

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

MINUTES

Thursday ~ May 1, 2014 ~ 6:00 p.m.
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Conference Room B
1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada

MEMBERS

Sean Shea, Chair
Miles Humphreys, Jr., Vice-chair
Michelle Spencer, Secretary
Rex Flowers
Vacant

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE [Non-action item]

Vice-chair Shea led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Vice-chair Shea called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

PRESENT: Rex Flowers, Miles Humphries, Jr. and Sean Shea.

ABSENT: Michelle Spencer.

VACANT: One.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

There were no public comments.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: 1) Chair; and 2 Vice-chair

Vice-chair Shea opened nominations for Chair.

Member Flowers nominated Sean Shea as Chair. Member Humphreys, Jr. seconded the nomination.

Vice-chair Shea accepted the nomination.

Hearing no public comments Vice-chair Shea asked for a motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to close nominations and elect Sean Shea as Chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Vice-chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Chair Shea nominated Miles Humphreys, Jr. as Vice-chair. Member Flowers seconded the nomination.

Member Humphreys, Jr., accepted the nomination.

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for a motion.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to close nominations and elect Miles Humphreys, Jr., as Vice-chair of the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

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The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

5. APPROVAL OF MARCH 13, 2014, MINUTES (For possible action)

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

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to approve the March 13, 2014, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Vice-chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

6. 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 9 and 10, 2014, meetings in Reno, Nevada; and 2). June 20 and 21, 2014, meetings in Tonopah, Nevada.*

Chair Shea and Member Flowers will attend the May 9 and 10, 2014, meetings in Reno, Nevada.

Member Flowers will attend the June 20 and 21, 2014, meetings in Tonopah, Nevada.

7. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES (Non-action items)

7-1. Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements – Chair Shea noted that information on the Duck Stamp Vendor had been received too late for this agenda and that the Nevada Waterfowl Association was the sole sponsorship applicant.

Member Flowers noted that each Board Member had received an email from Matthew Goodnight on agenda item 17 and that a letter of resignation had been received from former Chair John Reed (copies on file).

7-2. Overview of the January 31 and February 1, 2014 [should have read March 21 and 22, 2014], meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Member Flowers pointed out that this agenda item was about the March 21 and 22, 2014, meetings and that Policy 50 is on tonight's (May 1, 2014) agenda for the second reading. Additionally, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approved a season for Shed Antler collection as well as discussion about the Predator Plan that is also on tonight's agenda.

8. INFORMATIONAL UPDATE ON WASHOE LAKE AND SCRIPPS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA [Non-action item] – *An informational update on issues at Washoe Lake and the Scripps Wildlife Management Area.*

Alan Jenne – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) Habitat Division Chief, provided an overview of the ongoing issues at Washoe Lake and the Scripps Wildlife Management Area. An attempt was made by Mr. Jenne to answer the board's past request for information regarding the reduction of open water at the NDOT mitigation wetlands. Mr. Jenne explained that the reduction in wetlands is due in part to the continued drought reducing Washoe lake levels beyond pumping levels and a failing underground well pump. Mr. Jenne noted that the primary well that maintains the wetland water

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levels is experiencing mechanical failure and needs to be replaced. While NDOT is in the process of evaluating the possible well remedies but due to the low lake levels have no contingency options.

Mr. Jenne stated that the recent arrival of feral horses on Scripps WMA remains an issue. The horses gained access to the State Park and WMA after the loss of a right-of-way fence to a wildfire. Mr. Jenne outlined the ongoing discussions with other agencies including NDOT, Nevada State Parks and Nevada's Agriculture Department to try and resolve the issue. Mr. Jenne noted that unless a public safety hazard is identified the Agriculture Department has higher priority concerns. Mr. Jenne pointed out the major public safety hazard that could be created should a section of the 395 freeway right-of-way fencing be comprised enough to allow the horses access to the freeway corridor. Mr. Jenne noted that there is no opportunity to fence the boundary between the state parks located to the north and south due to water channels. Discussions are underway with Washoe County who holds the right-of-way as well as State Parks and NDOT to identify resources that can be used to resolve the issues.

Additionally, during the discussion it was noted that there is a public safety risk caused by drivers slowing on 395 to look at the feral horses. Other discussion pointed out that the continued drought only serves to exacerbate the problems as water levels remain far lower than what is needed to cause the horse to move back to their former habitat. As the discussion continued, it was noted that the continued presence of the feral horses in the wetlands areas has and will continue to cause damage to the wetland nesting grounds for waterfowl.

- 9. RECOMMENDATION OF A CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING WASHOE COUNTY** [For possible action]
– *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend a candidate for appointment to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to fill the vacancy Washoe County position on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and drew attention to the correspondence from Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Chair Jack Robb seeking a recommendation on potential Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners members.

Member Flowers explained that Washoe County may have two (2) members, with Clark County have three (member, with the rural counties filling the other four positions. However, rural counties are prohibited from having more than one (1) representative on the Commission. Member Flowers noted that Commission Chair Jack Robb of Washoe County and Mike McBeath of Clark County are not seeking reappointment. Member Flowers noted that he had submitted an application to serve as the Washoe County representative and would recuse himself from any discussion or action on this matter.

Chair Shea opened public comments.

Responding to Chris Syverson's inquiry about the close of the application period, Chair Shea commented that he believes the expiring terms run through June 30, 2014, and that the requirements include having a hunting license for at least three (3) of the past four (4) years.

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Ms. Syverson noted that she had submitted her application.

Hearing no further public comment Chair Shea closed public comment and in the absence of any applications to review Chair Shea directed that the matter be continued until the June 12, 2014, meeting.

Member Flowers noted that applications to serve on Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners could be obtained from the State of Nevada website:

http://gov.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/govnv.gov/Content/Boards/BoardCommissionApp_Interactive.pdf

No specific action was taken.

10. 2015 NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) legislative proposals for the 2015 legislative session.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers commented that, in his opinion, it may be too early in the process as this is the first time the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will review what is being proposed by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife).

Member Humphreys, Jr. concurred.

Member Flowers pointed out that there were no BDR's (Bill Draft Request) to be considered at this time.

Chair Shea asked that this agenda item be on future agendas pending the start of the 2015 legislative session.

No specific action was taken.

11. FISCAL YEAR 2015 FINAL DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the final draft of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Predator Management Plan.*

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or motion.

Member Flowers noted that the plan was mostly the same as previous versions and that a previous recommendation to reduce the number of lions based on actual threats had been incorporated into the document.

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Chair Shea and Member Humphreys, Jr. concurred.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Fiscal Year 2015 Final Draft Predation Management Plan as submitted. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

- 12. ERRATA SHEET FOR THE 2013 PREDATION MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify the errata sheet for the 2013 Predation Management Status Report.*

Chair Shea commented that this particular item had been withdrawn from the final Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners agenda after the Washoe County agenda had been posted.

No specific action was taken.

- 13. COMMISSION POLICY No. 50, Duck Stamp Procedure, Second Reading** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify Commission Policy No. 50 with the proposed updates from the March 21, 2014, first reading.*

Chair Shea opened the item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers commented that it appears that the sponsor and NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) are happy with the results of the revisions.

Member Humphreys, Jr. noted that it appears the policy had been simplified and that he can support moving forward with the revision.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Policy 50, Duck Stamp procedure, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

- 14. COMMISSION MEETING VIDEOCONFERENCING** [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) approve, deny or otherwise modify videoconferencing for the remaining calendar year 2014 and 2015 Commission meetings, to allow NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to change of some 2014 and 2015 meeting sites to accommodate videoconferencing.*

Chair Shea outlined the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

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Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that he believes this to be another good way to mainstream information to the public.

Member Flowers explained that he has no problem with video conference so long as meeting locations are not altered. It is Member Flowers' belief that it is crucial that rural counties continue to host Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings along with having teleconference when meetings are held in Reno or Las Vegas, Nevada.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the videoconferencing for the remaining calendar year 2014 and 2015 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meetings to allow NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to change some 2014 and 2015 meeting sites to accommodate videoconferencing. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

- 15. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 445 – Black Powder Definition, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R045-14 [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a regulation relating to hunting; revising provisions relating to hunting a big game mammal with a muzzle-loading rifle or muzzle-loading musket; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.***

Chair Shea opened the agenda item and hearing no public comment asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry, Mike McCusker – Game Warden, explained that this modification removed the specific brands of black powder, which would allow the use of Blackhorn 209, which was previously prohibited.

Member Humphreys, Jr. expressed his support for the modification.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 445 – Black Powder Definition, LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau) File No. R045-14, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

- 16. COMMISSION REGULATION 13-14 Amendment No. 1, Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs [For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify a temporary regulation authorizing unlimited take of game fish species from Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs in Elko County through Feb. 28, 2015. Due to extremely poor winter precipitation, drought conditions and irrigation demands, Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs are expected to decline to 20 percent or less of capacity by late summer. Based on past history of these conditions in the reservoirs a significant to possibly near total die-off of trout populations is likely, with significant impacts***

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also possible to warm-water game fish species. This temporary regulation will maximize the opportunity for angler harvest of trout and other game fish species in the reservoirs prior to conditions likely to cause the fish kills.

Chair Shea provided an overview of the agenda item.

Kim Tisdale - Western Region Fisheries, explained that the intent is to maximize opportunities to remove fish from Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs prior to fish die-offs that are likely to occur this summer. Ms. Tisdale noted that it appears that the Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs might maintain last year's (2013) water levels. However, Wildhorse Reservoir will be reduced to about 3-percent of its capacity so the Department will definitely request the removal of limits on Wildhorse Reservoir. Staff continues to evaluate the situation at Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoir. It is expected that a determination of whether removal of limits is needed at these two (2) reservoirs should be made before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting next week (May 9 and 10, 2014).

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Responding to Alan Moss' inquiry about why fish were not being transplanted to other bodies of water, Chair Shea explained that the drought had adversely affected other bodies of water that may be overcrowded already.

Ms. Tisdale concurred.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Ms. Tisdale explained that it appears that Wildhorse Reservoir may maintain a sufficient level of water. It is thought that a determination should be made before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting next week.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission Regulation 13-14 Amendment No. 1, Wildhorse, Wilson Sink and Willow Creek Reservoirs, as written, with an amendment to allow NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) to set the limit as they see fit depending on the water levels. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

The meeting recessed at 6:48 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

- 17. COMMISSION REGULATION 14-10, 2014 Big Game Quotas for the 2014-2015 Seasons**
[For Possible Action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and black bears for the 2014-2015 seasons.*

Chair opened the agenda item and explained that the items would be handled by species.

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Mike Dobel – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), explained that there had been a departure in how quota setting was handled. Rather than a statewide meeting of all regions, scheduling issues resulted in regional meetings to develop quotas. Mr. Dobel noted that he does not have the background information on the quotas for the east and south regions and may be unable to provide a definitive background on the reasoning for the quota recommendations.

BLACK BEAR - Hunts 6151 and 6251

Mr. Dobel explained that the season and quotas are the same as the previous year (2013) with 41 resident and 4 non-resident tags with a harvest objective of 20 bears.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Andrew Shuman questioned whether any thought had been given to having an archery hunt as it might have less of an impact for proponents of no bear hunts as well as additional fees with a lower success rate.

Mr. Dobel noted that there had been discussion about an archery season inside the Tahoe Basin and was ultimately discarded. Mr. Dobel drew attention to the controversy of this particular hunt and the intent to move forward incrementally with conservative tag quotas and objectives. Mr. Dobel pointed out that NDOW will most likely be taken to task during the 2015 legislative session.

Member Flowers noted that he concurred with Carl Lackey's report pointing out the 29-percent success rate, which he believes might have incurred additional tags.

Mr. Dobel noted that Mr. Lackey had suggested additional tags. However, the intent has been and is still to compile three (3) years of data for the analysis that will be presented during the 2015 legislative session.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about Unit 204, Mr. Dobel explained that it should be included as the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) had codified that in 2014.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys Jr, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Black Bear Hunts 6151 and 6251 with the modification that Unit 204 be added.

Member Flowers stated that he could not support the recommendation due to the politics involved.

The motion carried: Member Humphreys Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Flowers dissenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

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

Chris Hampson – NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife), noted that Washoe County would see a slight decrease in quotas due to the severity of ongoing drought and declines in hunter success

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ratios. Mr. Hampson recalled weather related issues during the past season including standing water on roadways as well as mudslide and debris on Highway 447. Such conditions tend "scatter" herds away from their usual habitat. Additionally, a lower recruitment was noted in Units 012 and 014 during the surveys, with some animals being displaced due to wildfire in Unit 015.

Mike Dobel – NDOW, provided an overview of the statewide herd populations, which are static with buck/doe ratios holding at 30/100.

Hearing no public comments Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Antelope Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

ELK – Hunts 4102, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4651, 4641, 4107, 4181, 4181 – wilderness only, 4481 – Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4151; 4481 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1331; 4176, 4476 – Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4156; 4476 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1371; 4111; 4411 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 4161; 4411 - Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1341; 4251; 4256; 4261 and 4281

Mr. Dobel read portions of the summary report (copy on file) which detailed 2012 and 2013 harvest by category. Mr. Dobel noted population increases, which resulted in some significant quota increases in order to meet Elk Management Plan goals. Additionally, Elk are now being found in areas not previously seen. Responding to Member Flowers' inquiry, Mr. Dobel explained that the bulk of the increases are the DELK (Deer Elk tag) combination Mr. Dobel noted that the DELK hunt is still an experiment and will take three (3) years of harvest data to develop a more concise hunter success ratio. Mr. Dobel explained that the January 15 close date for Hunt 4181 is intended to increase hunt opportunity and increase the harvest.

During the discussion it was explained that the recent surveys indicated larger populations than were previously estimated. As the discussion continued, it was noted that the Elk Management Plan set specific herd population goals that are used in determining unit quotas so that herd capacity can be managed according to the plan. Other discussion noted that a cow hunt is intended to provide a means to better manage herd populations. Discussion then turned to the number of tags per weapon group. It was noted that muzzleloader and archery tag allocations are based on hunter demand/success ratios and that the demand/success formula has specific adjustment limitations. It was pointed out that while the County Game Board and Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners may make adjustments to the quotas, NDOW staff must operate within the specific guidelines of the demand/success formula. There was some discussion about how the demand/success formula works.

Erich Dutchover brought forth concerns about archery cow elk tags versus muzzleloader tags in Unit 072 where the archery tags dropped from 73 last year to 47 this year while muzzleloader tags increased from 51 in 2013 to a proposed 89 for this year. Mr. Dutchover pointed out that the proposed non-resident tag quota for that particular unit is 46 which is only one less than allotted to archers this year.

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Dan Shoupe drew attention to the dwindling number of opportunities for archery hunts pointing out that muzzle loader tags had increased from 40 to 80. Other concerns include access limitations in a number of areas due to private land holdings.

Chair Shea noted that quotas are set using the demand/success formula without regard to land ownership.

Mr. Dobel commented the Elk count does include animals found on privately held lands and are part of the population estimates used in harvest calculation.

Member Humphreys, Jr. pointed out that there is an asterisk (*), which indicates accessibility and that there does not seem to be an easy fix or solution to access issues.

Alan Jenne – Chief of Habitat, pointed out that some hunts are specifically for wilderness areas.

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted that certain areas have a lot of private land and is identified as such in the application.

Hearing no further public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Flowers to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve ELK – Hunts 4102, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4651, 4641, 4107, 4181, 4181 – wilderness only, 4481 – Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4151; 4481 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1331; 4176, 4476 – Option for Antlered Elk Hunt 4156; 4476 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1371; 4111; 4411 – Option for Mule Deer Hunt 4161; 4411 - Option for Mule Deer Hunt 1341; 4251; 4256; 4261 and 4281 as written. The motion carried Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Resident/Non-resident Any Ram - Hunts 3151 and 3251

Mr. Dobel read a portion of the status report (copy on file) outlining the 2012 hunter success rate of 182 to the 2013 success rate of 251.

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

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts 3151 and 3251, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ewe – Hunt 3181

Mr. Dobel outlined the modifications pointing out the quotas in various units and hunter success ratios nearing 60-percent with a harvest of more than 400 sheep. Mr. Dobel noted that Units 267 and 268

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have a total population of 910 sheep, which is 200-to-300 more than it should be with the ongoing drought.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Mel Belding recalled previous action and discussion stressing that a Ewe hunt should be used only as a last resort. Mr. Belding then noted that only a small percentage of animals tested positive for disease. Mr. Belding suggested that a comparison of current populations be made with the 1985/1986 population estimate in Unit 212 before the "crash" and emphasized his support for a transplant of animals, thus reducing the number of animals quickly if the population is above the carrying capacity before opening a season for a Ewe hunt.

Bernie Crooks outlined his respect for the work of NDOW and the Biologists and the hours spent afield. However, with his twenty years as a volunteer on capture and transplant, water projects, and the re-seeding of our Nevada wild lands, he strongly disagrees with the planned Ewe Hunt planned for some of the units this year. Despite the costs of a capture and transplant program, shooting our breeding stock that we have worked so hard to produce and "place on the Mountain" is, in his opinion inexcusable. Mr. Crooks commented that that during trade show polls no one has expressed any interest in having a ewe hunt. Mr. Crooks pointed out that those polled expressed a desire to have the animals on the mountain and reiterated his opposition to the ewe hunt.

Steven Keller commented that he too had spent time with water development projects and prefers a trap and transplant program over a ewe hunt. While it may be somewhat difficult to find locations for the transplant, Mr. Keller believes that there are locations that would be suitable. Mr. Keller noted that it sometimes appears that NDOW is required to deal with a multitude of regulations at times when dealing with certain other agencies.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Member Humphreys, Jr. stated that he could not support a ewe hunt except as a very last resort. Member Humphreys, Jr. pointed out that this body can only make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and that there are a number of issues to overcome when transplanting sheep such as grazing rights and the presence of domestic sheep.

Member Flowers recalled that the assumption was during season setting discussion that the ewe hunt would be a last resort to reduce herd populations. Member Flowers stated that he would much rather have ewes relocated than to harvest them and noted that the Heritage Committee would review a transplant proposal for the next fiscal year. Member Flowers commented that he believes if a season is set that there must be a minimum of two (2) tags.

Mr. Belding stated that he believes a quota of zero might be appropriate.

Chair Shea noted that this is a success story when the populations allow the harvesting of ewes as is done with Elk and other species.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that there is no easy solution.

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Chair Shea explained that he believes this is an experiment that should be implemented.

A motion by Chair Shea to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 3181, as written died due to lack of a second.

A motion by Member Flowers to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 3181 with the modification to Unit 212 as written; Unit 213 two (2) tags; and Unit 268 two (2) tags died due to lack of a second.

Member Humphreys, Jr. stated he did not wish to offer a motion.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife take no specific action due to the divided opinion and lack of a full body of members. The motion carried: Members Humphreys, Jr. and Flowers assenting; Chair Shea dissenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

California Big Horn Sheep – Any Ram - Hunt 8151

Mr. Hampson provided an overview of the recommendation noting that the quota in Unit 012 should read “8” rather than “6”. Mr. Hampson noted that the number of tags had been reduced due to lower hunter success and drought conditions. In unit 033 the non-resident tag was removed due to decreased populations and overall reduction in the number of sheep in the unit.

Responding to Chair Shea’s inquiry about the survey of the McGee Mountain area, Mr. Hampson explained that over the past several years the populations have been declining and that hunters have reported difficulty in finding sheep anywhere other than Thousand Creek and Guano Rim. Mr. Hampson surmised that perhaps the animals are being pushed in to Oregon.

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

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 8151 as written with a modification to Unit 012 making the quota eight (8) rather than six (6). The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr. and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Chair Shea, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 8251 as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr. and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

California Bighorn Sheep, Any Ewe Hunt 8181

Mr. Dobel noted that 15 tags were allocated for Unit 068.

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Chair Shea opened public comment.

Steve Keller apologized for his earlier comment noting that it is a passion and that the board is correct in the demand/success ratio. Mr. Keller pointed out that he is against any ewe hunt and that he believes that Washoe County may be a good location to transplant animals.

Mel Belding noted that sportsmen had created the success that Bighorn Sheep have become in the State of Nevada and that believes there are other places where ewes can be relocated to rather than having a ewe hunt.

Bernie Crooks concurred with comments made by Mr. Keller and Mr. Belding pointing out that two (2) more guzzlers were being built along the state line. Mr. Crooks pointed out that only the State of Alaska has more Bighorn Sheep than the State of Nevada and that he finds it disappointing that ewes should be hunted.

Todd Jaksick noted that he believes there are opportunities for transplant and that the new guzzler will provide yet another opportunity.

Hearing no further public comment, Chair Shea closed public comment and asked for Board discussion or a motion.

Member Flowers recalled an earlier statement of support since he believed it to be Snowstorm where a disease problem exists. Member Flowers stated that he could not support the season or quota.

Member Humphreys, Jr. expressed his opposition to hunting healthy ewes and stated that the transplant of the animals should be undertaken by outside groups such as NBU (Nevada Bighorns Unlimited) if NDOW is unable to do so when the animals are pathogen and disease free.

Responding to Chair Shea's inquiry about whether the animals were healthy, Mr. Dobel stated that they were (disease free) to the best of his knowledge.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners deny Hunt 8181. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Hunt 9151

Mr. Dobel noted that populations remain stable with 46 rams, 32 lambs to 100 ewes, which is up slightly from the previous year. However, there has been somewhat lower production in Unit 091.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Responding to Mel Belding inquiry about whether there was an active die-off due to disease, Mr. Dobel stated that there was no die-off to his knowledge. Mr. Dobel further explained that the quotas

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are set based on the species management plan and that if a tag is issued and cannot be used due to die-off then the hunter will not be able to return the tag unless it is done before the hunt.

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

Member Flowers recalled that one of the collared ewes had tested positive while a 5-year old tested negative.

Mr. Dobel noted that there was a ratio of 58 lambs to 100 ewes which is not affecting the population at this time.

It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 9151 as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Hunt 7151

Mr. Dobel stated that he had not yet had an opportunity to review the report. However, the Mountain Goat population remains stable and based on observations a slight increase in tags is being proposed.

Hearing no public comments, Chair Shea asked for discussion or a motion.

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 7151, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

The meeting recessed at 8:37 p.m. and reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

Resident Junior Mule Deer – Antlered or Antlerless - Hunt 1107

Mr. Dobel noted that the statewide status report was on file.

Chair Shea opened public comments.

Mark Hanifan outlined his concerns that access archery hunts continues to decline and noted that there were few opportunities for an archery hunt compared to when he first started and archery was available statewide. Mr. Hanifan outlined changes in the allotted archery tags and the 18 percent success rate percent. Mr. Hanifan suggested that in addition to having a representative from ranching and conservation on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners that an economist might also be needed.

Andrew Shuman suggested that there may be ways to improve archery tags given the 18-percent success ratio.

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Todd Jaksick commented that he has been able to spend a lot of time in Unit 014 and pointed out that, in his opinion, the deer herds are “exploding”. Mr. Jaksick noted that the increased herd population may be due to predator control, which he hopes will expand to Units 013 and 015 in the future as the project comes to a close in Unit 014 in the next few years. Mr. Jaksick explained that he has found predator kills when hunting for lions in the area in portions of Unit 011 and 013. Mr. Jaksick suggested that the tag allocations be cut by as much as 25-percent in units 011-013 to reduce pressure on what he sees as dwindling herd populations in some Units.

Chair Shea closed public comments.

Responding to Member Flowers’ inquiry about the number of tags in the Youth Hunt, Mr. Dobel explained that the Commission (Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners) had increased the number of tags.

Member Flowers noted that there are a number of youth tags were not used and questioned the justification to increase the number when there are tags left unused.

Mr. Hampson noted that Unit 011-013 had one (1) additional Youth tag over the previous year and that tags are allocated based on demand/success. Mr. Hampson noted that Unit 011-013 is a very large unit group. Mr. Hampson also noted that Archery tags are done separately and are also based on demand/success. Mr. Hampson explained that there is a predator control project in Units 011 and 013 where sheep populations are being established. Mr. Hampson noted that three predator kills had been verified and another kill was being investigated as a possible poaching.

Member Flowers noted that he had observed a number of does and immature bucks in the Boulder and Hayes area and that the quality of the deer is not as good as in the past.

Member Humphreys, Jr. commented that hunters have to work harder in the early season in some areas and that not as many mature bucks are being seen as in the past in Unit 013. Member Humphreys, Jr., stated that he could support the youth hunt as presented.

Member Flowers explained that he is willing to accept the quota but questions why the tag allocation continues to increase without having the population to warrant the increase.

Chair Shea noted that the higher number of tags appear to be in Units close to the State’s major population areas.

Mr. Dobel noted that Table 8 (copy on file) provides the number of applications for Hunt 1107 and that the numbers of tags in some eastern portions of the State have been problematic.

It was moved by Member Humphreys, Jr., seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 1107, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

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Resident and Non-resident Mule Deer – Hunts 1101, 1181, 1331, 1371 and 1341

Mr. Dobel explained that there was not a lot of change from the previous season.

Chair Shea opened public comment.

Erich Dutchover recalled when surplus tags could be purchased over the counter and suggested that surplus tags be made available over the counter so that a second tag could be purchased. Mr. Dutchover noted that other western states allowed such purchases.

Mike McCusker – Game Warden, explained that NRS (Nevada Revised Statutes) prohibited an individual from having more than one deer tag and would require a change to NRS to allow second tags. Mr. McCusker noted that a petition could be filed with the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to seek a change in NRS.

Member Flowers noted that the TAAHC (Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee) is reviewing a number of possible modifications to NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) that would allow a first come first serve draw without losing bonus points when a third draw is conducted. Member Flowers noted that a petition could be filed with the CAB (County Advisory Board) or directly with the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

There was some discussion about the 10-percent reduction in Unit 011 and 013. It was explained that early season split in Washoe County typically had a 40-to-45-percent success rate compared to nearly 78-percent for the late season. As the discussion continued, it was noted that 170 bucks had been harvested in the previous season and that the tag allocations were reduced given the continued drought conditions. The ongoing drought has resulted in dry lake beds and poor habitat conditions. Other discussion focused on hunter success in other areas including Unit 033. Discussion then turned to successful hunts in the flats or lower elevations with some animals being hidden by taller sage brush. It was noted that there was a 38-percent hunter success rate and that a different recommendation could be made to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chair Shea read a letter from Matthew Goodnight (copy on file) which expressed concern about the percentage difference between archery and other weapons classes not being equitable.

Mr. Dobel commented that while he had not participated in the statewide quota discussions the changes are based on the demand/success formula.

Mr. Hampson noted that it appears that some additional tags were moved from the non-resident hunt to Unit 013 and that there was only a 10-percent success rate of the 184 archery tags.

It was moved by Member Flowers, seconded by Member Humphreys, Jr., to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Resident and Non-resident Mule Deer Hunts 1101, 1181, 1331, 1371 and 1341, as written and suggested that NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife) bring information on the demand/success ratio for archery hunt in Unit 17 to satisfy an inquiry on the reduction in the number of tags by 52-percent. The motion

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carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

Resident and Non-resident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation – Either Sex – Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215

Hearing no public comment Chair Shea asked for Board discussion or a motion

It was moved by Chair Shea, seconded by Member Flowers, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Resident and Non-resident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215, as written. The motion carried: Members Flowers, Humphreys, Jr., and Chair Shea assenting; Member Spencer absent; and one position vacant.

- 18. 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 June 12, 2014, meeting.*

No new agenda items were identified.

Member Flowers noted that a questionnaire on deer hunting had been posted on NDOW's (Nevada Department of Wildlife) website:

http://www.ndow.org/uploadedFiles/ndoworg/Content/Public_Meetings/Commission/6%20A%20Written_Comments_from_Mail_and_Online_Survey_of_Nevada_Mule_Deer_Hunters.pdf

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

Kim Tisdale referenced Alan Moss' inquiry about transplant of fish from certain reservoirs noting that she believes biologists will attempt to move fish to other suitable locations. However, as water levels continue to decrease it is difficult to get a boat in the water to conduct transplant operations. The intent is to avoid losing as many larger fish to die-off by harvesting.

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

Chair Shea adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

AS AMENDED AND APPROVED BY THE WASHOE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE IN SESSION ON JUNE 12, 2014.