

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

Meeting location:

4

El Capitan Lodge and Casino  
"On Site Trophy Room"  
540 F. Street  
Hawthorne, NV 89415

Public comment will be taken on every action item and regulation workshop item after discussion but before action on each item, and at the end of each day's meeting. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, 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 or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

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 that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the two-day meeting:

Chairman Brad Johnston	Vice Chairman Paul E. Valentine
Commissioner Jon Almberg	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner Casey Kiel	Commissioner Tom Barnes
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia	Commissioner David McNinch

Commissioner Tiffany East (not present)

Secretary Tony Wasley	Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the two-day meeting:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien	Deputy Director Jack Robb
Administrative Assistant III Megan Manfredi	

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling	Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed	Game Warden, Captain Brian Eller
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey	
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka	Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa
Fisheries Staff Biologist Kris Urquhart	Game Warden Quinn Hesterlee

Public in Attendance in Hawthorne for the two-day meeting:

Robert Rule, Fallon Naval Air Station	Gil Yanuck, Finance Committee Chairman
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW	Marlene Bunch, Mineral County Sportsmen's Club
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW	Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW
Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW	Mitch McVicars, White Pine CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW	Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW

Chris Cefalu, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited	Sonja Almberg, self
Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW	Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Maureen Hullinger, self	Ray Kabisch, Washoe CABMW
Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW	Michael Turnipseed, Douglas CABMW
Kevin DesRoberts, Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex	
Mike Reese, Las Vegas Woods and Waters Club and Clark CABMW	

Friday, June 21, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction and Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

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

Chairman Johnston stated that Commissioner East has an excused absence from this meeting.

CABMW members present: Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW; Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW; Mike Reese, Clark CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW; Ray Kabisch, Washoe CABMW.

Chairman Johnston announced there is a field trip that is scheduled for later today. Everyone is welcome to attend; however, a background check form must be completed to take the tour onto Mount Grant and Mrs. Bunch has the form available in the back of the room. The public must provide their own transportation. He also requested that everyone in attendance today sign in.

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

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

- 3.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action  
Commission minutes from the April 8, 2019, and May 3 and 4, 2019, meetings.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that upon her review of the May 3 and 4, 2019 minutes, on page 36, regarding the bear hunt; she remembers Pat Jackson stating that the bear hunt was not used as a management tool for the bear population, but the minutes reflect he said it was used a management tool.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Stockton asked that the Department review the audio of the May 3 and 4, 2019 meeting to confirm the details of the conversation.

Commissioner McNinch stated that the reference to Mel Belding on page 28 of the May 3 and 4, 2019 minutes, indicates that he is representing the Washoe CABMW, where in fact he was speaking as a member of the public.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Johnston stated that the Commission would defer action on the May 3 and 4, 2019 minutes until the next meeting to get clarification.

Secretary Wasley stated that he queried Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson for his answer to the question about whether the bear hunt was used as a management tool for the bear population. Mr. Jackson's recollection is that he said "no", it was not needed as a management tool. Mr. Wasley stated that if this is adequate clarification, this would allow for approval of the minutes today, or the Commission could wait until the audio is reviewed.

Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Hubbs both concurred that this is sufficient for them; no objection from any other Commissioners.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 3 AND 4, 2019 MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: CHANGE PAT JACKSON'S COMMENT ON PAGE 36, THAT HUNTING IS NOT A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR BEAR POPULATIONS; AND THAT MEL BELDING WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF INSTEAD OF AS A MEMBER OF THE WASHOE CABMW. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston – Informational  
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston stated that he provided a letter that he penned to Secretary Wasley which was sent to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Silver State Trail; he thanked the Department for helping him finalize the letter for mailing. He stated that he also received correspondence regarding shed hunting which continues to be an issue on the eastern side of the state. He requested that the Department give presentations on deer quotas, quota settings, and management guidelines at the next Commission meeting which will be held in Ely, and for the Department to provide information with an analysis on alternatives to ewe hunts and the necessity to ewe hunts at the September meeting which will be held in Las Vegas.

5. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational  
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that a member of the Nevada Trappers Association raised concerns about the electronic questionnaire. Further, there were concerns raised about the new Nevada legislation and what impacts that it will have with hunting, fishing and the carrying of firearms in our state and whether there needs to be public outreach or educational seminars. The third issue is that the address for the license office for fur dealers continues to be incorrect on the Departments website and asked that it be corrected.

Ted McElvain, representing Lander CABMW, stated that he has provided a letter to the Commission from their CABMW public comment regarding smart scopes, and whether it has been addressed and brought to the Commission. He stated that this concern is focused towards the any legal weapon hunt and he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Commission. He read the following letter to the Commission:

"The Lander CAB has discussed, researched and voted in favor of looking at some limitations concerning "smart scopes" during the "Any legal Weapon" hunting seasons in the State of Nevada. Technology continues to advance at a rapid pace into all aspects of life, including the world of hunting. As this technology advances in the hunting world, the wildlife continues to live in the same, yet struggling habitat that it has for years, decades and even centuries. At our disposal, we now have scopes available that, with the push of a button, will range the intended target, gauge wind speed, process this info and illuminate an aiming point which matches the ballistic information we have loaded into, the scope. We believe that, as hunters and conservationists, technology has reached a point that needs us to stand up and determine a cap on the advancement and its use in the hunting world. In the name of fair chase, we feel a need to begin discussion and hopefully action on the use of "smart scopes" for hunting purposes in the State of Nevada."

Robert Jacobson, representing Lyon CABMW, stated that their CABMW was contacted by a member of the public who went shed hunting on opening morning and they met a truck coming out of the canyon that was loaded with sheds. The Lyon CABMW thinks there needs to be harsher penalties in caching sheds and driving off road so that the consequences are less attractive for the public to cheat.

Chrissy Pope, representing Nye CABMW, stated that she also saw a truck driving out of a canyon full of sheds. Due to the issues with shed hunting, she asked that this topic be put on the Commission's agenda for further discussion.

Steve Marquez, representing White Pine CABMW, stated that they have had shed season discussions at their last two meetings. Elko CABMW had sent a Petition for Adoption, Amendment, Filing, or Repeal of Regulation to them for review; the White Pine CABMW reviewed the proposed amendments and recommendations and will wait for the Elko CABMW to bring it to the Commission. The White Pine CABMW also requests that the law needs to address caching antlers, which is a problem they have in White Pine County; and they are requesting stiffer penalties and suggested an ethics course for those that shed hunt.

Chairman Johnston inquired with Secretary Wasley about smart scopes and whether the regulation went through to become law.

Secretary Wasley stated that there is a distinction between smart rifles and smart scopes and the regulation that was passed dealt with smart weapons.

Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed provided that the adopted regulation specifically talks about smart scopes that are directly tied to the firing mechanism, or a smart rifle; if it does not have that connection to the firing mechanism, then they are still legal.

Chairman Johnston stated that with technology that keeps evolving, it gives the Commission other things to consider and that this should be noted for a future agenda item.

6. Presentation of Nevada Test and Training Range and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge – Deputy Project Leader, Kevin DesRoberts – For Information Only  
The Commission will be provided an update on the Nevada Test and Training Range withdrawal renewal pertaining to the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Secretary Wasley introduced Kevin DesRoberts, who is a deputy project leader for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The Department has a strong and long relationship with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), particularly at the Desert National Wildlife Refuge which was originally created for the purpose of bighorn sheep protection. Mr. DesRoberts had expressed an interest in providing an update to the Commission and interested public, given the attention that this item has received.

Deputy Project Leader, Kevin DesRoberts presented a PowerPoint on the Nevada Test and Training Range and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Chairman Johnston thanked Mr. DesRoberts for the update and the information that he provided.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired whether the purpose of this project is to acquire more land for drones and, overall, why is the land needed.

Mr. DesRoberts responded to her question and provided further detail on the subject. He stated that the Air Force is requesting more land for more training; that they are currently restricted because the portion over the desert is just for aerial training except for bombing areas; that they want more capability for training on the ground throughout the entire range; and that they need ready access to accommodate the training needs into the future.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Chairman Johnston regarding the Commission having sent a letter to the legislative representatives a few years ago with respect to this proposal, but since there are new representatives, it could be beneficial to notify them of the Commission's concerns as to the impact on wildlife in that area.

Secretary Wasley stated that there has been considerable discussion about both the Desert National Wildlife Refuge and the impacts to the expansion as well as the Fallon Test and Training Complex during this past legislative session. There is a high awareness in the state Legislature as well as with the Nevada's Congressional Delegation and this issue is repeatedly put in front of them, but it would be appropriate for the Commission to take a stance on it and add to the body of evidence that already exists.

Chairman Johnston requested that this matter be put on the agenda for the September Commission meeting for a potential action item to discuss what can be done, or for further communication that the Commission may or may not want to send.

Secretary Wasley provided that on tomorrow's agenda, the Commission will hear from the Fallon Naval Air Station on the military expansion in Nevada.

7.\* Duck Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka and Division Administrator Alan Jenne - For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$117,500 for projects submitted for FY 2020 funding from the Duck Stamp account. The specific Duck Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Assessing Avian Nest Success at Carson Lake (\$45,000)
- Geo-Tube Dams for Regulating Water at Carson Lake (\$22,500)
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support (\$10,000)
- Overton WMA Ponds Fence Project (\$15,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement (\$15,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control (\$10,000)

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne reviewed the support material that was sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW members and posted on the Department's website for the public. He further reviewed the Duck Stamp Account Budget Status and the Proposed Duck Stamp Projects for State Fiscal Year 2020.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the Overton Waste Management Area (WMA) Pintail and Wilson Pond Leveling and based on the information received about botulism in shallow ponds, she inquired as to why the Department is leveling ponds. She also inquired whether the Department is confident that botulism has not formed in those areas where the leveling is done.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka responded to her question and stated that the two areas where there was botulism last year in Overton, the ponds were leveled but they are only filled in the fall of each year when botulism is not an issue; and provided that those two areas are used from water fowl hunting.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne provided that these are managed systems and the Department is bringing in fresh water, not stagnant water.

Commissioner Hubbs asked for clarification of the Duck Stamp program.

Secretary Wasley responded to Commissioner Hubbs and explained that the state revenue that comes from state duck stamps goes into restricted reserve accounts which are for special project funds. The decision was made to get away from the duck stamp art competition simultaneous with the determination to get away from the requirement for the stamp, but the Department still has the money based on the average percent from the previous seven years.

Chairman Johnston provided that when the Department did license simplification, the Commission decided that the duck stamp projects and the upland game stamp projects would continue even though the public were not required to buy the stamps any longer.

Public comment:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that the money the Department is allocating seems to be incorrect estimates because there is no justification in the support material for them. Since they are rounded numbers, it was brought up that the Department is being loose with how the funds were allocated; and if the Department was under the allocation, do the funds get reverted back to the duck stamp account or does it go somewhere else.

Steve Marquez, representing White Pine CABMW, inquired about what the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support program benefit.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that the numbers provided in the report are just a piece of the total project cost. The Department brings other monies to it such as Habitat Conservation fees, which is why the numbers are rounded for simplicity. If any money does not get spent, it stays with the project and is available for future spending.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka stated that Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Support program funds are submitted to Ducks Unlimited which are contributed to projects and enhancements to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan which includes all of Canada, United States and Mexico.

Secretary Wasley added that last year, Nevada was the recipient of a North American Waterfowl Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant which was put together by Ducks Unlimited for Lahontan Valley Wetlands in the amount of \$900,000. The amount of money that Nevada has contributed to Ducks Unlimited for the waterfowl that are coming through Nevada has been \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year, and in one year the Department received a \$1 million grant for the waterfowl.

Commissioner Hubbs, inquired if there is any harm to water quality or surrounding wildlife from the herbicide application projects. She further asked if the fencing project to keep the burrows and wild horses out of the water resources, keeps other wild game from accessing the water sites.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka stated that the herbicides used by the Department are applied in accordance with the label and the law. For example, the product that is used around the wetlands is approved for that type of use so there is no effects to other wildlife. Regarding the fencing project, there are no impacts to other wildlife as the Department constructs wildlife-friendly fences.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE DUCK STAMP REQUEST DATED JUNE 2019 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 11:10 a.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 11:25 a.m.

8. Wildlife Heritage Committee – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Valentine

- A.\* Heritage Committee Report – Chairman Valentine – Informational  
The Commission will hear a report on the Committee's recent meeting.

Vice Chairman Valentine stated that the Heritage Committee met this morning and he provided an update to the items that were discussed. There were no changes to the vendor selections and the Fiscal Year 2020 Project Proposals were approved as presented at the May meeting.

- B.\* Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals – Chairman Valentine – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor proposals for Fiscal Year 2020 and may take action on the proposals.

Vice Chairman Valentine provided the Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendor selections as follows: of the two Mule Deer tags, they were awarded to Wildlife and Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN) and the Mule Deer Foundation; of the two Pronghorn Antelope tags, they were awarded to the Nevada Waterfowl Association and to Pershing County Chukars Unlimited; of the two rocky Mountain Elk tags, they were awarded to Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited and to Safari Club International – Northern Nevada Chapter; of the two Desert Bighorn Sheep tags, they were awarded to Wild Sheep Foundation and to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter; the California Bighorn Sheep tag was awarded to Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno Chapter; and of the five Wild Turkey tags, they were awarded to Carson Valley Chukar Club, Las Vegas Woods and Waters, Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited, Wildlife and Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN), and to Safari Club International – Northern Nevada Chapter.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE CR19-06, 2020 WILDLIFE HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTAS, AMENDMENT 1 AND VENDORS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER CAVILGIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

- C. Heritage Project Extension Requests – Chairman Valentine – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years.  
\*Note: Support material for this agenda item will be provided one to two weeks in advance of the Commission meeting.

Vice Chairman Valentine stated that the extension requests were all approved and asked Habitat Division Administrator Jenne to review the list of Heritage Project Extension Requests.

Habitat Division Administrator Jenne reviewed the support material that was provided and the extension requests for fiscal year 2018 and 2019, which had a combined total request of \$613,324.64.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018 AND FISCAL YEAR 2019 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

- D. Heritage Funding Reallocation – Chairman Valentine – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.  
\*Note: Support material for this agenda item will be provided one to two weeks in advance of the Commission meeting.

Habitat Division Administrator Jenne provided back up as to why there is no proposed re-allocation of funds for projects and that those funds will remain in the principal balance of the Heritage Account.

Chairman Johnston stated that there is no action to take on this item.

No public comment.

- E.\* Fiscal Year 2020 Heritage Project Proposals – Chairman Valentine – For Possible Action  
The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$979,702.65 for projects submitted for FY 2020 funding from the Wildlife Heritage account. The preliminary funding recommendations from the Committee are listed below and may be approved by the Commission. These recommendations may change at the 8:00 a.m., June 21, 2019 Heritage Committee meeting.

- Bighorn Sheep Capture, Transplant and Monitoring – Project # 20-01 (\$100,000)
- Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase – Project # 20-02 (\$100,000)
- South Mountains Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-03 (\$75,000)
- Toole Springs Lek Juniper Removal – Project # 20-04 (\$65,000)
- Egan Johnson Basin Restoration – Project # 20-05 (\$70,000)
- North Cave Valley Habitat Restoration – Project # 20-06 (\$60,157.65)
- Prioritizing and Protecting Natural Water Sources – Project # 20-07 (\$50,000)
- Monitoring Moose Expansion in Nevada – Project # 20-08 (\$28,000)
- Big Game Survey Tool – Project # 20-09 (\$70,000)
- Maximizing the Effectiveness of Common Raven Removal– Project # 20-10 (\$70,000)
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Water Developments – Project # 20-11 (\$36,000)
- Staheli Chaining Maintenance Project – Project # 20-12 (\$75,000)
- Blacktop Apron Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-13 (\$21,400)
- Mormon #3 Prospect Guzzler Upgrade – Project # 20-14 (\$21,615)
- Douglas Canyon PJ Removal Project – Project # 20-15 (\$50,000)
- Bighorn Disease Susceptibility Analysis – Project # 20-16 (\$62,530)
- Steptoe Valley Shooting Complex – Project # 20-17 (not recommended for funding)
- Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project – Project # 20-18 (\$25,000)

Vice Chairman Valentine stated the Committee reviewed the project proposals for Fiscal year 2020 and there are no changes from the May Committee meeting.

Public comment:

Mike Reese, representing the Las Vegas Woods and Waters, provided a list of the Non-Governmental Organizations (N.G.O.'s) that have supported this project in the past. He also stated that both the Lincoln and Clark CABMW's have approved this project in prior meetings.

Chairman Johnston addressed the Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project – Project #20-18 since it was a big topic of discussion at the Committee meeting and that the Department expressed to the Committee that this project was not on the priority list. Despite that expressed concern and after extensive discussion, the Committee agreed to fund this proposal and keep it moving forward with a split vote.

Commissioner Almberg stated that since the project is not being supported by the Department for scientific reasons and, if approved, the Commission would be spending money on a scientific study without the ability to put biologists on the project. There are issues with habitat loss and other deer herds in the area, but there are no known issues with this particular deer herd.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Commission helps the Department set priorities and he hoped that by approving the project, it would become a priority. It also takes a lot of time to get a project like this one moving forward.

Secretary Wasley shared the Department's perspective and the historical challenges of the Heritage program as it proposes how the Department funding will be spent. The Heritage program is the only program that the Commission possesses the sole expenditure authority over which funds projects that direct the program development and resources in the agency which will come at the expense of other programs and projects. He expressed the Departments limited capacity with only 263 full-time employees. He stated that the Department employees did not endorse this project at the May Commission meeting and it was intended that the Departments concerns and issues were represented where the Department did not have the opportunity and ability to build that into federal aid grant agreement. He stated that the process going forward requires coordination on the front end so that everyone is coming together and the Department has the opportunity to build it into the federal aid grant agreements to direct the intentions of the project.

Discussion ensued regarding the Department not supporting Lincoln County Mule Deer Collaring Project – Project # 20-18; that the Committee was concerned that the Department raised these concerns too late in the process; that this project will take time to get started; that there currently are no staff trained and available to handle this project right now; and that a significant portion of the funding could go to the purchasing of collars in this fiscal year without future problems.

Secretary Wasley clarified that no untrained person would be handling the animals. A Department employee or a contractor would act under the guidance of the Department; the concern is if there are adequate resources within the Department to be redirected to this project for it to be accomplished.

Commissioner Almberg stated that the Commission knows that the biologists have higher priorities. The Commission opened the Heritage account because it recognized that the deer need to be addressed and the Commission should get the most value for the sportsmen with these funds and put it where there is a greater need.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that with this kind of study, the Department may get eight to ten deer collared, but to get the right amount studied, then thirty or more deer must be collared. He inquired if the funding would provide the amount of data to be beneficial to the Department.

Commissioner Barnes stated he is questioning whether this is the right project for use of the funds. He liked the idea of the project but has enough reservations combined with the Departments reservations that he will likely not support this project.

**VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2020 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE AT THE MAY 2, 2019 AND THE JUNE 21, 2019 COMMITTEE MEETINGS AS PRESENTED. CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION FAILED. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE, CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON AND COMMISSIONER KIEL VOTED IN FAVOR. COMMISSIONERS HUBBS, MCNINCH, BARNES, ALMBERG AND CAVILGIA DISSENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

Chairman Johnston stated that since the motion failed to not fund Project #20-18, then the Commission should reallocate the \$25,000 elsewhere.

**COMMISSIONER ALMBERG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT PROJECT #20-18 WOULD NOT BE FUNDED, AND THE \$25,000 WOULD BE REALLOCATED TO PROJECT #20-02, THE WILDFIRE-RELATED RESTORATION AND SEED PURCHASE. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner Barnes requested guidance from the Department on where to spend the \$25,000. He suggested Project # 20-04, Toole Springs Lek Juniper Removal, and inquired if that project could use more funding.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne presented argument in support of Project # 20-04, and that approximately \$12,000 would be helpful for this project. He further presented argument that there is already a lot of fuel in the field due to the current weather conditions so no further seed purchase is necessary. He suggested that the \$13,000 could be spent on a different project.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT PROJECT #20-18 WOULD NOT BE FUNDED; THE \$25,000 WOULD BE REALLOCATED TO APPROVE \$15,000 TO PROJECT # 20-02, WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE FUNDING TO \$115,000 AND TO APPROVE \$10,000 TO PROJECT # 20-04 WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE FUNDING TO \$75,000; AND NO FUNDING TO PROJECT # 20-18. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner McNinch stated that it is unfortunate that this conversation was had today and that this is a difficult position to be in when the Department changes their position.

Vice Chairman Valentine stated that he understands the motion, but as Chairman of the Wildlife Heritage Committee he has an obligation to support the Committees decision.

**THE MOTION CARRIED 7-1 WITH VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE DISSENTING. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

9. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Director 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 detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Report and are intended to inform the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley stated that there are geographically relevant issues that the Commission will learn about today on the fieldtrip. The Department will provide background and context to the Commission about the fieldtrip. First, the Commission will look at the bighorn sheep habitat and their usage of the cliffs adjacent to Walker Lake. Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling will speak to the context and history of the challenges in sheep on the road which have led to significant rates of vehicle and animal collisions. Habitat Division Administrator Jenne will then speak to the recent efforts to draw the bighorn sheep from the high-risk areas. Then, the Commission will hear from Fisheries Biologist Chris Urquhart who will provide fisheries context to Walker Lake and the water level challenges; and he will also share the local Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) recovery efforts.

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling provided the historical background on the sheep population in the Wassuk Mountain Range which is in Unit 202 from the 1860's to present and the challenges associated with roadway collisions. The three-mile section on Highway 95 is the best habitat for sheep and it is immediately adjacent to Walker Lake. The Department and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) are working together to determine the number of injured sheep and fatalities. On average, it is believed that ten to fifteen bighorn sheep are killed there annually which is a substantial proportion of a population of 200. This is not reducing the herd, but it is limiting its potential growth. The Department and NDOT have been working on a variety of ideas over the years looking for ideas to solve this problem.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that the three-mile section on Highway 95 that includes the high sheep population is near the cliffs, from the old Buffalo stop up to Sportsmen's beach. The Department and NDOT have been working together with their maintenance crews and engineers to look at solutions to reduce the mortalities. The Department is also working to get a contractor on site that has dealt with these situations. The biggest problem is that the public does not pay attention to the posted signs. All types of proposals have been considered, including physical barriers; but the sheep come down the cliffs onto the highway to the water at Walker Lake. The Department has worked to educate the local citizens along with working with the Army Depot to construct a guzzler on their land. The first attempt at a solution was to put in a guzzler higher up the mountain to pull the sheep up higher. On April 11, 2019, the Department constructed a 11,500-gallon capacity guzzler and installed cameras to monitor the sheep activity. The Department is working with the Carson City Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to get the sheep habituated to a second guzzler. Also, Cottonwood Canyon intermittently has water.

Secretary Wasley provided information regarding the proximity of the dwelling and shooting regulation because there was some hunting at the Buffalo Stop area adjacent to the road which has elevated the issue.

Fisheries Biologist Chris Urquhart stated that historically, Walker Lake was a good sport fishing lake for the Department as well as for the public. However, as the water levels in Walker Lake have dropped, the total dissolved solids (TDS) level has risen. It is a terminal lake in Nevada, which means there is no outlet, so as the water level drops and it evaporates, the salinity increases. In 2009, the salinity got to a level to where the Department could no longer acclimate the cutthroat to the high salinity of the lake; and since then it has ceased to be a sport fishing opportunity for the Department. He provided the history as to the Water Acquisition Program. A graph was provided to the Commission for review and can be found at: [http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/).

According to the graph, the lake continues to decline, except during high water years. He stated that on the field trip today, the Commission will follow Cottonwood Creek up the canyon which is the only place the native Walker Basin Cutthroat Trout exist in Nevada, with the exception of the six populations that exist in California. He presented information as to the staging process of adding the tui chub from the reservoirs and the cutthroat trout from Cottonwood Creek. In the future, the Department is hoping to acclimate both fish back into Walker Lake.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Fisheries Biologist Chris Urquhart regarding the acquisition of water rights; what is contributing to the saline content in the lake; the water flows into Walker Lake and the evaporation of the water; that there is a complicated court history regarding delivering water to the lake and that the Walker Basin Conservancy now governs the situation.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner McNinch and Fisheries Biologist Chris Urquhart regarding this being an ecosystem issue; the loon festival at Walker Lake; and that due to the decline of fish in the lake, the loons no longer visit Walker Lake for their migration.

10. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Public comment:

Mike Reese, private citizen, suggested that it would be helpful to have a discussion regarding how the tag draw is generated and how the tags get allocated.

Caron Taylo, private citizen, expressed concern that the Department needs to do more conservation related to bobcats. The concern of decreasing bobcat populations has been brought to the Commissions attention in the past. She understands that the current practices will remain in effect, but she would like to see a public vetting every year on bobcat practices. As an outdoor enthusiast, she is concerned about who is going to govern the wildlife watchers like herself. She thanked the Department for getting to the table regarding the new Department of Outdoor Recreation and for the efforts of getting the bighorn sheep off the road.

Greg Caldwell, private citizen, stated that seeing the bighorn sheep crossing the highway near Sportsman's Beach and Cottonwood Canyon is a concern. He proposed to bring the speed limit down to 35 miles per hour from Sportsmen's Beach to Cottonwood, in conjunction with flashing signs.

Chairman Johnston stated that the tour will begin soon and asked about the plan for departure and scheduling lunch.

Secretary Wasley requested that Glenn Bunch share his thoughts on the tour for this afternoon.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral County Sportsmen's Group, stated that after lunch the group should meet in front of the El Capitan and will all drive to Cottonwood Canyon where the security guard, Johnny Peterson, will meet the group at the gate to Mount Grant. Once the group is done with touring Mt. Grant, Mr. Bunch will take the group to Sportsmen's Beach for a historical review of the lake levels. The Mineral County Sportsmen's Club will host a dinner at 7:00 p.m. this evening at the El Capitan in this same room. He reminded the public and the Commission to complete the proper paperwork to be vetted which allows access onto Mount Grant. Once the background check is complete, individuals will be clear for one year.

Friday, June 21, 2019 – Tour will begin at the Close of Agenda Item #10

Commission Tour – Informational

The Commission will tour Mount Grant to see the sheep habitat as well as tour Sportsman's Beach to see the lake level decline. Informational presentations will be made at several sites, but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 2019 – 8:30 a. m.

11. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Vice Chairman Valentine, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, Hubbs, Kiel, and McNinch. Commissioner East was absent.

CABMW members present: Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW; Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Ray Kabisch, Washoe CABMW; Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW.

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

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

13. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston – Informational

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Barnes thanked the Mineral CABMW and Glenn Bunch for their hospitality.

14. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational  
CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No CABMW comment.

Commission Regulations – Adoption – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed

- 15.\* Upland Game Bird Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and Division Administrator Alan Jenne – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$295,100 for projects submitted for FY 2020 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Greater Sage-grouse Statewide Monitoring (\$48,710)
- Upland Game Bird Translocation and Monitoring (\$13,640)
- Dusky Grouse Ecology and Management in Nevada (\$20,000)
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape-Level Treatments on Greater Sage-grouse within the Desatoya Mountains (\$18,000)
- Measuring Corticosterone Metabolites in Greater Sage-grouse (\$25,000)
- Estimating Sage-grouse Vital Rates within Nevada's Most Novel Habitats (\$22,500)
- Effects of Conventional Raven Control and Wildfire on Greater Sage-grouse within the Virginia Mountains (\$22,500)
- Monitoring Greater Sage-grouse and Habitat Post-Martin Fire (\$25,000)
- Bi-State Sage Grouse Coordinator (\$5,000)
- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Restoration Project – Population Modeling and Publications (\$22,250)
- Response of Greater Sage-grouse to Vegetation Treatments in South Cave, Hamlin and Steptoe Valleys (\$7,500)
- Wildfire and Geomorphology Effects on Riparian Habitats and Related Restoration Implications (\$10,000)
- A Framework for Restoring and Conserving Great Basin Wet Meadows and Riparian Ecosystems (\$10,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control (\$10,000)
- Post-Fire Upland Habitat Restoration - Tule Springs (\$12,500)
- Post-Fire Upland Habitat Restoration - Kane Springs (\$12,500)
- Quinn River Valley Habitat Enhancement - Vanderhoek Property (\$10,000)

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public and provided the current status of the Upland Game Bird Stamp budget. He stated that there are a total of seventeen projects with a request of \$295,100.

Commissioner Hubbs asked for an overview of the results and the consistent pattern of declining population numbers so she can better understand the decline of the numbers; she further requested an explanation of lambda; how the population cycle fluctuates around lambda; and what would be a healthy pattern.

Upland Game Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa responded with information about the sage-grouse population cycles. He presented argument in support of the Department learning the success and survival rationale for the sage-grouse. The lambda estimates in the report represent the population growth rate or a rate of change from one year to the next.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa regarding the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that runs the numbers for triggers on the landscape study across the state, the management of the leks, and the efficiency of the lek surveys being conducted with the mule deer surveys.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa provided further details and answered Commissioner Hubbs related questions.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

- 16.\* Commission Regulation 18-12, Amendment 2, 2019 - 2020 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider and may vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2019 season. This regulation will also include fall wild turkey seasons for 2019 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2020.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department website for the public. He also reviewed the recommended amendments for the 2019 sage grouse hunting season.

Chairman Johnston inquired about the proposed amendment and if Mr. Espinosa can explain the difference between a closure versus a reduced season, and the continued value of having the season in terms of wing collection and how the population supports the more limited season without adding to mortality.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa stated that the Department has a stringent guideline to not hunt populations with less than 300 birds or if the Department feels that they are harvesting more than ten percent of the adult population. He responded to Chairman Johnston's comment and provided further details.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the information from the wings can be obtained in the field or does the bird need to be brought into the Department.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa stated that if there is a research effort going on, they can obtain the information through the research effort, but that is not available for all areas of the state. The harvest information helps the Department to determine what proportion of the individuals are harvested on the landscape, but also gives them what production looks like. This will show the Department whether there is a stable population on the landscape; which helps them to make recommendations for future hunting seasons.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs, Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and Secretary Wasley regarding how climate change and severe droughts has changed the hunting seasons; why the Department has extremely conservative hunting seasons; and that the harvest data helps to understand the impact of other things on the landscape. The data helps the Department tie other impacts on the landscape to the sage grouse. It is not all about the recreational benefit, but it also gives the Department the data needed to see what is happening on the landscape.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa added that there are robust populations of the sage grouse in Nevada and provided further details regarding Secretary Wasley's comments.

Public comment:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that since there is only one case in the support material that provided justification on why the season lengths were reduced their CABMW was not able to take action on this item. They wanted specific detail on why the seasons were reduced. He will relay the information that was obtained today.

Chairman Johnston reminded the Commission that there is \$200,000 or more of money being dispersed out for upland game projects and that he does not see any basis for any further closures at this time.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she is impressed by the studies on the ground as they are well-designed and thorough. Her concern was the estimates, though she does understand that this is a dynamic situation and that a complete closure would have major ramifications.

**CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 18-12, AMENDMENT 2, 2019-2020 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE SAGE GROUSE AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He reviewed the recommended amendments for the 2019 Wild Turkey hunting season.

Chairman Johnston inquired as to why there was a reduction of tags in Mason Valley.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa responded that in the Mason Valley area, hunt success was a lot lower in prior seasons and the Department received reports that the public was struggling, so the limit was reduced from 6 to 5 tags.

Chairman Johnston stated there is a lot going on in the Walker River Corridor and further south with land acquisition and state parks; he inquired if the Department knew how that is or is not going to impact the turkey populations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa stated that when those fields are taken out of production, the carrying capacity for turkeys is reduced. The state parks are interested in expanding the turkey and pheasant populations in those areas, which could also become a good area for California quail to expand as well.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 18-12, AMENDMENT 2, 2019-2020 UPLAND GAME AND FURBEARER SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR THE WILD TURKEY AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

- 17.\* Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He summarized the elements of the release plan and recommended amendments for the California Quail, Mountain Quail, Rio Grande Turkey, Merriam's Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, and the American Beaver.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about which species are native, and which ones are non-native.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa stated that all species are endemic to North America, but not necessarily native to the State of Nevada. The California Quail, Mountain Quail and Beaver are all native to Nevada; but the Rio Grande Turkey, Merriam's Turkey and the Ruffed Grouse are not native to Nevada. He responded to the question and provided further details.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2020 AND 2021 AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

18. Reports – Informational

- A. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley  
Secretary Wasley will provide a report on recent Department activities.

Secretary Wasley read from the Department Activity Report:

**DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

The Legislature has approved the purchase of a new building for our southern region office. The Department of Wildlife is presently in a building that was moved into in 1969 on Vegas Drive. The Department has been in that building for a few months shy of fifty years. The property on which that building is located was originally given to the Nevada Fish and Game Commission in 1957. The Department outgrew that building officially in 2005 and began to lease space around the Las Vegas Valley, not only for office space but also for storage. This will allow the Department to consolidate all of those leased properties. We are hopeful that we can close on that property in the next few weeks. There is one remaining hurdle, the Department needs to receive final approval from the Interim Finance Committee, and the Department will attend that meeting which is scheduled on June 25, 2019 for final approval because the effort was spanned across two fiscal years. We were previously before the Interim Finance Committee in the previous fiscal year to get approval with earnest money and to go forward with the tenant improvements. Next week we will seek approval for the balance and then we can close escrow. Next, we will be looking for a move in date in mid-August with the hope of having an open house during the September Commission meeting in Las Vegas and share the building with the Commission.

Commission Regulation 482 which was the public and sellable lists regulation will be heard at the Legislative Commission meeting on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The final remaining hurdle on this is the approval by the Legislative Commission. The data gathered on this topic is that over 90 percent of the customers chose to have their information kept private from the public list that is distributed by the Department and 46 percent of the customers chose to have their information kept off the draw results.

#### **GAME DIVISION**

Annually, The Wildlife Society (an international organization of primarily professional wildlife biologists and their associates) evaluates several publications and recognizes the outstanding contribution on three categories. This year, the monograph "Effects of power lines on habitat use and demography of greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)" is the winner of the Wildlife Publication Award in the monograph category. This monograph was coauthored by Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and concludes about fifteen years of combined research that includes significant portions of Nevada. Congratulations!

Despite Department concerns related to recent large wildfires that occurred in northwestern Elko County, the reestablished sharp-tailed grouse population seems to be doing well. Forty-nine male grouse were observed on three leks during our surveys in 2019. This is the highest number of attending males ever observed in the area. We also discovered a nesting hen about twenty miles south of the main lek complex, which may indicate the presence of another lek in that area that has yet to be discovered.

Game Division staff attended a coordination meeting with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to strategize and plan for an upcoming transportation and wildlife summit hosted by NDOT in Carson City, possibly in October 2019. We are looking into workshop venues near the Capital building in Carson so that it may be attended by the Governor or staff from the Governors' office. The workshop is planned to focus on county planning to incorporate wildlife movements and attractants before construction begins. If cities, counties, and municipalities can incorporate road and wildlife planning in the inception of a project, it may be possible to avoid common movement impediments and reduce the attractants that can make wildlife a nuisance.

Game Division staff attended an interstate pronghorn capture coordination meeting with Oregon, Idaho, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on May 13, 2019 in Ontario, Oregon. The focus of the meeting was on coordinating the timing of capture activities, data sharing agreements, coordinating field activities, capture data collection protocols and future collaborative efforts relative to Secretarial Order 3362, which was the Secretarial Order on migration corridors that was issued by former Secretary Zinke. It deals primarily with pronghorn, mule deer and elk and there has been subsequent efforts to include moose and bighorn sheep that have been unsuccessful thus far.

Game Division staff have been planning and organizing for pronghorn captures this fall. We are tentatively planning to begin captures in northcentral and northwest Nevada on September 24-27, 2019 as part of the migration corridor identification supported through the Department of the Interior Secretarial Order.

Several bighorn sheep translocations are in the planning stages. The Game Division continues to work with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to facilitate funding and logistics for a possible reintroduction of bighorn sheep into tribal lands, perhaps as early as fall 2019. Recent funding proposals through the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) were unsuccessful. We continue to assist their staff in submitting funding requests to other funding sources. Their Natural Resources staff will be requesting internal tribal funds this summer through the Tribal Council.

The Game Division is in discussion with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding a translocation of desert bighorn sheep to their Mineral Mountains for fall 2019. A variety of options to meet Utah's needs have been discussed, but a final plan is yet pending. A potential plan is expected to be developed with Utah in July.

In addition, the Game Division is exploring translocations of California Bighorn Sheep into Units 032 (McGee Mountain) and 014 (Negro Creek). Final planning efforts should be complete by August 2019 and may involve additional units as well.

Game Division staff attended the Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors and Chapter and Affiliates meeting which was held in Las Vegas during May 16–18, 2019. Division Administrator Wakeling offered opening remarks at the Chapter and Affiliates Meeting. This event was held in conjunction with the 55th Annual Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn Banquet on Saturday May 18, 2019.

Wildlife Staff Specialist presented a lecture via webinar titled *Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Health Committee Bighorn Sheep Herd Health Monitoring*, for the technical workshop, Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep in Colorado: What Do We Know About Herd Health, Pathogen Transfer and Disease Status?, held on June 10-11, 2019 in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Game Division staff attended the Free Roaming Equid and Ecosystem Sustainability Summit in Reno during May 29–31, 2019. The Summit was well attended, and about 90 organizations were represented by the more than 125 people in attendance.

As with most recent years, the Department has detected springtime elk mortalities within Management Area 6. One cow elk died on May 1 near Frost Creek in Bull Run Basin. Another cow died on May 14 near Cedar Ridge. Body temperature data transmitted by a rumen implant indicated elevated body temperatures beginning on May 12. Eastern Region biologists observed this cow on May 13 while attempting to euthanize and collect tissue samples. The cow was

startled and departed the area. The most recent elk death occurred in Unit 067 on June 13, which similarly showed a spike in temperatures beginning on June 11. Game biologists attempted to locate the animal on June 12, but the elk avoided detection. In total, four radio collared Rocky Mountain elk have died this spring. Two were from Unit 062, one from Unit 065, and one from Unit 067. Staff from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Poisonous Plant Research Laboratory have conducted field site inspections in units near where the mortalities were located. Although the timing is consistent with poisonous plant consumption, elk in other areas also deal with poisonous plants and seem to avoid them. Lesions and testing results seem to point to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease or Blue Tongue, but not consistently. Some of the factors associated with disease conditions, like cool weather, are somewhat inconsistent as well. The ultimate cause of death continues to elude us.

An elk exclusionary fence was completed in north Ruby Valley to provide relief to a landowner receiving elk damage on alfalfa pivots.

Game Division staff attended the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) sanctioned Mule Deer Working Group (MDWG) meeting on May 28, 2019 as part of the 2019 Deer and Elk workshop in Marfa, Texas. Overall, the meeting was productive, and Nevada was represented in various ways for upcoming projects the MDWG are pursuing.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder agreed to co-author a chapter on invasive species impacts to mule deer habitat as part of a new book on mule deer ecology and management. Schroeder participated in a panel discussion with several other state agencies and a representative from GoHunt.com on the advantages and disadvantages of bonus points, preference points, point creep, and other aspects of a lottery-based draw system for tag allocation. Staff Specialist Cody McKee represented the Department on a panel that discussed private lands cooperation with state elk management.

USDA Wildlife Services and the Department completed the annual goose round-up throughout portions of the western region during the week of June 3, 2019. Three hundred sixty-seven geese were captured, which included 26 recaptures from previous years. Areas trapped included Virginia Lake, Idlewild Park, Manzanita Lake, Lake Park, Truckee Meadows, NV Energy, Fisherman's Park, Mira Loma Park, Sparks Marina, Silver Oak Golf Course, and Edgewood Golf Course. Wildlife Staff assisted with the collection of fecal samples for Canada geese.

Wildlife Staff assisted the USFWS Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex in Gardnerville, Nevada with a bacterial infection that was leading to increased mortality in their brood stock.

Wildlife Staff attended a Joint meeting of the USFWS, with the Desert Tortoise Recovery staff and Department Diversity staff.

### **HABITAT DIVISION**

Water development crews are in the midst of the annual volunteer build season. The northern crew has finished four guzzler rebuilds and one new build at Walker Lake. The new build at Walker Lake was built on April 11.

The Technical Review Program has been working on USFS Greater Sage-Grouse Land Management Plan revision, and the USFS-NDOW Master Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) revision. Additionally, the Program has been developing guidance for feedback to federal partners relative to Oil & Gas and Geothermal Lease Sales. Assistance and guidance have also

been provided internally for coordination and implementation of the temporary regulations relating to mitigation requirements under the direction of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program.

The Department provided comments on the White Pine County Silver State Trail Environmental Assessment (EA) to BLM, and the White Pine Board of County Commissioners on June 4, 2019. It has recently been brought to our attention that the BLM may need to open a second public comment period as they updated the wildlife data used in the analysis, and therefore the analysis changed.

Flooding concerns have recently increased along the Walker River especially at the Mason Valley WMA. Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs are currently near storage capacity limiting their ability to manage the runoff, especially given the high temperatures in last couple weeks. Thus far, the Department has avoided any major damage to buildings and infrastructure at both the WMA and Fish Hatchery. The high flows are expected to be a few inches below what was experienced in 2017 and will most likely crest by the end of June and remain high through most of the summer.

### **CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION**

The Department held their annual Outdoor Education Instructor Training Academy at the Perdiz Shooting Range located about 2 miles south of Eureka, Nevada. More than 150 Instructors attended the annual training and were cross trained in Hunter, Angler, and Wildlife Education. Training sessions included tips and tactics on how to properly engage with students and how to lead a class both in a classroom setting and outdoors. Biologists representing the Game, Fisheries and Habitat Divisions gave presentations to help instructors better understand the Department's past and future project schedule.

Conservation Education staff partnered with Nevada State Parks for the 2019 Carp Derby on June 1 at Lahontan Reservoir. There were 261 children registered for the event, and close to 350 attended. Staff manned a bait booth and recorded the weight of each fish caught for the big fish prize at the end of the derby. Upon registration, each child was entered in a raffle for prizes and nearly every child that attended received a prize.

Conservation Education staff partnered with the Carson City Lions Club for their Kids Fishing Derby on June 1 at Baily Pond. There were around 400 people in attendance. Approximately 150-200 kids took aim shooting at the Department's archery range. The event combined angler and archery education and was a great outdoor education platform for the Department staff.

The Sparks Rotary and the City of Sparks held their 2019 Kids free fishing day June 8 at the Sparks Marina. There were 1,200 free fishing rods given away to children and close to 2,500 that attended the free fishing event. Department staff and volunteers worked a variety of educational stations including the aquatic mammals 'hides and skulls' table and the Operation Game Thief trailer. Department staff participated in multiple media interviews and a Facebook live event. The event had multiple free opportunities for the public including: free ice cream, face painting and hotdogs. This year was the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the kids fishing event and was a great success.

Despite windy conditions, attendance for the Free Fishing Day event at Veterans' Memorial Park in Boulder City was significantly higher than in recent years. Estimates put the number of participants at nearly 400, which included both adults and children. Catfish and bluegill were stocked in the days preceding the event. Partners included the Boulder City Parks & Recreation Department and National Park Service. Representatives of a local trade union stopped by and gave away 50 fishing rod and reel combinations. Names or numbers were drawn for rods and

other prizes, and each youth went home with something to help them go fishing. Additional events were held at Floyd Lamb Park and Echo Canyon State Park under direction of the Las Vegas City Council and the Echo Canyon park supervisor.

Free Fishing Day events were also held at both Cave Lake State Park and Chinese Gardens in Carlin with over 100 participants in attendance.

A staff conservation educator received a partial scholarship to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Summer Educator Retreat; this staff conservation educator and the southern region wildlife educator will be attending this retreat in July in the hopes of learning new teaching techniques to create new programming and improve upon existing programming.

Public Information Officers (PIO) set up monthly segments with KOLO 8 News and Lotus Radio, which will air on KOZZ, KDOT, KTHX, KUUB, KHIT, KPLY, KCKQ. The first interview with Lotus Radio aired in May. The PIO talked about different events and programs the Department has scheduled for the summer. The first segment with KOLO 8 will feature a PIO who will talk about summertime wildlife activity and tips on living and recreating in areas abundant with wildlife.

The statewide PIO did interviews on bear awareness with KOLO 8, KRNV and KTVN. They also did rattlesnake safety interviews with KRNV and KKOH radio. As part of a contract, Conservation Education staff conducted interviews on spring wildlife with Lake Tahoe Television.

The Department's social media following continues to increase. This month's Department's Facebook page reached more than 37,000 likes and gained more than 38,234 followers. The Department's Instagram reached 6,669 followers, and Twitter reached 3,658. The Department's YouTube page has grown by 300 followers from last month to 2,063 subscribers.

### **DIVERSITY DIVISION**

Wildlife Diversity completed the 2019 Bat Blitz in early June. This was the largest blitz we have ever held, with over 60 participants from multiple state and federal agencies, NGOs, and private consultants. The bat blitz was a success, thanks to the leadership of our southern region biologist Christy Klinger. Christy did an excellent job organizing participants of varying experience levels, wrangling large amounts of equipment and efficiently deploying multiple teams each night of the blitz. We were able to survey 25 sites across the Mojave Desert, in the Mormon Mountains and the Gold Buttes over the course of four nights. In the end we caught more than 530 bats of 13 different species.

This is the second year of statewide Ferruginous Hawk surveys. We are monitoring at least 12 territories and while most were occupied early in the season, it appears many nesting attempts have failed this year, with the exception of one nest in Coal Canyon in the western region that fledged two birds.

We have a more intensive satellite tracking study of ferruginous hawks in the eastern region. There were eight birds outfitted with satellite transmitters last year, of which only two juveniles remain. Each had laid eggs a couple of months ago, but unfortunately all breeding attempts in the area have failed this year. It is likely due to the heavy snow and rain from late winter/early spring which has caused the nest failures. While we will not be able to deploy any new transmitters this year, we will continue to track the juveniles from last year.

Wildlife Diversity has a multi-year study of Golden Eagles in Dry Lake Valley in Lincoln County as well as in association with Hycroft Mine in northwestern NV. In the primary study area, all 15 territories were occupied early in the breeding season. Breeding attempts were confirmed at seven territories, but only four territories have been successful so far. There were five transmitters redeployed on nestlings this spring at four territories, to add to four eagles being tracked with satellite transmitters from previous years. The transmitted individuals are intended to provide information about habitat use throughout the year, with particular attention to breeding and natal grounds.

There were two adults and twelve nesting Peregrine Falcons banded with feather samples collected in southern Nevada. The project is intended to provide an update on contaminant levels in this top avian predator, and how that relates to territory occupancy rates and breeding success. Simultaneously, genetic analyses are being conducted in collaboration with Nevada State College to look at population structure, assess dispersal trends and territory turnover in light of mercury contamination.

In central Nevada, we are completing egg mass surveys and preparing for the annual Columbia Spotted Frog survey in Indian Valley. This survey is a multi-agency effort to mark and recapture frogs over the course of a week to track long-term population status.

Elsewhere in the state, Diversity biologists are conducting breeding bird surveys, northern goshawk surveys and shorebird surveys. Initial data is showing low shorebird numbers due to high water levels.

### **FISHERIES DIVISION**

Continued high runoff from the winter 2018-2019 snowpack should continue to maintain reservoir storage and streamflow throughout most of western and northern Nevada through this summer. This will continue to benefit fisheries but is causing some delays in field surveys and other management activities. Marlette Lake was finally accessible this week but the ability to obtain eggs from the rainbow and cutthroat trout brood stock is uncertain because of the late date.

Another benefit of the past winter conditions is unexpected high runoff in the Colorado River system. Revised projections for Lake Mead suggest the reservoir will remain at or above current storage levels through spring 2021. Forecasts early last winter predicted further lake level declines and likely drought conditions, but new projections for lake levels in 2021 are to be more than 30 feet higher than originally thought.

Eastern and Western region biologists have completed warm water fish stocking for this spring to take advantage of the good reservoir storage conditions. Additional recent stockings include wipers for Rye Patch and Lahontan, white bass for Rye Patch and Washoe Lake, crappie for restocking of Willow Creek Reservoir and channel catfish for several urban ponds and Rye Patch Reservoir.

In mid-May a tanker truck of sulfuric acid overturned in Maggie Creek near Carlin on SR 766, spilling approximately 3,000 gallons. Fortunately, this occurred on lower Maggie Creek below LCT habitat on private land and fisheries impacts were minimal. Dilution of the chemical occurred quickly because of high flow conditions in both Maggie Creek and the Humboldt River.

Fisheries Division staff are continuing to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Newmont/Barrick to address potential impacts to the endemic relict dace from the Long Canyon

Mine Phase II project. Relict dace populations in Goshute Valley in eastern Nevada were petitioned for emergency listing in 2014 and are currently undergoing listing review; the project would likely affect a large wetland complex which holds a significant part of the global populations of the species.

Fisheries staff in eastern Nevada have been assisting United States Geological Survey (USGS) in inventory and assessment for eleven spring snail species that have been petitioned for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing. These efforts will help inform listing decisions on these species by USFWS identified for fiscal year 2021. Monitoring of these species is particularly challenging because many known locations are on private lands with limited access, and existing information on the species and locations of occurrence is limited and poorly documented.

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

The 2019 Big Game Draw application period opened March 18 and continued through April 29, 2019. Department staff helped provide coverage for our customer support center. The Department received 317,787 applications which was 8.5 percent more than the previous year to bring a total of 74,429 applicants in 2019.

We are hoping to have the Data and Technology Services Administrator position filled shortly. Those interviews were scheduled yesterday and will occur over the next couple of weeks.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

Several cases from prior years are now moving ahead with various phases of charging and prosecution.

Two Idaho men, Wade and Blake Asher are facing 27 counts of wildlife violations for their role in the illegal killing of two mature mule deer bucks in the far northeast corner of Nevada last fall. Blake Asher turned himself in, while his brother Wade was arrested on a warrant.

Brayden Norton of Washington, Utah was arrested on May 13 for the killing of a very large mule deer buck in Lincoln County back in November of 2016. This case took a couple years for the information to develop.

Felony charges were filed in Elko Justice Court against Idaho resident Skip Crown for the illegal killing of a mountain lion without a tag in 2016. Crown was already revoked in Idaho for wildlife violations.

Felony charges were filed in Humboldt County against Charles Sieppel for the illegal killing of a mule deer in March of 2017.

Felony charges were filed in Elko Justice Court against Jay Yergensen for the illegal killing of a large mule deer buck, also in the far northeast corner of Nevada.

Felony charges were filed in Elko Justice Court against Alan Mollote for the illegal killing of a mule deer. Associated with this case, Steve Thornhill had already been convicted for obstructing a game warden.

Felony charges were filed against Jaime Salazar for ex-felon in possession of a firearm. The charge stemmed from a hunting accident investigation in which Salazar allegedly shot and injured another hunter with a rifle while coyote hunting.

The Chief Game Warden and other staff worked extensively on dozens of bills related to wildlife and boating during the legislative session. Overall, we had a successful session with updates to several statutes and the passing of new laws.

Southern region game wardens recently completed an Operating Under the Influence (OUI) checkpoint on Lake Mohave that netted several arrests. Four members of a large party of students from the University of California at Santa Barbara were arrested for possession and/or distribution of cocaine and other drugs, while several others in the party were cited for underage alcohol issues. Three other boaters unrelated to this party were arrested for OUI. Southern region game wardens have also recovered three stolen vessels in recent weeks.

Western region game wardens are investigating a serious-injury jet ski accident which happened at Lahontan Reservoir on June 16. One person was hospitalized, but lucky to be alive after getting "T-boned" at high speed by another personal watercraft.

Game Warden Captain Brian Eller is deeply involved in planning for the International Wildlife Crimestoppers Conference that the Department is hosting in July of 2019. The organization, then called International Association of Natural Resource Crimestoppers was founded in 1997 with seven member states, Nevada being the first to host the conference in 1998. It is a full circle experience with the conference coming back to Nevada, now with member organizations representing over 40 states and a large group of Canadian provinces.

Secretary Wasley asked that Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed provide an update to the shed hunting regulations.

Chief Game Warden Turnipseed stated that we will see the shed hunting on the agenda in the future and provided an update to how the season went this year; he also provided the challenges and successes the game wardens experience regarding the shed antler hunt. It appeared that there was less disturbance this year and fewer roads had been driven.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the regulation allowed for a penalty for caching the antlers; and inquired if anyone was caught caching antlers.

Chief Game Warden Turnipseed explained that the regulation states that it is illegal to collect antlers and it is illegal to cache the antlers, it is just hard to detect. He stated that they did find one pile of antlers during foot patrols and set up surveillance cameras, but the people were not detected when, or if, they came back to collect the antlers. The Department is working on technology to try to catch people caching.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Chief Game Warden Turnipseed on whether it is better to collect a pile of antlers when found or leave them and set up surveillance cameras to monitor the situation; and that it depends on the value of the antlers as each scenario is different.

B.\* Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton

Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He stated that he does not have any significant changes. There have been several depositions in the *Mark Smith v. Brian Wakeling*, litigation in Washoe County. Regarding

agenda item 20, which is Mr. Thissell's appeal of the denial of his subguide license, he was not sure if Mr. Thissell would find the meeting location, so he requested that Chief Game Warden Turnipseed contact Mr. Thissell by text message to confirm the location of the meeting. Mr. Thissell advised that he would not appear today and would not be pursuing the appeal.

Chairman Johnston inquired if the Writ had been denied in *Mark Smith v. Brian Wakeling, et al.*

Senior DAG Stockton responded and provided argument in support as to why the Writ was granted.

- C.\* Legislative Report - Update on the 80th Legislative Session (2019) –  
Commissioner East and Director Wasley  
An update will be provided on the 80th Legislative session.

Chairman Johnston and Secretary Wasley thanked Commissioner East for the outstanding job she did as Chairman of the Legislative Committee; for representing the Commission before the Legislature; and for traveling to Carson City on multiple occasions for legislative meetings.

Secretary Wasley reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public. He further provided an overview of the bills in which the Commission took action.

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 10:25 a.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 10:35 a.m.

- D. Conservation Partner Spotlight – Secretary Wasley – Informational  
An overview of a key conservation partner program will be shared with the Commission.

Secretary Wasley introduced the Mineral County Sportsmen's Club; and that their mission is "to maintain, benefit and secure recreational use of our lands in Mineral County." He noted that they are a club for all sportsmen, not just for a specific breed of animal. He thanked them for the dinner that was sponsored last night. Mr. Wasley introduced Rob Mathias, Chairman of the Mineral County Sportsmen's Club.

Chairman Rob Mathias welcomed the Commission to Hawthorne, America's Patriotic home, and thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak about what the club is doing for the community. The club was initially started 40-50 years ago, and they focused on doing things for the youth in the community; but the club eventually dissolved. In 2012, the club was re-established, and they have since developed a great partnership with the Department and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited. With the Army Depot closing Mount Grant after the September 11 event, it reduced the outdoor recreation along with losing the fishing recreation at Walker Lake. One of the club's long-term goals is to reestablish a shooting range in the area. Another goal is to establish a fishing pond in town for the public. A cabin near the Rose Creek Reservoir has been renovated and opened for rent to the public. The club has done a variety of other things such as: developed a Mineral County High School scholarship for \$500; assisted the NBU and the Department on guzzler builds; purchased drinkers to support those builds for the local wildlife; assisted with sheep capture and monitoring of sheep; donated money to the Department for the new transportation trailer; purchased and installed crappie beds for Weber reservoir; sponsored a kayak day at Walker Lake and plan to have a reoccurring events to

support the lake; sponsored clean up days in the area; partnered with United States Forest Service to put up signs to protect the landscape in the recreation areas and to keep people on the roads. The club is currently pursuing the following projects: working with the Army Depot to obtain a lease agreement to have access to the south end of Walker Lake for duck hunting; and pursuing the renovation of Monument Beach. Additionally, NDOT has agreed to put in a Welcome sign near the McDonald's to say, "Welcome to America's Patriotic Home, Hawthorne, NV"; the club has purchased a bronze desert bighorn sheep to put next to the sign. Their ultimate goal is to make recreation better in Mineral County and maintain it to enhance recreation and wildlife. He invited the Commission to the Mineral County Sportsmen's Club banquet for the annual fundraiser.

Chairman Johnston thanked him for their hospitality and for providing information about their organization.

Commissioner McNinch thanked the club for dinner last night; noted the challenges they have experienced with Walker Lake; and stated that he appreciated the message they are sending to the public.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about how much land is needed for a shooting range. She further inquired about the land that was previously leased from the Army Depot.

Mr. Mathias stated that he was not sure about the actual square footage needed for a shooting range, but they are looking for an area to allow for a long range shooting, short range shooting, archery shooting, and space for a building that would allow for club meetings and training. It would be an economic benefit to have a shooting range in Mineral County. Historically, there was an agreement that the Army Depot would clean up the shooting range and allow for its continued use by the public, but over the years staff changed and the agreement was lost, which lead to the range being lost to the Army Depot.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, presented information as to the difficulty of obtaining public land from the BLM for sportsmen's purpose because eighty percent of the land is federally owned; that acquiring the property from BLM must go through Congress, and the Legislature must support the project. It becomes a trade-off, if someone wants an acre of land, the government wants several acres of land in return. He suggested that about five acres would be sufficient for a shooting range.

- E.\* Presentation of Fallon Naval Air Station Community Plans - Liaison Officer Robert Rule – For Information Only  
The Commission will be provided an update on the current status of the FRTC Modernization and conservation efforts with our partners in Northern Nevada.

Robert Rule, Liaison Officer of the Fallon Naval Air Station, thanked the Commission for having him present today to talk about their initiatives with conservation and presented a PowerPoint regarding the Fallon Naval Air Station Community Plans.

[http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019\\_Archive/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/)

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the air stream, if the aviators were dropping actual bombs and if they focus on actual targets.

Mr. Rule responded to her question by saying yes, the aviator training tests the bombs and ensures they come off the aircraft correctly, so they are focusing on a target on the ground. Discussion ensued regarding the habitat being destroyed where the bombs land; the weapons would still land in smaller areas, but they are asking for a larger area of land for training and then the habitat could still be conserved in a vast area.

Chairman Johnston inquired that with the advancement in technology being so rapid, how could the military know what they need for the next twenty to thirty years.

Mr. Rule stated that there are no guarantees; that this was already a hard decision and difficult to ask for more land. Currently, they are planning for a minimum of twenty years. There is a critical need to train in Fallon because the crews can utilize the mountain ranges and valleys to search and find their targets. Mr. Rule presented further information and details.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he appreciated Mr. Rule speaking on this subject but expressed his concerns for the project. He hopes that this plan is not already a done deal because the losses would be extensive in multiple areas. He is thankful for the knowledge and will have more questions as the process moves along.

Mr. Rule responded and offered to be available for anyone to discuss this subject further as this is a critical issue from the Navy's perspective. He stated that any concerns can be brought to him so that he can share them with his department.

Chairman Johnston expressed his concerns regarding the outreach that is being done and he appreciates the detailed presentation.

Discussion ensued acknowledging that this is a difficult request by the military; that this is difficult for the Commission members to accept; and that ultimately, this is a lands bill so the Commission should go to their Legislators.

Secretary Wasley stated that regarding the land's bills, the Department has spoken to Congressman Amodei who has been supportive of the one for one model, but there are problems with the location of minerals and grazing allotments, among other things. He thanked Mr. Rule for the presentation and asked that he explain what remains of the process and the associated timeline from where it stands to some pending decision.

Mr. Rule responded and provided information regarding the proposed timeline of this project.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired as to the deadline for final comment and if the Department staff has looked at the resources versus the impacted areas.

Mr. Rule stated that the public comment period for the draft EIS was November 2018 through February 2019. The Navy is going to release a version of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to the partnering agencies over the next several months and obtain their final edits and comments.

Secretary Wasley informed the Commission that the Department was engaged on the wildlife impacts from the beginning of this project. Under Governor Sandoval, there was an interagency cooperative effort with the Department, Division of Minerals and Department of Agriculture, and they compiled information from all affected agencies so there are already a number of things in

the public record. He asked Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne to provide some context on what the Department has reviewed regarding the impacted areas.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne stated that the Department could give an update to their last comments to the EIS as they should be open per the confidentiality clause; they could speak more to the timelines and the opportunities of the input into the process; and could provide an overview to the Commission which would be helpful in portraying the direction they can go within the final steps of this process.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 12:55 p.m.

19. Committee Reports

- A. Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – Informational  
The Commission will hear a report on the committee's recent meeting.

Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck of the Finance Committee presented a report regarding the Finance Committee meeting that was held May 15, 2019 at the Nevada Department of Wildlife. He read over the minutes of the meeting. There is a need for the CABMW members across the state to be educated on the resources the CABMW have available regarding their expectations. He requested that their Committee meet again for a workshop during the lunch period at an upcoming Commission meeting, either in Reno or Las Vegas, that will be broadcasted to other locations which would allow people in the outlying areas to attend.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired if the Commission should get the handbook to all CABMW members, and how do the CABMW members get educated.

Mr. Yanick stated that the handbook is available online; it is just hard to get local people to commit to serve on the local CABMW's. He explained the process of getting appointed and stated that one would assume that the prior CABMW members would train the new members on their duties, but that is not the reality. He stated that the CABMW members periodically need to be reminded of their duties; and presented information in support of some of the necessary duties.

No public comment.

- B.\* Fiscal Year 2020 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – For Possible Action

The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 to be added to the reported cash balance on hand for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife budgets for fiscal year 2020. Each County Estimate: Carson City \$4,250; Clark \$1,776; Douglas \$4,382; Humboldt \$2,290; Lander \$1,124; Lincoln \$4,589; Lyon \$1,457; Mineral \$4,946; Nye \$2,000; Pershing \$3,013; Washoe \$2,049; White Pine \$4,650.

\*The Finance Committee would like to recommend that a workshop be held during the lunch recess at the August 2019 meeting in Ely, Nevada to review the preparation of the County Advisory Board Budget.

Mr. Yanick stated that he had nothing further to add.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REQUESTS AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

20. License Appeal – Kyle Thissell – For Possible Action  
Mr. Thissell is appealing the denial of his 2019 subguide license renewal.

Chairman Johnston inquired if Kyle Thissell was present. Seeing that he was not, Chairman Johnston called the appeal hearing to order pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code, NAC 501.185, entering the Request for Hearing and Notice of Hearing into the record (see Exhibit File). Per Mr. Thissell's Appeal form dated April 2, 2018, it states that Mr. Thissell is appealing the denial of the renewal of his 2019 subguide license; Chairman Johnston read the stated reasons for the appeal into the record.

Senior DAG Stockton stated that the Chairman needs to make an offer of proof that there are members of the Department that could authenticate those documents.

Chairman Johnston stated that the appellant is not present and therefore has not carried his burden proof, especially since his appeal form says the violations against him are misunderstandings and he wanted to clarify the record. Chairman Johnston stated that there is no evidence before the Commission that would suggest that the Department committed any type of error and there is no need to go further with the appeal hearing.

Senior DAG Stockton stated that under NAC 501.179, the failure to appear is just cause to dismiss the appeal.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE DISMISSAL OF THE APPEAL BY MR. THISSELL PURSUANT TO NAC 501.179, AS THE APPELLANT HAS FAILED TO APPEAR TO PRESENT EVIDENCE. CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER EAST WAS ABSENT.**

21. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Tony Wasley and Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action  
The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 9 and 10, 2019, in Ely. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments as necessary at this meeting.

Chairman Johnston requested that there be a Landowner Compensation Tag Committee meeting on Thursday evening before the next Commission meeting. The Commission meeting should start at 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. on Friday morning to give the Commission enough time for the fieldtrip. He further suggested the following agenda items for the August Commission meeting: a discussion regarding the shed antler regulation; a discussion about Assembly Bill (A.B.) 404; the management guidelines and quota settings for deer; and a report from the Department regarding the technology of smart scopes. He suggested the following agenda items for the September Commission meeting: a CABMW Budget workshop luncheon; an update to the Fallon Test and Training Complex and a discussion regarding the ewe hunts.

Vice Chairman Valentine suggested that the Department give the Commission a presentation on how the tag system works at either the August or September Commission meeting.

Secretary Wasley offered that through the CABMW workshop there would be a presentation and interactive discussion on the deer quota derivation process which would include how the deer are surveyed and inventoried; the modeling of ratios and gender of the deer; the actual quota and derivation process and how those are broken up by demand/success; and the actual draw process and how random numbers are assigned.

Secretary Wasley provided updates for the next Commission meeting which include: the meeting will not be video streamed or teleconferenced since there are challenges in rural locations; Conservation Partner Spotlight; tenure recognition for the Department employees in the eastern region; election of Chairman and Vice Chairman; WAFWA Annual Conference Report by Commissioner McNinch and Secretary Wasley; and the Public Works Contracts (338) Report. He also stated that there is a desire to understand more about the Fallon Naval Range and Testing complex timeline and comments that have already been submitted by the Department; a desire to hear more about the shed antler regulation; and the Department will have an informational to provide the draft language regarding A.B. 404 for the Commission to define the language for extenuating circumstances. He stated that former Commissioners Drew and McBeath have invited the Commission to the Cave Valley Ranch for a field trip on Friday afternoon, and they will host a dinner that evening. There has been a significant amount of habitat work done on the ranch with Heritage funds in cooperation with the Department.

## 22. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. 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.

Rob Jacobson, representing Lyon CABMW, thanked Game Warden Brian Eller for doing a great job. The Lyon CABMW has different sessions at their school where they utilize the Hunter Education trailer which has been a great help to them.

Gil Yanuck, representing Friends of Nevada Wildlife, thanked the Department for their help, support and donations.

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, thanked the Commission for coming to Hawthorne, Nevada.

Rob Mathias, representing the Mineral County Sportsmen's Club, thanked the Commission and the Department for coming to Hawthorne and including the club in the meeting.

Steve Marquez, representing White Pine CABMW, stated that the field trip and barbeque at Cave Valley Ranch will include the Commission members, all CABMW members, the public and all Department staff.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

\*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at ndow.org. Support material for this meeting may be requested from Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo at (775) 688-1599; supporting material for this meeting is available for the public at the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste 120, Reno, NV, 89511. In

June 21 and 22, 2019 Draft Minutes  
El Capitan Lodge and Casino, "On Site Trophy Room"

accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at NDOW.org and at the following Department of Wildlife offices: 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV, 89512; 380 W. "B" Street, Fallon, NV, 89406; 815 E. Fourth Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center, Elko, NV, 89801; 1218 N. Alpha Street, Ely, NV 89301; 744 S. Racetrack Road, Henderson, NV 89015; and 4747 W. Vegas Dr., Las Vegas, NV, 89108.

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