

# Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

## **DRAFT of Minutes**

**Thursday ~ April 26, 2018 ~ 6:00 p.m.**  
**Nevada Department of Wildlife**  
**Conference Room B**  
**1100 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada**

## **MEMBERS**

Steven Robinson, Chair  
Arnold Pitts, Vice-chair  
Sean Shea, Secretary  
Meghan Di Rocco  
Michelle Spencer

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

Chair Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Arnie Pitts, Steven Robinson, Sean Shea and Michelle Spencer.

**ABSENT:** Meghan Di Rocco.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, was also present.

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

Gerald Lent read the following into the record: In the draft minutes of March 8, 2018, there are some excellent idea from this Board that need follow-up, not just loose words. Examples: Item 7 – You need a suspense file to follow-up and demand a follow-up on your great motion to see what was done - i.e. Special Problem Lions. (Motion by Shea); Item 12 – Crow season dates – report the Follow-up to the Board (Motion by Robinson); Item 14 – Member Pitts suggested that Chris Hampson provide a presentation on Predator Control in Washoe County. This is an excellent suggestion – need a follow-up to make sure it happens, but you won't get it because NDOW personnel do not believe in Predator Control. It's your duty to put items on your agenda that are concerns of Washoe County resident.

### **4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 8, 2018, MINUTES** (For possible action)

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

***It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by member Shea, to approve the March 8, 2018, minutes, as submitted. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

### **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 4 and 5, 2018, meetings in Reno/Carson City, Nevada; and 2) June 29 and 30, 2018, Pershing County, Nevada.*

Chair Robinson will attend on May 5 and June 29 and 30, 2018, meetings. Chair Robinson pointed out that the June meetings would be held in Dyer, Esmeralda County, Nevada,

### **6. COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES** [Non-action items] –

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**1) Correspondence (including sportsmen's concerns) and Announcements** – Member Shea commented that the Wildlife Heritage Committee would meet on May 3, 2018.

Jack Robb noted that the draw has historically been held the Wednesday prior to the Memorial Day weekend and that results would have to be out the following Friday afternoon by 5:00 p.m. Mr. Robb explained that if hunters do not see a friend's name on the success tag draw that person may have opted out of the lists. Mr. Robb also noted that some of the older browsers were not as secure and that NDOW's intent is to maintain a secure site. Therefore, those using older outdated browsers may want to update.

**2) Overview of the March 16 and 17, 2018, meetings of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners** – There was no report.

**7. NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE PROJECT UPDATE** [Non-action item] – *An informational update on recent NDOW habitat projects.*

Alan Jenne - Habitat Division Chief, provided a PowerPoint® presentation (copy on file) on the programs within the Habitat Division and recent project accomplishments. Habitat Division programs include water development, technical review, wildlife management areas, industrial development, habitat restoration, and oversight of the stamp programs. Mr. Jenne highlighted the water development program which constructs and maintains artificial water developments across the state of Nevada. This program is sustained by the match generated from the volunteer workforce of organizations such as Nevada Bighorn Unlimited (NBU), The Fraternity for Desert Bighorn and Elko NBU. The hours, miles and donations supplied by these conservation organizations supplies the match that maintains this 1.2 million dollar federal grant program without any state funds.

Mr. Jenne also described a key accomplishment achieved during this past winter with the seeding of over 50,000 acres of wildfire impacted lands. These seedings were accomplished thru partnerships and donations with multiple entities and agencies including sportsman's organization such as NBU, Dream Tag, Nevada Chukar Foundation, Nevada Muleys, Carson Valley Chukar Club, private landowners, BLM and Nevada Division of Forestry. Mr. Jenne noted that it can take up to 30 years for habitat to recover from a wildfire and sometimes it may take up to five years to see seeding success.

It was also presented that NDOW, through the Technical Review program, works with the local, state and federal agencies to evaluate and convey wildlife concerns or impacts with planned or proposed development projects. Mr. Jenne noted that they seek to find opportunities to work with developers and/or landowners to avoid, minimize or offset impacts to wildlife or their habitats. This is the case regarding NDOW's continued effort to work with Washoe County on their evolving lands bill.

Responding to inquiries Mr. Jenne explained that reseeding efforts in Lander County were targeting crucial mule deer winter to restore forage and thermal cover for the Area 6 herd. Although he did not have the full details regarding the seeding of the Bravo 17 fire on the Naval Air Station, Mr. Jenne did discuss how fire rehabilitation efforts are prioritized. He conveyed that the burned areas are evaluated for wildlife values, involved partners and federal rehabilitation plans, explaining that NDOW can stretch funds farther by partnering on portions of treatments than to carry all project costs

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alone. Mr. Jenne also answered an inquiry into NDOW future involvement in the Washoe County Lands bill process to which he responded that NDOW will remain involved in assessing wildlife values associated with parcels proposed for transfer.

- 8. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 470, MISCELLANEOUS PETITIONS, LCB File No. R095-16** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item.

Member Shea drew attention to page 3 and questions what would happen if the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners found the petition valid but NDOW did not.

Jack Robb – NDOW, explained that NDOW is required to follow NRS which has been difficult with the 30-day requirement to respond as the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners does not meet as often as some other Board/Commissions. Additionally, some petitions may require modification of existing NRS or NAC revisions. Mr. Robb noted that the petitioner might not be willing or able to come to northern Nevada to have their petition heard as the NRS requirements do not work well with the Commission's process.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers noted that he had similar concerns and suggested that Section 2 be modified by removing the "obtain a recommendation from the Department". Mr. Flowers commented that the intent of the revisions should be to make the process more transparent and pointed out that NDOW still provides testimony to the Commission when the Commission hears the petition.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Responding to Member Pitts' comment that in some cases a petition might be poorly written and should be revised before moving forward, Mr. Robb explained that all petitions must meet legal requirements and that the revisions being proposed are "house-keeping" as the Department awaits legislation that does not necessitate the convening of a special meeting to meet a 30-day timeline.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 470, Miscellaneous Petitions, and LCB File No. R095-16 with the following modifications: on page three first line retain "Upon receipt of appeal of a permanent regulation to the Department" and remove the rest of the line. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

- 9. COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 474, TRAP REGISTRATION, LCB File No. R038-18** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify proposed amendments to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.150. This regulation revises provisions relating to the registration of traps as mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 364 of the 79<sup>th</sup>*

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*Legislative Session. SB 364 states that with certain exceptions, each trap, snare, or similar device used by a person in the taking of wild mammals must be registered with the Department before it is used. SB 364 also states that for each trap, snare, or similar device registered with the Department, the person registering the device shall pay a registration fee of \$5.00. This proposed regulation provides a mechanism for the Nevada Department of Wildlife to register traps and charge \$5.00 per trap registered.*

Chair opened the agenda item.

Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about what fund the \$5.00 registration fee will be credited to, Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that he believes it will go in to the Wildlife Fund. Mr. Robb noted that existing legislation did not provide sufficient information and that this will most likely be seen again.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Joel Blakeslee - Nevada Trappers Association, pointed out that as long as the name and address of the trap owners is on the trap it does not need to be registered. Therefore it should be made clear in all publications including the Hunt Book that there is an alternative to registration by affixing the name and address of the trap owner.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Jen Gustafson – Deputy District Attorney, explained that the Board can choose to continue the matter to a future agenda or take no specific action.

There was some discussion about adding language to reflect that in lieu of registration the trap owner can affix the owners name and address to the trap. Other discussion suggested that the fee paid should be transferable to a replacement trap.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Commission General Regulation 474, Trap Registration, LCB File No. R038-18 with the following modifications: 1) Clarification that the \$5.00 fee is not mandatory if the trap includes the name and address of the trap owner; 2) the trap fee is transferable to a new trap; and 3) clarification of what fund the \$5.00 fee is used for i.e. Heritage fund or some other fund. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

- 10. COMMISSION REGULATION 18-11, 2018 BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2018–2019 SEASON** [For possible action] – *A review, discussion and possible action to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve, deny or otherwise modify recommended regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2018-2019 seasons.*

Chair Robinson opened the agenda.

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Chris Hampson – Game Biologist, indicated that Carl Lackey was also present to answer questions. Additionally there are no changes to hunts from the previous year.

Chair Robinson noted that the Board would hear each species and take action.

## **Hunt 6151 and 6251 - Resident and Nonresident Black Bear – Either Sex – Any Legal Weapon**

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Jonathan Lesperance expressed his support of the quota recommendations and suggested a clarification for Unit 203 about the use of centerfire weapons as a shotgun is not currently a legal weapon for bear.

Jack Spencer commented that he believes the quotas need to be looked at over a longer period of time and drew attention to statistics and female quotas in California. Mr. Spencer pointed out that Carl Lackey of NDOW has a lot of data on trap and release. Additionally, bears move in from other areas.

Chase Spencer expressed his appreciation for keeping the Bear season open and that he is looking forward to the hunt.

Hunter Spencer expressed his hope of hunting in the future.

Char Robinson closed public comment.

Member Shea questioned what is a legal weapon since a shotgun is not legal for the bear hunt.

Randy Lusetti – NDOW, explained that it is his understanding that a shotgun can be used anywhere within Mason Valley, which requires the use of a slug.

Chair Robinson expressed his support of the proposed recommendations.

Member Shea thanked Mr. Lackey and the Department for the data provided.

***It was moved by Member Pitts, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve Hunt 6151 and 6251 - Resident and Nonresident Black Bear – Either Sex – Any Legal Weapon with a suggestion to review the use of a shotgun in the Mason Valley portion of Unit 203. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

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

Chris Hampson – NDOW, provided a synopsis of the recommendations for a total of 4,000 tags. Mr. Hampson then noted buck/doe ratios and fawn recruitment. Mr. Hampson explained that the recommendations for a hunt wait until fawns reach maturity and are harvestable.

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There was some discussion about horns shorter than ears. It was explained that the intent is to clarify that the buck is eligible for harvesting to avoid any issues at the time of harvest if the horns are shorter than ears. Other discussion focused on the strong upward trend in Units 012 and 014.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers questioned the reductions in Units 021 and 022 given the continued growth in population and suggested a quota of 45.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Mr. Hampson noted that some of the concerns in Unit 022 is the closing of the main access road for deer and antelope to the highest density hunt area which the Department cannot control. Additionally, hunts in higher density areas tend to harm the hunter success ratio when access is denied.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Antelope Hunts 2151, 2171, 2161, 2181, 2251 and 2261 with a modification to Hunt 215, Unit 022, to keep the quota at 45 tags rather than a reduction to 40 tags. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

## **Hunts Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Hunts 3151, 3251, 3181, 3281**

Chris Hampson – NDOW, outlined the 2018 recommendations noting that ram totals were down 3-percent and that the average harvest age was 6.7 years. Therefore a slight reduction in tags is recommended due to disease and reduced lamb recruitment over the past few years.

Responding to Chair Robinson's inquiry about declining populations, Mike Scott – NDOW, explained that the reduction in tag allocation even with an overall reduction in population. Mr. Scott noted that some units were still above population objectives and that trapping and relocation cannot be done due to continued concerns about disease. Mr. Scott pointed out that even though a unit may be clean there is the potential of transplanting an animal that is not resistant, otherwise the State of Utah could receive transplanted sheep.

Chair Robinson open public comment.

Mel Belding commented that he doesn't believe there's evidence that clean sheep have been transplanted to areas of dirty sheep resulting in die-off and vice-versa. In his opinion the most sought after big game animal recovers within a few years after contacting Movi and builds a resistance to it in most all cases here in Nevada.

Jonathan Lesperance suggested that Unit 195 be available to hunt as he understands the former owner has sold the property. Mr. Lesperance noted that he believes bighorn ewe harvest to be contradictory to the legacy of bighorn conservation work that has resulted in Nevada having more sheep than any other state in the lower 48.

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Chair Robinson closed public comment.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunts Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Hunts 3151, 3251, 3181 and 3281 as written with a request for more information about putting clean sheep into dirty units. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

## **California Big Horn Hunts 8151, 8251 and 8181**

Chris Hampson – NDOW, provided an overview of the statewide tag allocation increase over the previous year. Mr. Hampson noted that Rams increased by 7-percent rams and 2-percent for ewes. The average ram harvested continues to be more than 6-5 years. Currently Washoe County continues a static trend. Mr. Hampson noted that there were still some disease issues in the Santa Rosa area and that NDOW continues to work with Oregon. Mr. Hampson also noted ongoing work in western Elko County that has shown that the animals are mostly clean and healthy. However, there are still concerns about the Granites range and the presence of domestic sheep. NDOW is continuing the collaring program in that area to try and determine movement on the alluvial fan. Mr. Hampson noted that there would be a meeting in the near future to discuss options for Unit 32. Mr. Hampson then noted ongoing research in Unit 068 pointing out that the research is looking at the shedding and length of time the disease stays in a population. Mr. Hampson commented that he is not aware of any written correspondence with other western states about transfer of populations although the western states have traditionally worked well together to provide animals to other states if needed.

Member Shea noted that he had received an inquiry about mounting an animal harvested on the Pyramid Lake Reservation that had indicated they had two separate tags.

Mr. Hampson will meet with the Resource Department to discuss the issue as well as Wildlife Management. Mr. Hampson recalled hearing about an instance where a Native American had harvested an animal and that NDOW continues to work with the Tribal Council to resolve the issues. Mr. Hampson pointed out that the issue is being discussed at higher levels and that all are aware of the concerns. Mr. Hampson requested that Member Shea share whatever information he had. Mr. Hampson noted that the Petersens had been flown in September/October and that the Department is interested in collaring animals in that area. Mr. Hampson asked that hunters contact him with additional information so that staff can schedule an aerial survey. Mr. Hampson noted that Oregon hunts the Coleman Rim in Unit 011. Mr. Hampson then explained that the dispersal had more to do with the sheep moving to the Vya for avoidance of predators. The telemetry indicates they are moving to the east and staying out of the Sheldon. Mr. Hampson then noted the die off in Unit 013. In 2007 a ram was harvested in the Massacre Rim to the north of 49er Pass. However, there is no proof as the animal was not collared nor could an ear tag be identified. Mr. Hampson noted that there are a total of 7 animals collared in the Granites with 2 animal collared in the Negro area.

Mike Scott commented that staff will review tag allocations again in January 2019 to address the potential for adding another unit as well as non-resident tag allocations.

Member Shea stated that he believes that the non-resident tag in Unit 034 should be a resident tag.

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There were no public comments.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Pitts, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve California Big Horn Hunts 8151, 8251 and 8181, as written with the following modification: Unit 8251 Unit 034 delete the one tag and add to Hunt 8151. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

The meeting recessed at 8:07 p.m. and reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

## **Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9151**

Chris Hampson – NDOW, noted that the number of tags had been reduced by one pointing out that this is an interstate herd that moves between the States of Nevada and Utah. Mr. Hampson noted that he had not been present at the earlier discussions about the herd although he had heard the recruitment looked good.

Mike Scott – NDOW, commented that it appears that there is an excellent ratio of lambs and that while herd sizes are small they are slowly building.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Mel Belding noted an 88-percent survival rate in the Rubies over the past two years. Mr. Belding noted the transplant of animals to Washington and that he has read various articles on the Movi die off in the Rockies and other areas. Mr. Belding believes that the sheep may be able to develop immunity to the disease over time as evidenced in Texas. Mr. Belding recalled recruitment of sheep from Unit 066 appear to be doing better.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

***It was moved by member Shea, seconded by Member Pitts to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9151 as written. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

## **Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151**

Chris Hampson noted a one tag decrease, noting that kid recruitment had exceeded 20 per 100 adults. While this is an improvement it is still low recruitment.

There were no public comments.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve the Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151 as written. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

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**Elk 4102, 4107, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4651, 4181, 4181 Wilderness Only, 4481 Option Mule Deer 1331, Hunt 4176, 4476 Option Mule Deer 1371, Hunt 4111, 4111 Option for Mule Deer 1341, 4407 Option for Junior Mule Deer 1107, 4251, 4156, 4261, 4281, 4481 Option for Mule Deer 1331, 4276, 4211**

Chris Hampson outlined the number of tags and pointing out the harvest percentage of 50 inches main beam length is predominant in bulls of 7 years or older. Mr. Hampson then noted that populations are at 88-percent or less of the population objective. Mr. Hampson commented that the slight reduction in Unit 071 for antlered elk due to a herd reduction in the Jarbridge. It is likely that the high bull to cow ratio will remain slightly below the objective that was written by elk staff.

During the discussion it was noted that there are few elk in Washoe County and that the young bulls in Unit 011 appear to have come from Oregon and/or California. Additionally one cow elk had a calf in Unit 011 and is thought to be a first. Other discussion noted that the supply and demand will typically result in an increase or decrease in demand as will a low hunter success rate that will generate more tags the next year.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers commented that Mike Scott may be able to clarify why management areas 16 and 17 are combined as a single hunt unit. Mr. Flowers suggested that the two be separated into two hunts as each unit has its own population objective. Mr. Flowers noted that some sportsmen will tell you that there are 300 or more in unit 16. Mr. Flowers pointed out that from 1994 to 2007 the landscape in Nevada has changed significantly and that it may be time to possibly reopen elk management plans for opportunities to increase population objectives.

Mr. Scott pointed out that Unit 16 has a small population and that individuals holding a tag in 016 will be allowed to harvest in 017. It is likely that the area will be reassessed in time and perhaps revise splitting the units. Mr. Scott pointed out that it took 4-years to finalize the 2004 plan in Lincoln County.

Jonathan Lesperance questioned whether the number of tags in hunt 4102 is for hunt opportunity or depredation in Area 251

Mr. Scott explained that 251 had only a handful of bulls during the cow hunt last year and that this area has been identified as an elk free zone which requires that the population be removed.

Chair Robinson closed comment.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Elk 4102, 4107, 4151, 4156, 4161, 4651, 4181, 4181 Wilderness Only, 4481 Option Mule Deer 1331, Hunt 4176, 4476 Option Mule Deer 1371, Hunt 4111, 4111 Option for Mule Deer 1341, 4407 Option for Junior Mule Deer 1107, 4251, 4156, 4261, 4281, 4481 Option for Mule Deer 1331, 4276, 4211, as written. The motion carried with member Di Rocco absent.***

**Resident Junior Mule Deer – Antlered or Antlerless – Archery, Muzzleloader or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107**

Chris Hampson summarized the recommendation to increase the quota by 15-percent due to the estimated 32 bucks per 100 does. Mr. Hampson commented that the largest increases were in Units 6 and 10 where an increase buck to doe and fawn recruitment was observed. Mr. Hampson noted that the report should indicate a date of 2017 rather than 2016.

Member Shea questioned whether the Junior Hunt is working in accomplishing what it was intended to do. Member Shea explained that he could not determine whether the program was working.

Mr. Hampson commented that there are more Juniors coming in annually with about 3,000 tags per year. However, it is unknown whether those individuals continue and move to the regular hunt later.

Member Spencer commented that her two children hunt as do the children of perhaps a dozen other families she is acquainted with.

Member Shea recalled a hunter safety class that included only two children. While Member Shea is supportive of the Junior Hunt he has concern that it is not having the intended goal.

Member Spencer commented that it would be good to review the data but that she does not wish to see the opportunity taken away from children.

There was some discussion about the fluctuating herd population and number of left over tags at the end of the season. It was explained that there are several factors that influence the number of tags in the Junior Hunt but that the information was unable at tonight's (April 26, 2018) meeting.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers drew attention to the declining herd populations in Units 014 and 033 and recommended that the Junior Hunt be reduced from 20 to 15 tags in Unit 014 and that Unit 033 be reduced from 15 to 8 due to the continued decline.

Mel Belding concurred with Mr. Flowers' recommendation to reduce the number of tags and recalled that Jeremy Drew had commented at a previous Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting that around 1000 applicants were lost at 12 years old turning 13.

Jack Robb – NDOW, commented that he did not recall that statement and that the new system will be able to provide more refined data than was not previously available. Mr. Robb noted a continued decline in the number of individuals interested in hunting. Mr. Robb will review the data and provide an update on a comparison of data sets.

Member Shea suggested that the best way to review the issue is to identify areas of interest that would encourage more participation in the Junior Hunt.

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During the discussion it was noted that as children mature their range of interest and activities are influenced by academics, work and starting a family.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Responding to Member Spencer's inquiry about the change in the number of tags, Mr. Hampson explained that the number of tags is based on the previous year's data on units applied for and the number of applications statewide.

Mr. Scott commented that a number of factors are considered in determining the number of tags, including high buck to doe ratios. Most units are managed to reduce the number of buck when there is a higher than desired ratio of bucks to does.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Chair Robinson, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Resident Junior Mule Deer – Antlered or Antlerless – Archery, Muzzleloader or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107 as written with the following modification Unit 014 reduce the number of tags from 20 to 15; Unit 033 retain 8 tag the same as the previous year. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

### **Mule Deer Hunts 1181, 1331, 1371, 1341, 1331, 1371 and 1341**

Chris Hampson – NDOW, outlined the recommendations and drew attention to previous Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approvals. Mr. Hampson noted that the Department will continue to make recommendations based on the previous year hunter success, pertinent herd data and other information. Mr. Hampson noted that the number of tags had been reduced in Unit 014 with a slight increase for Unit 015. Unit 033 also has a slight increase in the number of tags while Unit 022 remains unchanged. Mr. Hampson noted that surveys indicated samples sizes were down across the board as well as lower hunter success. Typically a 3-year average is used when considering an increase in the number of tags. Mr. Hampson also noted that the intent is to offer hunter an opportunity statewide.

Member Shea suggested that a standard be set to hold a specific ratio of bucks to does such as 30 to 100 to assure an appropriate number of mature bucks.

Mr. Hampson recalled that the issue has been discussed a number of times at state and local level and adjusted accordingly. It is unclear now where the ratio of 30 bucks to 100 does came from originally and that NDOW will continue to provide the best recommendation possible based on the ground conditions and other parameters.

Mike Scott – NODW, noted that the one other point is that 30 is an arbitrary number.

Member Sean commented that in the Granites he has seen up to 40-percent mature age class bucks in the past. However, he has not spent much time in Area 6.

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Mr. Hampson noted that the Granites continues to see declining populations and that recruitment has not been down due to a number of factors: wildfire, drought and other weather conditions that adversely affect herds, reproduction and supporting habitat.

Discussion then focused on the continued reduction in tag allocations. During the discussion it was noted that the Department is recommending higher allocations than recommended in the past and that unlike a zoo, animals can and are significantly impacted by a variety of factors such as drought, wildfire and condition of habitat. As the discussion continued, it was pointed out that the hunter success rate in the Granites was “horrible” and that when the success rate declines the number of tags is increased. Other discussion noted that each weapons class has the tag allocation based on their specific hunter success ratio.

Mr. Hampson outlined allocated flight hours and maximized efforts to conduct the best survey possible with the limited time allotted Mr. Hampson noted that rain and other weather conditions can have adverse impacts on the quality of a survey. Additionally, topography also affect the survey process when survey the higher elevations which may have snow cover.

Chair Robinson commented that it appeared that a portion of Washoe County Unit 195 had not been surveyed since 2002.

Carl Lackey noted that the location of the herd is known and that the travel corridor of 395 used to be a main crossing. However, the continued increase in traffic, larger median and development in Topaz Ranch Estates continues to impact herd movement and population.

Chair Robinson opened public comment.

Rex Flowers suggested that Unit 011 013 and 033 be separated in the Hunt Book rather than lumped as a single area as these areas are hunted individually. Mr. Flowers drew attention to the survey results pointing out that some areas have not seen any significant changes. Mr. Flowers recommended that the non-resident archery allocation remain unchanged with the resident late hunt remaining unchanged as well. Additionally Unit 014 be treated the same as approved for the Junior hunt; late resident hunt reduced from 15 to 10; 033 early remain unchanged at 10 and muzzleloader at 3 as it was last year. Mr. Flowers also recommended that the resident hunt 1331 early also remain unchanged

Ray Kebisch suggested that the PIW tags be divided into regions when applied to the late season.

Responding to Mel Belding inquiry about what percentage of the population has to be observed to get a population estimate, Mr. Hampson explained that the sample size in Washoe County continues to decrease and that the intent is to observe 100 deer minimum as it is difficult to get a more robust survey. Mr. Hampson also noted that the survey numbers were then inserted in the statistic modeling to determine a population estimate.

Mr. Belding drew attention to the data as shown in the Hunt Book over time. Since 2011 the numbers have been bad and even worse when the numbers from 1988 are reviewed. Mr. Belding recalled when Units 014 and 033 were both managed as trophy hunt areas.

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Gerald Lent stated that the hunter survey that NDOW did a few years ago said that hunters wanted a quality hunt for big deer and not the opportunity to hunt every year like NDOW wants. Hunters would rather wait and hunt every few years for a quality hunt not like NDOW is doing and increasing the deer tags and there are no large deer left. There are many hunt units that have no 4 points or better deer harvested which means no large breeding deer and you had better cut the deer tags not increase them like NDOW is doing. Also, the Washoe biologist in the January 2918 CAB minutes stated in unit 014 (Granites) the deer population peaked in 2012 with a drop in 2013. That is totally wrong as the deer peaked 2014 and started dropping in 2015. Therefore this board should not take everything they hear as correct and to make sure they ask questions to make sure there is proof for what they are being told.

Chair Robinson closed public comment.

Responding to Member Shea's inquiry about the number of PIW tags, Mr. Lackey stated that he does not see the 8 PIW tags as an issue given the total number of tags.

***It was moved by Member Shea, seconded by Member Spencer, to recommend that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners approve Hunt 1181, as written, Hunt 1331 with the modification to Units 011 and 013 early to remain unchanged at 40 tags, Unit 014 early reduce to 35 from 40; Unit 014 late reduce from 15 to 10; Unit 021 reduce from 50 to 40; Unit 022 from 50 to 40; Unit 033 early reduce from 25 to 20; Unit 033 late reduce from 15 to 10; Hunt 1371 Unit 014 reduce from 7 to 5; Unit 033 reduce from 7 to 5; Hunt 1341 Resident Archer: Unit 011 thru 013 reduce from 20 to 15; Unit 014 reduce from 40 to 30; Hunt 1331 Non-resident Unit 011 and 013 early reduce from 8 to 2; Hunt 1371 and 1341 Units 011 and 013 reduce from 3 to 2. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

### **Resident and Non-resident Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation Tags Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215**

There was no presentation or public comment.

***It was moved by Member Spencer, seconded by Chair Robinson, to approve Resident and Non-resident Deer and antelope Landowner Compensation Tags Hunts 1115, 1215, 2115 and 2215, as written. The motion carried with Member Di Rocco absent.***

11. **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 next meeting to be held June 25, 2018.*

Chair Robinson asked that Chris Hampson provide a Predator presentation at the June 25, 2018, meeting.

Mr. Hampson recommended that Chair Robinson make that request through Pat Jackson who handles the predator program.

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Member Shea suggested an update on riding bonus points.

Jack Robb stated that the Tag Allocation Committee will begin meeting again in June 2018.

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

Gerald Lent read the following into the record: In item #7 of the January 22, 2018, approved minutes I was offended by comments by NDOW Biologist (Chris Hampson) when he said the reason 014 (Granites) had more deer during a 10-year span was because it had more rainfall and less evaporation. This is witchcraft: There is no science to what he told this board to prove this. Only his unscientific guess. Show us your rainfall and snowfall total data to prove what you claimed in Unit 014. And this Board just took whatever was said by an NDOW employee as gospel and never challenged his nonsense. This is very perplexing of this board NOT to make NDOW substantiate what they are saying. He refuses to admit that the 10-year Predator Project in this area where greater than 50 lions were removed had anything to do with the huge increase in the muledeer population in this area. It's always drought or weather. He also stated that the populations peaked in 2012 with a drop in 2013 of 30-40%. False: Peaked in 2014 and dropped in 2015. According to NDOW's data.

Rex Flowers referenced discussion about the Junior Hunt and Recruitment/Retention noting that, in his opinion, the program does work pointing out that several of his grandchildren have participated in the program. Mr. Flowers pointed out that while participation in hunting may dwindle during the late teens and early twenties, it generally starts to increase once an individual reaches the age of thirty.

Jonathan Lesperance raised concerns about potential issues with using centerfire weapons in unit 203 for the bear hunt. It was his understanding that it would be an archery only bear hunt for the unit.

Ray Kebisch suggested that a sound system be provided at future meetings so that the public can hear board comments and discussion in the back of the meeting room.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT** [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.