

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting **DRAFT Minutes**

#3

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, anyone planning to participate in the meeting must participate via the web link provided below.

Friday, May 1, 2020 – 10:00 am

The meeting will be broadcast live at the NDOW Commission YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0MZa2Hx7og8pFcQ>

Meeting materials are available at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. The content of written comments should be consistent with the three (3) minute public comment period allowed during normally conducted meetings. If a comment is excessively lengthy, the Commission reserves the right to review only that portion that is consistent with this policy. Persons are invited to submit written comments to wildlifecommission@ndow.org, so they may be included as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the meeting via Zoom:

Chairman Brad Johnston
Commissioner Jon AlMBERG
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner Paul E. Valentine

Madam Vice Chairwoman Tiffany East
Commissioner Tom Barnes
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner David McNinch

Secretary Tony Wasley
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the meeting via Zoom:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien
Management Analyst Kailey Taylor
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg
IT Professional Eric Dugger
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox

Deputy Director Jack Robb
Administrative Assistant III Megan Manfredi
Game Warden Chief Michael Maynard
Game Division Administrator Mike Scott
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

Public in Attendance via NDOW YouTube channel:

Robert Boehmer, Carson CABMW
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW
Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Shane Boren, White Pine CABMW
Rex Flowers, self
Jeff Rogers, self
Mel Belding, self

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Joel McConnell, Elko CABMW
Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW
Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW
Doug Martin
Fred Voltz, self
Andy Wolf, self

Friday, May 1, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Brad Johnston
CABMW members who are present and viewing the meeting through the YouTube link should send an email to wildlifecommission@ndow.org indicating their presence.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Madam Vice Chairwoman East, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, Hubbs, Kiel, McNinch, and Valentine.

CABMW members present via YouTube: Robert Boehmer, Carson CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Joel McConnell, Elko CABMW; Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW; Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW; Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; Shane Boren, White Pine CABMW.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No comment or discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Johnston inquired with Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett if public comment was needed on this agenda item; Senior DAG Burkett responded that no public comment was necessary.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

3. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Brad Johnston – Informational
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file

(Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record).
Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated he has received a number of emails with respect to agenda numbers 6A and 6B which have been forwarded to the Department and to the Commissioners.

Secretary Wasley stated the Department received a significant number of comments which have been captured, redistributed the emails to the Commission, and they have been catalogued for public review if needed.

Chairman Johnston thanked the Department for getting all of the information and correspondence circulated along with the efforts to help the Commission continue with its essential business during these challenging times; and further thanked the Department for taking steps to assist the youth by scheduling online hunter education classes so the youth could earn a hunters education certificate and apply for the upcoming draw.

- 4.* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
Commission minutes may be approved from the April 10, 2020, meeting. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

No comment or discussion from the Commission.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 10:05 a.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 10:15 a.m. and stated that no public comment was received.

MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 10, 2020 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items at wildlifecommission@ndow.org; these comments will be shared with the Commission. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No CABMW comment was received.

6. Commission Regulations – For Possible Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

A.* Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Mike Cox – for Possible Action

The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats for the 2020 - 2021 seasons. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Department should start the discussion with regulations for the pronghorn tags, the bighorn sheep tags as well as the mountain goat tags and then he will break for public comment on those items. He stated that the elk tags will be the next block of discussion with public comment and then the deer tags in the final block of discussion. He thanked the Department for including the quota recommendation forms with the support material.

Secretary Wasley thanked the Commission for their patience as the Department works through the logistical issues of the meeting and thanked the staff for working to get the meeting set up during this unprecedented time. This is one of the most important meetings of the year with the quota setting; and it has historically been well attended, heavily commented and robustly debated meeting of the year. The Department has already seen a remarkable interest in what Nevada has to offer through the big game application period which is presently open. Before the Department dives into the specific recommendations, he would ask that Deputy Director Jack Robb to provide a brief update as to where the Department is in the current application process, which will be open until 11:00 p.m., Pacific Standard Time, on Monday, May 4, 2020. History has shown that the last few days has been significant in the number of applications that is received.

Deputy Director Jack Robb provided an update to the 2020 Big Game Application period which was extended one week longer than last year, he compared last year's application period to this year's application period, and provided details to the number of applications received to date by species, by age group, and by city and state. He provided that the Department has notified customers if they are about to lose bonus points for not applying this year and provided details as to the marketing strategy.

Commissioner Almborg inquired if the Department has had any communication with neighboring states on whether they have had similar experiences and if they are seeing lower than normal participation of customers in their application period.

Deputy Director Robb stated that he has been in contact with Epic and goHUNT who are both consultants for the western states. Nevada is the only state open for applications during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown; that other states are seeing strong numbers; and that Nevada is now 16,000 applications ahead of this time last year. He stated that the Department stepped up the outreach in the last few days with text messages, emails and social media.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Department typically sees higher numbers in Clark County; she is asking because it appears that the numbers in Reno look higher now and was curious if the Department is seeing any other anomalies from the COVID-19 pandemic in other counties.

Deputy Director Robb responded that he is not seeing any real difference between the counties this year; that historically one-third of the applicants come from the Washoe, Carson and Douglas County area, one-third comes from Clark County and one-third comes from the rural counties.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Department has a position regarding the Governor's COVID-19 Directives in terms of hunting and recreation in general, and what has the Department put out to the public.

Deputy Director Robb stated that the Department would like to be doing outreach for fishing right now but is not so as to support the Governor's Stay at Home order. He stated that the Department is optimistic that by hunting season, there will be an opportunity to get back into the field, but have recognized that staying home some activities have ceased and the public does want to get into the field. In the month of April, the Department has sold fifty percent more fishing license than sold last year. The warden's and staff that are in the field are seeing heavier use in the reservoirs in northern Nevada than in the past.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Department thinks that the lower application numbers reflect the unprecedented times due to COVID-19 and potential economic distress within the state where people may not have the funds to spend on recreation. Deputy Director Robb responded that the applications are lower day over day, but that the application period deadline has been extended by one week and there has been an increase in the last week with being 16,000 applications ahead of last year's numbers.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Department extended the application deadline by one week well in advance of the COVID-19 pandemic and not as a response to the pandemic. With the automated process now, the Department does not need the same amount of time to process the applications and it was determined that the Department could safely extend the application period by one week. The Department fully anticipates that worse-case scenario, the amount of applications would be flat and not a decrease. The day to day the numbers run lower, but with the extension there is now a longer duration. Regarding Commissioner AlMBERG's question, he provided that he is on weekly calls with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies with people from other states and there has been a tremendous interest in outdoor activities right now. This could be the most anticipated draw period and upcoming hunting season. One of the silver linings is that people have been forced to slow down and reconnect with nature.

Secretary Wasley stated that in regard to the quota recommendations, all of them are science based with layers of conservatism built in to the process; and at each decision point, the benefit of the doubt is always given to the animal with the determination that it is better to err on behalf of the animal rather than at their expense. The Department is made up of dedicated passionate professional staff with academic backgrounds, professional training, extensive on the ground experience, who want as

much or more from their hunting experiences. They do not make the recommendations at the expense of the resource, but rather in a sustainable, professional and scientifically defensible manner.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that members of the game division will be presenting the Big Game Quota Recommendations that represents months of work by the game division biologists, supervisors, staff biologists and the administrative assistants. This year has been difficult for the staff to pull back and stay home rather than head out into Nevada and do the job that they love. He is very proud of the staff, as sometimes they risk their lives to collect the data which is used to provide the quota recommendations. As a team, the data collected is analyzed to provide the County Advisory Boards and the Commission with the best information possible to make the most informed decisions.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material regarding the antelope quotas provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and provided the CABMW recommendations for antelope.

Commissioner Hubbs commented that the Department is recommending fewer tags for both antelope groups and inquired as to why the quota numbers are lower this year.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded that there are some areas with bigger herds that has had poor recruitment with low fawn to doe ratios. He stated that in some cases the low recruitment has been in consecutive years. For the horns longer than ears, the yearlings are not ready for harvest legally. He stated that the Department is looking to the future and knows that there may be bigger cuts in year two because of the consecutive years of poor recruitment.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired as to why is there poor recruitment. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that in general, it is weather driven. The areas where they have seen more significant decline in fawn recruitment has been in the eastern region and provided information as to how the weather has affected the recruitment.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired about the bigger cuts that Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder mentioned for next year and if the Commission should give a bigger cut this year. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided that there is no need to cut more now and provided statistics regarding recruitment.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox reviewed the support material regarding the bighorn sheep and mountain goat quotas provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and provided the CABMW recommendations for bighorn sheep and mountain goats. He further presented a PowerPoint of Muddy Mountain Bighorn Demographics 2003-2021.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2020_Archive/

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about where is the Department with the mycoplasma bronchial pneumonia as it seems to be more dismal every year. She stated that there seems to be an isolated population that has not been exposed by it; she knows it is a complex issue and the sheep is a

treasured resource, and she is concerned if hunting is the right thing to do for the sheep if they are struggling in certain areas. She would like to spend some time discussing the strategy about what to do for this population, and what is the long-term plan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox responded that he was hoping to have a discussion about the sheep at a different Commission meeting and he could bring the data forward of what is known and unknown. He stated that the analogies of the COVID-19 pandemic have many similarities to the polymicrobial bronchial pneumonia that has struck the bighorn sheep west wide, not just in Nevada. He stated that Nevada still has over 12,000 bighorn sheep in Nevada, and this was the first year that there was a decline in sheep where Nevada went below 10,000 Desert Bighorn Sheep for the first time in several years. He stated that a vaccine cannot be found nor administered in wildlife animals because you cannot reach every animal and there would be some animals left that are carriers; that social distancing is the key management tool to use today outside of testing for the carriers and removing them lethally from the herd or even starting over with a herd. The Department is working with pathologists and epidemiologists west wide to try to find answers, but the best answer right now is to maintain separation between herds that have been impacted and those that have not. The Department is harvesting the rams and will never issue a hunt or tags unless there are adequate mature rams and the Department is monitoring the herds. To put things in perspective, there were over 1,000,000 bighorn sheep when Lewis and Clark made their way west; in the 1950's there was a decline to about 25,000 sheep; and now west wide, the population is up to about 90,000.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the water developments. Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox responded that there are hundreds of water developments for the animals and animals still die of dehydration across the state and the Department does not want the population in the Muddy Mountains to go any higher. The Department is contemplating a water development that would be associated with the Valley of Fire State Park; it would help catch bighorn sheep from dying of dehydration during the lean years where the landscape did not recharge from monsoonal rains but there are many more factors to consider.

Commissioner Valentine inquired for an explanation as to why Utah will not accept additional transplants and for an explanation the drop net program.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated that Utah is about 15-20 years behind our successful efforts; but have recently been pushing forward and received bighorn sheep from no less than four states this year, including Nevada. Utah also has mycoplasma scattered throughout their populations and is struggling to find opportunities that are safe.

Commissioner Almborg stated he appreciated the Department's efforts last year in moving the sheep; it was a privilege to be a part of a translocation events is appreciative of the experience. He inquired if there is a path that allows the Department to reintroduce healthy sheep into a recovered population.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated he also appreciates Commissioner Almborg's participation in helping with the sheep capture. He provided that there are studies done by Arizona and California and provided a potential opportunity to test herds that were exposed in the past, but the pathogen is no longer active. The Department has not set up these parameters yet but there are opportunities to try this experiment in the future.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired further about the water development projects in the Muddy Mountains because she believes there is more work that can be done.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox responded that since Nevada's habitat is in the desert, the animals need to live within their means. The desert is not an endless supply of feed and sheep cannot live on water alone, they also need feed. The past water development teams have done a great job at building the water developments but the current animals have a population that has reached its caring capacity and it needs to be managed at its current levels with the man made water developments that are there. If more water is added, it could create more problems in the form of forage limitations surrounding the water developments and more uncertainty during the years where the monsoonal rains do not recharge. He reiterated that the wildlife needs to live within its means with the food and water that exists in the environment.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East asked if the Department is seeing bad body conditions or starvation in the animals.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated yes, there are things he is seeing that he does not like, and it is sad. He stated that there was no rain for four months. With reports from hunters and staff, they think they lost five to ten percent of the sheep population in the Muddy Mountains to dehydration last year because the population was too high for the availability of water. One of the reasons the ewe hunt exists and why there are opportunities to move sheep, is to avoid the sheep dying of dehydration.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East commented that she does not like the ewe hunt and would rather do other things but does see the necessity for it.

Commissioner Caviglia stated he spent a lot of time in the Muddy Mountains last year; a lot of the water dried up by late fall, he found a lot of dead sheep on the November hunt and reported that to the Department. He sees that there are a lot of guzzlers up there, but the sheep drink them dry unless they are recharged so he agrees with the Department. The more sheep that are added would compound the issue that is there now. He inquired with the seven sheep tags proposed this year, and with the forty percent drop in population, if that tag number needs to change.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated that he is correct; the Department has a lower tag recommendation this year and it will continue to see a reduction. There are enough mature rams to accommodate seven tag holders.

Chairman Johnston inquired about alternative recommendations in that Mineral County asked that the quotas be set the same as last year in Units 202, 205-207 and asked that Mr. Cox speak to those recommendations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated that as they review the data, they see changes year to year in Mineral County and in adjacent areas. In Unit 205 and 207, they saw about 30 percent mortality from the pneumonia event and think it is responsible to back off a few tags this year until more information is gathered. With the changes, he does not want to get hunters in the field and learn that the rams died at a faster rate.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 12:00 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 12:20 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and posted below:

From: Ted McElvain
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:17 AM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Ewe Tags 068

The Lander County Cab does not agree with the additional tag recommended by the department on increasing the Ewe quota in unit 068 from 1 to 2 during the 2020 season. This past year NDOW moved sheep from the Sheep Cr range to the Pyramid Lake range. The Lander Cab feels that NDOW should have moved an additional ewe during this time instead of coming back with the request to harvest another ewe from the Sheep Creek range.

Ted

From: Ted McElvain
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 10:22 AM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Antelope Youth Tag/Season

The Lander County Cab would like to find out where the Youth Antelope tag approval process stands that was requested by the Lander Cab a year and half ago. The last we heard it was in the review stage.

Thank You, Ted

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 5:58 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
(No subject)

The last survey was in 2019 with the results of 52 bucks per 100 does.

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 6:09 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
(No subject)

Bighorn Sheep, a need is to help reduce the numbers. NDOT and NHP are working with NDOW to help with the sheep on the highway that are getting hit with autos. We feel a reduction in unit 202 is not the answer.

From: Therese Campbell
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 6:49 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Question for Mike Cox

Therese Campbell for the record.

Is there a risk that Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae could be spread from an infected sheep to a healthy population due to hunters killing animals in an infected herd and then subsequently coming into contact with a previously uninfected herd?

From: Steve
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 7:03 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Washoe CAB Antelope recommendation

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and commissioners,

Washoe CAB agrees with the recommendations with the following exceptions:
Resident Antelope horns longer than ears - Muzzleloader unit 015 -we would like 15 tags instead of the 5 recommended which is same as last year; Archery unit 033 - we would like 10 tags instead of the 7 recommended taking in consideration the low hunter success resulting in a very limited impact on the herd and modest improvement in opportunity for hunters.

Thank you

From: Steve
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 7:03 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Resident California Sheep Ewe Hunt 068

Steve Robinson Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnson and Commissioners:

While Washoe is opposed to the Desert Ewe hunt in 268, we understand there is a justification for it. We cannot find a justification for this hunt. There is a transplant planned from this herd in the fall. The 2 ewes proposed to be hunted should be added to this transplant and help augment another area that needs the population to grow.

Our recommendation would be zero tags if that was possible, but we recommend only 1 tag to be issued down from the 2 that are proposed.

Hopefully, this hunt is eliminated next year.

Thank you

From: Steve
Sent: Fri 5/1/2020 7:03 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Washoe CAB recommendation for Resident DBS Ewe hunt

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and Commissioners

Again, we are in opposition to the Desert Ewe hunt in 268. While we respect the presentation that was made by the Department regarding the value and need for a ewe hunt as a management tool, other options must be considered to achieve the management goals. We have been told that there is no place to transplant the sheep and no other state can accept them or wants them. While we are being told that, the Department transplanted sheep from the Stillwaters to Utah. There has to be other areas and states that are suitable for relocation and that needs to be explored more aggressively.

Last year Chairman Johnston noted that the Department needs 300 sheep removed to get to a healthy herd in 268 but only 72 ewe tags are proposed for this year. This doesn't achieve or address the management objective of the Department.

While Washoe is opposed to this hunt we recognize the need to have the hunt this year since the department hasn't found a suitable place to transplant the sheep.

We recommend 60 tags, the same as last year, instead of the 72 proposed.

We would also ask the Commission to direct the Department to find a place to transplant the sheep and then eliminate this hunt.

Thank you

From: Paul Dixon
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 12:05 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season

I would like to state for the record, my personal position for agenda item 6.A, **Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season**. After careful review of the NDOW staff biologist's big game scientific data and the big game status book for 2020, I support the big game quotas as presented for antelope, desert bighorn sheep and mountain goat. I support the not translocating any sheep this FY from the Muddies. The sheep quotes for both ram and ewe in Clark County look very reasonable.

Paul Dixon, Chair Clark CABMW

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Quota recommendations - Antelope, Sheep

I would like the Commission to support Washoe CAB requests.

Antelope- Unit 015 Muzzleloader- Last year 15 tags were issued, 1 tag returned, and 12 hunters completed their return cards for 3 animals harvested (25%) which is less than the 3-year ave. of 29%. While the population did decrease to 900 from 1000 prior year, but the 5-year ave. for this herd is 900 so we still are maintaining. The post season flight shows 28 buck/100 does (target point is 25/ 100 does) and fawns in 2019 were 39/ 100 does compared to 37/ 100 does in 2018. I can't believe that issuing 10 tags extra will have any biological effect on the herd. Unit 033 Archery- Yes, this is about opportunity. Tags available last year were 7 with 3 tags returned or not hunted and only 1 animal was harvested. 3 extra tags will probably only change harvest by 1 animal at most and again how does 1 more animal harm any herd biologically. Also, the area biologist even states in the Big Game Status Book that his shortened flight time this past year may have skewed the numbers for bucks/100 does and fawns/ 100 does. California Ewe Sheep Hunt- I would like to see 1 tag only for Unit 068.

Thanx,
Rex Flowers

From: F Voltz
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Public Comment--Agenda Item #6A

Public Comment—Item 6A—NV Wildlife Commission—May 1, 2020—Fred Voltz

Reviewing the proposed Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 killing seasons brings up some huge irregularities in the methodology. Fifty-two of the line items show Department-recommended increases in dead animals from licensed hunter activity of 50% all the way up to 300%. (See attached analysis.) There are many other substantial increases of 20%, 30% and 40%. The worst of the biggest increases are compounded by both Early and Late season killing limits in particular units, leaving the target animals little chance to recover before another round of sport killing commences. If there were accurate population numbers, these outsized increases might have some shred of justification. However, since we are dealing primarily with guesstimates, not actual census data, recommending huge increases in hunter killing of any species is a recipe for huge, long-term population drops. The only genuinely accurate numbers are the deaths recorded when hunters deliver proof they have killed animals, which as we know from suspect non-target species data presents serious data quality problems of accuracy and completeness.

The four established methods of wildlife population guesstimates are: direct observation, indirect observation, sampling, and mark and recapture studies. All are fraught with statistical anomalies that make the resulting population guesstimates suspect at best and wildly inaccurate at worst. Prudence and a shred of concern for wildlife species beyond hunter convenience, opportunity and success would suggest that target death numbers would reflect these clear realities that can't be fixed by arbitrarily or artificially massaging the numbers.

Instead, what we see on the Quota Rationale narrative sheets are admissions that there is no survey data, reliance on an undefined Rule of 17, and repeated statements that the focus is on having high hunter killing success. The recommendations abdicate any acknowledgment or meaningful adherence to NRS 501.105, which says in pertinent part that “the Commission shall establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to preserve, protect, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat.” Also in the Quota Rationale narratives are statements such as “concerns about a limited number of rams available for the 2020 (hunting) seasons,” “preserve hunt quality and quantity,” “aerial surveys were difficult due to open conditions,” more demand for an early hunt,” “rams are easier to locate in an early hunt,” need for an increase in tags,” and “hunters had difficulty accessing.” The narratives were littered with spelling and grammatical errors that call into question the accuracy of numbers presented despite ‘review’ by a supervisor.

The 52 Quota line items attached to these comments need to be significantly adjusted downward before approval by the Commission for the upcoming hunting season given that the source data has so little accuracy and statistical certainty.

Always keep in mind, killing wildlife is not conservation, but permanent destruction, so when it is undertaken for what some consider to be recreation, it should be done so judiciously, not primarily to maximize the killing so hunters will keep buying licenses.

Resident Antelope—Horns Longer than Ears—Any Legal Weapon

Units 043-046	+ 57.1%
Units 115, 231, 242	+ 66.7%

Resident Antelope—Horns Longer than Ears—Archery Hunt

Unit 031	+100.0%
Units 043-046	+100.0%
Unit 051	+133.3%
Units 061, 062, 064, 071, 073	+ 50.0%
Units 067, 068	+ 57.1%
Units 115, 231, 242	+ 50.0%
Units 131, 145, 163, 164	+ 50.0%
Units 161, 162	+150.0%
Units 221-223, 241	+ 87.5%
Unit 251	+150.0%

Resident Antelope—Horns Shorter than Ears—Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Unit 035	+ 50.0%
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Non-Resident—Antelope—Horns Longer than Ears—Any Legal Weapon Hunt

Units 043-046	+114.3%
Unit 051	+ 50.0%
Unit 111-114	+ 50.0%

Non-Resident-Antelope—Horns Longer than Ears—Archery Hunt

Units 032, 034	+ 50.0%
Units 043-046	+ 100.0%
Unit 051	+300.0%
Units 067, 068	+ 50.0%
Units 101-104, 108, 109, 144	+100.0%
Units 115, 231, 242	+100.0%
Units 131, 145, 163, 164	+100.0%
Units 141, 143, 151-156	+300.0%

Resident Nelson (Desert) Big Horn Sheep—Any Ram—Any Legal Weapon

Unit 183	+ 50.0%
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Resident Elk-Antlerless—Any Legal Weapon

Units 241, 242	+ 66.7%
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Non-Resident—Elk—Antlered—Archery Hunt

Units 072, 073, 074	+ 50.0%
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Non-Resident—Elk—Antlerless—Any Legal Weapon

Units 061,071 Early	+ 75.0%
Units 061, 071 Late	+ 66.7%
Units 104, 108, 121 Early	+150.0%

Resident Junior—Mule Deer Antlered or Antlerless—Archery Muzzleloader or Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1107

Units 011-013	+ 50.0%
Unit 081	+ 50.0%

Resident Mule Deer Antlered—Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Units 011-013	+ 70.0%
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Unit 014	+ 50.0%
Unit 033	+ 50.0%
Units 071-079, 091 Early	+ 54.5%
Units 071-079, 091 Late	+ 57.1%

Resident Mule Deer--Antlered Archery Hunt 1331

Units 011-013	+ 66.7%
Unit 035	+100.0%
Units 071-079, 091 Late	+ 50.0%
Units 194-196 Late	+ 66.7%

Non-Resident Mule Deer—Antlered—Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1332

Units 011-013	+133.0%
Units 022	+ 66.7%
Unit 031	+ 50.0%
Unit 051	+ 50.0%
Units 061, 062, 064, 066-069 Early	+ 50.0%
Units 061, 062, 064, 066-069 Late	+150.0%
Units 111-113 Early	+100.0%
Units 114, 115 Early	+100.0%

Non-Resident Mule Deer—Antlered—Muzzleloader Hunt 1332

Units 071-079, 091	+ 80.0%
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Non-Resident Mule Deer—Antlered—Archery Hunt 1332

Units 071-079, 091 Early	+ 50.0%
Units 071-079, 091 Late	+ 50.0%

From: Joe Crim

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 12:10 PM

To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>

Subject: Tag reduction

Unit 041-041 Antelope Horns Shorter than ears

If we are having a reduction in the total population (2000 animals in 2019 to 1700 animals in 2020) How can we justify harvesting the females who will inevitably produce more animals in the unit. I believe in science but common sense surely come into play here

From: Glenn Bunch

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 12:10 PM

To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>

Subject: Mineral County Comment:

205-208 this covers 4 different herds of Antelope, if we removed 6 bucks from each herd that would be 24 bucks. So that would justify 25 quota.

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 12:13 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: mineral County comments

Resident Antelope Archery hunt:
205-208 same thing here also 4 ranges, 6 bucks per range would be 24 bucks.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that with the condition our state is in right now, she is going to rely mainly on the Department's recommendations and does not have any reason to deviate from them.

Commissioner McNinch appreciates the Department's recommendations; they made the point and provided their justifications so he will rely on the Department's recommendations with respect to the antelope and sheep.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Department adequately surveyed the animals or were the surveys terminated prematurely.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that almost every year there are some surveys that are terminated due to wind or other issues. With regard to bighorn sheep and antelope, most of the surveys were completed; and with bighorn sheep, they try to survey those populations every other year, and depending on how many surveys need done, there are some surveys that will get surveyed bi-annually. The survey of the Muddy Mountains is completed every year.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated that she is also looking at the proposed recommendations; but with respect to horns shorter than ears, she would changing Unit 041, 042 recommendation down to 25 tags and change the ewe hunt in Unit 268 down to 60 but is comfortable with all other recommendations.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he agrees with Madam Vice Chairwoman East with the reduction in Unit 041, 042 unless the biologist is not going to make the recommendation on habitat conditions, but if it is more of a conservative reduction to increase the population that is already decreasing, he is inclined to support that. Regarding the ewe hunt, the sooner the Department can lower those hunts the better and wants to encourage the Commission to go down the path of the study to move healthy sheep into other areas if possible. And, to pursue the other option of determining what it takes to use the drop net option. That is how he perceives the ability to reduce the ewe hunts down the road.

Commissioner Barnes stated that in regard to the ewe hunt, he will support it as presented. He further stated that Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox did a great job at explaining the situation there and the lack of resources and instead of getting in trouble later, he is inclined to support that recommendation by the Department.

Chairman Johnston stated he agrees with the expressed comments. Based on what Mr. Cox stated today about reducing the tags from 2 to 1 in Unit 068, he will support that reduction. He further supports the reduction in horns shorter than ears in Unit 041, 042 as expressed by Madam Vice Chairwoman East and Commissioner Almborg. He suggests to modify the muzzleloader hunt in Unit

015 for the Resident Antelope - horns longer than ears and increase that to 10 tags; and reluctantly, he will support the proposed change to the Ewe hunt in Unit 268 for the reasons stated in Mr. Cox's presentation.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-11, BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON, FOR ANTELOPE, NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP, CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP, ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP AND MOUNTAIN GOAT WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS - MUZZLELOADER HUNT, THE QUOTA TO BE INCREASED FROM 5 TAGS TO 10 TAGS; RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS SHORTER THAN EARS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT IN UNIT 041, 042, THE QUOTA TO BE REDUCED FROM 40 TAGS TO 25 TAGS; RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY EWE – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT IN UNIT 268, THE QUOTA TO BE REDUCED FROM 2 TAGS TO 1 TAG. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee reviewed the support material regarding the elk quotas provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and provided the CABMW recommendations for the elk quotas.

Commissioner Alberg inquired about Elko CABMW's recommendation of the Resident Elk – Any Legal Weapon Hunt; Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee responded and provided their recommendations.

Commissioner Hubbs commented that there has been a reduction in elk tags in the last two years inquired if the Department has gone back further than that.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee responded that there is a conflicting response; the elk were doing very well and were well over the Departments population objectives. In the last 5-6 years, the Department have been able to bring the numbers down by removing cow elk which inadvertently elevate the bull ratios. As the Department has been able to achieve management objectives in those herds, they have been able to back off of the recommendations to maintain populations within the objectives and maintain a quality hunting experience.

Commissioner Hubbs further inquired if that is why the Department is removing some antlerless elk hunts; Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee confirmed that was correct.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee further reviewed the support material regarding the elk quotas and presented a PowerPoint of Antler Length Harvest Objectives.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2020_Archive/

Chairman Johnston inquired about the early and late any legal weapon hunt in Unit 111, the Department is recommending an increase from last year's quota; he commented that every year he has been a Commissioner, the White Pine CABMW requests that some of the tags be shifted to the muzzleloader hunt. He inquired of Mr. McKee's opinion in terms of success for this shift in tags which seems to be consistent with what the Department is trying to accomplish and what White Pine CABMW is asking.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee said that the shift of tags in this instance is appropriate; the muzzleloader quota for Unit 111-115 is always low based on the Department's demand/success formula because success tends to be high. The Department has no issue with making that shift. The overall concern is that the recommendation coming from White Pine CABMW was for an overall reduction in what the Department had approved last year and based on the harvest metrics that were discussed, the Department does not feel the reduction is warranted.

Secretary Wasley said it could provide equal opportunity for people to get in the field; the allocation of tags by weapon class is determined by Commission policy based on expressed interest by those weapon classes. The other thing to consider is if there are market differences in hunter success by weapon class even though there could be the same opportunity within this upcoming hunting season if there is lower success on the muzzleloader hunt compared to the rifle hunt, then that could result in an increase of bull ratio that could result in a higher recommended quota in subsequent years. It just means that there are other items for the Commission to consider.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Department is recommending an increased number of tags in the any legal weapon hunt in Unit 111-115, but 25 tag reduction of muzzleloader tags in the same unit, and he was asking why this would be recommended.

Secretary Wasley suggested that the Department recommendation from last year was similar in terms of the proportional distribution across the weapon classes and White Pine CABMW has traditionally had a desire for more of those tags be in the muzzleloader class. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee confirmed this information.

Commissioner Almborg inquired if there is a difference in the percentage of the beam lengths exceeding over 50 and if there is a difference in the early versus the late hunt. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded that for the early season resident any legal weapon, and it varies across the weapon classes, non-resident hunters have a higher main beam metric than others, however, for the early season it was 40 percent and late season was 33 percent.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he was not able to attend the White Pine CABMW meeting, but as a recommendation to preserve the quality and the number of the older age class animals, if there needs to be an increase, maybe be the increase could be in the late season instead of in the early season because that is a seven percent difference.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded that it is hard to know what happened during the late hunt; that was a trend that was carried across many of our areas. There was a substantial winter storm that hit during the late elk hunt and it is believed that the storm could have affected the hunter success. Shifting tags around is one way to address that issue.

Commissioner Almborg inquired as to what was the difference in success rate for Unit 111-115.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that the early season was increased by one percent which went from 64 percent to 65 percent, referring only to resident bull hunters; he further stated that the late season went from 61 percent to 64 percent, so in both seasons there was an increase in success. Commissioner Valentine asked if Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee had any issues with Lincoln CABMW recommendations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that the Department is recommending the quotas based on a variety of and data sources; and are standing firm with the recommendations with where they are at; and those reductions that are being recommended are not going to have a realized effect on age class but the Department will notice seeing fewer hunters in the field this year. The proposed alternative recommendations that are slight reductions are not going to have the desired effect of increasing trophy quality to hunters and the Department would not be able to measure it in harvest statistics after the season.

Chairman Johnston stated that if reducing the tags by a total of ten is not going to have the desired effect that is prompting the request to reduce it by ten; Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee concurred and provided an example.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 1:18 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and posted below:

From: Shane Boren
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:02 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: 2020 quotas

This is Shane Boren with the White Pine cab,

I would like to briefly address the 2020 deer recommendations.

Area 111-113 has a spring fawn ratio of 21/100 two years running which is the reason for wanting to lower the tags; Area 121 has a 2020 spring ration of 17/100 which we feel justifies a reduction in tags; Area 131-134 has a spring fawn ratio lower than average for 2 years running and a static population level according to NDOW. There has also been an overwhelming amount of concern from sportsmen and women on the population and mature buck numbers; Area 221-223 has a population model that is slightly lower along with observed buck to doe ratios that are lower this year. Along with this we only have 1 year in the last 3 of spring fawn ratios.

Thank you,
Shane Boren

From: Joel McConnell
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Elk quota public comment

Commissioners,

Please consider the Elko CAB recommendation in regards to 076, 077, 079, 081 Resident Elk Antlered ALW quotas of 50 early and 50 late (Non-resident Antlered Elk ALW to 5 early and 5 late). The percentage of bulls harvested with main-beams over 50 inches has been declining over the past number of years in this unit group. Further, the local biologist was not opposed the small additional reduction of 5 tags per season below her recommended quota during our local CAB meeting.

Thank you,
Joel McConnell
Elko CAB

From: Paul Dixon
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:22 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: 6.A, Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season (Elk)

I would like to state for the record, my personal position for agenda item 6.A, **Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season for ELK**. After careful review of the NDOW staff biologist's big game scientific data and the big game status book for 2020, I support the big game quotas as presented for elk. I will leave it to the individual counties (Lincoln, White Pine and Elko) where most Clark residents hunt elk to argue for any minor adjustments to the Department's recommendations.

Paul Dixon, Chair Clark CABMW

From: Joel McConnell
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Re: Elk quota public comment

To add to my previous comments below. 10 tags reduction must not be insignificant Since the biologist's own recommendations were to cut 5 early and late respectively.

We also received several public comments in favor of reducing the quota mentioned below. Plus the herd is now below its management objective.

From: Jeff Rogers
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 1:24 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: 111-115 antlered Elk recommendation

I feel there should not be a reduction in the muzzleloader hunt

Jeff Rogers

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded to Mr. McConnell comment and appreciates his question because it is a good point. He reiterated his point of where the Department stands with the main beam objectives, that success was high, and six point or greater is high, but the Department fell just outside of the main beam objective. It was an incremental step down from the recommendations to try and get back within the objectives.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she is more in line with following the Departments recommendations and provided information as to why and that the Department explained their reasons well.

Chairman Johnston stated that based on what he heard, the change he could support is a shift in tags in Unit 111-115 because White Pine CABMW has consistently asked for the shift and he does not recall a strong objection to it.

Commissioner AlMBERG stated that he agrees with Chairman Johnston's comment with a shift in tags in the weapon class; he will not support White Pine CABMW reductions in Unit 111-115 because the bull ratio is up and everything supports the Departments recommendation. He is considering swapping some of the tags from the early to the late season to preserve the older class animals and the Department would still be providing hunting opportunity.

Commissioner McNinch stated that the recommendations for Unit 111-115 were lower than what the Department was going to propose. If the goal is to get some muzzleloader hunters in the field, maybe there is room to add a few tags instead of changing the any legal weapon hunt. He is not opposed to what Chairman Johnston and Commissioner AlMBERG suggested by shifting tags but suggested adding some to Unit 111-115 instead.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded that is spot on from the earlier conversations and provided back up to support that.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired with Commissioner AlMBERG if he was suggesting that the tags for the early and late hunts in Unit 111-115 be flipped; Commissioner AlMBERG confirmed that is what he was suggesting.

MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-11, BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON FOR ELK AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: IN UNIT 111-115, THE RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – ANY LEGAL WEAPON, SWAPPING THE EARLY AND LATE TAGS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE 110 AND 120 RESPECTIVELY; NONRESIDENT HUNT, SWAPPING THE EARLY AND LATE TAGS SO THAT THEY WOULD BE 13 AND 14 RESPECTIVELY; AND IN THE MUZZLELOADER HUNT, UNIT 111-115, ADDING 20 ADDITIONAL TAGS TO 30 TAGS; AND THE MUZZLE LOADER HUNT TO REMAIN AT 3 TAGS.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Madam Vice Chairwoman East on the details of the motion.

COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner AlMBERG inquired if the 20 tags need to be taken from the early and late season and put them in the muzzleloader hunt or will the tag increase be okay. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded that based on the input received from the biologists, there should be no net change in the number of tags which would mean taking 10 tags out of the early and late hunts for any legal weapon.

Chairman Johnston stated that he will not support the motion as presented after hearing Mr. McKee state that the Department does not want to see a net increase in the number of tags.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he agrees with Chairman Johnston.

Discussion ensued if the Motion should be amended or just start over with the motion; and that procedurally, if the second withdraws the second and the motion maker withdraws the motion, then the motion process can start over.

Commissioner AlMBERG withdrew the second and Madam Vice Chairwoman East withdrew the motion.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-11, BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON FOR ELK AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: IN UNIT 111-115, THE RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – ANY LEGAL WEAPON, THE QUOTA FOR THE EARLY HUNT WILL BE 100 TAGS, THE QUOTA FOR THE LATE HUNT WILL BE 110 TAGS; NONRESIDENT HUNT; THE MUZZLELOADER HUNT, THE TAGS WILL BE INCREASED FROM 10 TAGS TO 30 TAGS; AND THE REQUISITE CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO THE NONRESIDENT HUNTS TO FULFILL 10 PERCENT OF THE TAGS. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if Mr. McKee is okay with the increase of tags within this motion or if he still has concerns. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that he is okay since there is no net change in the tags and the Department supports the motion being considered.

THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material regarding the mule deer quotas, provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public; and he provided CABMW's recommendations.

Chairman Johnston stated that most of the CABMW recommendations were to reduce tags and thinks the general message from the CABMW's is that they are seeing a reduction in deer.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that the biologists try to manage the animals to what is in their guidelines, which in standard units that is 30 bucks to 100 and alternative units are 35 bucks to 100; and the nonstandard units are managed on a success rate, using the demand/success formula. When the biologists see populations that are above those objectives, that is when they increase tags to get the population back down. In several units, there are buck ratios that are above the objectives which is why you see some increases. The biologists are just trying to manage to the objectives.

Secretary Wasley stated that when quotas are considered, they are directly proportional to population levels. But what happens is that when there is a decrease in that population estimate, and people see an increase in the tag quota, it is counter intuitive. The sportsmen or hunting harvest is one of the most tangible sources of mortality. Even though the total population may be flat or decreasing,

there are more bucks in these populations, and they are growing; the availability of those bucks are there.

Commissioner McNinch inquired if the same thing could be happening regarding a herd that is hitting caring capacity where saving the deer could be sending them over the caring capacity.

Secretary Wasley stated that Nevada is not unique in the challenges with the mule deer populations; but looking at past statistics, the Department is measurably increasing the buck ratio. Simultaneously with that the Department has seen a decrease in fawn recruitment.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that some of the quota changes are small; when they go to test next year, they may not even see a difference. By reducing some of the quotas now is keeping people out of the field.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided thoughts on the buck to doe ratios; that the Department is still trying to get hunters in the field and to follow the objectives that have been set.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired more about the doe to fawn ratio.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated there is not an objective for the doe to fawn ratio because it is hard to manage that since they are at the mercy of mother nature. The fawn to doe ratio does play into the bigger objectives.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired if augmentation is possible for the antlerless mule deer; can they be moved to an area where the herd is not doing as well.

Secretary Wasley provided an explanation that mule deer have historically been known to have the least successful at translocation; that they have a slow adaption as far as diet; and provided information to support this concept; Wildlife Staff Specialist concurred and provided more scientific information about why they do not translocate mule deer.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East stated she received a text message from the Carson CABMW who said that they cannot dial in to the meeting and she suggested that they forward an email to the wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs, Secretary Wasley and Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder regarding post season surveys not having been completed due to weather delays and that some of the spring surveys were cut short due to COVID-19; that the biologists use several tools to determine population data, such as population models and harvest data; that the harvest metrics are in the Big Game Status Book; and that even though an area is surveyed, that is information is used against other data points which adds to the overall metrics and tools.

Commissioner Barnes commented that a reoccurring issue that the public talks to him about is the lack of deer herds, especially in Northern Nevada and Elko area. He understands where the

Department is coming from and how they figure their quotas, but this area has been affected by wildfire. It is not the summer habitat that is the issue, it is the winter habitat

Chairman Johnston appreciates the thoughtful discussion between the Commissioners and the Department and the CABMW input. He sees well intentioned proposals by the CABMW's which is a concern over declining numbers. What he is hearing is that the reduction in tags is not going to produce the intended result of a population rebound, but perhaps just take tags out of the hands of hunters which is the unintended consequence. Rather than the intent behind the alternative proposals. He commends the community of sportsmen to come to the Commission with the idea and recommendation to forfeit opportunity with the belief that this will rebound and address the declining numbers; but if it is not going to give the desired result, then he is not prepared to deny the hunters that opportunity.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that regarding White Pine CABMW and Lincoln CABMW recommendations in Unit 131-134, both want reductions there and on the quota recommendation form there is no fall survey, but there is a spring survey. Then looking at the harvest results, across the board, the harvest is down and then the Department is requesting to increase the tags there, so he can see why White Pine CABMW and Lincoln CABMW have a concern on those specific units. Regarding Unit 221-223 is similar, the archery, muzzleloader and any legal weapon for late hunt overall success is all down. And lastly in Unit 231, the post season buck to doe ratio did go way and he wants to know the Departments thoughts on that unit.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that he was the biologist in those units for a long time and the buck ratio in Area 23 is very concerning to him as well; he also has had a conversation with the Charmain of the Lincoln CABMW and it is possible a lot of the deer were on pine nuts and the survey was not complete, but he believes the bucks are there. The population model says that the ratio should be in the high 30's and he believes the quota that was recommended is appropriate, but he would like to put some additional resources this next year to make sure there is a complete survey as well surveys in the alfalfa fields for the landowners.

Commissioner Alberg would like to address the correspondence received by the Commission. Regarding the Washoe CABMW recommendations, what can the Commission do for the population in Washoe County that is declining.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded that all of Washoe County is not in a bad position. The Department is seeing rebounds in Unit 010-013 on the Sheldon. There are a lot of factors that go into the decline, such as drought, fires, burned winter range, wild horses and predators. It is a valid point on Unit 014 which is an alternative unit and has been doing very poorly. The data is struggling from a harvest metric standpoint as well as from the surveys. There is still a high buck to doe ratios even though there is not much of a deer count which is what is driving that recommendation. To address the issues, the Department is looking at addressing it intensively with habitat projects. He is hoping that mother nature is going to help a lot if the average moisture continues. There was some horse removal in the Granite Mountains this year, which will help a lot. The Department is open to the idea of predator control and there is currently some going on there now for bighorn sheep. The Department is embarking on a study in all of Washoe County to get a

handle on what is going on. There are some radio collars out there to monitor more of the animals as the Department also shares in your concerns.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded to Commissioner Cavilgia's comments regarding Unit 131-134, which is an alternate unit, so the Department is on the top end of their management objectives. The Department feels strongly that the buck segment is there and are trying to bring that down to the objective of 35. There was lower success but that was not unique to that area, it was all over the state which could have been to the warmer temperatures last year.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 3:08 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 3:23 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and posted below:

From: Rob Boehmer
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:29 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: RE: May Commission meeting - Agenda and support material

Carson City CAB is requesting the same as Douglas County.

From: Rob Boehmer
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: RE: May Commission meeting - Agenda and support material

Carson City CABMW is in support of all recommendations by the Department, but would recommend the following changes:

Resident Antlered Mule deer- Muzzleloader Hunt res. 1331

- 192 - 15 quota
- 194, 196- 5 "
- 195 5 "

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Archery 1331

- 192E - 25 quota
- 192L- 20
- 194, 196E- 20
- 194, 196L 25
- 195 10

From: jcooney
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:08 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Mule deer quotas

The Elko CAB: Antlerless tags be reduced based on lower populations in the areas to help increase herd numbers.

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:10 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Mineral County comments

There was not any place to list the different units on the recommendation paperwork. It only gave three choices.

From: Glenn Bunch
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:05 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Mineral County Comments:

NDOW had not done any surveys for several years. The hunt in the migration areas is regulated by weather. The weather came in late Thanksgiving and at is when the success came about. The success was 58 % in the any legal weapon hunt.
202, 205-208 - 55 tags any legal weapon Resident
202, 205-208 - 15 tags muzzle loader Resident
202, 205-208 - late 10 tags

From: andy_wolf
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:21 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: May 1, 2020 Commission Meeting

Note: Cody S review of the Douglas County CAB request did not address the requested increase of resident antlered mule deer muzzleloader tags for 194, 195, 196.
In addition to increase of 192.

Andy Wolf

From: Douglas Martin
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:23 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Carson City CAB did vote to also increase archery tags in 192 equal to what Douglas County did

I participated at the CARSON CAB meeting and they also addressed the 192 archery tag numbers same as Douglas County
Doug Martin

From: Gene Green
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Updates from Carson Cab

We are having a lot of trouble dialing in. I hope this works.
We want: All of these are for 1331...
Any legal weapon: Group 192 - 40; 194, 196 – 80; 195 – 25; Muzzleloader Resident Group
192 – 15; 194,196 – 5; 195 – 5; Archery Group 192 early – 25; 192 late – 20; 194, 196 early – 20;
194, 196 late – 25; 195 - 10

From: Steve
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Resident Junior Mule Deer hunt #1107

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and Commissioners

Washoe CAB supports this hunt as presented with the following changes and the justifications for this will be included in my comments for the any legal weapon hunt. We do support the opportunity for the youth to experience the joy of hunting that leads to an appreciation of the conservation efforts. Without these hunter supported conservation efforts our wildlife is doomed. This can be observed in every country that has eliminated sport hunting. With that being said, our deer herd is suffering and we would like a very conservative quota. O11-013 have 20 tags down from the 30 proposed to mirror last year's tag numbers. O14 we recommend 15 tags down from the 20 proposed to follow our recommendation for the Any Legal Weapon hunt.
Thank you

From: Steve
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Washoe CAB Resident Mule Deer Antlered any legal weapon

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and Commissioners

We again are concerned about the status of the mule deer herds in the northwest corner of our state. Without question there has been a precipitous decline of this herd in the last 5 years with little being done to address this situation. While we have a decreased population of 55-63% the department is recommending a 50-70% increase in tags. This doesn't make any sense if we actually value the welfare of the animals more than the revenue we can derive from them.

Looking at the 2020 Big Game status book, the recommendations from the biologist is to have essentially the same tag numbers as last year due to the population estimates. Since there were no fall flights to determine the buck to doe ratios in any of the Washoe areas and reduced spring surveys, we do not have numbers any different from last year's information. We have been told that the department's recommendation is based on the need to reduce the buck to doe ratio to the Department's management plan objective. Without any new buck to doe data we should look at the data from last year along with last year's department recommendations.

Last year Director Wasley made the point that due to Washoe changing the season from 2 short seasons to a single one-month season, we needed to reduce tags to allow for a higher success rate. Washoe did take that into serious consideration last year and recommended essentially the same tag quota that was proposed by the department.

Taking Director Wasley's comments from last year into consideration and with no additional buck to doe ratio data, how on Earth can we accept the increase of tags 50-70%. We feel this is irresponsible and detrimental to the future of our herds.

Overall, we recommend the same number of tags as was accepted last year with the exception of 014 for which we are asking for a reduction.

Washoe recommends the following changes:

011-013 we recommend 50 tags down from the 85 proposed. Same as last year

014 we recommend 15 tags down from the 30 proposed.

015 we recommend 35 tags down from the 50 proposed. Same as last year

022 we recommend 35 tags down from the 50 proposed. Same as last year

033 we recommend 20 tags down from the 30 proposed. Same as last year.

014 is of particular concern to us. This herd is showing the most dramatic decline in population. What concerns us as much as the decline in the herd is the number of 2x2 and young 3x3 deer being taken. This area is also managed as an Alternate area or "Trophy Area". 2019 harvest data reveal only 7 deer harvested during any legal weapon season and only two 4 point deer were taken. One was a 3x4 and one was a young 4x4. We can't call this trophy quality by any definition. I can't find any literature that shows this is a sustainable situation for the deer or the sportsmen.

I don't take any joy in our recommendations as I understand increased opportunity for hunters is important, but this is becoming a critical situation. Absent aggressive predator control, proper management of the feral horses or a dramatic increase in habitat improvement this is what we are forced to recommend.

Thank you and I hope in the near future we can finally come to the commission and recommend an increase in tags and show off the trophy quality that Northern Washoe used be known for.

From: Paul Dixon

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 2:43 PM

To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>

Subject: Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season (Mule Deer)

I would like to state for the record, my personal position for agenda item 6.A, **Commission Regulation 20-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season for MULE DEER**. After careful review of the NDOW staff biologist's big game scientific data and the big game status book for 2020, I support the big game quotas as presented for Mule Deer with any CAB adjustments. I will leave it to the individual counties (Lincoln, White Pine and Elko) where most Clark residents hunt mule deer to argue for any adjustments to the Departments recommendations.

Paul Dixon, Chair Clark CABMW

From: Jeff Rogers

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:09 PM

To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>

Subject: 2020Tag quota proposals

I support the following alternate proposals for antlered deer:

I believe these shifts in tags will help keep hunter opportunity up without reducing overall tag numbers.

Tag reduction 241-245 any legal weapon
Tag increase 241-245 muzzleloader
Tag reduction 015 any legal weapon
Tag reduction 114-115 any legal weapon
Tag increase 114-115 muzzle loader

Jeff Rogers

From: Craig Burnside
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:03 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Mule deer quota recommendations

The Douglas CAB's recommended changes to the primitive weapons hunts in units 192 and 195 are consistent with the number of tags approved last year. The area biologist has no issues with the recommendations.

Decreases to these primitive weapon hunts in these units are based solely on lower demand, not a decrease in the resource. Reducing availability will only further decrease demand when hunters think they don't have a reasonable chance of drawing these tags, which will progressively lead to further reductions going forward.

Craig Burnside, Chairman

From: Joel McConnell
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:12 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Deer comments

Commissioners,

We have had great deal of public concerns about the continued DECLINE of the deer populations in Elko county (with the exception of area 7 recently).

As a result, we are hesitant to support continuing to increase antlerless tags. Several members of the public even supported canceling the antlerless hunts until the deer populations show signs of recovery. How does offering more antlerless tags help these herds recover? Most of these units are not at carrying capacity.

081 is NEVER surveyed as an alternative management unit. Hunter congestion in 081 has become as great concern/complaint, especially in years where weather limits access in such a small unit. In addition, the quantity and quality has been declining as quotas have been greatly increased over recent years, including hunters' success.

The Elko CAB also had concerns over drastically increasing quotas on all units when NO spring surveys were conducted by the department. We support our recommendations of a more modest tag increase of the antlered quotas in many of the units. Yes it is one component, but we feel it is an important one as we all know modeling a population is not a perfect science.

We feel that this is in the best interest of the deer herd AND contrary to what has been mentioned today by the Department, many sportsmen and women have expressed they are willing to see a reduction in tags, even if that means they don't draw a tag, if that is what is best for the deer herd overall.

Thank you, Joel McConnell, Elko CAB

From: Steve
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:14 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Resident Junior Mule Deer hunt #1107

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and Commissioners

Washoe CAB supports this hunt as presented with the following changes and the justifications for this will be included in my comments for the any legal weapon hunt.

We do support the opportunity for the youth to experience the joy of hunting that leads to an appreciation of the conservation efforts. Without these hunter supported conservation efforts our wildlife is doomed. This can be observed in every country that has eliminated sport hunting. With that being said, our deer herd is suffering and we would like a very conservative quota. O11-013 have 20 tags down from the 30 proposed to mirror last years tags numbers O14 we recommend 15 tags down from the 20 proposed to follow our recommendation for the Any Legal Weapon hunt.

Thank you

From: Joe Crim
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:16 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Deer Quotas

I appreciate the work of the Dept. But 041-042 hasn't had a survey. The population is declining. A three-year success average of 37%. There needs to be something done to help the deer population. That's reason to drop the tag numbers. 043-046 the population has been declining since 2013. Recruitment is low. This population has had a tough go. We would like some consideration in lowering the tags. The deer need a chance to rebuild

Joe crim, Pershing Co

From: Mel Belding
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Mule deer quotas

Washoe County sportsmen and women and the CAB have asked for reduced tags for the past 5 years or more. We are concerned about the declining population this is very apparent. By reducing these quotas on bucks we might have a chance to see some make it to their prime age of around 6. It's not all about the quantity but rather the quality.

We have been told in a declining population of overall numbers that the number of bucks per 100 does are rising. With that said, we must be losing does at far greater numbers than the bucks for this to happen.

I would agree with what the Dept. is saying in a population that's not declining or remaining the same, in Washoe County we are losing numbers big time.

We didn't have heavy snow loads last winter and we lost 18% of our population in 014. We have the lowest over winter survival rate in the State.

I'm told the Biologist did not see a deer in the Sheldon during survey.

How far west did he fly to catch up to the deer that left 015 early because of light snows in January February.

How far north into Oregon did he fly to count deer in 011?

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 3:22 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Deer Quotas

The Department is not giving all the data. Comments are that units in Washoe are seeing a rebound but units 011-013, 014 and 033 are down 63% since 2015. Need to ask for populations by year. 011-013 2020- 1200, 2019-1150, 2018-1300, 2017-1200, 2016-1500, 2015-1900-- where is the rebound; 033-2020-400, 2019-390, 2018-430, 2017-400, 2016-500, 2015- 800 where is the rebound. buck to doe ratios in 011-013 35/100 long term upper end of standard hunt, 033 @37/100does. It is very discomfoting that it is a known we are losing our herds and all we hear is that we are looking at some items but where is the boots on the ground and when??? At our current rate we can discontinue worrying and just sit around and reflect back on the good old days. I would hope you will support the Washoe CAB.

Thanx, Rex Flowers

Madam Vice Chairwoman East thanked the CABMWs and public for their input because it is important to seek input from all sides; she appreciates the Departments recommendations and conversations over the last couple of weeks as well; but she struggles with Washoe County because it is a declining population so she will support reductions in Washoe County and other areas.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder and Secretary Wasley regarding how the percentages can be high but yet the populations are low; that it is possible to have a year of low recruitment and still have a lot of mature bucks on the landscape; and that the Department looks at trends, has a lot of checks and balances and other metrics to determine the quota recommendations.

Commissioner Hubbs expressed her concerns about a loss of habitat; Secretary Wasley responded that the Department follows a conservative post hunt objective and provided information to support his comments; he further provided that there is a lot of variability across the state in each unit; that Secretary Wasley has the utmost confidence in the Departments recommendations; and there are many data points to consider such as harvest data, hunter success, observed buck ratio, observed

fawn ratio, and percent of 4 point in the harvest and that all of this work has been done for the Commissioners to review.

Commissioner Alberg inquired if the Commission follows Elko CABMW's recommendation for the antlerless mule deer hunt in reducing the doe population, is the Department is okay with reducing the quotas to Elko CABMW recommendations to the antlerless hunt.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder said he is okay with Elko CABMW's alternative recommendations. He did say that the Department wants to manage the herd in Area 6 and to not let the herd to grow and hope to keep it below 10,000 animals because of the challenges the deer face. Area 6 is a success story to show how the Department can manage a herd with population growth; if the habitat could support, the Department would like to see the herd grow.

Secretary Wasley further responded that over 90 percent of the crucial winter range in association of the southern portion of that herd in Area 6 has been destroyed by wildfire and it has incredible potential in habitat on the summer range which allows the population to grow rapidly and outstrip the available winter range in an average winter. Traditionally, the Department has seen rapid growth and then catastrophic winter losses over and over. The Department is trying to minimize the population swings, so the Area 6 herd does not get so high, and then it does not have to go so low in the winter and to keep a better balance.

Commissioner Barnes added to Commissioner Alberg's comment that he would support Elko CABMW's reductions; but to make a reduction to increase a herd, he would cut the quotas to 200. He suggested to give it a couple more years for the winter range to come back to have a moderate herd growth.

Commissioner Kiel stated that he supports the science of the biologists; it is reassuring to him that he got to go on a post season aerial survey to see the number of bucks in the herds with the does. His thoughts are in line with Commissioner Barnes in Elko County and there is strong support from the Washoe CABMW to boost the populations; he is not sure that increasing the quotas on the bucks is going to achieve that, but he is supportive of reducing those numbers as well.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON FOR MULE DEER AS PRESENTED, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: RESIDENT ANTLERLESS MULE DEER - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1181, UNITS 061, 062, 064 066-068 EARLY, TO 225 TAGS; UNIT 062 067 068 LATE, TO 225 TAGS, UNIT 071-079, 091 TO 275 TAGS; RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331, UNIT 011-013 TO 50 TAGS; UNIT 014 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 015 TO 35 TAGS AND UNIT 022 TO 35 TAGS AND THE CORRESPONDING NONRESIDENT TAGS TO FOLLOW THAT. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if the Department has any serious concerns with the proposed motion. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded that he has no serious concerns for the antlerless hunts; but he feels that the other reductions are needless.

Commissioner McNinch stated he is supportive of the Department if they are supportive of the motion, and he can support the changes to the antlerless hunts. In regards to the antlered hunts, he consistently and persistently receives comment that he needs to be more supportive of the Departments recommendations when it comes to the quotas for bears for the science and to support the biologists; but the same group will send comment that if he follows the biologists recommendations for mule deer then, the Commission is being irresponsible. He is struggling with that conflict and with the Washoe County quotas if the Commission deviates from the recommendations.

Commissioner Hubbs asked to go over the Washoe CABMW recommendations and to reduce a total of 80 tags across in Units 011-013, 014 and 015. She appreciates McNinch's comments because she experiences the same thing; and she respects everyone's opinions. She is concerned that Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder has concern for the Washoe county area if the biologist is concerned in a weakened area.

Madam Vice Chairwoman East inquired about a study that is forthcoming for the northern Washoe County area and if that would help the Commission next year to see that situation better. Cody Schroeder responded and said that there are projects happening in Washoe County and that through the Predator Plan that would help a lot to see the total abundance of deer and any factors that play into the challenges the herd faces. It is not going to cause a significant biological impact if the quotes are lowered in Washoe County, so he is okay with the reduction in the quotas.

Discussion ensued that Unit 033 was left out of the Washoe County recommendation for the motion.

COMMISSIONER KIEL INCLUDED UNIT 033 IN THE MOTION FOR A QUOTA REDUCTION FROM 30 OF 20. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST CONCURS WITH THE ADDITION TO THE MOTION.

Chairman Johnston commented that there is a distinction between comments regarding the bear hunt and the mule deer hunt. The distinction being that the Department recognizes a declining population of mule deer in certain areas and are addressing the issue; this is not the same as the concerns for the bear population. He has a problem with the reduction because the number of tags will be reduced by 90 tags, which is 90 opportunities that will be denied, and biologically speaking that reduction will not be significant and it will not have the intended consequence to address the population decline. He believes in the CABMW system and knows that the Washoe CABMW is adamant about this, so he will reluctantly support the motion.

THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner McNinch, Chairman Johnston and Secretary Wasley discussed whether the Commissioner needs to vote on the resident and nonresident mule deer and antelope landowner compensation tags now or later; and that the Commission has done it two different ways in the past; and that the Commission can vote on the resident and nonresident mule deer and antelope landowner compensation tags, but public comment needs to be received first.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder presented information regarding the resident and nonresident mule deer and antelope landowner compensation tags for the Commission to review and commented that he needs to change the numbers in his spreadsheet.

Discussion ensued that the motion for Commission Regulation 20-11 Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season for Mule Deer covers all of the mule deer quotas, with the above-mentioned exceptions, including the youth tags.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential action that still needs to be approved for Commission Regulation 20-11 Big Game Quotas for the 2020-2021 Season for Mule Deer; and that a motion needs to be made to approve the percentages that effect resident and nonresident mule deer and antelope landowner compensation tags.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 4:16 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and provided that no public comment was received.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THAT PORTION OF COMMISSION REGULATION 20-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS FOR THE 2020-2021 SEASON FOR MULE DEER AS PRESENTED, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS BE EQUIVELANT TO 2.5 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF 2020 TAGS ISSUED FOR MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

- B.* Commission Regulation 20-02 Amendment #1, 2020 Black Bear Quotas – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for black bear for the 2020 season. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material regarding the black bear quotas, provided in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and provided the CABMW recommendations for the bear quota. He further presented a PowerPoint on the Black Bear Harvest Limit and Quota Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2020_Archive/

Commissioner McNinch inquired when the last time Program Mark was run and what were the estimation numbers in the support material are based on.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that Program Mark was run before the Commission meeting last year with Dr. Sedinger. He provided that he looks at three different harvest metrics which are mean age of male, mean age of female and percentage of female in the harvest metrics.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the mean age of females was 3 years and 7 months; Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded that it was 4 years and 7 months.

Chairman Johnston stated that correspondence has been received for this agenda item and it has been forwarded to the Department; some of it was in support of the quota recommendation and some was in opposition of the recommendation.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 4:26 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and posted below:

From: Therese Campbell
Date: April 28, 2020 at 9:42:11 AM PDT
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Bear Hunt

Dear NBWC officers,
As the newest member of the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (representing the general public), I want to comment briefly regarding Nevada's upcoming bear hunt. Nevada's wildlife belongs to all Nevadans, including the vast majority of Nevadans who are not hunters. As advocate for the interests of the general public I must state my opposition to the bear hunt.

Nevada's bear hunt is a trophy hunt. We might euphemize it with terms such as "harvesting," "culling," etc.,--nonetheless-- it is a trophy hunt: an activity the ethics of which are questionable at best, indefensible at worst, and which has lately become increasingly unpopular both locally and globally.

I respectfully request that the NBWC re-evaluate its plans to implement this year's bear hunt and, at the very least, consider lowering the kill quota.

Sincerely,
Therese Campbell
CCABMW, Representative for interest of the general public

From: Paul Dixon
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Commission Regulation 20-02, Amendment #1, 2020 Black Bear Quotas

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners,
I would like to state for the record, my personal position for agenda item 6.B, **Commission Regulation 20-02, Amendment #1, 2020 Black Bear Quotas**. Namely:

I support the continuation of a Nevada Black Bear hunting season for the following reasons:

- The harvest quotas are very reasonable and, over the past nine years, have shown to have no detrimental impact on the resident black bear population, regardless of sex.
- The breaking of the bear hunt into multiple hunt units, that each have their own harvest objectives.
- Reviewing the Black Bear genetics and migration studies by NDOW, it has been definitively proven that the Nevada black bear population is genetically connected to a large geographic population that extends from Northern California to Oregon. The Nevada black

bear is not an isolated or distinct population, and it is easily sustained by local breeding and interstate migration.

- Nevada hunters are protective of all wildlife and exhibit a strong ethical approach to hunting bears as to maintain a healthy and sustainable population in Nevada.
- I strongly support the continued used dogs to hunt bears, as it is a very ethical and efficient way to identify and sex the bear being pursued. This allows for the selective culling male bears.

Paul Dixon Chair Clark CABMW

From: F Voltz
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:27 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Public Comment--Agenda Item #6B

Public Comment—Nevada Wildlife Commission—Item #6B—May 1, 2020—Fred Voltz

Situational science that fails to recognize facts continues to plague the issue of hunting bears for trophies in Nevada.

The 2019 death toll through December 1st reflected 17 bear deaths from trophy hunters, 8 deaths at the hands of Wildlife Department employees for 'nuisance' behavior, 14 bears killed by cars, one euthanized, and one found dead from unknown causes, for a total of 41 lost bears. Perhaps there were even more deaths between December 2nd and December 31, 2019. The staff report carelessly offers no disclosure of bear deaths or their causes as needed context for today's discussion about an unnecessary and imprudent killing season.

There has been no NDOW initiative aimed at requiring wildlife-proof trash containers for human garbage in bear habitat, which has been successful in other jurisdictions. We can reasonably forecast that bears and other wildlife will continue to be killed for nuisance purposes by NDOW and by careless drivers when they smell the free food and have been habituated to enter urbanized areas from the wilderness.

The staff report for this agenda item indicates a guesstimated bear population of 400-450 in the proposed hunt units. Nevada's bear death toll has either exceeded or sits right on the 10% loss-of-bears precipice biologists generally agree leads to an irreversible species' population decline if it is allowed to continue.

Expressing a number of bears that live on the much larger land area of California has little to do with whether a material number of those bears would or would not ever migrate to Nevada. It is an improbable possibility that migrating bears might make up for the intentional and reckless destruction of Nevada's bear population principally for regressive trophy-hunting purposes.

While NDOW has a vested financial interest in selling bear-killing licenses to boost its revenue numbers, it has a higher duty to protect the species from permanent decline. It has again failed to protect bears from this destined decline with today's killing recommendations.

The quota recommendations for the 2020 black bear killing season need to be substantially decreased given the number of bear deaths from other causes if Nevada is to stabilize its black bear population in the designated hunt units.

The black bear population guesstimates are based on Program MARK, but there is no definition of this Program in the staff report. The software, developed by a Colorado State University employee, provides parameter estimates from marked animals when (if) they are re-encountered at a later time. Thus, any bear population guesstimates performed by NDOW staff have a low degree of accuracy, especially if marked bears are not re-encountered. For the bears that are never encountered, they aren't counted and may, in fact, not exist.

From: Steve
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Washoe CAB bear hunt recommendation

Steve Robinson, Washoe CAB
Chairman Johnston and Commission

The bear hunt has been a success both from a biologic and a hunter satisfaction standpoint. Pat Jackson showed the distribution of the bear population which has expanded greatly into historic ranges.

At our Zoom CAB meeting, we had a 100% support from the public for this hunt. We voted unanimously and enthusiastically support the bear hunt as recommended. Thank you

From: Joe Crim
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Bear Quota

The Pershing CAB supports the Departments recommendations for the Bear Quota
Joe crim, Pershing CAB

From: Rex Flowers
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:29 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Bear Hunt

As a member of the general public I fully support the bear hunt.
Thanx,

Rex Flowers

Commissioner McNinch stated he does not think that Program Mark is ran enough and that the hunt is designed to be conservative but not comfortable with the methodologies. He further provided that he does not want his comments to reflect how he feels about the biologists, he trusts and respects them, but he wants the sportsmen to know he appreciates what they do. It bothers him that Department employees get followed by others or harassed by property owners that are having trouble with the bears, and he does not condone any of these actions; he just falls in a different place on the conservation scale.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she has received a lot of comments from sportsmen and she appreciates that. She echoes some of the same sentiments as Commissioner McNinch, her thoughts are not for anti-hunting. She stated that this hunt is not supported by the general public especially with dogs; the public is getting apathetic with regards to pleading their case because there will not be a change. She will continue to vote as a voice for the general public. She continues to hold her stance and will only vote in support of a quota that is reduced.

Chairman Johnston stated he continues to support the bear hunt and has previously provided his thoughts about the bear hunt.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 20-02 AMENDMENT #1, 2020 BLACK BEAR QUOTAS AS PRESENTED. MADAM VICE CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-2 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND HUBBS DISSENTING.

7. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Brad Johnston – For Possible Action
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2020 in Yerington; the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The Chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated meeting that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed. *Once the Commission members have discussed this agenda item, a recess of a specific duration will be taken in order for the public to provide input at the following email address: wildlifecommission@ndow.org. Before reconvening the meeting, public comments will be shared with the Commission prior to taking any action.

Secretary Wasley stated the current scheduled date is June 26, 27, 2020 at the Lyon County Community Chambers and that the Department will continue to follow the COVID-19 restrictions and the “stay at home” orders. The Department is not planning to video stream or teleconference the meeting since it will be held in a rural location. There are some action items that need to be brought forward from the March 2020 Commission meeting that will need to be heard. There will be some Committee meetings in a couple of weeks which could include the Draft Predation Plan and is on the next agenda as an action item along with the following items: CABMW Budget requests; Duck Stamp & Upland Game Stamp Projects; set Upland Game & Furbearer Seasons and Limits; Amend Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendors/Organizations; Heritage Proposals, Extensions, Reallocations which is another committee meeting to be held; and to Amend Upland Game Release Plan. There are three potential Commission General Regulations for workshop that include: CGR 488, Landowner Compensation Tags; CGR 489, Shed Antler Regulation; CGR 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve regulation. In April 2020, the Department discussed that there would not be any change for this year’s applicants and that it must be approved by the Legislative Commission before it becomes active. There are three potential Commission Regulations for possible adoption that include: CGR 485, Tag Transfer, Deference and Return Program; CGR 490, Party Bonus Points and First Come First Serve; CGR 491, Notification of Draw Results. The potential Committees that could be meeting are as follows: Chairman Johnston may address the Committees structure and potential dissolutions; Status Report on the application hunt system and Kalkomey may present a report on the system; Big Game Status Report; Wildlife Heritage Committee and Report; Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Conservation Award Committee and Report with the possible selection of a recipient of the award; Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) and Report; Wildlife Damage and Management Committee and Report; Regulation Simplification Committee and Report; Legislative Committee and Report; Landowner Comp Tag Committee to present a report for protocols in hunt units; Public Lands Committee and Report; Finance Committee and Report; and Commissioner Appreciation. This is likely more than what the Department could accomplish in this meeting but need to put it out there for the Commissioners to consider what would be a priority. The information items to possibly be heard are as follows: President of the Nevada Operation Game Thief Citizens Board asked if they could present the Nevada Operation Game Thief Law Enforcement Professional of the Year Award; Update on the Fallon Naval Range and Training Center and Nevada Test and Training Range; Mandatory

Indoctrination / Seminar for Bighorn Ram Tag Holders; and if Chairman Johnston could provide suggestions for the Conservation Partner Spotlight or Project Updates, that would be appreciated.

Lastly, there is a petition from John Zenz regarding the big game tag drawing changes and he has requested to present this in person instead of a digital meeting format.

Chairman Johnston stated that he did not have any other agenda items; but with the limited agendas the Commission has had in April and May, there will not be an opportunity to get out for a tour at the next meeting because there is a need to get caught up on items missed. He will work with the Director's Office on the agenda details. He is looking forward to having the meeting in his hometown and that the meeting will be in person.

Chairman Johnston inquired if he needed to take public comment; DAG Burkett stated he can take public comment and add it to the YouTube video in the end.

8. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak must put their comments in writing and send them to wildlifecommission@ndow.org.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 4:55 p.m. to allow for public comment via email.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and addressed the public comment that was received and posted below:

From: F Voltz
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:28 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Final Public Comment--Item #8

Public Comment—NV Wildlife Commission—Final Comment Period—May 1, 2020—Fred Voltz

There has been another major development regarding the long festering subject of wildlife killing contests.

Today the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, Colorado's equivalent to the Nevada Wildlife Commission, voted to outlaw wildlife killing contests.

Colorado becomes the sixth state, after California, Vermont, New Mexico, Arizona, and Massachusetts, to address these unscientific, dangerous (both to wildlife and public safety) and destructive contests.

Once again, the question becomes when will Nevada act to similarly eliminate these regressive contests rather than remaining mired in backward, 19th Century thinking about wildlife?

On a separate subject, for future Commission meetings conducted on line, staff would be well advised to consult with the state Public Utilities Commission and determine how they have managed to implement a phone connection for the public to offer their verbatim comments on action items during public meetings. It is technically possible to offer active, not passive, public participation, so let's see it implemented.

From: Mel Belding
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: Public comment

I would like to commend you all on a meeting that was ran very well. I didn't think it would go as smooth as it did. See you in Yerington.

From: andy_wolf
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject: May 1, 2020 Meeting

Dear Chairman,
This was the first commission meeting I have watched or attended. Thank you for broadcasting it live. I watched all day long.
It is a well run board, and the NDOW staff were knowledgeable and well prepared. Very informative. Thank you, Andrew Wolf, Incline Village, NV

From: jcooney
Sent: Friday, May 1, 2020 5:02 PM
To: Wildlife Commission <wildlifecommission@ndow.org>
Subject:

Thanks Chairman Johnson and Commissioners for making the best of a challenging situation.

Chairman Johnston thanked the Department and of the employees who put this meeting together and thanked the Commissioners for their efforts today of getting through the quota recommendations. He further thanked the public for continuing to participate both before and during the meeting in circumstances where it is not easy to do so.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

*Support material will be posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/. Additionally, support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo at wildlifecommission@ndow.org. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/.

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