, which he believes to be substantial.

Jack Robb recalled that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners had spent a significant amount of time in discussion on this particular proposal. Mr. Robb noted that there had been a significant investment in collars and that he would prefer to continue the project so that some results can be achieved.

Don Molde explained that, in his opinion, this was money that was "poorly spent" recalling an earlier project that had cost ±\$400,000.00. An example of money that had been poorly spent that might not have been spent if this had been done earlier. The project had resulted in a tripling of juvenile Coyotes with no benefit to the Mule Deer populations.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 5 of 18

Bob Brunner expressed his support for the project and questions the use of a helicopter.

Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for discussion or a motion.

Member Reed expressed his opposition to the proposal.

Member Harwell drew attention to the proposed length of the project and expressed his belief that perhaps a long term agreement had been entered into and should be honored, in his opinion.

Member Shea commented that while he typically supports research projects he cannot support this proposal given the amount of money and lack of results.

Chair Flowers noted that those responsible for the reallocation of matching funds were no longer part of the process and that the focus is on whether this is good or bad research that should continue to receive funding.

Larry Gilbertson - NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), provided a brief overview of the project noting that the project was designed and initiated by a previous staff specialist in charge of the Predator program. The premise was to target Unit Area 16 as data at the time indicated that the Mule Deer herd was not performing as anticipated. The study was designed to research the diet of Coyotes and their effect on the herd populations. The study was intended to run for five (5) years to collect scat and analyze the diet. A Master's student was brought in to conduct the study and had moved his family from the State of Hawaii to conduct the study. The hope was that funding would continue beyond the first year. However, a former director diverted federal matching funds to other projects. Mr. Gilbertson then noted that some targeted killing of Coyotes had also been conducted to ascertain what if any effect the harvest would have on fawn recruitment. Although studies in other parts of the nation indicated higher Coyote cub births due to predator management practices, a similar study had not been conducted in the State of Nevada. Mr. Gilbertson explained that he would have to research the helicopter use and that he will convey to the Committee as well as this body along with other pertinent data collected thus far. It is hoped that the Predator Management Plan process will be conducted earlier in the year in the future.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 25, as presented. The motion carried: Members Harwell, Shea, Spencer and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Reed dissenting.***

## **Project 29 Road Kill Removal for Greater Sage-Grouse (Statewide)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Gerald Lent commented that he believes this to be a politically based project to please Governor Brian Sandoval. It is Mr. Lent's belief that there is insufficient funding and personnel resources to clean road kill along the State's (Nevada) highways, roads and landfills on a daily basis.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 6 of 18

Don Molde explained that he believes this is intended to complement U. S. Fish and Wildlife and is a good faith effort to comply with the permit's conditions.

During the discussion it was explained that NDOT only collects larger animals killed along the state's highways. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that while there is some concern about the length of the project, the annual review process should provide an opportunity to terminate the project if unsuccessful or no longer economically feasible. Other discussion suggested that perhaps this would be the best time to scale back the project's scope before expending so much money that it needs to be continued to gather desired data. Discussion then pointed out that NDOW does hire students for summer project who have expressed an interest in wildlife issues. Additionally, it is thought that it may be beneficial to target predator removal along high grade dirt roads located in or adjacent to Sage-Grouse habitat. It was noted that many mines in the State of Nevada are willing to work with NDOW on wildlife related issues. Discussion then turned to the request funding and the number of agencies involved with the project proposal including, NDOT, NDOW, UNR (University of Nevada, Reno), Nevada Waterfowl and Wildlife Services.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Chair Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 29, as presented.***

It was suggested during the discussion of the motion that the length of the project be reduced with a review in 2018 to determine whether the project should continue.

***Member Reed amended the motion to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners change the end date of Project 29 from 2022 to 2017 to provide an opportunity to review data and determine whether or not the Project 29 should be extended through 2022 or terminated based on the data received. Chair Flowers amended the second. The motion carried: Members Reed, Shea, Spencer and Chair Flowers assenting; and Member Harwell dissenting.***

## **Project 30 Landfill/Animal Pit Management Sage-Grouse (Statewide)**

Hearing no public comment Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

During a brief discussion it was noted that this proposal is very similar to project 29 and that similar restrictions should be placed on it to limit the timeline thus allowing a review of data collected. As the discussion continued, it was noted that Waste Management and other landfill operations in the State of Nevada were regulated within NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) and any additional expenses incurred by the land fill operators would most likely be passed on to users and the general public in the form of higher rates. Therefore, it may be prudent to ascertain whether this type of project is beneficial before seeking any changes in existing regulations and/or rate structures. Other discussion suggested that sportsmen and others need to be more aware of leaving dead rodents and the like, which Ravens tend to seek out to avoid additional damage to Sage-Grouse nesting areas.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 7 of 18

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve project 30 Landfill/Animal Pit Management for Sage-Grouse (statewide) and that the project end in 2017 subject to a review of the data collected to ascertain whether the project should be terminated or continue through the original 2022 completion date. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 31 Cougar – Mule Deer – Big Horn Analysis (Statewide)**

Chair Flowers opened public comments.

Don Molde drew attention to the proposed cost of this project of \$100,000.00 noting that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) had, a few years back, spent \$50,000.00 to kill a single Mountain Lion in the Delamar Range. Mr. Molde commented that he had heard a presentation by Ms. Andresen at a regional meeting regarding her lion work and was impressed with what she had presented. Mr. Molde believes this to be a worthwhile project.

Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

During the discussion it was explained that Mountain Lions have a life expectancy of about 8 to 10 years based on an analysis of data gathered from previous harvests. It was noted that collars are removed from a dead animal and attached to another one to continue monitoring.

***A motion by Member Shea to approve Project 31 Cougar – Mule Deer – Big Horn Analysis, died due to lack of a second.***

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 31 through Fiscal year 2018. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 32 Cougar – Mule Deer – Black Bear Analysis (Areas 20 and 29)**

Hearing no one wishing to speak Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

During a brief discussion it was explained that Area 19 could be recommended for addition to the project proposal.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 32 as presented with the addition of Area 19 as part of the study area. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 33 Sage-Grouse Nesting Habitat (Pinon Juniper) (Area 20)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 8 of 18

Don Molde expressed his support for habitat projects and explained that he found it enlightening to read some of the studies, including one in 2010 by Dr. Coats which noted that Ravens are very visual hunters. Another study by Dr. Klebenow which indicated that while the nesting success is higher with suitable habitat and nest coverage that chicks unfortunately do not make it to adulthood. Therefore, the killing of Ravens without habitat improvement does not work in his opinion.

Chair Flowers closed public comments.

Chair Flowers explained that this is one of two (2) projects he would recommend that \$25,000.00 of the \$50,000.00 request coming from the Upland Game Stamp fund, which has a balance of ±\$200,000.00

***It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 33 with \$25,000.00 of the \$50,000.00 coming from the Upland Game Stamp rather than the Predator Control fund. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 34 Safe-Grouse Brood Habitat (Stringer Meadows) (Area 14)**

Hearing no public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 34 with \$25,000.00 of the \$50,000.00 coming from the Upland Game Stamp rather than the Predator Control fund. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 22 Mule Deer and Other Big Game Protection (Statewide) [reopened]**

Chair Flowers suggested that the \$25,000.00 reduction of Project 33 and Project 34 (total \$50,000.00) be allotted to Project 22 and opened public comment.

Don Molde commented that he believes this to be a waste of money.

Hearing no further public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Project 22 and reallocate a total of \$50,000.00, \$25,000.00 from Project 33 and \$25,000.00 from Project 34 for a total budget of \$140,000.00, if needed. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 6 Desert Bighorn Protection (Unit 241)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 9 of 18

Don Molde commented that this project, in his opinion, had been a loser since its inception and therefore supports cancellation.

Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners cancel Project 6. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Project 18 Mule Deer Protection (Unit 014)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Don Molde noted that the total expense of the project was nearing \$700,000.00 without any benefit.

Gerald Lent drew attention to a magazine article that indicates that the assessment that this was not a successful project was incorrect. Mr. Lent pointed out that deer herds in the Granites, Unit 014, is up by 76.5 percent since 2004 and the state overall deer herd is down 3-percent. In 2004 a total of only 44 total deer tags issued compared to the current recommendation of 196 tags, with 48 Junior tags which are more Junior tags than the total number of tags issued in 2004. An extra 152 hunters now get to hunt this unit. Therefore, the board should recommend that this project be continued for one more year and maybe the deer herd might double.

Chair Flowers closed public comments.

Member Shea stated he supported the cancellation of the project as he believes it has been a waste.

Member Reed noted his concern about the veracity of the numbers heard during public comment.

Member Spencer commented that the figures noted during public comment were accurate and that cancellation of the project would result in the loss of tourism money.

Member Reed noted that over the past 7-years herd populations had been "flat", and that perhaps the numbers were only flat because of the predator control. If the effort hadn't been in effect, the numbers might have shown a decline, given the drought, rather than being "flat."

Mike Dobel - NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that NDOW had provided data to UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) and pointed out that there had been herd populations in Washoe County and other areas as well and is not specific to the Granites.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, concurred with Mr. Dobel noting that there had been population increases in Pershing County and other areas of the state. Mr. Hampson pointed out that there are a multitude of factors that affect herd populations including rainfall, wildlife and sever winter conditions. Mr. Hampson noted that increases in herd population in Unit 014 had not been seen in Units 011, 012,

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 10 of 18

013 and 014. Typically, severe winters have the greatest impact on Mule Deer as it affects winter habitat. Mr. Hampson noted that there is no scientific evidence to back-up any claim that the population increase resulted from predator control. Improvements in fawn ratios are also tracked and there has been no measurable increase with predator control. Mr. Hampson noted that a project that collared 24 Mule Deer had been hampered and ended and that the best data generally comes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years of a study. Mr. Hampson noted that the harvest of up to six predators had come from Unit 015 as well as Unit 014. The majority of the predators were identified in an area near domestic sheep. Mr. Hampson pointed out the Unit 015 has a domestic sheep allotment. Mr. Hampson concurred that Project 22 could include a targeted response in Unit 014.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Flowers, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners cancel Project 18.***

During a brief discussion it was explained that the increase in tags from 40 to more than 100 had been in response to very conservative allocations by previous County Advisory Boards about 10-years ago.

***The motion failed: Member Shea and Chair Flowers assenting' and Members Harwell, Reed and Spencer dissenting.***

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners extend Project 18 one (1) more year. The motion carried: Members Harwell, Reed and Spencer assenting; and Member Shea and Chair Flowers dissenting.***

## **Project 20 California Bighorn Protection (Unit 022)**

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Don Molde drew attention to the expenditure of \$35,000.00 that resulted in the killing of 13 animals at an average cost of \$3,700.00 each.

Gerald Lent drew attention to page 29 and pointed out that the discussion did not speak to the ratio of ewes to lambs as is done with deer populations in the Granites. Mr. Lent recalled a large die-off of deer in Buffalo Meadows and explained that he believes this discussion should also include a discussion about total populations.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

During the discussion it was noted that there were only occasional reports once Bighorn Sheep were introduced in the Virginia Range. It was noted that sheep counts had been somewhat low in 021 and 022 with about 12 to 15 animals in the Petersen's based on NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) and public observations. Other discussion noted that a collared ewe had migrated to Cold Springs

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 11 of 18

and was relocated to the original unit. However, the ewe again migrated into the Cold Springs area. Other discussion noted that Project 22 can also target needs in Unit 022 as needed.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by member Reed, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners cancel Project 20. The motion carried unanimously.***

The meeting recessed at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:27 p.m. Member Harwell absent.

Hearing no one opposed to reordering the agenda, Chair Flowers announced that agenda item 14 would be heard next.

Member Harwell rejoined the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

- 14. COMMISSION REGULATION 13–09, 2013 Big Game Quotas for the 2013-2014 Seasons**  
[For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and black bears for the 2013-2014 seasons.

## **Black Bear Hunts and Objectives 6151, 6251**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), commented that there were no changes to the recommendations. Mr. Dobel recalled the original intent to make no change for three years to gather data and then reevaluate the hunt.

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Catherine Smith drew attention to several studies that demonstrate that a three year study is meaningless in a hunt of this size.

Mr. Dobel noted that the population had been generated and corresponded to the quota that is conservative. It is Mr. Dobel's belief that the hunt will not impact the population even if the population is only half of what it is thought to be.

Responding to Don Molde's inquiry about whether there was a change in the number of females, Chair Flowers stated that there was no change in the number of females that could be harvested.

Mr. Molde noted that it appears sensible to make no changes to the hunt quotas for the third year.

Char Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 6151, 6251 and Black Bear Objectives for Hunts 6151 and 6251 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 12 of 18

## **Antelope – Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261**

Mike Dobel NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that a total of 3,700 tags were being proposed. A survey of the population indicates a 36/100 buck to doe ratio with a somewhat lower recruitment of fawns statewide. Mr. Dobel noted that the number of tags for Hunt 2171 was somewhat lower due to the lower than expected demand.

Chris Hampson - NDOW, noted that the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) had closed Unit 015 during the season previous and that the increased number of tags was a catch-up from the previous year.

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Gerald Lent questioned whether NDOW still used the demand/success ratio and rules for the various weapons classes.

Mr. Dobel explained that NDOW used population estimates as part of the demand/success process using hunter success which is then broken out by user group and demand.

Mr. Dobel explained that the muzzle loader season had been reduced due to low hunter demand for that weapons class.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Antelope Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **ELK – Hunts 4102, 4151, 41564161, 4181, 4107, 4176, 4111, 4251, 4256, 4261 and 4281**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), read from the summary report (copy on file) and outlined the harvest results and bull, calf to female ration of 37/44/100. It is expected the Elk populations will continue to increase which will require additional tags to meet Elk Management Plans objectives. Currently there are some Elk in the Santa Rosas as well as Churchill County. It is expected that a management plan will be needed in the Western Region in possibly the next three years. Mr. Dobel explained that Elk and Mule Deer were treated differently as Elk in all areas are covered by Elk Management Plans, which require that Elk populations be maintained as defined by the plan's cap.

Hearing no public comment Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 13 of 18

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Elk Hunts 4102, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4181, 4107, 4176, 4111, 4251, 4256, 4261 and 4281 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **NELSON BIG HORN SHEEP Hunts 3151 and 3251**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the increase in the number of tags since the previous year noting that 86-percent hunter success rate and average score of 154. The fall (2012) survey indicated some  $\pm 4,000$  sheep with a lamb ratio of 29, which is somewhat lower than expected. Mr. Dobel explained that sheep had not been taken from the Jefferson for three or more years.

Hearing no one wishing to comment, Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Hunts 3151 and 3251 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **California Bighorn Sheep – Hunts 8151 and 8251**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), outlined the ratio of rams, lambs and ewes (46/42/100) and the continued increase in populations. Mr. Dobel commented that the average age of sheep in the Pine Forest is young and productive. It is expected that this area will be used to trap and transplant to other locations in the future.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted that there had been some concern about coughing in Unit 012 resulting in a conservative tag allocation given the potential for disease. Typically 8-percent of rams is used in determining the quota for Bighorn Sheep. Mr. Hampson noted that the area west of Fox has a sheep grazing allotment. Mr. Hampson noted that a number of Bighorn sheep had been released on the Master Rim with most of the animal staying on the Oregon side of the state line. The intent is to construct a guzzler on the Nevada side in hopes of keeping more of the sheep in the State of Nevada. Although there is a significant amount of private land that does not provide public access the land owner is supportive of introduction Bighorn Sheep from Coleman to the Granites if the objective can be met.

Hearing no one wishing to speak Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve California Bighorn Sheep Hunts 8151 and 8251 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Hunt 9151 and Mountain Goat – Hunt 7151**

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 14 of 18

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), provided an overview of the hunter success rate, ratio of rams, lambs to 100 ewes (59/4/100). Mr. Dobel noted that the domestic sheep in the surrounding area dating back to the 1980's has affected recruitment in addition to some disease that has caused a decline in population and low recruitment rate. The proposed quota, which does increase the number of tags by eight (8) is on the conservative side, in his opinion. Mr. Dobel noted that he had discussed recent die-offs with the veterinarian, which indicates that there is some organism that inhibits reproduction. It is important that those having the disease be removed from the population to reduce future infections.

Hearing no public comment Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Shea, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Hunts 9151 and Mountain Goat 7151, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Mule Deer Resident Junior Hunt 1107**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), summarized the statewide summary (copy on file) which will increase the number of tags for this particular hunt by 50-percent. Mr. Dobel explained that the success rate was up from 39-percent in 2011 to 42-percent in 2012. The buck, ratio to 100 does is 32/100. The spring survey conducted in March/April 2013 indicates 3,345 deer with a fawn to doe ratio of 31/100 does. Overall estimates show a slight decline of about 3-percent. Mr. Dobel explained that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) typically generates tag number for the junior hunt based on the number of applications.

Hearing no public comment Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion or a motion.

Chair Flowers commented that while the additional Junior Hunt tags in Washoe County are a blessing for him he is concerned about the reduction in other hunts.

During the discussion it was noted that the tag allocations are based on the statewide demand and that most hunters put more effort in getting their child a tag. As the discussion continued it was explained that unsold Junior Hunt tags are not reallocated to adult hunts.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Mule Deer Resident Junior Hunt 1107 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Mule Deer – Hunts 1101 and 1181**

Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that a study of collared animals indicated that nearly 80-percent of fawns are metabolizing bone marrow, which indicates starvation.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 15 of 18

The intent of the quotas in certain areas is to reduce those populations. Mr. Dobel noted that most individuals seeking an antlerless hunt will utilize areas with the easiest access. Mr. Dobel noted that fawn to doe ratio Unit 15 in certain units and are among the lowest recruitment ratios in the State

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted that Unit 155 had lost a significant portion of the habitat to wildfire.

Hearing no public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Mule Deer Hunts 1101 and 1181, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **MULE DEER – Hunts 1331, 1371, 1341, 1331, 1371 and 1341**

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that the harvest objective had been overshot in 2012 with a hunter success rate that was more successful than original anticipated.

Mike Dobel – NDOW, explained that a concerted effort had been made to reduce the buck to doe ratio to 30 per 100. The November (2012) survey indicated a ratio of 40:100.

Mr. Hampson noted that the slight decrease in the number of bucks per doe and increase in the Junior Hunt quota reduced the number of rifle tags in Units 011 and 013.

Hearing no public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Harwell, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Mule Deer Hunts 1331, 1371, 1341, 1331, 1371 and 1341, as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Landowner Compensation tags Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215**

Hearing no public comment, Chair Flowers asked for board discussion or a motion.

***It was moved by Member Harwell, seconded by Member Reed, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Landowner Compensations tags Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215 as written. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 11. POLICY 25 REVISION** [For possible action] – A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify a revision to Policy 25. [Taken out of agenda order]

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 16 of 18

Jack Robb explained that this was coming to Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners as an informational item as there is some pending legislation that may still be reopened and passed. Mr. Robb noted that there may be adjustment to this that will be covered in future meetings.

Larry Gilbertson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), provided an overview of the older Policy 25, which had been passed before the \$3.00 Predator Fee had been adopted. Mr. Gilbertson there are several organization errors in the document and that Project 22 allows NDOW to address the issue in this Policy rather than the Predator Policy.

Chair Flowers opened public comments.

Don Molde commented that the rewrite of Policy 25, in his opinion, is long overdue and shared Mr. Robb's belief that the legislature may have some input in defining how predator project parameters are developed. Mr. Molde noted that NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) 502.253 does not specifically state that wildlife must be managed using the best scientific data.

Chair Flowers commented that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Chair McBeath had indicated a desire to have input from all of the County Advisory Boards.

Mr. Molde noted that he would be present at the Predator Management Committee meeting next week and commended NDOW for their work on the policy.

Mr. Robb recalled that NDOW staff had been asked to review Policy 25 in the midst of a change in Directors, legislative session as well as the season and quota setting.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

During the discussion it was noted that the change also include a renaming of the Committee from Wildlife Damage to Predator Management. Other discussion noted that it may be premature to make any formal comment on the policy at this time.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Harwell, to continue Policy 25 until the June 13, 2013, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.***

13. **WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAG VENDORS FOR 2014** (For Possible Action) – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify the Heritage Committee vendor recommendations for the 2014 tags. [taken out of agenda order]*

Chair Flowers opened public comment.

Jack Robb commented that one organization Northern Nevada Safari Club International had not submitted their application as required and that he would appreciate support for the late acceptance of their application if the Nevada Attorney General's Office approved. It is Mr. Robb's belief that it is

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 17 of 18

in the best interests of NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to provide Heritage Tags to those vendors who can get the most. Mr. Robb noted that this was not the first time that such a situation had occurred. Typically, such oversights occur in the midst of board changes and/or management.

Hearing no further public comment, Chair Flowers closed public comment and asked for board discussion.

During the discussion it was noted that NNSCI had received an Elk and two turkey tags and that the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) may award tags to another organization should the chosen organization say no. Other discussion noted that there were two (2) each: Mule Deer; Elk Pronghorn and three (3) Turkey tags. As the discussion continued it was pointed out that the non-profit awarded the tags did not retain any of the money for the auctioned tag.

***It was moved by Member Reed, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners allow Northern Nevada Safari Club International to participate as a Heritage Tag vendor pending approval by legal counsel. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mike Cassidy commented that he believes the NNSCI would seek an Elk tag and that he just recently learned the NNSCI had not submitted their application for the Heritage Tag.

Chair Flowers closed public comment.

There was minor discussion about past vendors and tag sale totals. As the discussion continued, it was noted that Nevada Water Fowl had requested an Antelope, Mule Deer and Turkey tag; California Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation California Bighorn Sheep, Nelson Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer or Elk; Mid-west Chapter Wild Sheep Foundation – Nelson Bighorn Sheep California Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer or Elk; Rocky Mountain Elk – two Elk; Mule Deer Foundation – Mule Deer, Sheep, Elk and Antelope; WHIN (Wildlife and Habitat Improvement Nevada) - and Antelope, WHIN (Wildlife Habitat in Nevada), Mule Deer and Antelope; Pershing County Chukars Unlimited – one Pronghorn Antelope; NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) – Mule Deer, Elk, California Desert Bighorn and Pronghorn Antelope. Other discussion suggested that, if authorized by Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners legal counsel that North Nevada Safari Club be included in the list of potential vendors.

***It was moved by Chair Flowers, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Heritage Tag vendors as follows: 1) Mule Deer - one (1) tag each to Mule Deer Foundation and Wildlife and Habitat Improvement Nevada; 2) Antelope – one (1) tag each to Nevada Water Fowl and Pershing County Chukar; 3) Rocky Mountain Elk – one (1) tag each Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Safari Club International Northern Nevada Chapter if approved by legal counsel. In the event that the Safari Club International Northern Nevada cannot participate then one (1) Rocky Mountain Elk tag to the Mid-west Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation; 4) Rocky Mountain Sheep – one tag each to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited and the Wild Sheep Foundation; 5) California Bighorn Sheep one (1) tag to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited; 6) Turkey tag one (1) tag to Pershing County Chukar***

# *Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife*

Minutes

May 2, 2013

Page 18 of 18

***and two (2) tags to Safari Club International Northern Nevada if approved (no alternate was identified). The motion carried unanimously.***

- 12. FISCAL YEAR 2014 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS** (For possible action) – *A review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve, deny or otherwise modify 2013 Project Application recommendations from the Heritage Committee. [Taken out of agenda order]*

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Member Reed, to continue Fiscal Year 2014 Heritage Project Proposal until the June 13, 2013, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.***

- 15. WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE MEMBERS AND/OR STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS, REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION AND SELECTION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** [Non-action item] – *Selection of additional agenda item(s) for the Thursday, June 13, 2013, meeting. NOTE: This meeting is scheduled to be held at the Regional Emergency Operations Center on Spectrum Boulevard.*

The June 13, 2013, meeting agenda may include, but is not limited to those items continued at the May 2, 2013, meeting: and the August, 2013 meeting an update on the permitting process for wind turbines and solar arrays in the State of Nevada.

- 16. PUBLIC COMMENTS** [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

- 17. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Flowers adjourned the meeting at 10:36 p.m.

**AS APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON JUNE 13, 2013.**