

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

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's May 21, 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.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0MZA2Hx7og8pFcQ>

*If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Friday, May 7, 2021.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87698104636?pwd=ZUF1TjU5S3orVmoyKzRwOG50MzY3UT09>

*If you wish to make public comment, please use this link Saturday, May 8, 2021.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88246064118?pwd=M2RTVzRIZzZtTEZPemVGdjV5d1Rndz09>

Meeting materials are available at: [http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/)

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

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Chairwoman Tiffany East    | Vice Chair Tom Barnes                        |
| Commissioner Jon AlMBERG   | Commissioner Tommy Caviglia                  |
| Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs | Commissioner David McNinch                   |
| Commissioner Ron Pierini   | Commissioner Casey Kiel                      |
| Commissioner Shane Rogers  |  |
| Sectary Tony Wasley        | Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett |

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

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Deputy Director Jack Robb                                     | Deputy Director Bonnie Long                  |
| Management Analyst Kailey Taylor                              | Executive Assistant Missy Stanford           |
| Administrative Assistant Ali Medina                           | Management Analyst Megan Manfredi            |
| Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne                     | Chief Game Warden Michael Maynard            |
| Game Division Administrator Mike Scott                        | Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark |
| Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg                  | Game Warden Jake Creamer                     |
| Game Biologist Kyle Neill                                     | Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox           |
| Wildlife Specialist Pat Jackson                               | Wildlife Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme    |
| Administrative Services Officer Marty Elzy                    | Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee         |
| Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder                      | Wildlife Staff Supervisor Cooper Munson      |
| Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz |  |
| Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey     |  |
| Conservation Educator Martin Olson                            | Game Biologist Tom Donham                    |
| Game Biologist Kari Huebner                                   |  |

Chris Smith, Wildlife Management Institute, Commission Guest Speaker

Public in Attendance via Zoom virtual forum channel:

- |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Jim Rhea, Washoe CABMW   | Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW       |
| Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW | Mitch McVicars, White Pine CABMW |
| Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW   | Joe Crawford, Lyon CABMW         |

Mike Reese, Clark CABMW  
Gene Green, Carson CABMW  
Joel McConnell, Elko CABMW  
Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW  
Therese Campbell, Clark CABMW  
Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt CABMW  
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW  
Fred Voltz, self  
Fauna Tomlinson, self  
Christopher Cefalu, self  
Jeff Dixon, self  
Camilla Fox, self  
Mel Belding, self  
Stephanie Myers, self  
Zack Lambert, self  
Bobby Wittenberg, self  
Paul Valentine, self

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW  
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW  
Arnie Pitts, Washoe CABMW  
Tony Gildone, Humboldt CABMW  
George Rowe, Lincoln CABMW  
Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW

Catherine Smith, self  
Rex Flowers, self  
Gil Yanuck, self  
Jana Wright, self  
Judi Caron, self  
Jeff Rogers, self  
Tobi Tyler, self  
K Lee, self  
Genelle Richards, self

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. **Persons wishing to comment are invited to raise their virtual hands in the virtual meeting forum during the appropriate time; each person offering public comment during this period will be limited to not more than 3 minutes.** The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org) or make comment during the meeting. 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 to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. All persons present are asked to sign-in to the virtual forum, whether speaking or not.

FORUM RESTRICTIONS AND ORDERLY BUSINESS: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

**Friday, May 7, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

- 1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East**  
Chair will announce CABMW members through their attendance via the Zoom link.

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Commissioner Caviglia led the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford conducted the roll call of Commission Members. Chairwoman East conducted the roll call of CABMW members.

- 2. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – 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.

Deputy Director Jack Robb indicated Item #7, Petition from Mr. Rob Pierce, special Hunting Season for the disabled persons was being removed from the agenda. Stated that he will continue to work Mr. Pierce and have him come back to a future Commission meeting, the petition is not ready at this time.

Chairwoman East asked for any more questions. Seeing none, moved to public comment.

Therese Campbell, representing the Clark CABMW: I just wanted to be sure you all could hear me.

Chairwoman East confirmed that they could. Asked for additional public comment. Seeing none, brought it back to the Commission for a motion.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH THE REMOVAL OF ITEM #7, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**3.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action**

Commission minutes may be approved from the March 19 and 20, 2021, meeting. Persons wishing to comment are invited to raise their hands in the virtual meeting forum and will be individually called upon until all wishing to comment have had the chance to do so.

Chairwoman East and Commissioner McNinch noted their changes. Chairwoman East went out for public comment. Seeing no public comment, brought it back to the Commission for a motion.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY CHAIRWOMAN EAST. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East stated that the Commission has received quite a bit of correspondence regarding the quotas for the Saturday portion of the Commission meeting. Indicated she sent everything to Missy to be sent to the rest of the Commissioners. Spoke to the phone calls she received also regarding the quotas.

Secretary Wasley stated he did not have any correspondence that related to any particular agenda item for the meeting. Noted that he received a number of emails and letters from for various individuals acknowledging NDOW staff. Acknowledged the heroics and rescue and recovery effort from the Law Enforcement staff. Stated that it is unfortunate that sometimes the critical voices out there do not have the opportunity to see a lot of the praise and acknowledgement for a lot of the positive aspects. Stated that the Department will share all of the acknowledgments with the Commission to show that there are some very appreciative customers and constituents out there that express their gratitude.

**5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational**

CABMW members may present emergent items by raising their hand in the virtual forum. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that one of the items that came up during the CABMW meeting this week was questions about where we are at with the shed hunting regulation. Understood

that it had been in Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) or tied up somewhere. Stated it had been two years. Stated he is still getting concerns from the general public about problems as far as people coming in and picking up sheds during the off season. So, he would just like to bring that up to the forefront and look forward to it being an agenda item here soon.

Mitch McVicars, representing White Pine CABMW, stated that he wanted to thank the Department for moving forward with the Comins Lake boat dock. Work should be starting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, moving dirt and brush. It has been a long time coming and the community is going to be pretty grateful to have the project going. Just wanted to thank everyone. After hearing Jim about the shed season, did want to revisit that as an agenda item. There are some definite changes that are needed to be made there.

Joe Crawford, representing Lyon CABMW, stated he just wanted to express his gratitude to the Department for the support material that they sent out prior to the quota setting. Stated that this year, it was very easy to navigate, and it was very easy to read, and he really does appreciate the information.

Chairwoman East asked for any more CABMW comment. Seeing none, asked Management Analyst Kailey Taylor for an update on the shed regulation.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor confirmed that it was still at LCB. She stated that Commission does have to hear it again by September, or it will expire.

**6. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational**

The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide additional detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Activity Report and are intended to educate the Commission and public as to the Department’s ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Chris Smith, Wildlife Management Institute gave a presentation regarding Nevada’s Wildlife Public Trust Doctrine. The presentation can be found on the NDOW website.

Break, 10:22 – 10:30am.

**7. Petition – Mr. Perry ‘Rob’ Pierce – Special Hunt Season for Disabled Persons – For Possible Action**

Mr. Pierce has submitted a petition requesting a special hunt season be made available to disabled persons. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petition and initiate rulemaking.

**ITEM REMOVED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING.**

**8. Reports – Informational**

**A. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley and Division Administrators**

A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

**DIRECTOR’S OFFICE**

The Director’s Office has been busy tracking and reacting to the legislative session.

We have also been busy gathering support for Recovering America’s Wildlife (RAWA) which was re-introduced into Congress on Earth Day, as HR 2773. The re-introduced version of RAWA has a few differences than the previous version. This bill would become affective beginning FY22 (this October).

The funding allocation formula would involve the percentage and number of threatened and endangered species which means that Nevada will get slightly less than in the previous version of the bill. Nevada would see about \$24 Million and therefore require about \$8 Million in matching funds. Also, five percent of the pot would be reserved for plant species which provides a great opportunity to work with the Division of Natural Heritage in Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Director Wasley spoke at the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission meeting and was able to speak to water scarcity in Nevada and the effects on wildlife with multiple state congressional delegates and Secretary of the Interior, Deborah Haaland in attendance.

Lastly, the Director's Office has been busy preparing to get staff back in the office starting next month and planning for in-person Commission Meetings and volunteer events.

## **GAME DIVISION**

**Sage Grouse Lek Survey:** Sound monitoring was conducted just outside of 48 individual leks this spring to better understand ambient noise levels at leks with and without anthropogenic influences. 18 of these sites also had a recorder at the lek to record strutting audio with the goal of creating an activity index.

Interestingly, at two leks we thought would be "reference" leks, the Cortez/Pipeline Mine was clearly audible despite the closest mine perimeters being 9 and 13 miles away.

- 20 leks had a Larson-Davis 831 model paired with a Wildlife Acoustic recorder at 0.25 miles from lek.
- 28 leks with just a Wildlife Acoustic recorder at 0.25 miles from the lek.

Total data collection from 86 individual pieces of monitoring equipment includes approximately 19,000 hours of audio recordings and 12 terabytes of data for analysis. We will add 24 additional sites to the study in Spring 2022 and another 24 in Spring 2023. Special thanks to Clint Garrett, Matt Jeffress, Jeremy Lutz, Matt Glenn, and Kari Huebner for their help.

In northern Washoe County, staff surveyed 52 lek sites during 3 mornings of aerial survey. Of the leks surveyed, just 18 were active (>2 males) while 33 were inactive with one unknown status lek. Considering 2019 data and male attendance, 36 of these leks should have been active.

In the Eastern and Southern regions, male attendance at leks this spring is noticeably down.

**Mule Deer Spring Survey:** A total of over 25,915 mule deer was classified in Nevada during spring deer surveys with an average observed fawn to adult ratio of 33 fawns:100 adults. The observed fawn to adult ratio is a welcomed improvement over recruitment rates seen during the past several years.

**Quota Setting and Big Game Reporting:** Game biologists spent a great deal of time, as usual, in March and April developing quota recommendations and completing Big Game Status and Trend reports. A statewide Game Division quota meeting was held on April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Overall, quota recommendations for all big game species are slightly depressed due to observed recruitment and drought conditions for all species.

**Mule Deer Enhancement Program:** Game and Habitat biologists continue to work on gathering information for upcoming Mule Deer Enhancement Program meetings. To date, MDEP team meetings have been held for Area 6 & 065, Areas 7, 8, & 9, Area 15, Area 19 & 29, Area, 16, 17, 21, & 25, and Area 22, 23, 24, & 27. The presentations given by area biologists have been well received and team members are excited to begin identifying limiting factors and ways to address those factors. Meetings for the remaining teams are being planned and are expected to take place over the next several weeks.

The initial meetings are designed to provide an informational presentation on mule deer status and trend, threats that may be influencing mule deer distribution and density in various areas of the state. Staff compiled presentation information from many sources including models, survey data, federal partner GIS layers, and NDOW published GIS layers.

**Private Lands Elk Incentive Tag Program:** All Private Land Elk Incentive packets have been completed, processed, and submitted to the state office. In the Eastern Region, a total of 56 properties were enrolled in the Incentive Tag Program in 2020, and enrollees qualified for a combined total of 120 tags. Three properties enrolled in the program did not qualify for tags.

**Hemenway Park Bighorn Sheep Captures:** Game Division biologists, Wildlife Health staff and Southern Region game wardens completed a ground-darting bighorn sheep capture at Hemenway Park in Boulder City over a three-day period from April 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>. The purpose of this capture was to collect disease samples on the River Mountain bighorn sheep population, and to remove old, dilapidated marking collars that were no longer serving a purpose. The park is highly visible from the public, and the department was receiving weekly perception complaints that the collars were too tight. In total, 11 sheep were immobilized/sampled, and seven of the nine marking collars were removed. Many animals were in poor body condition, mostly likely due to advanced age and drought conditions. A coughing ram lamb was seen, which was one of only two lambs left in the cohort.

**RHDV2:** RHDV2 was detected on a rabbit farm in Yerington in domestic rabbits. It is unclear if any feral rabbits or wild rabbits are affected. Wildlife Health will be following up with the owner.

## **HABITAT DIVISION**

**Water Development Program:** The northern and southern water development crews are working to finalize their build schedules for the 2021 build schedule. In accordance with State guidance, NDOW plans to resume volunteer guzzler builds in late May and early June and will be offering a few projects where volunteers are welcome to attend. Certain social-distancing and mask-wearing precautions will still be required during the project. Most of the volunteer builds will be later in the spring and summer than is typical due to Covid restrictions remaining in place during the early portion of 2021. We expect a high level of interest from volunteer groups in these projects.

Several southern Nevada mountain ranges received some much-needed precipitation during late winter/early spring that improved water supply at several critical guzzlers. However, not all mountain ranges received sufficient precipitation and water levels and many guzzlers remain at less than 50 percent capacity. Given continued dry conditions and poor overall recharge, additional emergency water hauls will be required in the next two months. Summer monsoon precipitation will be necessary to recharge units and avoid substantial emergency water hauls through the summer months.

**Naval Air Station Fallon – FRTC Modernization:** In March and April of 2021, the Navy initiated meetings for the Intergovernmental Executive Committee (IEC). An IEC for both NAS Fallon and Nellis/NTTR was required as part of the 2021 NDAA for the purpose of exchanging views, information, and advice relating to management of natural and cultural resources on military lands in Nevada. The NAS Fallon IEC has met twice and is working on drafting a Charter, MOU, and identifying key issues for discussion and resolution.

**Sage Grouse Noise Research Project:** Anthropogenic noise associated with industrial development has been linked to declines in sage-grouse lek attendance, and thus sage-grouse populations. NDOW has collected preliminary baseline noise data across northern and central Nevada in 2019 and 2020. In 2021, we identified a need and opportunity to expand this research to additional leks and embark on a formal analysis of potential impacts to sage-grouse from elevated sound levels. Data collection is wrapping up for the 2021 lekking season and resulted in sound level monitoring at 48 leks across Nevada.

This research project will take four to five years and is targeting data collection and analysis at approximately 100 leks across that time period. Detailed modeling and analysis efforts will capitalize on past and current sage-grouse research in Nevada through partnership with USGS WERC.

**Sagebrush Ecosystem Team:** The Sagebrush Ecosystem Team is currently reviewing and authorizing credit and debit projects to proceed with data collection for the 2021 spring/summer field season. The SETT is preparing an improvement to create additional anthropogenic disturbance categories, including gravel pits, hydroelectric projects, and others that currently do not have an existing category. The next Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting is scheduled for May 11.

**Technical Review:** The Technical Review program has been busy staying on top of recently released Department of Interior Secretarial Orders that have implications for National Environmental Protection Act and compensatory mitigation. We have also met with the Nevada State BLM to discuss Presidential and DOI Secretarial Orders issued in January regarding a pause on Oil & Gas Lease Sales and the review of the Greater sage-grouse land use plans. Additionally, Working with BLM on development of a BLM-NV IM regarding SO 3362 and big game migration corridors.

**Project Submittal and Funding:** The Department has received 21 Heritage Proposals for a requested 1.453 million; these applications will be reviewed at the upcoming Committee and Commission meetings. Duck, Upland and Habitat Conservation Fee projects are also being received and prepared for review and possible approval.

**Carson Lake and Pasture:** The department recently participated in a joint press release to announce the official transfer of the Carson Lake and Pasture from US Bureau of Reclamation and BLM to the State of Nevada. This transfer was initiated by federal legislation and has been in the works for over 30 years. The department will be coming forward at future commission meetings to amend commission policy to officially add the more 23,000 acres of Carson Lake and Pasture as an NDOW wildlife management area.

**Mason Valley WMA:** Mason Valley WMA staff with assistance from Nevada Division of Forestry crews completed prescribed burns on Bass, Crappie, and North ponds. This project will not only improve migratory bird habitat but also has fisheries benefit. Over the past year staff have been working with Fisheries Division to remove invasive carp found in the Fishing Series ponds, replace water control structures, and remove sediment build-up in delivery ditches. These ponds are now being filled and sportfish will be restocked in May.

### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

**Events: WEBSITE:** We are currently in the development phases of the new website. The Abbi Agency, our website vendor, has completed all research, site map, and audit of current content. They have completed a website style design and language guide that sets a standard to be used throughout the website. The new website emphasizes large photos, bold colors and graphics including topographic maps and unique interaction. The text is large and call-to-action buttons encourage users to explore the site. The website will not only be for informational purposes, but also a promotional tool for awareness of wildlife conservation in Nevada.

The website will also include a series of new development features such as a searchable species database and associated species pages. NDOW will also utilize NDOW's GIS team to embed the Fish NV App and a new Hunt NV map.

The website will launch in the summer of 2021 and phase 2 of the website will be launched in fall 2021 to add additional new pages to the site.

**Outreach and Education efforts:** NDOW's Nevada Wild podcast has made an effort to highlight various conservation centric organizations and agencies outside of NDOW. Most recently we have featured Trout Unlimited, Artemis, and the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Hunter Education staff members, along with the help of Volunteer Instructors, have hosted numerous big game application seminars to guide the audience through a step-by-step walkthrough of how to apply for the Nevada big game draw. This is an ongoing series, every Monday night, through the tag application period deadline.

Project WILD and Aquatic WILD training for Nevada librarians. Staff put on a training for librarians throughout the state. The majority of the librarians were from the Reno area, but we also had librarians from McDermitt, Amargosa, Boulder City, Round Mountain and Carson City. We had 13 librarians and the two AmeriCorps members join us.

**Media Highlight:** Conservation Education brought on a new Public Information Officer in February. Eric Cachinero brings more than 8 years of experience working in Nevada media to NDOW. Eric will oversee our four publications, design social graphics, infographics, advertisements and NDOW press releases.

Conservation Education Staff's Women's History Month campaign in March was a success. Between a series of Instagram takeovers, Wildlife Wednesday videos and podcasts, a staff member from almost every division was highlighted. The campaign also featured "Women in History" posts featuring women who have made a difference in conservation.

Public Information Officers (PIO's) have contributed to multiple interagency press releases. Department PIO's worked with public affairs at Nevada Division of State Lands Public, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation and coordinated a press release announcing the transfer of Carson Lake and Pasture to the state of Nevada. PIO's also worked with partner agencies in the Interagency Bear Communications Group on a press release providing communities and visitors in the Tahoe Basin with information and tips on living in "Bear Country" as bears come out of their dens in the spring. The group has planned to work on monthly bear awareness press release to continue educating the community.

Conservation Education's media monitoring service, Critical Mention, reported a TV audience of more than 202,000, and an audience of more than 90 million for print and online news stories featuring the Department in the month of April.

Conservation Education Staff continues to submit materials for the Governor's weekly newsletter to showcase the different projects and educational opportunities Department staff has worked on. Topics over the last month include Nevada's moose populations, work to reestablish the Pyramid Lake bighorn sheep population, fire restoration work, the different programs and staff that shined through the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Cashman Good Governance Award the Department was recognized with in March.

- Social Media Impressions (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram): 471,898
- Social Media Reach (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram): 432,694
- Social Media Engagements (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram): 33,530
- Social Media Reactions (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram): 17,739 [Likes: 16,340 Loves: 1,232]
- Webinar Attendees (8 webinars): 200+ attendees

### **Wildlife Diversity**

**Shorebird Surveys:** Diversity staff have been conducting shorebird surveys at multiple lakes in Humboldt and Washoe counties. Mosquito Lake and Continental Lake had the highest diversity and



abundance of shorebirds amongst the surveyed lakes—other alkaline areas were dry, likely due to extreme drought in the region. Avocets and long-billed curlews were most abundant at Continental Lake, with a population estimated to exceed 400 individuals. Willets, pelicans, ibis, black-necked stilts, and Franklin's gulls were found at Mosquito Lake. Additional shorebird inventory at several other lakes are planned for this spring with repeat surveys at Continental and Mosquito lakes.

Recently, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation awarded more than one million in funding to the National Audubon Society, Manomet, and the Lahontan Valley Audubon Society to identify management opportunities for shorebird habitat and to increase monitoring capacity at Nevada's Lahontan Valley wetlands. Comprehensive surveys over the past 34 years indicate that on average, more than 70 thousand shorebirds utilize Lahontan Valley during the fall and more than 100 thousand during the spring.

**Bat Acoustics:** Diversity staff deployed acoustic bat detectors at five sites in Washoe county to understand bat distribution and gain insight into the arrival or emergence of bats in the region. We've also now fully processed and vetted over twenty multiple-night acoustic surveys in the Washoe-Humboldt county region, gaining insight into bat habitat associations and species distributions. This is preliminary work for staff to start fully participating in NABat which is a nationwide bat monitoring program using acoustic surveys. Seven of the Wildlife Diversity biologists have been preparing for their first round of surveys at high priority sites across the state. Recent preparations have included a Division-wide training, practice deployments of the new bat detectors, and site reconnaissance.

**NV Pika Atlas:** The Elko area Diversity biologist has been working with the other area biologists and researchers on a Nevada Pika Atlas. The document is a compilation and summary of all of the current information of pikas in Nevada, with focus on known distribution and status in each mountain range. A draft Atlas is currently being reviewed.

**Wildlife Diversity Data:** The Wildlife Diversity Division has been working with DATS staff to develop and update NDOW's Raptor Nest Database. Data entry and management is now being completed in a stream-lined, web-based app that tracks both nest sites and nest visits. Diversity Division will be completing entry of its data backlog by May.

**Snowshoe Hares:** NDOW surveys for snowshoe hares continue in the Lake Tahoe Basin. Snowshoe hares were observed at three different sites in 2021, spanning more than 12 miles of Tahoe's east shore. These surveys will be taking a higher priority over the next few years as NDOW hopes to be in a position to respond to the arrival and potential impacts of Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2). The disease was discovered at a rabbit farm in Genoa in January and there is concern that its arrival in the Tahoe Basin is imminent.

**Riparian Restoration in the Pine Nut Range:** Wildlife Diversity biologists have been assisting the Habitat Division by marking nest trees and other important wildlife trees within a conifer removal project in Eldorado Canyon in the Pine Nut Range. The project is focused on removing encroaching conifers from riparian areas in order to provide riparian habitats with more space and water to flourish.

**Gila Monster Study:** Diversity has two graduate students and six volunteers helping to complete the final season of telemetry data on Gila monsters, which will ultimately provide us information on Gila monster home range sizes, habitat use patterns, and shelter selection in three distinct populations in Nevada. Volunteer supported surveys are occurring to help increase the number of genetic samples to determine gene flow and genetic diversity among populations in Nevada. Results of our studies will also be compared to genetic information from populations in Utah, California and potentially Arizona.

**Reptile Road Cruising:** This season we have a record number of volunteers interested in conducting road cruising surveys to improve our understanding of reptile species' relationships to habitat, particularly

those species with limited data inhabiting the Mojave Desert. To date, we have conducted over two dozen surveys with the help of over a dozen independent and naturally socially isolated volunteers.

## **FISHERIES**

**Aquatic Invasive Species Program:** NDOW's AIS Program Watercraft Inspection Stations are now fully operational for the 2021 boating season with the majority of stations open by mid-April and the others opening May 1. Seasonal stations will be open this year at South Fork Reservoir and on SR XXX in Elko County, Rye Patch and Lahontan Reservoirs and Topaz Lake and at Cottonwood Cove and Laughlin in southern Nevada. Stations at Lake Mead and Alamo operate year-around.

AIS staff assisted the National Park Service to perform watercraft inspections at the major WON Bass tournament at Lake Mead in late April. Although the tournament was delayed and then rescheduled because of weather conditions approximately 70 watercraft that did launch were decontaminated by our staff before leaving the Colorado River system.

**Water Conditions:** As expected, the low snowpack conditions and water content levels from winter 2020-21 will result in poor streamflow and likely reduced reservoir storage across much of Nevada as we move into summer 2021, particularly in western parts of the state. As of the end of April precipitation for the water year to date was 50 to 61 percent of average for eastern Sierra basins and snow water content below 40 percent. Eastern Nevada looks somewhat better averaging around 80 percent of average, but we anticipate rapidly dropping streamflows especially in the Truckee, Carson and Walker rivers which will impact summer trout stocking and reservoir storage, especially at Lahontan Reservoir affecting access for anglers and boaters.

**Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT):** NDOW is continuing to work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on management efforts in the McDermitt Creek basin in Humboldt County and Malheur County OR for recovery of LCT. We are working jointly with Oregon to apply for US Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Land Acquisition funding to purchase the McDermitt Creek Ranch property from the Western Rivers Conservancy. This acquisition will allow restoration of over 50 stream miles to create a connected LCT population while continuing livestock grazing on the ranch and associated allotments as a management tool.

With completion of the new fish ladder at Derby Dam the US Fish and Wildlife Service will be tagging adult Pilot Peak strain LCT that move up the lower Truckee River from Pyramid Lake and releasing them above the dam in cooperation with NDOW fisheries staff. This research project will provide valuable information on how these historic fish utilize habitats in the upper river and assist us in better understanding recovery potential for LCT in the Truckee River system.

**Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe:** We anticipate good conditions at Marlette Lake above Lake Tahoe this spring and plan to open our spawning station for Tahoe strain rainbow trout, LCT and hybrid bowcutt/cuttbow trout the last week in May. This is a critical source of trout eggs to support NDOW's statewide fish production program. NDOW staff also successfully spawned wild Tahoe-strain rainbow trout at Third Creek in Incline Village beginning in late May with over 20,000 eggs taken the first week of that effort.

**Urban Fisheries:** Fisheries Staff are working with other NDOW Divisions to evaluate a new potential urban fishing pond site near downtown Elko. This site near the Humboldt River would create some great new opportunities to expand angling not otherwise available to urban residents and for angler education and outreach.

**Native Aquatic Species:** NDOW staff are working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a new "programmatic" Safe Harbor Agreement for the Endangered Species Act listed Pahump poolfish in

Southern Nevada. This agreement will provide assurances to protect non-Federal landowners who agree to develop and maintain additional populations of the poolfish on their properties. This is a critical need to recover the species because of the limited number of existing poolfish populations. The species only exists in created refuge habitats as its original home spring in Pahrump Valley was lost due to groundwater pumping in the 1960s.

NDOW has also recently received funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support captive rearing and genetic management of the endangered Moapa Dace at Lake Mead Fish Hatchery in Clark County. Although the numbers of wild Moapa Dace are up, this project will allow us to further move the species to recovery and support re-establishment of fish in the mainstem Muddy River where numbers remain low.

Southern Region fisheries staff are also working with Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County to expand and enhance efforts to remove and control illegally introduced green sunfish that are directly impacting endangered pupfish and speckled dace populations at several locations on the refuge.

In March, the US Fish and Wildlife Service received a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to list the Fish Lake Valley tui chub as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This chub is a subspecies of the tui chub that occurs in multiple locations across central Nevada, but it is only known to exist in a single spring system in Fish Lake Valley in Esmeralda County. NDOW staff are working with the Service to provide what data we have on the chub and updated survey information.

#### **DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

**2021 Big Game Applications:** The Data and Technology Services Licensing & Hunt staff are in the final week of the 2021 Big Game Application. So far, the Department is having another record setting application year. After week five, there were over 172,000 applications submitted, which is a 21 percent growth for the same time in 2020. The overall number of calls into the call center are down 40 percent compared to last year. Additionally, there is an increase in the number of applications marked to be an alternate with now 35 percent of the applications as compared to only 15 percent in 2020. The average number of applicants per person this year is 4.68 applications.

By the end of week 5, there had been someone apply from all 50 states and there were over 1,300 new customers to NDOW apply and over 4,500 customers had applied that did not apply in 2020. The cut off for apply for tags is Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 11pm; however, bonus point applications will be taken for another week. The draw will be conducted on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> and results being emailed to clients at midnight between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Resource Enhance Fund Donations:** During this Big Game application period, the Department has received over \$40k in donations to the Resource Enhancement Fund, which is a 22 percent increase from year-to-date donations from 2020.

**2022 Heritage Tag Proposals:** The Department received proposals from 10 vendors for the 2022 Heritage Tags that will be presented at the May 6<sup>th</sup> Heritage Committee meeting.

**Geographic Information System:** The Geographic Information System staff completed a new story map on explaining How Mule Deer Quota Setting are done. [Click here](#) to see the story map. They also finished a new License Agent Vendor map that will clients to more easily locate where they can purchase a license. [Click here](#) to see this map.

**Information Technology:** Finally, the Information Technology staff deployed all the computers received from the CARES Act. Staff have also performed an assessment of technological infrastructure needs for both the Overton WMA and the Lake Mead Hatchery.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Law Enforcement Headquarters:**

The LE headquarters has been busy with several areas of concern in various programs in the Division.

Operations and Training Captain Brady Phillips coordinated the interview of 18 game warden candidates and beginning the hiring process for five of the seven current game warden positions.

Captain Jake Kreamer who oversees the Wildlife Investigations and Operation Game Thief (OGT) program, met with the OGT Citizen's Board to collect \$5,100 in confidential informant payments to distribute and submitted five new cases to the OGT Citizen's board for payment consideration.

State of Nevada Boating Law Administrator (BLA) Captain Brian Bowles attended the Western States Boating Administrators Association Executive Board meeting of which he is a member. Captain Bowles also worked with the USCG regarding new federal engine cut-off switch (ECOX) law and Nevada's emergency cutoff switch law. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 was recently passed providing an amendment to 46 USC 4312 Engine cut-off switches that makes ECOS manufacturer installation, use and wear mandatory. Federal officers will educate with warning for one year and then begin citation enforcement next April, the Department has sent out a press release and held a radio interview on this issue.

### **Dispatch:**

Total Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) calls increased **80 percent** from 224 calls in February, to 403 calls in March.

Radio Transmissions for March 2021 were 45,394. March 2020 radio transmissions were 37,729. This represents a **17 percent** increase in radio traffic in March, compared to last year. The weekends are getting busier about a month earlier than last year overall.

Due to the increase in call volume and the anticipated temporary staff shortages, an additional contracted dispatcher will be added to the NDOW Dispatch team temporarily.

### **Wildlife Investigations:**

The Eastern Region and the Investigations Unit conducted a four-day intensive shed antler patrol to check for compliance with the regulatory closure of the area.

A Western Region game warden completed an investigation on the extermination and removal of bats from a building in the Reno, Nevada area.

Game wardens in the Investigations Unit are assisting both Saskatchewan and Colorado with an investigation.

Eastern Region game wardens dealt with multiple deer calls in the Spring Creek area.

Game wardens patrolled fishermen at Ruby Marsh and observed increased use and an increase in reports of persons ignoring regulations. Investigation and patrols resulted in a citation for illegal use of bait in collection ditches.

Urban wildlife issues are increasing with Southern Region game wardens investigating a case of illegal possession of wild geese. In addition, game wardens in the Southern Region have seen an increase in

calls around the Las Vegas area relating to mountain lions, including a treed lion on a golf course. The lion was successfully tranquilized, relocated, and released.

**Boating Safety Patrol:**

Southern Region game wardens made multiple vessel assists on the Colorado River this past weekend due to high winds and significant boating traffic which resulted in dangerous boating conditions in the area. Several assists of boaters who had fallen overboard and could not reach their vessel due to the wind and water conditions were made by the Laughlin game warden and Deputy Director Jack Robb who was riding along for the patrol throughout the day.

A Southern Region game warden assisted the National Park Service with stranded hikers in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area using the game warden’s vessel for the remote rescue.

Southern Region game wardens have had unusually busy weekends on Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, and the Colorado River, resulting in numerous citations.

Two Southern Region game wardens attended the National Park Service Motorboat Operators Certification Course (MOCC). During the course, game wardens assisted a kayaker in the Narrows area of Lake Mead during MOCC instruction.

Multiple Southern Region game wardens assisted Bullhead PD and Mohave County Sheriff with the recovery search of an individual who was ejected from a vessel on the river in Laughlin. Search suspended due to the probability of the presumed drowned individual being down river towards Lake Havasu – this incident was due to the boat entering a ‘death spiral’ and could probably have been prevented had the boat had a cutoff switch.

All game wardens in the Southern Region attended a four-hour National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) seated battery refresher for Operation Under the Influence investigations. This is the core refresher training for detecting impaired operators on the water.

**Public Safety:**

A game warden from the Western Region was first on scene to assist an 87-year-old woman who fell and lacerated her forehead. The game warden applied first aid and had Dispatch get EMS in route.

Southern Region Game Wardens participated in the memorial service for Ranger Charles Otto conducted by the National Park Service.

Two game wardens completed advanced mounted horse patrol training with Boulder City Police Department. Historically, game wardens have used horse patrols in remote areas where vehicles are not permitted when resources are available.

**B.\* Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett**

A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett reviewed the litigation report that can be found on the NDOW website.

**C. Legislative Committee Report – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – For Possible Action**

A report will be provided on the recent Legislative Committee Meeting.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated that the most recent Legislative Committee meeting was held April 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting contained mostly just an update on where bills were, and which bills did or did not

make it. Assembly Bill (AB) 286, which revises provision governing firearm safety. Nothing has happened, it was referred to Senate Judiciary and is still alive, but it has not yet been scheduled for a meeting. Senate Bill (SB) 78, did not pass the deadline, so that bill is dead. SB125, which revises provisions governing falconry is scheduled for a hearing on Monday afternoon. Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR) 4, is a resolution urging Congress to designate certain and in Spring Valley as a Heritage area, that bill was heard on May 6<sup>th</sup>. There has been no movement on AB89, the bill that revises provisions relating to wildlife, since the updated spreadsheet came out, but it was heard in Senate Natural Resources on April 29<sup>th</sup>. AB211, requires NDOW to comment on subdivision maps, is scheduled for a hearing this afternoon at 3:30 in Senate Government Affairs. Made a note on AB211 that the Division Administrator Alan Jenne and Management Analyst Kailey Taylor met with Assemblywoman Jauregui and Kyle Davis from the Conservation League on Thursday and talked to them about how the 15-day window and the lack of a cost recovery system was difficult on NDOW and did place a lot of burden on the Department, so they worked with other Senators to get a cost recovery portion back into the bill. The bill will be amended again to allow for a cost recovery portion, however, she did not see anything about the 15-day window, so it is unclear on whether or not that window of time was extended, assumed that would be cleared up at the hearing this afternoon. SB52, the dark sky designation bill, did pass out of Assembly Natural Resources, work sessioned and passed on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. AJR3, which urges various actions relating to the protection of water and conservation of land management, the 30x30 resolution, that was heard in Senate Natural Resources on the 27<sup>th</sup>. SB404, the Department's bill, heard on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Assembly Natural Resources, did attempt to amend the bill for provision in the wildlife trust fund to allow us to accept donation in excess of \$20,000 in certain emergency circumstances. That amendment was received very well by the Committee and very well supported. The Department is hoping for that to be amended back into the bill and the pass as amended. AB84, revises provision relating to wildfires was heard in Senate Government Affairs on April 28<sup>th</sup>. AB2, revises provision to that appointment of public bodies, heard in Senate Government Affairs on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. AB202, relating to charitable games and lotteries, heard in Senate Judiciary on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 10, recently added to the Committee's tracking sheet, allows for an interim study concerning the development of hydrogen and lithium as energy resources in the state, that was heard last night in Legislative Operations and Elections. Stated she wanted to cover AB299, the roadkill salvage bill, there has not been any movement on that bill other than the bill sponsor is attempting to amend it again in order to make it so a permit is not issued at the vehicle collision scene, it would be that they would have to report to NDOW the information about salvaging that permit within a certain allotted timeframe. Asked if the Commission wanted to rediscuss the bill due to the amendment.

Chairwoman East indicated that she has testified on most of the bills Management Analyst Kailey Taylor went over and sent in notes to the Committees of the Commissions position. Stated there was another committee deadline next week. Stated she would like to address the AB299 amendment and asked if the Commission wanted to hold their opposition. [Management Analyst Kailey Taylor shared her screen showing the amendment and proceeded to discuss the amendment] She asked the Commissioners for their thoughts.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if there was evidence of anyone hitting wildlife intentionally.

Secretary Wasley indicated that he knows there has been investigations in the past couple years of people intentionally hitting geese in the roadway, unlikely with the purpose of salvaging them. Stated he did not believe the issue for the Department pertained to the permit rather that people would go out of their way to hit the animal to then salvage it, in absence of a permit the animal may be shot with some sort of a weapon and then someone's possession of it is covered by the fact that they also have a dented bumped on their car. The permit as Chairwoman East stated, that is the regulatory document that supports that possession. Invited Law Enforcement Chief Mike Maynard to express his concerns.

Law Enforcement Chief Mike Maynard echoed Secretary Wasley's statements. Stated that the issue Law Enforcement the ability to take these animals without some sort of investigation or a permit which gives information to follow up on, LE has no idea what is going on and no way to follow up. The initial contact with Law Enforcement is critical and the documentation is crucial to ensure the legalities of everything.

Chairwoman East asked for additional comments for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Caviglia stated he like to mirror the comments of the Chairwoman and of the Department. Stated he was not a fan of the bill initially and the amendment made him even less of a fan of the bill.

Commissioner Pierini echoed the statements made. Not having a permit would be a mess, it's important for the Department to have that information.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he wanted echo those position stated. Stated that the permit was necessary.

Commissioner Rogers asked the thought process of having that language removed regarding the permit.

Secretary Wasley thanked Commissioner Rogers for the question. Stated that he did not know if the Department has specifically heard the statement of the reason. The uphill battle that this bill faces is partly due to the fiscal notes associated with issuance of the permits. If the permit goes away then the LE agencies that are provided with the authority but tasked with the requirement to issue the permit goes away, so if the fiscal note goes away then the bill has a much great chance of passage. Stated he believed that it was an accurate representation to state that the motivation to remove the requirement for the permit was to remove the fiscal note that is the primary hinderance of the passage of the bill.

Commissioner Rogers stated that he agreed with the permit being such a vital piece.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the Department has been asked to sit at the table to be part of the discussions with respect to amendments on this bill.

Secretary Wasley answered that the Department has had conversations with the bill sponsors. The department thought they landed at a pretty good place prior to the most recent amendment that limited the ability for people to use this as a loophole to be in possession of an animal that may have been unlawfully obtained. The Department thought a compromise was reached in terms of the burden on our already limited capacity of law enforcement. The removal of the permit, I was unaware of and would say it is an accurate representation that we were not part of the decision to remove the requirement to issue a permit.

Chairwoman East stated that a tag is required for every hunter and a permit should be required to obtain roadkill. Asked for questions or comments from the Commission.

Commissioner McNinch circled back to AB211, the subdivision bill, with that amendment; there were two concerns with that, generally from a platform standpoint we had supported the concept and one of those things is being addressed through a possible amendment but the timing of it. When the Commission talked about it before, if the cost recovery amendment included, would that take the edge off of the timeframe issue enough to find out way through this.

Secretary Wasley agreed that there are two issues. One being the timeframe issue; requiring the Department to respond within 15 days, the other one is the unfunded mandate aspect of no cost recovery. From his perspective, the time limitation is a bigger limitation than the cost recovery and if the Department could get more time to respond and assess what kind of demand that will place on NDOW staff, if the

Department can come back in a future session. If both of those items were addressed the Department would be more comfortable. Deferred to Alan Jenne.

Habitat Division Administrator Jenne agreed with Secretary Wasley's statements. The 15-day window is so tight for the Division. There is only one position in the whole agency that is actually a full-time technical revue position. Everyone else is just a portion of their job and so when you consider that this is going to come with a 15-day window to review maps, assimilate the information from all of the different Divisions and resources relative to impacts and be able to report back across the state it very tight for us and our biggest concern. The Department likes the idea of the bill and the ability to go in there and with project proponents to minimize impacts on development, but the time window is the biggest concern. The Division hates to do something not to the full ability. The Department would like to see that window extended and the fee could go away and gather enough information for the next session to inform that request for fee compensation.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he appreciated the input and understood what Habitat Division Administrator stated. Stated that part of his work experience was the managing the flow of plans through the health district and it is not as straight forward as it might seem. There is a lot going on. The platform for this stays the same for him.

Chairwoman East asked if the cost is not recovered, where the money would come from.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that the Department does currently, it is funded with 25 percent sportsman's fees and 75 percent comes from our technical revue grant that is funded through the wildlife sportfish restoration grant. Annually \$1.2 million budget in the technical revue program; about \$30,000 would be sportsman's fees. The Department does not fully understand what this workload will be, but you can say that 25 percent of every hour of personnel time that gets charges to this would be sportsman's dollars that could be used for some other beneficial action towards wildlife management in the State of Nevada.

Secretary Wasley added that the other 75 percent coming from the wildlife and sportfish restoration, that's essentially out Pittman Robertson act dollars which are – once the habitat division submits a grant at the amount that \$1.2m, then that is a fixed amount that is grant to technical review. Once the ink is dry and the grant is approved then those monies are spent for technical review and matched 25 percent with sportsman revenue. If those dollars are not spent or if that amount is not in that grant, the most dollars are eligible for big game survey or other habitat work so those are not just technical review dollars in that grant, they are once that grant is submitted and approved. As the cost for those things go use then it can take sportsman's revenue as well as that Pittman Robertson. As Alan said, the Department does not know what the demands may be like in the future.

Commissioner McNinch the city of sparks had a process with its plan review. The charge was always to process plan as quickly as possible, keep the contractors, the people submitting them moving forward with their processes. They had something that was referred to as a "Quick Start" process and the folks that wanted to participate in the program, basically they paid a premium to jump the line. We established more of a set schedule where we would come over and pick up plans on certain days of the week, so we were not over there every day. At those times, if somebody requested, all of the reviewers would sit together and do a quick overview of the plan and if there were parts of the plan that did not require approval right away from certain entities, we would sign off on that plan so that they could get moving on other aspects that would otherwise be dependent on full approvals that may take time. I do not know if something like that is possible in this to may be alleviate the potential glut of plans that come through or plans that may not require as much review. I throw that out there, maybe it is something that can be proposed as part of a conversation.



Chairwoman East asked for additional questions and comments. Seeing none, went out to public comment. Chairwoman East asked Mr. Cefalu to submit his comment to the Wildlife Commission email for it to be read into the record since he was having issues with his microphone.

Chris Cefalu, representing NBU [comment read into the record after commenter was having connectivity issues]: We believe that NDOW should have a seat at the table on all aspects of AB299 and that a permit is a must for multiple reasons. 1) so, the game division can track animal mortality by species and geographical locations, 2) Law enforcement has means of conducting an investigation or have a paper trail so to speak. Also, we should consider a small fee to cover administrative costs. It is not out of the realm to ask for a permit fees and to require an individual to possess a permit for a salvaged game animal. This is no different than the thousands of sportsman and women across the state needing a tag or permit to harvest game animals in the state of Nevada and we pay a fee to do so.

Seeing no other public comment, Chairwoman East brought it back to the Commission for additional discussion.

**NO MOTION TAKEN. COMMISSION REMAINED WITH THEIR CURRENT PLATFORMS AND POSITIONS ON THE BILLS PRESENTED.**

**D. Mule Deer Enhancement Program Update – Commissioner Kiel - Informational**

The Department will provide an update on the current status of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program that was approved by the Commission at the August 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Kiel stated that the committee met April 28<sup>th</sup>, went over the draft code of conduct, project charter, the limiting factor forms, the needs assessment form, and the project scoring matrix. The committee moved to advance all of those to a workshop at the next committee meeting which will be late May or June. There has been discussion that the process is somewhat delayed and thinking through that, stated he thought it is more of a silver lining that as some of the COVID restrictions are loosening up, it's going to allow time for the Committee and subcommittee to actually get into the field this spring and early summer. With the main goal of having projects presented to the oversight committee around this commissions august meeting. I think as things are delayed; things are coming together. There is lots of feedback. Getting a good framework set up to assess these projects and hopefully move them forward and get some shovel ready projects sooner than later. Asked Game Division Scott if he is like to add anything.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott added that the Game Division received an example of a charter that would be preferred by the BLM to allow their employees to participate and so, the code of conduct and the charter – he is trying to combine those into one document as well as some other information that we have already presented as part of this process and provide a more comprehensive document that would be considered the charter. The Commission will see an example of that; the Department will present and workshop that at the next meeting. As far as the subcommittee and teams' committees, the Game Divisions has one scheduled on Monday night and should see more in the near future from some folks that have not met yet.

Chairwoman East asked for additional questions or comments. Hearing none, moved on.

**E. Wildlife Heritage Committee Report – Vice Chair Barnes - Informational**

A report will be provided on the recent Heritage Committee Meeting.

Vice Chair Barnes stated the meeting was held on May 8<sup>th</sup>; the meeting went well. The Committee discussed potential tag vendors as well as looking through all of the projects. A lot of the project staff

were available to discuss the projects and answer any questions. There were 21 projects. The Committee wants to go ahead and fund them all as presented. In doing so, the Committee is going to have to dip into that heritage account. The Committee is going to have recommendations for the Commission in June. Asked Habitat Division Administrator if he would like to add anything.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that the only thing he would add is that at the June Commission meeting, the Committee will be coming back with the list of past projects that are completed and closing or those that are closing with remaining funds and trying to reallocate those funds if possible, across the same year projects if they are open.

Chairwoman East asked for additional questions and comments. Hearing none, put the meeting in recess for a lunch break.

Lunch break, 12:48-1:20pm.

**9. How Quotas are Developed Presentation – Game Division Administrator Mike Scott - Informational**

Game Division will give an informational presentation on how quotas are developed.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder presented *Population Models and Quota Process*. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee presented *Data Collection for the Quota Setting Process in Nevada*. Presentations may be found on the NDOW website.

Break, 3:50pm – 4:00pm.

**10. Final Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action**

The Commission will review the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2022 Draft Predation Management Plan with the Department. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented the final draft of the fiscal year 2022 predation management plan. [A copy of the plan can be found on the NDOW website]

Chairwoman East thanked Pat Jackson and moved to public comment.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark County CABMW, wanted to say that at the Clark CABMW, they have been doing raven projects for ten plus years and hoping that the Department, in the summer report for predator plan will tell us how much we have spent, what we have learned and what are the results of that. They have been putting \$100k a year in raven removal and he would like to know if that will allow for higher limits for raven removal or if there are other things learned from those ten years. There was a question raised by Vice Chair Reese about fawn recruitment. Stated that when looking at coyote removal they always look at doing it at the time of the year when the antelope and mule deer are fawning. Asked if there have been studies on mortality rates in areas where there is not coyote removal.

Catherine Smith, private citizen, stated that Dr. Dixon brought up some up the points she intended on bring up. She did not see a lot of information on cost effectiveness. Project 21 had been going on for over a decade and in the past, in predator plans, it had not been shown to benefit grouse populations when compared to similar areas. Asked if we do not see a benefit, is it okay to kill a large number of these predators or is it okay to kill the predators if you feel that the overall population is threatened. Asked if the Commission was supportive of the 80 percent mandate that was brought in legislatively. Asked why a potential bill not supported in the Legislature because the Department can't do that as have been muzzled by the sportsmen. Stated she wanted to discuss the role of predators because they not only

have a downstream diversity role, but they also limit disease spread. We keep our predator population so artificially depressed that she thinks that it needs to be considered that the decisions of the commission may be a growing problem threatening the long-term health of the wildlife species. Stated that with the water concerns in the state that we have to ask ourselves that money be spent on habitat improvement than water supply efforts. Understands its sportsmen's dollars but it's the State's collective wildlife, hoping that these are taken into consideration because when we don't have predators and keep these numbers are really high carrying capacities, we end up hurting out long-term population, of ungulates even, and decrease diversity downstream. So, disease is going to become more and more of an issue, especially with doubt so she hoped the Commission would take these things into consideration for the long-term health of the wildlife.

Seeing no other public comment, Chairwoman East brought it back to the Commission for a discussion or a motion.

**COMMISSIONER ALMBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY 2022 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS AWAY FROM THE MEETING.**

**11. Public Comment Period**

Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a futured commission agenda. \*Persons wishing to comment are invited to raise their hands in the virtual meeting forum and will be individually called upon until all wishing to comment have had the chance to do so.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, stated that he wanted to point out a problem that appeared to happen on a regular basis. Stated there were no support materials on the predation management plan, for the quota setting presentation or Mr. Smith's presentation. Stated that for the public to be informed about what is going on in advance that it was very important to have the information before its presented and dropped onto the public.

Chairwoman East thanked Mr. Voltz and asked for additional public comment.

Secretary Wasley offered for Gil Yanuck to share what he needs from the CABMWs regarding their request budgets.

Gil Yanuck stated that he usually came to the commission with a designated amount to be approved by the Commission to be distributed to the CABMWs that need funding. Apologized and stated that communication has been poor with the CABMWs but the county treasures as well. Stated that this year it is trying to pull teeth getting information from the CABMWs. Stated that last year's numbers can't be used so he really needs the CABMWs to share their information.

Chairwoman East thanked Mr. Yanuck and stated they can work together on getting a letter out to the CABMWs.

Jim Cooney, with the information that Gil was just sharing, Elko County sent in the budget and he had taken it through the county and had not received anything additional indicating they needed to submit more information.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that Clark has submitted their budget. Asked that when an email is sent out that it states if there is anything missing. Asked for the public trust information to share with the CABMWs, as he found it to be powerful.

Chairwoman East asked for additional public comment. Seeing none, sent the meeting to recess until the next morning.

Meeting recess, 4:43pm, to reconvene 9:00am on Saturday, May 8, 2021.

**Saturday, May 8, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

***If you wish to make public comment, please use this link:***

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88246064118?pwd=M2RTVzRlZzZtTEZPemVGdjV5d1Rndz09>**

- 12. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East**  
Chair will announce CABMW members through their attendance via the Zoom link.

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:01. Commissioner Hubbs led the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford conducted the roll call of Commissioners. Chairwoman East conducted roll call of CABMW members.

- 13. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East asked for public comment on the agenda. Seeing none, brought it back to the Commission for a motion.

**COMMISSIONER ROGERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

- 14. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East stated all correspondence had been sent to Executive Assistant Missy Stanford and shared with the Commission members. Spoke to her conversations had over the week.

- 15. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational**  
CABMW members may present emergent items by raising their hand in the virtual forum. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Chairwoman East asked for CABMW items, hearing none, moved on. She added before moving on that CABMW members will have the opportunity to comment before the general public.

- 16. Commission Regulations – For Possible Action/Adoption – Public Comment Allowed**

**A.\* Commission Regulation 21-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2021-2022**

**Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Pat Jackson – 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 2021 - 2022 seasons.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott pointed out that the Department was generally recommending lower quotas this year due to lower recruitment across species, primarily due to excessive drought conditions. He expressed his concern that some or many big game herds were at over carrying capacity with respect to water and forage conditions. He added that CABMW comments had been provided where they disagree with the Departments recommendations, generally asking for lower quotas. With more bucks left on the landscape there may be biological issues and it creates a higher desire buck harvest the following year. He dispelled the notion that the Game Division was inflating quota numbers in anticipation that the CAMBW would ask for lower quotas, ensuring the Department selects more conservative quotas. The Department seeks to provide sound recommendations to maintain a quality hunt.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Antelope as well as presenting a PowerPoint "*Antelope Status in Nevada: 2021 Quota Recommendations*".

Commissioner Hubbs asked if Nevada was below the necessary recruitment ratio for herd growth, to which staff specialist Cody Schroeder responded that statewide recruitment was down but it was not down on a unit level which is what should be considered during quota decision making.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if there were any other concerns not addressed with antelopes and their population numbers.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded the effects of the drought cause concern, Summer projections do not look good especially in harder hit areas. Overall, populations are adapted to the conditions and may rebound very quick to favorable conditions.

Commissioner Kiel noticed last year there were roughly 4,300 and only roughly 2,500 tags recommended for this year. Noting a reduction of 1,800 tags statewide.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated it was roughly a 20 percent reduction with the total number being 3,465 for both horns longer than ears and horns shorter than ears this year.

Commissioner Kiel quired whether the quota objective was to grow herd populations or if it was believed some herds were at max sustaining yield (MSY).

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder explained in general populations were closer to carrying capacity and believed higher quotas should be recommended in certain areas.

Commissioner Hubbs sought clarification in terms of the drought. Water levels in Eastern and Southern Nevada are bad, she asked how the rest of the state was doing.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded the northern and center of the state, particularly in higher elevations were better off in terms of snowpack, such as the Toiyabe's in central Nevada. He added that looking at the drought monitor and drought predictions it is more dire in eastern and southern Nevada.

Secretary Wasley stated you could talk about managing for maximum populations or for quality experience, herd health, and having things in balance with the habitat. He believed some assumptions that drove comments and alternate recommendations were built around ideas that more animals equate to larger bucks or that when animals live to be older, they have larger antlers. Looking at the graph Cody showed, the characteristics of populations below MSY or above MSY in the central part of the state we have populations that are not necessarily bursting at the seams but have high fawn ratios at over sixty. We have high fawn ratios, and they are a byproduct of body condition. One study showed a five percent reduction in body weight due to food limitation translated to a fifty percent reduction in antler volume, so in some ways if we manage for populations and are trying to maximize the number on the landscape, we are going to risk the quality of the experience, the quality of the animals, the number of fawns produced. It is sometimes counterintuitive comparing historic numbers it is not reasonable to compare numbers in the eighties that resulted from three back-to-back years in an El Nino event to what we are looking at now with a catastrophic drought covering most of the state.

Chairwoman East put forward proposed changes from the Washoe and Humboldt CABMW.

Commissioner Caviglia questioned the Departments on their thoughts of the Humboldt recommendation to drop tags from one hundred and ten to fifty-five in unit group 043-046.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder replied he would not support the recommendation as it was not biologically sound.

Administrator Mike Scott added that Humboldt's justification was a declining population but, in all actuality, it was an increasing population.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee commented that the 2020 metrics for 043-046 reflected an eighty eight percent success rate, twenty six percent harvested bucks with horns fifteen inches or longer. Hunter satisfaction was 4.6 out of 5. He saw no reason for change.

Commissioner Rogers noticed a large drop in unit group 111-114, he was curious what the White Pine CABMW recommended.

Administrator Mike Scott replied they were in support of all resident and non-resident antelope recommendations.

Public comment.

Tony Gildone, representing the Humboldt CABMW stated that the motion had a heavily contentious conversation. In quotas for 043-043 it was a split decision, it was not passed unanimously by any means at the Humboldt County meeting, and I think the logic behind it was some of the CAB members felt that it was a very large unit that could hold more animals and that they wanted to see less tags in order to grow the population, potentially have a trophy unit in future years in the state. Part of the problem was that this unit is managed by the Fallon biologist who was not present at our meeting so we couldn't get kind of carrying capacity questions answered. That is all the background and what I have to say about the motion, thank you.

Steve Robinson, representing the Washoe CABMW stated at our CAB meeting we were fortunate to have Mike Scott, Cody Schroeder, Cooper Munson, and Johnny Ewaynk present to answer our questions, which we really appreciate them taking their time out and answering all our questions and just to let you all know that we did run all our recommendations by the biologist, and they did not have a problem with any of the recommendations that we had. Our only recommendations for resident antelope, any legal weapon hunt is in area 015 to keep seventy-five tags as last year. The current recommendation

is seventy, our reasoning for that, if you look in the status book it says for 2021 the tag quotas for this hunting unit should be like the 2020 season due to the continued increasing trend in this populations, increased buck quality should also be observed as the population continues to thrive. That's out justification for that, we would like it to be as last year, thank you.

Giovanni Giordano, representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, I'd just like to go on record under Humboldt County Advisory Board. 035 populations, shows that we have an increase of numbers which I strongly disagree with. I can personally see amongst our farm and the mountain range behind us, we do not have the animals that they are suggesting we do have. We need to get a better look, a better grasp on this because the numbers are not there to justify these tag increases and we may have overshot ... **\*audio was lost.**

Joe Crim, representing the CABMW stated, we had a couple of spots on the survey where we disagreed, when we fill out that survey, you can only agree or disagree, you cannot leave any blanks on that survey. In the future that would be great if we could change that because we normally only talk about the animals in our county and nobody else's. So, when you see me where I showed disagreeing technically that was for the ewe hunts and for the doe hunts, and that kind of thing because I have no other option but to agree and I can't do that because my CAB will blow a gasket at me. I have no suggested changes, what I'm gonna say is out biologist is out of Fallon, Kyle came to our meeting and everything that he told us about that herd on that side we felt it was justified so that's why we agreed with the Department recommendations on what Kyle had put forward so that's where we stand on that, is we agree with the Department recommendations.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 2151 AND 2251, WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 2151, UNIT GROUP 015 HAVE A QUOTA OF SEVENTYFIVE. COMMISSIONER KIEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Antelope hunt 2171, 2271, 2161, 2261, and 2181.

Chairwoman East put forward proposed changes from the Humboldt, and Mineral CABMW.

Public Comment.

Glenn Bunch, representing the Mineral CABMW stated, in reference to the CAB Handbook per NRS 501.297 these are Mineral Counties recommendations. We have five different mountain ranges in this area of 205 through 208 and in the 205 north of Hawthorne there has been an observation of several antelope in the north end of the Lake area. There's at least fifty or more. In the south end of unit 205 towards the south of Hawthorne there's a pretty good size herd messing around the bottom, lucky boy has been saying about twenty-five or thirty. Then you get out to the Whiskey Flats area and there's over one hundred animals out there in that area that work those fields. Then over in 206 it's a satellite herd of one hundred or more that has been observed up there. In 207 there is another group that's been counted and there's probably one hundred animals moving around that area. 208 has a small herd, it's working the South end of the valley and so that's why we've asked, at least in the archery the hunter opportunity to move from ten to eight. It was increased in area 205 through 208 in the general hunt so we thought well this is archery, it shouldn't have an impact. However, one might believe that the animals are standing in the middle of the Valley waiting for people to be there and it's not that way. As a reply to one of the things in the opening comments to Commissioner McNinch, I have no scientific information or data, this is something that I observe myself when I'm out in those areas during the season. That's where

we come up with this, we believe that there wouldn't be an impact to that herd to take out this increase, thank you.

The Department did not have any biological concerns with the recommendation.

Vice Chair Barnes sought clarification on Elko Counties recommendations.

Jim Cooney, representing the Elko CABMW stated they agree with the Departments recommendation for the antelope.

Commissioner McNinch asked Humboldt County to provide comment.

Tony Gildone, representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, other than the muzzleloader hunt the rest of them the logic was passed on that original motion for the any legal weapon, so it just trickled down through all the other hunts. The muzzleloader hunt recommendation is in response to Humboldt County's desire not to have a muzzleloader hunt at all in these units, which we expressed in prior meetings, so probably not the appropriate time to discuss that. The committee's recommendation was to lower it to the least amount possible which is one because I don't think you can have a zero quota with the season.

Commissioner Hubbs noticed an increase of fifty-three tags from 2020. She asked why weren't muzzleloader hunts in those areas prior and why would a CABMW have an aversion to a muzzleloader hunt.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder replied that the muzzleloader hunt was added last year therefore there were no quotas. The hunt was established to provide hunter opportunity and the tags were syphoned from archery and riffle. And referred to the CABMW's to provide a reason for any aversion.

Tony Gildone, representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, that there's already long seasons during a sensitive time for these animals and that adding another season for Humboldt County with the muzzleloader which is a weapon that can already be legally used during the any legal weapons seasons is unwarranted. Just to segue, I don't know if it the appropriate time, but this is one of the topics that was not discussed I believe in a prior meeting which we felt we should have had this conversation prior and it wasn't discussed by the Commission which was one of the reasons that the letter last month was sent.

Public Comment.

Rex Flowers, private citizen provided public comment stating, I was just curious and I don't know if this is the appropriate time or if this conversation needs to be had later but on a number of these new hunts like with the antelope muzzleloader and archery and when we talk about deer we always give a minimum of two tags for any hunt and yet on all these antelope hunts, new ones and spike hunts and we only give one hunt. In my opinion were selling blue skies. I would think we would want to give two tags in case two individuals wanted to try to have the opportunity to draw separately but hunt together. Maybe that's for another day, but I would ask that question to the Department through the chairwoman, thank you.

***\*Chairwoman East lost connectivity and was removed from the Commission meeting.***

Mel Belding, private citizen provided public comment stating, I'm in favor and support of Humboldt County's recommendation to have no muzzleloader hunt. I realize it's been done there so I would like to see one tag instead of two like Rex Flowers said. I'd also like to say that I support the recommendation in area 041 042 horns shorter than ears. I would like to see that dropped to one. I would also like to stay at this time that I would like to see this instead of 15 and 6 being shown on what it does when we0 harvest does horns shorter than ears out of these units. Let's take a look at what it's done to 041 042, which has



been in the nosedive, all these averages we got highs and lows and we got place where no harvest doesn't work and 041 and 042 is certainly one of those places so I'd like to see that. While I'm at it, I heard a comment about a fifteen-inch antelope and we're going to relate that to an eighty-inch score. It takes a hell of a fifteen-inch antelope to get to eighty-inches. Now general statements, you know we just gotta stay away from those type of things, thank you.

Commissioner Almborg asked if there was a difference conducting muzzleloader hunts in Humboldt County versus any other area within the state and if the initial quotas were based on historical demand.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded there was no difference and that the statewide average for demand was used to build a base for the new hunts.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 2171, 2271, 2161, 2261, AND 2181 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 2161, UNIT GROUP 205-208 HAVE A QUOTA OF TEN. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 – 0. CHAIRWOMAN EAST WAS ABSENT.**

Vice Chair Barnes recessed the meeting at 11:25 a.m.  
Chairwoman East reconvened the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

***\*Chairwoman East rejoined the Commission Meeting.***

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for the Elk hunt 4102, 4151 and 4251 and presented a PowerPoint "2021-2022 Elk Status and Trend".

Chairwoman East put forward proposed changes from the Elko, White Pine, and Lincoln CABMW.

Commissioner Hubbs questioned how the general elk population was doing statewide and whether the introduction of elk to the state has hurt other game species with overlapping habitats/resources.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee answered elk populations were growing and being problematic. He clarified elk are native in certain areas of Nevada, but they have been moved around. Elk tend to occupy most of eastern Nevada, anecdotally there is a thirty to forty percent overlap between deer, elk, and antelope. He added that regardless of overlapping resources/habitats mule deer populations have been declining statewide.

Commissioner Almborg shared that he received correspondence from the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) regarding the depredation hunt.

Commissioner McNinch stated White Pine's proposal to take thirty tags from any legal weapon and transfer them to muzzleloader.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee believed swapping tags was a better solution than eliminating tags. He recommended keeping the overall total that the Department had recommended based on biology and ongoing drought conditions. He suggested increasing the tags in hunt unit 111 from nineteen tags to twenty tags and in hunt unit 221-223 from fourteen tags to fifteen tags.

Public Comment.

Jim Cooney, representing the Elko CABMW stated with regards to the increase in tags from fifteen to sixteen in 078, 105-107, 109 Early the discussion went around with biologists, also the CABs and you'll notice as we look at a couple of these other hunts, specifically the archery hunt and the muzzleloader hunt we were trading tags. Limited water in that particular area and a large number of wild horses were some of the topics that we went through and considered in and making those recommendations. You'll see that we added a couple of tags on all legal weapons, then we reduced a tag or two in the muzzleloader and then we took a significant number out of the archery tags based just solely upon the water sources in that particular unit.

Commissioner Alberg quired what staff specialist Cody McKee thought of Lincoln counties proposed recommendations.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee voiced the Department stands by their recommendations. He additionally pointed out the non-resident tag numbers that would need to change provided resident tag changes.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 4102, 4151, AND 4251 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 4151, UNIT GROUP 078,105-107,109 EARLY AND LATE HAVE A QUOTA OF SIXTEEN, UNIT GROUP 104,108,121 HAVE A QUOTA OF SEVENTY, UNIT GROUP 111-115 LATE HAVE A QUOTA OF EIGHTY, AND UNIT GROUP 221-223 EARLY AND LATE HAVE A QUOTA OF SIXTY. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER KIEL AMENDED HIS MOTION TO INCLUDE CHANGES IN HUNT 4251, UNIT GROUP 078,105-107,109 EARLY TO HAVE A QUOTA OF THREE, UNIT GROUP 104,108,121 TO HAVE A QUOTA OF EIGHT, UNIT GROUP 111-115 LATE TO HAVE A QUOTA OF NINE, AND UNIT GROUP 221-223 EARLY TO HAVE A QUOTA OF SIX. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SUPPORTED THE AMENDED MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Secretary Wasley clarified that it had been customary in the past to simply include in the motion to provide the Department the direction to adjust the nonresident quotas commensurate with the changes made to the resident. He understood there was commission policy directing the distribution of that opportunity, but the Department certainly understood if that was the intent of the Commission and were provide that direction.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for the Elk hunt 4156 and 4256.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee addressed two recommendations from the Elko CABMW. Which he was seeking clarification on.

Chairwoman East asked if there were any concerns with the White Pine recommendation.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee supported White Pines recommendations.

Public Comment.

Jim Cooney, representing the Elko CABMW stated with regards to the muzzleloader hunt, 4156 in the area 076-081 we increased the tags by two over what it was year ago. The discussion and the reasoning was congestion that we were getting in that northeastern corner and possible conflicts with hunters during that time of year. With regards to 078, 105-107, the spruce mountain area, at that time of the year the water was an issue as I mentioned during the last unit and the fact that the conflict with the horses, we were raising the tag by one and by two in those different areas. Those specific reasons were brought up by both sportsman and in the discussion with the biologist as well.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee addressed Elko CABMW comments recommending eleven tags versus fifteen in 076, he stated primitive weapon success rates were low therefore the increase was decided based on the effect of lower success rates. For 078 he did not recall a motion to reduce the tags, regardless he did not believe the reduction was necessary.

Commissioner McNinch question whether there were tag numbers for hunt 4256, non-residents.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee responded there would be an increase of one tag in unit group 104, 108, 121, unit group 111-115 and unit group 221-223.

Commissioner McNinch did not support the Elko recommendation, stating that for hunt 4156, unit group 078, 105-107, 109 these areas were performing well and above the population objective.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 4156 AND 4256 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 4156, UNIT GROUP 104,108,121 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWENTY, UNIT GROUP 111-115 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWENTY, AND UNIT GROUP 221-223 HAVE A QUOTA OF FIFTEEN. HUNT 4256, UNIT GROUP 104,108,121 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWO, UNIT GOURP 111-115 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWO, AND UNIT GROUP 221-223 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWO. CHAIRWOMAN EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Elk hunt 4161 and 4261.

Vice Chair Barnes shared a conversation, summarizing that with few water sources that time of year hunters would be congested around the same waters for the Elko recommendation.

Public comment.

Jim Cooney, representing the Elko CABMW stated that with the information that Vice Chairman Barnes just had, the discussion, as Cody can remember if he was watching right there, actually Caleb McAdoo, as a citizen not representing the Department brought up the fact that there were seven water sources in that particular unit and the whole discussion revolved around having the conflicts with that archery. It also drove the conversation when we looked at increasing those tags into the general all legal weapons hunts so that was the primary driving factor that we had during our conversations.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that a one tag difference in hunt 4161, unit 078, 105-107, 109 did not matter.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if the tag number were dropped in hunt 4161, unit group 078, 105-107, 109, would the non-resident tags need to be adjusted to which staff specialist Cody McKee responded yes.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 4161 AND 4261 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 4161, UNIT GROUP 078,105-107,109 HAVE A QUOTA OF TEN AND HUNT 4261, UNIT GROUP 078,105-107,109 HAVE A QUOTA OF ONE. VICE CHAIR BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's

website for the public for Elk hunt 4651, 4181, 4181 Wilderness Only, 4281, 4176, 4276, 4111, 4211, and 4107.

No Public Comment.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 4651, 4181, 4181 WILDERNESS ONLY, 4281, 4176, 4276, 4111, 4211, AND 4107 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Chairwoman East recessed the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

Chairwoman East reconvened the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Big Horn Sheep and Mountain Goat and presented a PowerPoint "*Big Horn Sheep and Mountain Goat 2020-2021 Statewide Population and Harvest Summary Trends*".

Commissioner Kiel asked what would occur if the Department was unable to take the planned sheep to Utah, specifically in regard to ewe. Do the quotas provide enough buffer to where if additional water restrictions or disease events occurred we wouldn't be in danger of a dramatic event.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox replied water hauls would be occurring throughout the south. The Department feels if enough water could be supplied the current muddy mountain ewe quota would get the Department by. He added that Utah did not have a committed location for the sheep and offered if the tag numbers should be increased in the instance the sheep are not taken.

Chairwoman East mention Humboldt, and Pershing CABMW had comments.

Commissioner Caviglia hoped to take hunt 9151, unit group 114 down to two tags.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated he would support the reduction due to limited information.

Commissioner Caviglia questioned how nine total tags were determined for hunt 3161, since it was a new hunt with out a demand formula.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox responded there was an assumed seventy percent harvest success in order to get it initiated.

Commissioner Caviglia asked whether the ram to ewe ratios were higher in the muddies?

Staff Specialist Mike Cox replied yes, they were pushing a 1 to 1 ratio.

Commissioner AlMBERG quired if proactive measures should be taken to reduce the quota sooner than later in respects to the mountain goat nanny harvest.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox answered that they would stress the need of identifying sex prior to hunters taking their online class. He added he would like to discuss with the Commission solutions other states have taken to minimize the female harvest.

Commissioner Hubbs wondered if there was a threshold in which a mountain goat hunt would not occur based on population numbers.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox replied Nevada has almost twelve thousand rams with an increased average age over time. As long as there is a harvestable surplus of rams' hunts will continue, once there is a population that cannot support one tag the hunt will be pulled.

Public Comment.

Paul Dixon representing the Clark CABMW stated, our sheep biologist Pat Cummings always comes to our meeting this time of the year and I will say that he echoed very well what Mike presented to you guys today to our board. I just wanted to reiterate that, if at all possible to translocate some of the muddy ewes to Utah, if that could be made happen that would be the best of all works for us. We also realize with the water hauls and the criticality the fact that thirty to forty sheep died, basically of lack of water this past summer, when they were doing emergency hauls I really feel strongly that the ewe harvest is required if we can't go to Utah with some of our ewes and I'll leave it with that but we did have a very healthy discussion and I appreciate Mike's words on this today, thank you.

Mel Belding, private citizen stated, I want to really thank Mike Cox for his presentation especially the slide today on the feral horses and burros in the state of Nevada, I know I hear it from a lot of field biologist, but I just don't see it at this level, and I want to commend Mike on that. That was great to see, we do have a problem that is growing every year and all of us have to get behind that, thank you.

Tom Cassinelli representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, we had some concerns with the archery hunts and we recommended one tag per unit, our reasoning was we have a new hunt that's been put out there in front of all the general hunters which include archery hunters in any illegal weapon and most sheep hunters are pretty specific to units and the archers will be hunting on water and I feel it gives them an unfair advantage over the general public but that's our reasoning for going with the one tag per unit and if we're gonna have a new seasons in front of general hunters which includes archery hunters then we feel it should be behind so when a season comes every sheep hunter knows the sheep in their units they're putting in for and that would give the any legal weapon first chance at those sheep instead of putting somebody out there in front of them, thank you.

Cathy Smith, Washoe County private citizen stated, I know I usually don't comment on sheep things I just wanted to tell Mr. Cox how much I also appreciated the presentation he did and the comments he made. I do have a couple of questions that I would love for the Department to present cause I'm just not sure where the wild horses, feral wild horses fit in with the overall ecology of the state with respect to cattle. I guess I would like to figure out if, I know there are some differences in the way that cattle and horses affect the environment but when the numbers are so large for cattle I would just like to see that comparison between the horses and the cattle 'cause the weight I know is similar, just curiosity for my own on learning kind because I've kinda stayed out of this arena because it is a very complex issue but given the fact that cattle can make climate change a lot worse which is obviously a problem that's affecting all these droughts I think it would be helpful to add that into the conversation as well, thank you very much.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox commented on Humboldt's recommendation saying there was an attempt to see if there was interest in the archery hunt and the tag application numbers would speak to that demand. Nine tags statewide could lead to possibly six ram harvested; he felt the nine tags would have no impact on the any legal weapon hunt.

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR BIG HORN SHEEP AND MOUNTIAN GOAT WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT HUNT 9151, UNIT GROUP 114 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWO. COMMISSIONER ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Chairwoman East recessed the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Chairwoman East reconvened the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Mule Deer Hunt 1107 and present a PowerPoint "*Mule Deer Status in Nevada*".

Commissioner Kiel questioned if there was any information on the comparison of harvest take with a following increase for does and mule deer.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder replied no but added that management has been more aggressive in certain management areas such as six, seven and ten.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if on doe hunts it is logical to keep the habitat in check for units that could no longer support the population.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder answered he believed doe harvest recommendations were currently light, the Department was not looking to aggressively lower the population because it was sustainable.

Vice Chair Barnes wonder if lower quotas should be considered until there is an increase in fawns.

Commissioner Caviglia noted there was a massive drop in tags for unit 121 and sought an explanation.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder clarified that low fawn ratios, and a low buck ratio objective led to that decrease.

Chairwoman East put forward proposed changes from the Washoe, Humboldt, Pershing, and Lincoln CABMW, asking staff specialist Cody Schroeder for comments if any.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder shared that he had no problems with the Washoe or Pershing CABMW recommendations. He did not see a need for Lincoln CABMW recommendation in unit group 241-245.

Public Comment.

Steve Robinson representing the Washoe CABMW stated, we are recommending to keep the quota in 015 the same as last year. The recommendation is seven this year and we'd like to keep it at ten, just for the fact that none of the other hunts in 015 are recommended to have a reduction. With a thirty percent success that shouldn't make a difference in the herd at all but give more kids a chance so that's our recommendation, thank you.

Craig Burnside representing the Douglas CABMW stated, I've been a member of Douglass CABMW for a dozen or more years and I would say if you look at it historically our CABMW supports the staff recommendations almost every year. On the other side our CABMW always supports trying to maintain the opportunity for youth. Getting to the crux of it we're always talking about trying to recruit more kids to become hunters because nationally the recreational opportunities of hunting and hunters involved is going down. Cody's number show that we're reducing the number of all the weapons classes by zero-point seven percent but the number of tags being proposed for youth is going down seven percent. There's only so many years that individuals can qualify for youth tags and I understand that there are basically viewed as a separate class and demand success plays into it but just seems to me that just because the youth were successful last year there's gonna be a whole new group of kids that are going to be entering that arena and I don't think we should be taking the opportunity away from those new kids to be able to go out and hunt and be successful like lifelong hunters. We didn't have any specific recommendations; however, I think if were in a drought then I understand tag numbers needing to

decrease but I think that the number of tags available to youth shouldn't be cut more than the number of tags available to all the other weapons classes, thank you.

George Rowe representing the Lincoln CABMW stated, with the junior hunt in regard to 241-245 we would like to see the numbers stay where they were last year. There's nowhere in southern Nevada hit harder with the drought than those units for mule deer and we would like to not see the increase that NDOW proposed, thank you.

Tom Cassinelli representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, we just did some changes to the any legal weapon and we figured that you could correlate the youth hunt off of that. I thought it was always off of the draw so that's the clarification for us changing the youth hunt. If you change any legal weapon and drop the other hunts equally, wouldn't it drop the youth hunt too? If not we're fine with it as it is, the other hunts we have more concerned with, thank you.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded to Humboldt's recommendations; his preference was to leave the quota as is.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 1107 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT UNIT GROUP 015 HAVE A QUOTA OF TEN, AND UNIT GROUP 043-046 HAVE A QUOTA OF SEVENTY. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for Mule Deer Hunt 1181, 1331 resident any legal weapon, and 1332 \*(1331) nonresident any legal weapon.

***\*The nonresident mule deer antlered any legal weapon hunt, previously hunt 1332, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1331 in the final and approved CR 21-14***

Chairwoman East put forward proposed changes from the Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing, White Pine, Mineral, Lincoln, Clark, and Elko CABMW, asking staff specialist Cody Schroeder for comments if any.

Commissioner McNinch reviewed recommendations from the Lander CABMW.

Commissioner McNinch acknowledged it was complicated and reiterated he wanted to know how the CABMW came up with their numbers. Without understanding the CABMW logical he would default to the Department.

Public Comment.

Joe Crim representing the Pershing CABMW stated, our rationale is pretty easy, we were just shifting thirty tags out of the any legal weapon adult hunt under that hunt 1331 to the juniors. That was our only rationale, we weren't lowering the tags overall in the unit we're just lowering them in that one hunt to shift into the juniors to give them a better opportunity. That's all our justification was, thank you guys.

Mike Reese representing the Clark CABMW stated, let me start at the top in unit area 10, most of the hunters in Clark County obviously do not hunt Clark County, they go up into the central part of the state, the southern part. Area 10 is perceived to be our largest herd in the state. The juniors were the most successful in that area, at forty nine percent, you had four hundred fifty juniors go in there and they only harvested one hundred ninety-nine deer. I say only because when you take the any legal weapon, they issued 1540 tags and harvested 326 deer with a twenty one percent decrease. Our thought process is one of two things, hey it was a very low success rate, there must be some leftover for the following year

or the second part is a very low success rate, I wonder if there isn't any deer there to hunt. As you look at it across the board in area 10 when you combine the archery, the muzzleloader together you still were less than twenty percent success rate and yet they are jumping it. They had seven hundred last year, they want to go to eight hundred fifty. We were more inclined to say, look we don't think that the deer are there, we would like to see it go down to six hundred from eight hundred fifty. That was the rationale and the thought behind that. Move down to area 22 the early, the middle, and the late and looking at the success rate, proportionally area 22 you had four hundred two tags, you only had one hundred forty-eight successful in the any legal weapon. Across the board for that hunt area when you take the muzzleloader and the archery and combine it together you had a thirty five percent, just under thirty five percent which according to the stats from last year was par with what the state was experiencing. We know that we are at an all time low for mule deer. We know that were around 85,000 this year, two years ago we were at 92,000. We are seeing a decline and it's our thought and our belief that once you established a quota, that once the season is done the next season is going to go to start with a higher population than the year before. That hasn't been the case for whatever reason and so when we look at past years of where that trend is going, we're having less and less and less and less deer on the landscape. I commend the Commission for starting the mule deer program but when you look at the areas at 22 that gets hit hard by Las Vegas hunters it is a fine line between opportunity and quality, we get that we understand that. That's where we came up with area 7 it was kind of the same way, area 7 on the early hunt only had a twenty two percent success rate, the later season you had a thirty eight percent, that was kind of par so that was our reason for taking the early down to six hundred fifty and the one hundred fifty. The one big question I have is, into the doe hunts our CABMW voted three to two to take the Department's recommendation, however there was an extensive talk, the motion was to not have a doe hunt period, so I don't want everybody to think that we're okay with that because we didn't even talk about reducing it we talked about deleting it so keep that in mind. One of the questions I want to ask, three years ago when we started doing the big doe hunts in area 6, area 7 and such, because of the major fires one of the questions we don't think has been adequately answered is we were told we're going to have a big die off. Did we see a big die off of mule deer in those areas, like we've seen for sheep for lack of water down here in the south. I would like to know what the answer to that is and I am open to any questions anybody has, thank you.

Glenn Bunch representing the Mineral CABMW stated, according to NRS 501.297, in the units 202, 205-208 were asking for an increase from 35 to 40 in the any legal weapon and the muzzleloader from 5 to 10. This area covers 5 mountain ranges, the Gillis range which is mostly a migrating herd, the Wassuk range which is a mix of residential and mainly migrating herd, the Gabbs Valley range, a few residents, the Excelsa ranges mostly a migrating herd, Silent Mountain area has several residents and migrating. The migration usually starts the second week of November and continues all the way through into December. During the hunting season if we have an early cold in the California neighboring area the mule deer start moving and migrating but if there is a late freeze the mule deer move later so there's been no surveys in these areas as it is uncertain when the deer will be in these areas to do the surveys. Also it's been noted that in California they have been doing a study on the Harry and the deer that work this area. The first year the does were observed wearing pink tracking collars then the next year the does were observed wearing red collars. This past year the does have been observed wearing flame orange collars. I asked different Department employees as to what is going on, what's the survey results and the reply has been we will ask fishing game and get swift about the results and we will get back to you. As of yet there has been no information to share, so what we're getting at here, so with the animals that have been observed in these five areas the local CABMW believes its not impacting the herd to increase to forty or to whatever the local recommendations are, so as we stated earlier it's 40 in any legal weapon and ten in the muzzleloader, thank you for your time and listening.

Steve Robinson representing the Washoe CABMW stated, for Washoe unlike other years we're pretty happy with most of the recommendations from the Department with the exception of 033 the Sheldon. We'd like to keep it as last year's number 20 not 35 that was proposed. This areas had a dramatic



decrease in population in quality over the years and it's just starting to come back now and with the lack of survey data, it has not been surveyed since 2018, and I believe the year before that we didn't see any deer in the survey. We would like to have survey data before we think that they increase of seventy five percent is warranted. I mean the status book it does say overall deer numbers remain low on the Sheldon but are slowly increasing and we're hoping that with some data next year we can come back and approve an increase in tags, thank you.

Jim Cooney representing the Elko CABMW stated, what I'd like to address first would be the antlerless tags, if you notice the areas that are included with the antlerless tags there's 051 and then 114, 115 all the rest of the areas of significant numbers are all in the Elko County area with big area 6 not only early but late, area 7 and area 10. One of the things that we've looked at without exception, sportsmen have expressed their dislike and disdain about having the doe tags up in in our particular area, Commissioner Barnes mentioned it as well. Any place you go if you ask what's your thoughts on the doe hunt, we can't say it here on during the meeting people are really upset about it. A couple of the things that the CABMW looked at was we have had significant loss of habitat, specifically over an area 6, a couple of years ago we increased tags we had emergency hunts, took out a bunch of animals and we've come to a point that this hunt specifically if we started with area six with 225 was a quota last year and the Department's recommendation is 120 our CABMW went to 60 and it's the same for not only six but seven and 10. Something that Commissioner McNinch mentioned and I think it's a very important thing when we look at this doe hunt I believe that our CABMWs objective and presenting these numbers is too start the increase of these deer herds they've been down, area 6 we've been figuring there was little over 9000 head in that particular herd after doing the survey the latest surveys were seeing something closer to 7000, that's a significant discrepancy right there. I think that we've been in a maintenance mode as far as our herds are concerned, the idea of taking and kicking this herd into an increasing mode for productivity I think is very very much, we need to really get our arms around that. One of the things that goes along with that is we did not suggest reducing the buck tags and that goes back to the biology of the deer herds with if we continue to take those does out of there our buck ratio goes up, or at least the way I do math it's going to increase that ratio. By taking those bucks out we're reducing that down, taking mouths off of that winter range which are those bucks, and it seems to be an approach that that we haven't attempted to do, and I think that this reduction in these tags is the first step in being able to do that particular thing. Einstein defined insanity as doing the same thing over and over and over and expecting a different result. We're at a point and the sportsman in Elko County as well as the CABMW consider this to be a point that we need to try something a little different, so we'd like to see the number of does and fawns left on the landscape increase the bigger of that herd and with the reclamation work that the Department's done and private land owners we want to push this herd to something more than what it has been it's really been declined. One final thing you know when we use our statistics and the information one thing that that stuck out the number of hunt days to harvest a doe was about four to five, the average is somewhere between four and five days and if you think about a doe hunt that either means that people are just totally enjoying the outdoor experience for four or five days or there's not very many deer out there on the landscape. That's our position and hopefully add hopefully the Commission can go along with that.

Paul Dixon representing the Clark CABMW stated, I just wanted to add something about the doe hunt since it seems to be a hot topic here. Tony will remember the area ten doe hunt, I want to say 12, 13 years ago when we harvested probably, we had a quoted like 900 we were trying to harvest out there, I remember hunting up in loyal Canyon. One of the things that the Department did at the time is they had a heritage study or grant money to have the hunters who harvested does bring in certain information from those does so they could do herd health statistics and I wanted to know, and I know that we have to because of carrying capacity or other reasons we want to remove some of the bio mass of deer off the landscape and taking does is part of that and I'm thinking why aren't we trying to do double duty and try to collect some of the biologic information from those does and use it to help better understand the herd health 'cause I know that we do some captures each year and test a few deer but we're talking you know

handfuls to tens we're not talking hundreds of deer you know factors of 10 more that could be harvested and you could gain information from it, I'm not against doe hunts but I would like to see us get more from the doe hunts if we're going to be doing them, thank you.

Tom Cassinelli representing the Humboldt CABMW stated, some of the reasonings that we have for our cuts, we started in 051, 5 to 6 years ago we were down in the 20s on our 4 point or betters' success and our success rates were in the 30s. We've been working on it for what 5 to 6 years now and we've got this 4 points or better up to 51 percent and success rate up to 42 percent I think we've got a little room to go on now. In the rest of Humboldt County our four point or better, 032 was one of our premium units in the past and our success rates in the 20s for the last six years. We just figured we tweak the model a little bit and got 051 on the right track, we cut some tags and we feel that we could do better with all our units here and our general public is who we represent we don't represent the Department we were trying to represent the hunting community, so that's why we cut tags, were really low on four points or better and success rate too. Thank you.

Jeff Rogers emailed public comment, Chairwoman East read them on the record. Regarding CABMW recommendations, I believe they are partly based on quality of hunt, for example deer hunt units 071-079 the amount of hunters there will be on the early any legal weapon it seems to me it would be overcrowded with hunters thus resulting in a low-quality experience, thank you.

Rex Flowers, private citizen, provided public comment stating, on unit 033, I was set that Washoe CABMW meeting when that discussion was had and one of the sportsman's concerns also was that the fawns per 100 adults this past year was at 25 and 3 year averages at 32 an if you go back nine years I think 2013 or 2012 we were at 35 so we've had a diminishing fawn recruitment and their ongoing. Our population is down 58 percent since 2013, now we just asked if we as sportsmen could see a little more tangible stuff such as some survey numbers since we haven't had any in three years and I think the sportsmen are willing to start moving numbers up when we can get a little more information that's up to date rather than historical data. I thought everybody was in pretty good agreement there I mean we did not ask for any reduction in the archery tags, the archers are going to get 5 extra tags and youth hunters are getting 5 extra tags, but we didn't go after that we just looked at the any legal weapon and we had biologists with in our audience as part of the Commission program and I know the chairman asked if there was going to be a great heartburn if we recommended 20 and the comment was we know that down the road we may have to have change, but we need a little more information and the Department didn't seem to have any heartburn, they didn't say anything negative back so I would hope that you'll support Washoe County on what they're trying to do. If it comes back about the hunter success or number of four points in the harvest, those numbers don't mean a whole heck of a lot when you're only given 20 tag. When you couple that with the fact that last year was the second year of a single season in there in the past, we always had two seasons, we've only had a single season now for two years so next year will give us the ability to see what's going on with a 3-year average, thank you for allowing to comment.

Mel Belding private citizen provided public comment stating, 033, I would like to see some more information in there. The 25 fawns I would like to say that just so everyone's on the same page this is 25 fawns per 100 adults so that number is low, it's certainly not given us even a stable population I'd say. We would just like to take a look at this area for another year and if it does improve, and if we can get some fights in there, and it is flown on its own and not lumped into 011, 012, and 013 like we did a few years ago because it was so dismal, I think that will give us a lot more confidence to do it. You guys certainly seen we did it with area 011, 012 and 013 this year, we don't have any heartburn raising that 30 percent so I would just ask you leave it at the 20 tags, thank you.

Gene Green, Representing the Carson CABMW emailed public comment, Chairwoman East read them on the record. We would like to see in 1331 archery hunt area 194, 196 early be at 15 and 194, 196 late at 18.

Commissioner McNinch acknowledged the CABMWs comments regarding doe tags. He asked if fawn ratios could be remedied by reducing doe quotas.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder replied no was the short answer. Fawn ratio are driven by the density of animals on the landscape and quality of forage. Reducing the harvest would have the opposite effect in his opinion.

Commissioner McNinch appreciated and understood Elko's hope to start increasing the herds He stated it was counter intuitive to be more efficient with a small population. There is carrying capacity of what the land can handle, when that is pushed health and recruitment issues occur. He believed the Departments recommendation was right where it needed to be.

Giovanni Giordano, representing the Humboldt CABMW emailed public comment, Chairwoman East read them on the record. Our biologists surveyed less than 100 deer and demand success is driving up all the tags. Example archery used to be less than one dozen tags and now its at sixty plus. Trying to get our point across, we have hundreds of sportsman comments how poor these units are, and we are trying to get this through.

Commissioner Caviglia questioned whether we were getting close to carrying capacity, noting high quotas.

Vice Chair Barnes added in area 10, saying being near carrying capacity would warrant no problem for the hunts but the numbers are lower than he had ever seen. The Departments recommendations seemed more as opportunity hunts to him, he preferred to see the doe numbers lower.

Commissioner Pierini wanted to see unit group 194,196 early, archery be brought up to 15 tags and 194,196 late be brought up to 17 tags.

Commissioner Almberg agreed with the Elko CABMW comments on the doe hunts and asked if does were being reduced because of carrying capacity or opportunity.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder replied it was difficult to know and most of the hunts were being seen as opportunity hunts. Area 7 was the only one closer to carrying capacity, with tangible evidence.

Secretary Wasley commented that the bottom line was that the harvest was not limiting mule deer populations. Commissioner Kiel brought up a question, do we manage for herd size or health. Currently with this weather we cannot simultaneously manage for herd size and heard quality meaning quality of bucks and the fawn ratios, they are mutually exclusive. If in fact we are talking about maximizing the herd numbers I've already heard two comments from CABMW today that are worried about the crowding of hunters, one with respect to limited water sources in Spruce Mountain and another with respect to mule deer hunters in area 7. In 1961 the Governor declared a state of drought in Nevada, the legislature directed the Department of Wildlife to significantly reduce mule deer populations for fear of competition with livestock. The Department had some very aggressive doe hunts. Sportsman were outraged and the Department saw an opportunity to conduct experiments and stopped those doe hunt in half of the areas in which they were occurring. Not only did those populations continue to decline, they declined at a faster rate than the areas where the doe hunts were maintained. He added we needed to have realistic expectations; he would certainly respect whatever direction that Commission provided.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 1181 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 5 – 4. VICE CHAIR BARNES, COMMISSIONER KIEL, COMMISSIONER ROGERS, AND COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA, DISSENTED.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR HUNT 1331 ANY LEGAL WEAPON. THE MOTION FAILED DUE TO THE LACK OF A SECOND.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR THE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE, UNIT GROUP 043-046 EARLY HAVE A QUOTA OF SEVENTY, UNIT GROUP 043-046 LATE HAVE A QUOTA OF THIRTY, AND UNIT GROUP 202, 205-208 HAVE A QUOTA OF FORTY. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER KIEL AMENDED HIS ORIGINAL MOTION TO INCLUDE THAT UNIT GROUP 033 HAVE A QUOTA OF TWENTY. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ACCEPTED THE AMENDED MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8 – 1. COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA DISSENTED.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR THE MUZZLELOADER AND ARCHERY HUNT 1331 WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT THE MUZZLELOADER HUNT, UNIT 202,205-208 HAVE A QUOTA OF TEN AND THAT THE ARCHERY HUNT 1331, UNIT GROUP 194,196 EARLY HAVE A QUOTA OF FIFTEEN AND UNIT GROUP 194,196 LATE HAVE A QUOTA OF EIGHTEEN. COMMISSIONER PEIRINI SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0

*\*The resident mule deer antlered muzzleloader hunt, previously hunt 1331, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1371 in the final and approved CR 21-14. The resident mule deer antlered archery hunt, previously hunt 1331, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1341 in the final and approved CR 21-14.*

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-14 FOR ALL NONRESIDENT MULE DEER HUNTS, 1332 WITH THE PRPOSED CHANGE THAT THE DEPARTMET UPDATE THE NONRESIDENT TAG COMENSERATE WITH THE NINETY-TEN SPLIT. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9 – 0.

*\* The nonresident mule deer antlered any legal weapon hunt, previously hunt 1332, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1331 in the final and approved CR 21-14. The nonresident mule deer antlered muzzleloader hunt, previously hunt 1332, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1371 in the final and approved CR 21-14. The nonresident mule deer antlered archery hunt, previously hunt 1332, has been updated to reflect a hunt number of 1341 in the final and approved CR 21-14*

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS WITH THE PROPOSED CHANGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT RECALCULATE THE 2.5 PERCENT OF TAGS. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

Chairwoman East recessed the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Chairwoman East reconvened the meeting at 5:12 p.m.

**B.\* Commission Regulation 21-04, Amendment #1, 2021 Black Bear Quotas – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action**

The Commission will consider adopting the 2021 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, quotas, harvest limits, special regulations, animal sex,

legal requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public for the 2021 Black Bear Quotas and presented a PowerPoint titled "Black Bear Harvest Limit Recommendations CR 21-04"

Commissioner McNinch indicated that last year there was a heavy harvest of percent females taken, noting that one area had to be closed. The last 3 years with respect to the mean average there was a heavy, a moderate, and a heavy, with the moderate being on the edge of heavy. He asked where the left them being able to measure through their metrics a significant or damaging change in the population, particularly the female population. What dynamics are being seen that relay confidence in the Departments quota recommendations.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented further slides from his PowerPoint presentation to address Commissioner McNinch's concerns.

Commissioner McNinch asked at what point did data become irrelevant for decisions being made today?

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson replied bears had not been trapped, marked/collared recently as they had been in past years. There were plans for summer bear trapping, but the questions could be better answered in June when there would be a camera grid estimate. He added the Department could learn more about wildlife with cameras than trapping bears.

Commissioner McNinch admitted it to be difficult pinning down a population. He believed bear density was 20-41 estimate bears per square kilometer and in 2003 it was estimated at 3.2, he asked if the Department had an estimate indicating a substantial drop with regard to bears in Nevada.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson was not familiar with those two densities. Anecdotally, bear observations in north west Nevada show a steadily growing population of bears.

Commissioner McNinch questioned if increased bear sightings could be based on other factors like bear mobility and looking for food as opposed to density.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson believed increased population sighting were indicative of a growing population.

Commissioner McNinch stated there were 40,000 bears in California, estimated, but the population was not continuous. He added, without understanding their movement how did we know where they were going?

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson responded bears were traveling back and forth noting, there was more movement out of California into Nevada. He added he could only make an educated guess on where bears came from and how long they were staying, but guessed Nevada was having more and more resident bears.

Commissioner McNinch asked the Commission what the long-term management objectives for bears was, he added if they should continue with those opportunities or move bears back to their historic areas. He was uncomfortable with the hunt and the quota and asked if diseases in bears could be discussed.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson acknowledged he was not educated on the matter and had not discussed disease with the Department vet. He did not believe it would affect the population.

Commissioner McNinch asked if anyone from the Department could speak to disease.

Secretary Wasley replied, probably 4-5 years ago the Department had reports of interesting behavior in some bears. The Department took samples, some bears were euthanized that exhibited those behavioral symptoms, it was kind of a general lethargy, meandering and they were just abnormal. The Department has been working with the UC Davis, some of the samples came back and there were some neurologic abnormalities with the brain or the brain stems. There was some mystery as to what it was or where they were getting it. At the time there was a very low incidence rate or rate of occurrence, speculating maybe four or five bears. He did not think it had been observed or detected in Nevada in the last year or so. More recently it's been detected in California, showing the same kinds of behavioral anomalies, there's been media on it recently, reporting strange neurologic issues in bears, both in Nevada and California. He thought some of the speculation had been that it was a herpes equine, herpes virus, something that was transmitted in litter boxes and the bears could have been getting out of dumpsters. He repeated he was not and had not had the opportunity to speak to the Department veterinarian in regard to the matter.

Deputy Director Jack Robb added it had been a few years since the Department had one of those incidents. There was press on it in California lately, California did site Nevada had made the discovery. One of the bears that brought this to everyone's attention was a bear at a Tahoe beach that was photographed by an umbrella basically enjoying a picnic with a bunch of people. Discoveries were made and the Department continues to monitor and watch out for it but it has not been seen lately.

Secretary Wasley said with respect to population level impacts the Department had not documented occurrences for a couple years. At the rate of occurrence or rates of observation, it's unlikely that it would be having any kind of a population level effect presently.

Commissioner Hubbs referenced a 2017 article written by Bradley J Bergstrom in Journal of Mammalogy. She spoke on the detriment that happens when apex predators are removed, noting meso predators come in when apex predators are removed. She was concerned that their population was unknown, how the general public perceived the hunt, and how unwanted the bear hunt was.

Public Comment.

Joe Crawford representing the Lyon CABMW stated, we voted on the proposal from the Department for the black bear quota and we agree with it. It passed unanimously, thank you very much.

Steve Robinson representing the Washoe CABMW stated, we unanimously supported the recommendations from the Department for the bear hunt and we hope they continue to research this species and do such a good job, thank you.

Paul Dixon representing the Clark CABMW stated, our CABMW had a good healthy discussion on this, and being in the largest population county and going through the values report I would say that we had a 5-1 vote with our CABMW to support the black bear hunt. that was really based on the science that that Pat put forward, I appreciate all the work that Pat put into putting together that presentation and other stuff that he gave out to the CABMW, its very helpful to see what's actually happening with stuff. I guess what I would want to add to this thing with the black bears and other things is that as black bears come in and take over, we looked at the presentation from Mike Cox earlier today where bio mass of horses could be impacting the amount of vegetation. As the bio mass of bears becomes greater on our western border there, is that going to have impacts on other meso predators or other things because they're taking away food sources, they are a very large herbivore and carnivore. It's one thing for us to think about, it hasn't been talked about and maybe something we could look into as Pat goes forward in the future. As we add more bio mass of big animals they do impact other animals, bears are coming in and so why I

feel hunting bears is important in Nevada is that we need to maintain a bio mass that doesn't do that impact, thank you.

Jim Cooney representing the Elko CABMW stated, our CABMW agrees with the Department's recommendations and would like to follow that we're seeing occasional bear sightings in our country, in fact right alongside Interstate 80, just in the last couple of months. We agree with the Department's recommendation.

Mitch McVicars representing the White Pine CABMW stated, our CABMW agrees with the Department on this hunt, and we all think it's a great hunt to have in this state, thank you.

Craig Burnside representing the Douglas CABMW stated, I wasn't gonna say anything but since most of the bears in the state actually reside in Douglas County and now the all the other CABMW were chiming in I thought it better. At our meeting we also voted unanimously to support the Department's recommendations.

Tobi Tyler, representing the Sierra Clubs Toiyabe Chapter and its 40,000 members and supporters provided public comment stating, we recommend a zero quota for Nevada's black bear hunt. The vast majority of our members oppose what essentially amounts to trophy hunting. Nevada Department of Wildlife's mission is to protect, conserve, manage, and restore wildlife and its habitat. NDOWs own 2015 study stated there is no management rationale for hunting bears as it is not needed for population control or to reduce human bear conflict. The only rationale provided is hunter opportunity, most hunters will reluctantly admit that a bear hunt is a trophy hunt and not for consumption. Nothing in NDOWs mission statement suggests trophy hunting or hunter opportunity is an appropriate means of protecting, conserving, managing, or restoring wildlife and its habitat. The bear population in Nevada is increasingly threatened by the forces of habitat destruction, human encroachment, climate change, and drought. With an estimated population size of between 300 and 400 black bears in the mountains of western Nevada these numbers do not indicate a population size large enough to allow any hunting of this species particularly with other threats they're under. As commissioners you are trustees of wildlife held in the public trust, as such you're charged with managing Nevada's precious wildlife resources for everyone, we expect you to act accordingly and recommend that you pass policy based on science and the ecological health of species, not hunter opportunity. Most Nevadans love their wildlife resources and in a world where wildlife is increasingly threatened we ought to be taking a very careful look at our all hunting practices and their impacts on the species. We ask the Commissioners to start listening to the majority of the public who oppose this hunt and manage wildlife resources with the professionalism and respect the public expects, thank you.

David Ricker, representing the Nevada Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers provided public comment stating, we support the quota as presented by the Department for the bear hunt, and the continued harvest of black bears as a renewable resource in the state of Nevada. It provides hundreds of pounds of meat, its incredibly delicious for those lucky few who were able to harvest a black bear each year. We also frowned upon excessive sentimentalism toward any particular big games species and instead favor the fully science based complete ecosystem population level view of management which we feel the Department continues to offer the sportsmen and women of Nevada and those non-residents that chose to hunt and fish here, that's all thank you for your time.

Stephanie Myers, Las Vegas private citizen provided public comment stating, just because Pat Jackson reports that the bear population may be growing in Nevada does not mean that we should kill more or any bears. There is no science upon which the quotas for the bear hunt are based. The 2015 NDOW bear committee findings admitted as much, no management reason exists for hunting bears. This has not been updated in more recent years to include any management reason hunting bears in Nevada. The problem of excluding pregnant or lactating female bears or by age has not been solved,

since the bear hunt exists solely for hunter opportunity and success by continuing this unnecessary hunt the Commission demonstrates that the only thing they're capable of protecting is not our wildlife, but the interests of hunters who enjoy killing for sport. This easily reveals the regulatory capture of a government agency, the regulators and the regulated are exactly the same and the general public once again is excluded from any decision making. The 2018 Nevada wildlife values report presents the fact that only 13 percent of Nevadans support the bear hunt, what better reason is there for discontinuing this hunt, the public is showing an increasing and vocal interest in wildlife and animal welfare which makes the Commission appear archaic and unresponsive unless changes are made. As a Commission you are already being derided in the national media and I quote "the Nevada wildlife Commission recently declined to ban the chasing of black bears with packs of radio collared hounds so they can be cornered and shot at point blank range." Please set the quota at zero, thank you.

Jason Graham, representing the Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance provided public comment stating, we sent you guys a letter today. I'm sure you guys all got it, I was going to read that but I believe you guys know, we've been in contact you guys, informed you of what we see in the field all the time. Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance would like to follow NDOWs recommendations for the quota. On a personal note, I'm listening to everybody talk about there's no reason to hunt bears. things like that. I was in the mountains until 2:00 o'clock this afternoon and joined this meeting late and in the short time I was up there just cruising through the mountains in a range here close to Carson City and Gardenville I ran over 32 different bear tracks in a very small area. It actually surprised me to see so many bear tracks from mature boars to sows with cubs. I didn't see anybody that's speaking today and I've never run into anybody else who is opposed to this in the mountains, not once. You guys don't see what's going on in the mountains you don't see what our population is you don't see what the bears are doing. I don't see how you can even speak on this without any real hands-on information and that's my own personal feelings on this. I spend a lot of time in the mountains, I love the bears, I enjoy the bears, I see what they do year-round and I am watching our population grow. I personally believe that we can offer more opportunity for bears in this state because they are expanding, they are growing, and caring people oppose this without knowing what they're talking about or speaking on is frustrating. There's a couple Commissioners that bring up opposition towards it but they have no clue, they've been invited to come out with us and they don't and so I don't see how they can speak on these things without really seeing what's going on and that's just my opinion, thank you.

Cathy Smith, Washoe County private citizen provided public comment stating, I live next to the Mount Rose wilderness and the Tahoe basin which I go to frequently, arguably the best bear habitat in the state. I would also like to point out that in the specific case of the bear hunt the Department is not suggesting anything about what is best for the species but the only that they feel the hunt is sustainable for the overall population and it provides opportunity for hunters. I'm requesting that the bear quota be decreased to one the maps on Nevada's drought have recently been released and it's not pretty, as the Department and many hunters have already pointed out, the wildlife will suffer. The difference is that deer and other ungulates can degrade the environment further in times of drought unlike our predators, bears enhance their environment by seed dispersal and scavenging dead animals. There's a ton of information out there regarding the benefits of bears to the environment and it sounds like maybe it would be helpful for some of you, if you're interested, I can send it. Unfortunately, bears are more susceptible to hunters in times of drought and when they have to search farther for food. They are also more likely to be killed by the Department for human wildlife conflict and more likely to be hit by cars. This bear season will be bad, and before anyone even thinks about it there have been several studies on hunting to decrease human wildlife conflict, the Department agrees this does not work and it doesn't happen without depleting the population substantially. One of the wildlife biologist in Pennsylvania actually calculated that they would have to kill greater than 50 percent of their population to make a dent in human wildlife conflict. In Nevada we add insult to injury by allowing dogs to chase bears for several hours condoning a hardship these animals don't need or deserve. At minimum decrease the female quota to one statewide, clearly most believe hounds add the specificity required to make these judgments in



the field I mean that's where we've heard so put your money where your mouth is and make the call, if a female bear is killed the season ends if you don't kill a female bear go to the quota, put your money where your mouth is if you really mean what you say, thank you.

Fred Voltz provided public comment, stating after yesterday's presentation about quota setting and the memorandum prepared by staff advocating for up to another 20 bear deaths in the 2021 killing season, the statistical and scientific methods are highly suspect. We have been told widely varying numbers over many years of Nevada's guesstimated bear populations ranging from 400 to 800, with no expressed justification for the enormous statistical chasm of this species' population with an exceedingly low birth rate. Trail cameras cannot distinguish individual bears who make multiple passes at a camera. We have seen no 2021 management plan to protect bears from excessive deaths. "Maintaining a quality hunt" contradicts your primary responsibility to protect bear populations, not destroy them. The narrative from department biologists makes zero mention of bear deaths beyond those inflicted by recreational killers. What has been excluded regarding bear deaths is significant from a statistical standpoint. NDOW kills bears it deems a threat. There are unreported drownings and cub deaths. There are vehicle deaths when bears attempt to cross highways as they are drawn out of the wilderness because of uncontained human trash in urbanized areas. NDOW has failed to use its influence or the Governor's with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and request TRPA mandate wildlife-proof human trash containment throughout the Tahoe Basin. Douglas and Washoe counties outside of the Tahoe Basin need to take similar action for areas with bears. This obvious step would cut down on NDOW-created bear deaths or speeding motorists by habituating bears away from urbanized areas with zero NDOW financial commitment and a savings in law enforcement. Adding sport killing to the existing, omitted mortalities arguably exceeds the 10 percent mortality threshold for decline of the species. Sound stewardship of our wild bears by those responsible for wildlife's welfare suggests modifying the commission regulation to reflect a minimal 2021 resident quota of no more than two tags in each of the three-unit groups, a non-resident quota of no more than one tag in each of the three-unit groups, with a female killing limit of one in each of the three unit groups. Application revenue to the department or hunter convenience, opportunity and success should not be the drivers of creating or perpetuating a bear hunt lacking sufficient statistical justification.

Jonathan Lesperance, Washoe County private citizen provided public comment stating, black bears are repatriating their historic homeland throughout the Great Basin, that's something we all can celebrate. You know, I come to these conversations with a bit of dismay that there's this disparity or apparent disparity as an us versus them approach. I'd just like to point out that, you know, there's a lot of avenues for a person to become a conservationist, a lot of avenues for people to adopt a sense of biophilia, hunting isn't the only one, but it's in absolutely and effective way to create a conservationist. I would just point out that the founder of the National Park Service founder, one of the founders of the United States Forest Service and the founder of the Boone and Crockett Club was an avid hunter and avid bear hunter, and hounds men as well, Theodore Roosevelt. So, I just offer those who consideration, that we celebrate bear, we love bears, I have a house full of family members that are intrigued by bears and none of them are are bear hunters. Perhaps they will be, I don't know, but reality is bears have captured our imaginations, they've informed our legends for as long as we've coexisted with them, over the millennia. Simultaneously for as long as we've coexisted with bears, we've also hunted them as a species. We were built on a hunting platform as a species and it's a bit of an aberration trying to force that reality now in the modern sense and say human beings shouldn't be active participants in nature so thank you for your time.

Mel Belding private citizen provided public comment stating, I just wanna say that it's a real thrill for me to come around the corner many years back in Shovel Springs, west side of Buckhorn and then be right in the middle of a herd of bison buffalo. They weren't wild, they got lose from Rogers Ranch, but it was still kind of cool to see them. When I observed my first bear in northern Washoe County, I don't think I've ever had a feeling like that before, it was really neat to see those bears there. The first one I got to

see on the trail camera, then I got to see two more on the trail camera at the spring the same time, but when I saw my first bear, pretty good one by my brother in law's place, it was really neat. This had just been the past three or four years. I really honestly believe that the Department spends an excessive amount of money on these bears. We have one full-time biologist; I believe that's all he does, we have a specialist now, so I commend the Department. These bears are moving, I've seen bears down in area 16, I think its fair to say yes, the bears are repopulating in the state. My challenge is still out there, if you guys want to start a black bear unlimited program, I'll get it on with, thank you.

Elaine Carrick, Washoe County private citizen provided public comment stating, I was glad to hear that quite a few people brought up the drought that we're having in Nevada. Director Wasley called it a catastrophic drought. Mr. Cox said December will be tough, everything will suffer. There was talk about lowering quotas for sheep or goat or deer that might be affected. What about the bears, the bears are going to be extremely affected by this drought like all the other animals, it's becoming increasingly drier, it is causing the wildlife and the habitat to find more challenges to find food and water. If we continue doing this, what we're doing now and with the bear hunts our lives and the lives of these animals will continue to be negatively impacted. The black bears help the environment with seed dispersal, soil building, they're a keystone species and contribute to our biodiversity in Nevada. It's predicted that more and more feet species will face extinction as the climate crisis continues. Is hunting bears now a good thing to be doing, there's no management at all, it's simply hunting them for the sake of hunting them. You've been told today that there are enough bears to continue having this hunt but the changes in our environment are happening so fast now would be the best time to stop this bear hunt before it becomes a reality that the hunt is really hurting our small population. This is going to affect the balance of our ecosystem and in time will be more and more difficult to reverse. So today as you set quotas for the bears in Nevada please consider my comments, consider the drought, it's affecting the bears like every other animal, and they are very slow producers. They need to be protected, so put the quota at zero or if the requirement is at one in order to pass this that's fine but let's keep our bear population healthy for future generations.

Mitch McVicars private citizen provided public comment stating, speaking on behalf of myself as you look at the dispersal of the bears crossed our state, and you look at the bears better hunting in our neighboring states I would hope that our Commission continues this hunt because I do think in time we will see an increase in the population in our state and that desired to hunt the animal. It's not a killing, it's a harvest and it's definitely a sought-after hunt so I would hope we continue to have it, thank you.

Genelle Richards private citizen provided public comments in opposition to the bear quotas. The audio was inaudible.

Commissioner McNinch stated he was more concerned now than ever and could not support the motion, he could only accept a motion if the female take was dropped to one.

Commissioner Hubbs hoped the ramifications of not listening to the public would be considered. She would not support the motion.

**COMMISSIONER ROGERS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 21-04 AMENDMENT #1 FOR BLACK BEAR QUOTAS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER KIEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7 – 2. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH AND COMMISSIONER HUBBS DISSENTED.**

**17. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairwoman East – For Possible Action**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 25 and 26, 2021, in Winnemucca and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Chairwoman East noted for future Commission meetings; RAWA deep dive, Sage Brush fowl representation, begin discussions about the wildlife contests.

Secretary Wasley noted for future Commission meeting; sage brush status and two open file reports, CABMW budgets requests, duck stamp and upland game stamp projects, Heritage tag vendors, Heritage proposals, Upland Game Release Plan, Wildlife Heritage Committee report, Legislative Committee final report, finance committee report. Brought up a couple items noted from previous commission meetings, those include wildlife health issues, the rabbit hemorrhagic disease, request to provide the *Living with Wildlife* presentation, update on the shed antler regulation, raven research, update or information on the Fernley Wildlife Management Area (WMA), status of WMAs, seek some guidance and approval to add Carson Lake and Pasture to the existing WMA system. Indicated that when checking on venue and hotel availability in Tonopah for the August Commission meeting, it was found that another organization had an event planned the same weekend that the Commission meeting was planned, noting there wasn't availability, proposed to move the August 13 and 14, 2021 commission meeting to August 6 and 7, 2021.

(No action taken; inadvertently. Proposed August Commission dates will need to be voted on during the June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

#### **18. Public Comment Period**

Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. \*Persons wishing to comment are invited to raise their hands in the virtual meeting forum and will be individually called upon until all wishing to comment have had the chance to do so.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, stated that NRS 501.297 says the Board shall solicit and evaluate local opinion and advise the Wildlife Commission on matter relating to management of wildlife within their respective counties. Stated that the survey sheets that were sent out to the CABMWs, it should have an area for "No Comment". The ones that were received, there were only two choices of "agree" and "disagree" and it could not be skipped, or you were unable to move on to the next question. We disagreed with a couple of the hunts, we did not have a disagreement, it just that we did not agree and did not have an opportunity for input. The CABMW would have liked the option to check "no recommendation". We would like to provide input rather than just a "disagree".

Tony Gildone, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated he wanted to circle back as he was having technical issues earlier, about the archery desert sheep hunt. One of the conversations had at the meeting was, what is the statistical or mathematical advantage for odds for archers to apply for the hunt this coming up year, understood it could not be answered until the numbers are available, but it would be a disservice to someone who had 25+ years bonus points waiting for a sheep tag and then with the addition of this new weapons class, it can potentially move to the front of the line. Ask that the Commission look at that and potentially reconsider.

Mitch McVicars, representing White Pine CABMW, apologized White Pine's recommendations coming in late and the confusion. Stated that he appreciated the discussion on the topics that were addressed. Stated he had hoped with the mule deer enhancement that everyone could have erred on the side of caution with the quotas when for two years it has not been a concern. It is a concern of the community of the sportsmen we talk to. We have expressed our concerns but here we are.

Catherine Smith, private citizen, stated she wanted to make a comment on the CABMW experience as the CABMWs come up a lot in the Commission meeting. Understand that we want input from around the state and understands their role. Stated that when she had been to Washoe CABMWs in the past, Mr. Shay and Mr. Flowers, prior Washoe County CABMW chairs were always respectful and the board members were respectful when she served on the CABMW, although that was not always the case with the sportsmen. Stated that the last few times she attended CABMW meetings, the atmosphere was not inviting and boarding on hostile. She has had two friends state that they felt their safety was threatened when they attended their respective CABMWs. Asked what incentive there is for the public to attend CABMW meetings when they are usually run by traditionalist. Many of the CABMWs do put their meeting minutes online and there are some CABMWs that have not met for years, so given the history, asked what incentive the non-hunting public has to participate with the CABMWs and why should the CABMWs have so much power when they only represent a small percentage of people in the State, they only represent the hunters. The hunters are the ones attending CABMW meetings. Stated she did not understand why so much emphasis in receiving input from the CABMWs, when they don't represent a majority of us. As member of non-hunting public there really is not an avenue and she would really like to hear other's thoughts on how that can be changed.

Chairwoman East thanked Catherine Smith. Asked for additional public comment, seeing none, adjourned the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 6:36pm.

\*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at [http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/). Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1599 or [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto: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/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/).

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