

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting DRAFT Minutes
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Meeting Location:

Boys & Girls Club of Winnemucca
1973 Whitworth Way
Winnemucca, NV 89445

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

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at wildlifecommission@ndow.org or make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

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

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioner ("Commission") with the complete electronic of 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 meeting via Zoom:

Chairwoman Tiffany East	Vice Chair Tom Barnes
Commissioner Jon AlMBERG	Commissioner Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs	Commissioner David McNinch
Commissioner Ron Pierini	Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner Shane Rogers	

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett	Deputy Attorney General Peter Handy
Secretary Tony Wasley	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Bonnie Long
Management Analyst Kailey Taylor	Executive Assistant Missy Stanford
Management Analyst Megan Manfredi	Staff Game Warden Brian Bowles
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne	Game Division Administrator Mike Scott
Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa	Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Freese	Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz	
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey	

Phillip Street, UNR Doctoral Candidate, Commission Guest Speaker

Public in Attendance:

Paul Dixon, Washoe CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Gil Yanuck, self
Bobbie McCollum, self
Rex Flowers, self
Jeremy Nicholson, self
Josh Smith, self
Jana Hoefeditz, self
Jarrett Clark, Animal Wellness Action

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Jim Rackley, self
Fred Voltz, self
Mel Belding, self
Caron Tayloe, self
Fauna Tomlinson, self
Don Molde, self
Connie Howard, Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter

Friday, June 25, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

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

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Commissioner Kiel led the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford called the roll of the Commissioners. Chairwoman East noted that Commissioner Rogers would be late. Chairwoman East asked the CABMW members to announce their attendance.

Chairwoman East read a letter from the Washoe County CABMW into the record.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

Commissioner Almberg joined the meeting.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH THE NOTED REMOVAL OF AGENDA ITEM #6. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER ROGERS ABSENT.

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

Commission minutes may be approved from the April 16, 2021, and May 7 and 8, 2021 meetings.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL AND MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY CHAIRWOMAN EAST. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER ROGERS ABSENT.

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

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

Commissioner McNinch stated that he has kept in contact with Chairwoman East and Secretary Wasley regarding calls he has received. He has been inundated with calls from all different interests; from calling contests, lions, the lion plan, updating plans we have in place and everything wildlife. Not all the calls are controversial. He received a call from Beverly Harry, her husband was the Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, he has recently passed. Beverly is working with a group called the Progressive Leadership Alliance that are located in Reno. Beverly's position with the group is to advocate for indigenous people's interests. She wanted to express a desire to help indigenous people connect more with wildlife, wildlife interests in the state and things that are going on and what can be done to help. He then shared his appreciation for Commissioner Hubbs as it was her last meeting, and he was not going to be in attendance during the Saturday portion of the meeting.

Secretary Wasley presented Commissioner Hubbs with a recognition/appreciation plaque for her service on the Commission.

Commissioners shared their appreciation for Commissioner Hubbs and her service on the Commission.

Commissioner Hubbs discussed the anticipation of who will fill her position on the Commission.

Secretary Wasley noted that the Department was not aware of who may be filling Commissioner Hubbs' Commissioner seat.

Chairwoman East thanked the Commissioners, the CABMWs, the public and the Department for working through everything as best as they can during the pandemic.

Secretary Wasley continued, acknowledging the recent Department retirements; Jon Sjoberg – 41 years, Rodney Johnston, Chris Hampson - 33 years, John Elliott - 32 years. He mentioned that Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Burkett and Deputy Director Robb are at a court hearing. He addressed the Washoe CABMW letter and clarified issues identified in the letter that was read into the record by Chairwoman East.

- 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 the Clark CABMW, suggested adding a hyperlink to the page of the Committee having a meeting on the Commission agenda. He continued with stating that there is one urban pond in Las Vegas, the Wetlands Pond. He stated that it does not have fishing, asked why the Department does not have fishing at Wetlands Park. He asked if it was possible to get an answer prior to the next CABMW meeting, so he can have those discussions.

Joe Crim representing the Pershing CABMW, indicated that his CABMW does not have a secretary, so the burden is put on the CABMW members to get meeting minutes done and to the Commission, which is why the CABMW has their meeting a week before the Commission meeting. He continued with CABMW members have constraints and conflicting schedules so they plan that meeting when they can. The CABMW would like to see the support material bunched into one place instead of having to dig for it. We want to make sure the public have that advantage. Speaking for himself; Rye Patch, is going to be at a minimum a pool, this year. There is 3,000 feet of water in Rye Patch, there is a lot of fish in Rye Patch at this point and instead of those fish dying, asked if there was a possibility to remove limit restrictions or transport the fish elsewhere to prevent them from dying. He noted that a few years ago Pershing County got a black eye because of the number of dead fish and would like to not see that happen again.

Gene Green representing Carson CABMW, provided comment stating that his CABMW was in support of today's agenda, and he did not submit an action report because he knew he was coming to the meeting. He stated that his CABMW is lucky to have a secretary who handles everything for the CABMW. He stated that since all CABMWs do not have the luxury of having a secretary that the Commission needs to make it easier for CABMWs to receive support material for the meeting.

6. Humboldt County Elk Sub-plan COT Member Approval – Game Division Elk Staff Biologist Cody McKee – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve replacement members to fill vacancies on the Humboldt County Elk Sub-Plan Coordination and Oversight Team. Replacement members have been recommended by the appropriate organizations represented by the vacant positions to be approved by the Nevada Wildlife Commission as per language in the Humboldt County Elk Plan.

REMOVED FROM THE AGENDA AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING.

7. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational

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

Item moved to the end of the Friday portion of the meeting. The presentation will be on the Urban Fishing Pond Program which correlates with the Commission field trip.

8. Reports – Informational

A. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley and Division Administrators

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

Commissioner Rogers joined the meeting at 10:05

DIRECTORS OFFICE

The Director's Office has been busy planning for and meeting with Nevada's Congressional delegates to discuss the impact that the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) could bring to Nevada. This Act was recently re-introduced as HR 2773.

At the May Commission Meeting, some of the County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMWs) asked about the status of the Shed Antler Regulation (CGR 489) and the Landowner Compensation Tag Regulation (CGR 488). Both regulations were initially submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) in September 2019. The Department has not received either regulation back and has submitted an inquiry to LCB.

GAME DIVISION

Draft Wolf Plan Review: Game Division Staff have written a draft response plan for Gray Wolves that enter Nevada. The plan describes the recorded history of wolves in Nevada including historic range and occurrence, biogeography, and historic availability of prey species. The plan also outlines legal and biological status, potential monitoring tools, and management direction. The final purpose of the plan will be to provide a list of protocols to follow in the event of wolf observations, livestock or human attacks, and wolf predation on wildlife.

Harvest Objectives Update: Game Division Staff is currently working on an update to the internal harvest objectives, formerly called Management Objectives and Guidance for Hunting Seasons in Nevada. Additional seasons and weapon classes combined with changes to big game populations have made it necessary to complete the update. Upon completion of the Harvest Objectives Update, the intention is to review the Demand-Success Formula and provide suggestions for improvement.

Mule Deer Enhancement Program: Most of the MDEP subcommittees have completed their initial meetings in which Game Biologists provided presentations about the current status of their respective mule deer populations, habitat conditions, and challenges. Each subcommittee team leader has received the Limiting Factor Ranking Form, the Needs Assessment, and the Habitat and Non-Habitat Project Proposals that will be submitted to the Oversight Committee. Each subcommittee is encouraged to hold field trips to formally discuss limiting factors, followed by completion of the forms provided. Each team is being asked to submit the project proposal forms to the Oversight Committee before August 1st.

Bighorn Sheep Plan Management Revision: Plans are coming together to begin the revision of the October 2001 Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. Some of the original members of the team that completed the plan will be asked to participate in the revision. Many Department representatives have since retired and will be replaced by the current incumbents of those positions. The revision team will begin around August 1st and be tasked with completing the revision before February 1st, 2022.

Reno and Surrounding Areas Goose Capture: A total of 1,051 Canada geese has been captured from various ponds, parks, and golf courses around Reno. Many of these birds have been relocated to Carson Lake, Kirch, and Overton Wildlife Management Areas, as well as Rye Patch and Wildhorse Reservoirs. This project has been completed in cooperation with Wildlife Services for many years for the purpose of removing urban geese to address complaints and to reduce the number of geese around Reno-Tahoe International Airport. This year's total is currently the 2nd highest total in the history of capturing geese in the Truckee Meadows, which began more than 35 years ago.

HABITAT DIVISION

Technical Review Coordination: NDOW and BLM recently held a coordination meeting to discuss wildfire, drought, and wild horse/burros. This meeting was the first in a series of 14 different sessions to cover priority topics including data sharing, wilderness activities, greater sage-grouse, water developments, oil & gas and geothermal development, livestock grazing, mitigation, wildlife surveys, and Resource Management Plan amendments.

Great Basin Sentinel Landscapes Application: A recent submittal of a Great Basin Sentinel Landscapes Partnership pre-application was accepted with an invitation to submit a full application by August 31, 2021. The application will be finalized in collaboration with BLM-NV, USFS-Humboldt Toiyabe NF, NRCS-NV, Naval Air Station Fallon, The Nature Conservancy, Nevada Land Trust, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the State of Nevada CDs Program. If the Great Basin is selected as a Sentinel Landscape, it will elevate the status of future conservation project applications and provide funding for a dedicated facilitator position.

Nevada Shared Stewardship: NDOW will be helping facilitate the first regional planning group meetings for the Shared Stewardship efforts across Nevada. The two priority areas currently identified include the Spring Creek/Ruby Mountains area in northeastern Nevada, and the Spring Mountains in southern Nevada.

Water Development: The northern water development crew is in the midst of its annual volunteer build season and have completed three big game projects to date: a new build in the Kamma Mountains and two rebuilds in the Wassuk Mountains. Two additional builds are scheduled between now and mid-July, including a new big game unit for California bighorn sheep in the Soldier Meadows area and one in Butte

Valley south of Elko. Additionally, the southern crew completed a new big game build in the San Antonio Mountains for Desert bighorn sheep and has several rebuild projects scheduled for this year.

Despite a few southern Nevada mountain ranges receiving some much-needed precipitation during late winter/early spring, the ongoing drought conditions remain severe and emergency water hauls are again underway. Crews finished up the first round of water hauls on June 18th and are already planning for additional emergency water hauls in the mountain ranges north of Las Vegas for late June and early July. Many big game guzzlers in Lincoln County are already at or below 25 percent capacity, nearly guaranteeing that this summer will be another busy one for emergency water hauls in southern Nevada. Summer monsoon precipitation will be necessary to recharge units and avoid substantial emergency water hauls through the summer months.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Team: The Sagebrush Ecosystem Team is working with credit and debit project proponents to collect field data for the 2021 season. There are two new credit projects and 10 new debit projects collecting data this year or running a GIS desktop analysis to calculate project credits or debits. The next Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) meeting is scheduled for July 22-23, which will include a field tour in central Nevada at a credit and debit project site, followed by the SEC meeting in Eureka on July 23.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs): Many WMAs across the western portion of the state will be operating under extremely low water conditions this year due to drought conditions. Some areas like the Fernley, Alkali Lake and Humboldt WMA's will likely be dry going into the fall hunting season with Mason Valley WMA expecting to be holding water in 30 percent of its ponds. Truckee Carson Irrigation District (TCID) Board of Directors has already reduced water allocations to 70 percent this year for the Carson Lake Wetlands with water deliveries expected to end in August once Lahontan Reservoir reaches minimum pool. TCID may further reduce allocations next month making the decision difficult to take water deliveries this season given the history of botulism outbreaks at those wetlands.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Events: Free Fishing Day will happen on June 12.

Outreach and Education efforts: May 15th through September 15th NDOW along with partner organizations including the University of Nevada – Reno Natural History Museum, Nevada Bugs and Butterflies, and Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation are hosting a summer long community science project called the 'Summer Nevada Nature Blitz'. Using the public data collection app, iNaturalist, anyone in Nevada, or just observing in Nevada, can participate. The data can be used by scientists to learn more about the flora and fauna in Nevada. This campaign will also overlap with the #WILD30 challenge happening for all of June. With June being 'Great Outdoors Month', we are challenging people to get outside every single day for the month of June and submit an observation to the iNaturalist project. Currently there are over 2,000 observations and 80 observers in the project.

Wildlife Educators are preparing for a free virtual summer camp program, Nevada Wild Discovery Box, for students aged 8-12. The program will run through July with each week covering a different wildlife topic. Kits with everything the students need to participate will be mailed out, and students will be able to interact with our educators and instructors live virtually as well as complete the activities outside on their own time.

Conservation Education staff hosted a virtual Outdoor Education Instructor Academy with more than 100 attendees. The academy agenda was organized as a refresher and cross training of new instructors. The importance of volunteers in NDOW programs is still a huge priority for the Department.

Media Highlight: Public Information Officers contributed to numerous interagency press releases and conducted multiple interviews with reporters on various topics, like urban wildlife, outdoor recreation, and Department accomplishments. Conservation Education's media monitoring service, Critical Mention, reported a TV audience of more than 1,079,000 and an audience of more than 90 million for print and online news stories featuring the Department in the last two months alone. These numbers include a positive story about the Department's recent water haul project in Southern Nevada to provide bighorn sheep with much needed water during the drought. The story was aired on almost one-hundred stations around the country (as far as states that do not know how to pronounce Nevada!). It reached a TV audience of almost 667,000 and reached more than 1,308,000 people through print news.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Mountain Beaver Surveys: Wildlife Diversity biologists are conducting surveys for Mountain beavers this year in the Carson Range, the only area of Nevada they are known from. The name "Mountain beaver" is a misnomer as these mammals are not related to true beavers but are a separate genetic lineage. There is only one species of mountain beavers in North America, but genetic analysis from several years ago showed that mountain beavers in Nevada are a separate subspecies. This survey will revisit sites from previous efforts, including sites where mountain beavers were not found, as well as new sites with suitable habitat. So far, of the six sites surveyed in 2011 along Thomas Creek, 5 sites are still active, and 1 site remains unoccupied. 10 sites will be surveyed along Tunnel Creek Flume and 12 sites will be surveyed near Mt. Rose in the next month.

California Spotted Owls: NDOW has been intensively surveying for spotted owls at Lake Tahoe since early May. Several hundred acres have been surveyed so far. No new spotted owl territories have been found. One existing spotted owl pair has been observed again this year, but they appear to be nesting in a new location. We will continue surveying the Carson Range for new territories through mid-August and will determine nesting status and habitat-use for each nesting pair that is found.

Pine Marten in the Tahoe Basin: Cameras were recently retrieved from deep in the Lake Tahoe backcountry this spring. A marten was photographed at high elevations between Marlette Lake and Hobart Reservoir for the first time since 2008, despite repeated surveys in the area. This observation is encouraging as it could be evidence that a resident population of marten still exists in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park or that at least dispersal corridors into this remote area still exist.

Northern Goshawk: The Elko area diversity biologist is continuing a multi-year effort to monitor historic northern goshawk territories for occupancy and productivity. In the last month, 11 territories have been surveyed from the ground, and two of those found active with adults tending to young nestlings. One of these territories has a 2020 transmitted adult female present and the other will be targeted for trapping and transmitter deployment later in June.

Small Mammal Trapping: NDOW staff completed four nights (May 10-14th) of small mammal surveys at three sites within the Lockes Ponds Unit of the Railroad Valley WMA. Out of 450 trap nights a total of 41 captures occurred with an overall trap success rate of 9.1 percent. Species captured included Ord's kangaroo rat, southern grasshopper mouse, and deer mouse. Our targeted species, the pale kangaroo mouse, was not captured. Two sites consisted of previously disturbed areas dating back more than 50 years ago and are now naturally recovered sand dune like habitats. The third site is an undisturbed natural sand dune complex. Preliminary analysis suggests there was little to no difference in trap success or species composition between these sites.

Mine Claim Removal Project: Four NDOW staff completed three days of mining claim marker removal at the historic Gold King Mining District in the southern Shoshone Range (May 24-26th). Approximately 325 markers were removed from approximately 3,700 acres of pinyon-juniper and sagebrush habitats.

Spring Mountain Willow Creek Fence Repair: Diversity staff are working with Clark County and US Forest Service to replace an enclosure around Willow Creek riparian area in the Spring Mountains that has become damaged by feral horses and illegal OHV use. The area was previously fenced in 2006 with a post and cable fence, but it has since fallen into disrepair. The fence will be replaced with a new design that is wildlife friendly as the area provides habitat for a variety of species of conservation concern.

Secretive Marshbirds: Annual surveys for secretive marshbirds, including the endangered Yuma Ridgway's Rail (YRRA), were completed between March and May 2021. Three rounds of survey were conducted at three different survey sites, Overton and Key Pittman WMAs, and the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge. Overall, marsh bird detections for all focal species, black rail, sora, Virginia rail, least bittern, and YRRA, were down slightly compared to previous years. No black rails were detected at any of the sites and Ridgway's rails were only found at Overton WMA, where they were found on all three surveys. Historically, this species was thought to be sedentary, but recent research (2016-present) across the range of the species by University of Idaho has shown that while some individuals are indeed sedentary, some are partial migrants, and some undertake long-distance migrations to wintering grounds near Baja, Mexico. In 2020, two individuals trapped and transmittered at Overton WMA attempted a fall migration, and one made it as far as just north of the Mexico border before presumably perishing. Additional transmitter deployments at Overton WMA are planned for July 2021.

FISHERIES

Fisheries staff and the division said goodbye to Jon Sjoberg on Monday, June 14th after Jon spent an amazing 41 years with NDOW in the fisheries division and decided to retire and spend some much-needed quality time with his beautiful wife Jeri. Jon had an uncanny wit and brought to the table a wealth of knowledge that we in the fisheries division will certainly miss and never be able to replace. We wish Jon a very happy retirement and again thank him for his many years of dedicated service to NDOW.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program: NDOW's AIS Program Watercraft Inspection Stations are now fully operational for the 2021 boating season. Seasonal stations have opened at South Fork Reservoir in Elko County with 272 inspections so far this year, Rye Patch with 63 inspections, Lahontan Reservoir with 399 inspections and 2 decontaminations and Topaz Lake with 162 inspections and at Cottonwood Cove, Big Bend, Alamo, and Laughlin in southern Nevada completing 1,610 inspections and 50 total decontaminations. Stations at Lake Mead and Alamo operate year-around.

Water Conditions: Unfortunately, water conditions have not improved this spring and has/will account for some extremely low reservoir storage throughout most of the State of Nevada. Eastern Nevada still looks mildly better than the Western and Southern regions, but again rapidly dropping stream flows especially in the Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers this year will impact summer trout stocking and reservoir storage, especially at Lahontan Reservoir affecting access for anglers and boaters.

Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe: Conditions at Marlette Lake proved to be marginal at best this year with exceptionally low water lake levels. Fish were scarce coming into the trap site and net captures were almost non-existent with a total 50,000 eggs taken this year and a small amount of cuttbow eggs taken for the year. Disease testing with the USFWS were conducted on the first spawn and samples were taken back to the lab for analysis. The spawning station will be shut down early due to a lack of fish as low water conditions and other factors may be negatively affecting the number of fish that are showing up. As this is a critical source of trout eggs to support NDOW's statewide fish production program, other sources primarily Ennis National Fish Hatchery, will be providing NDOW with the remainder of eggs required for next year's yearly allotments. NDOW staff did successfully spawn wild Tahoe-strain rainbow trout at Third Creek in Incline Village beginning in late May with over 50,000 eggs taken in that effort.

The Marlette Lake Broodstock Facilities/ Passage project has been granted to the lowest bidder and the contract expected to be awarded to Granite Construction where the replacement of the old degraded

corrugated culvert pipe at the confluence of Trelease Creek will be replaced with a bottomless archway that allows for better fish passage upstream to the Marlette Lake spawning facility.

Eastern Region Fisheries: Fisheries staff in Elko said goodbye to one of our longstanding biologists/supervisors John Elliot after an amazing 32-year career with the NDOW. John will truly be missed but Jeff Peterson has stepped up and has taken on the role of acting supervising biologist for the Eastern Region. With the retirements of both Jon Sjoberg and John Elliot, we have lost over 73 years of historical fisheries knowledge and experience. Thank you, John Elliot, for the dedicated years you put in with NDOW and hope you have an amazing retirement!
AIS sampling was accomplished in May with another round of sampling next week.

Nighttime electroshocking occurred at Wilson Reservoir showing healthy largemouth bass, rainbow trout and bluegill.

Amphibian surveys also continue in Elko County, gathering useful data in the overall determination of CSF distribution.

Southern Region Fisheries: Lake Mead elevations have hit an all-time low of 1,070 feet on June 14th creating havoc for most if not all, boat launches impacting both boaters and anglers alike. Most launches on the lake are still usable due to the relentless work of the NPS adding pipe flooring to extend the boat ramps. Boulder Harbor has been temporarily closed because the channel leading out of the harbor is currently at approx. 2 feet deep. Lake elevations are forecasted to continue to drop through December 2021 before it is forecasted to rise again.
All urban ponds were stocked the day before free fishing day with channel catfish and approximately 2,000 bluegill were also stocked in Boulder City for ease of angler opportunities for young and new anglers.

The Lake Mead hatchery staff tried three new experimental rearing systems for larval razorback sucker rearing with all three having high success. The hatchery currently has approximately 30,000 larval razorback suckers of the 2021 spawning season on station.

Southern Region staff completed a large tagging effort for endangered White River Spinedace at Kirch WMA last week as part of a cooperative project with USGS and FWS. This is a multi-year tracking study aimed at better understanding life history strategies, movement patterns, habitat use, spawning patterns, and survival rates within the population. Desert Sucker were also tagged, and fin ray samples were taken, which is an effective non-lethal strategy to age fish. While Desert Suckers are not endangered or threatened under the ESA, understanding their life history and population dynamics is critical for management and keeping them off from future listing under the ESA.

Western Region Fisheries: Quagga sampling took place for both Topaz and Washoe Lakes, both coming back with negative test results. Lahontan has typically been quagga tested by BOR but due to continuing Covid restrictions, they reached out to NDOW for help in testing this year. Results for Lahontan have not come back as of this writing.

Our LCT WR biologist is coordinating with Idaho Fish and Game research personnel to conduct a YY Brook Trout Research Project in Abel and Stonehouse Creek watershed on the east side of the Santa Rosa's. LCT are native to the system but are now isolated to the upper reaches of Abel Creek due to displacement and competition with non-native Brook Trout. The concept of this approach is to stock "super male" hatchery fish which will have two Y-chromosomes which result in all offspring that are all males. Over time, the continued stocking of YY Brook Trout, in conjunction with manual removal efforts, could eradicate the wild Brook Trout populations.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

2021 Big Game Applications and Main Draw: The Data and Technology Services Licensing & Hunt staff wrapped up another astonishing Big Game Hunt Application and Main Draw. This year we set a new milestone by moving the draw date up by 5 days, as well as, releasing the results during Midnight Madness a full day earlier. This would not have been possible without the help from Game's Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee, Habitat's Wildlife Staff Specialist Matt Maples, DATS's Business Process Analyst Mitch Gritts, DATS Program Officer Julie Meadows and DATS Management Analyst Megan Manfredi, who all worked vigorously for weeks to streamline the process of auditing and validating the draw results. As well as, Kalkomey, who made sure everything was in place to pull off perfect draw.

To recap just a few of the statistics that made this year record setting. We had a 12 percent increase in the number of total applications taking in 393,897 as compared to the 349,109 we had in 2020. There were 85,056 customers that applied for the main draw this year which is an increase of five percent over last year and 15 percent over 2019. Additionally, the total number of applications that selected to be an alternate was up 122 percent over last year. We clearly believe this is due to the workflow improvement we put into the application system that helped educate clients on what it means to be an alternate. We also saw an increase in the number of average applications by a customer which went from 4.32 applications in 2019 to 4.63 applications this year.

The DATS staff with the help of staff from staff from ConEd, Game, and Fisheries worked a combined 608 hours of overtime in just 7 weeks to make this all happen. We are also thrilled to report that we saw a 44 percent decrease in the total number of calls to the call center this year. We could not have done this astonishing growth without the dedication and hard work of the staff and the partnership we have formed with Kalkomey.

Second Draw: With the drastic increase in the number of main draw application being marked as alternates, we have a decrease of 68 percent in the number of tags going into the second draw. There are a total 253 tags available in the second draw this month including three cow elk tags. In 2020, we had 603 tags in the second draw. Applications for the second draw closed on June 14th, with Bonus Point only applications closing on June 21st. We are setting another significant milestone an moving the second draw date up by 10 days to Monday, June 28th and will release draw results as soon as the NDOW teams has audited and verified the results.

First Come First Serve: After several months gathering the business use cases and requirement for First Come First Server and the Kalkomey team rigorously developing to those requirements they have released the functionality to NDOW last week to conduct user acceptance testing. We plan on spending 6 weeks testing and validating the functionality to ensure it works to our requirements, as well as, the integrity of all possible fairness to all clients.

Geographic Information System: The Geographic Information System staff completed a new Bi-Weekly Tracking and Crime mapping application for the Law Enforcement Division. They have begun work on a new public map application we are calling HuntNV that will be similar to our FishNV app.

Information Technology: Finally, the Information Technology have acquired new equipment to build out the conference room capabilities in our Las Vegas, which will accommodate public participation with video conferencing during Commission Meeting from that location. The installation should be completed prior to the September commission meeting. After years of perseverance and technical limitations, they have gotten the Ely office's phone system upgraded. New fiber connectivity to that office is expected to be completed in July.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law Enforcement Headquarters: Boating Education Coordinator Aaron Meier wrote and disseminated a press release for Lake Mead Safe Boating Media Event on Thursday, May 27 and assisted with this event. Aaron Meier also conducted safe boating interviews for both MyNews4 (KRNV) and KKO radio, wrote and distributed a press release on a drowning at Lake Mead and is working on new lifejacket video Public Service Announcement (PSA) for an upcoming safe boating tv/digital campaign.

Wildlife Investigations: The LE Investigations Unit assisted both a Mississippi and Montana investigator concerning residency cases, an illegal guiding situation with USFW and Pennsylvania, and investigated two dead bull elk and one dead mountain lion.

A Southern Region game warden arrested a suspect for felony poaching of a mule deer in Alamo and an Eastern Region game warden investigated a report of a dead bull found by a shed hunter.

Two Eastern Region game wardens responded to a report of an antelope with a leghold trap on its foot at Ruby Marsh. They were able to locate, tranquilize and remove the trap successfully.

A Western Region game warden investigated an illegally killed bear.

Game wardens throughout the state dealt with numerous urban wildlife issues including assisting with two bear issues in Reno, investigating a family that was reported to have coyote pups, possession of an alligator, a Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake from the kitchen of a residence in Henderson, a coyote issue in Boulder City, and a horse likely killed by a mountain lion. Wildlife Services ended up removing a large tom mountain lion. Two mountain lion sightings were investigated in the Las Vegas area.

Boating Safety Patrol: Boating season is off to a brisk start with numerous boating injury accidents, fatalities, rescues, six OUI/DUI arrests, and four warrant arrests.

Game wardens responded to a vessel in distress and facilitated getting 19 subjects to Callville Bay safely. Six individuals who were swimming when the vessel drifted off at Lake Mead.

In Laughlin game wardens were first on scene to a Personal Watercraft (PWC) incident with injury and made numerous rescues on the Colorado River. Nevada game wardens also are investigating a fatal boating accident on the river.

Game wardens on Lake Mead conducted multiple rescues over the weekend due to high winds.

Two game wardens participated in the media day at Lake Mead with local news outlets. Wardens will give media outlets rides out on the lake in their patrol boats while being interviewed during the media event.

All of Eastern Region game wardens patrolled for Memorial Day Weekend. Boating Activity was mild, but the weekend patrols resulted in several citations and a warrant arrest. A game warden was patrolling Willow Creek Pond when he observed a non-motorized vessel capsizing and sinking. Everyone had life jackets and made it to shore safely. The boat sank completely.

Western Region game wardens rescued one PWC and operator from a swamped vessel, rescued three juveniles that drifted into the lake far from their camp on a pool toy, investigated a boat accident with injury that completely severed the Achilles Tendon, broke the ankle, broke the foot, and caused a skin laceration from rope tension, investigated a boat accident and an agency assist with State Parks on numerous human/vessel rescues on Lahontan.

Several game wardens worked the Katherine's Landing OUI checkpoint run by Arizona Game & Fish (AZGF).

Public Safety: Southern Region Game Warden Wes Coons completed his final phase of field training and is now a solo officer in the Overton, NV area.

Eastern Region game wardens assisted authorities in a tragic drowning accident at South Fork Reservoir. Details are still pending.

B.* Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

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

Deputy Attorney General Peter Handy read the Litigation Report. *A copy of the Litigation report can be found on the NDOW website.*

C.* Legislative Update Report – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East

A report will be provided on the final Legislative Committee Meeting and Legislative session update.

Chairwoman East gave the final update of the Legislative Committee. Senate Bill (SB) 406, allows for emergency exceptions and expenditures of the Wildlife Trust Fund of no more than \$250k per event, it provides an electronic tag in certain circumstances, and it changes the residency requirements for seniors, was passed as amended. Assembly Bill (AB) 89 provided the Commission the ability to establish regulation for transferring a tag to a qualified organization, was passed. SB125 allows the Commission to adopt regulations allowing for possession of golden eagles for rehabilitation purposes, was passed. SB52, the dark sky designation bill, was passed, and we received a note of thanks for our support from Colin Robertson on behalf of the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation. AB211 requires NDOW to comment on proposed land developments was approved as submitted and the Commission will need to establish regulation allowing the Department to establish a fee that cannot be more than \$250 + \$5 per acre, was passed. AB2 is legislation allowing people to serve on more than one State Board or Commission, was passed. AB202 is legislation revising provisions related to the registration of a qualified organization to operate a charitable lottery or game, did pass. AB299 is the roadkill salvage bill, did not pass. SB78 was the bill to add a licensed guide and an elected official to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, did not pass. AB433 is the bill that authorizes the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council to establish a fee for a mitigation program in the state, did not pass. *A copy of the final Legislative Committee report can be found on the NDOW website.*

D. Recovering America's Wildlife Act – Sectary Wasley and Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark – Informational

An update will be provided and Recovering America's Wildlife Act, H.R. 2773, a bipartisan act that, if passed, would provide up to \$1.3 Billion in funding to fully conserve Species of Greatest Conservation need and fully implement state Wildlife Action Plans.

Secretary Wasley and Diversity Administrator Jen Newmark gave a presentation on Recovering America's Wildlife Act. *A copy of the Commission presentation can be found on the NDOW website.*

Break 11:30 – 11:45.

E. Effects of Wild Horse and Livestock Use on Greater Sage-Grouse in Northwestern Great Basin - Doctoral Candidate Phillip Street, University of Nevada, Reno – Informational

Phillip Street with the University of Nevada, Reno will provide a presentation on the results of research work conducted in northwestern Nevada and south-central Oregon on the effects of wild horse use, as well as cattle grazing, on Greater Sage-Grouse demography.

Doctoral candidate Phillip Street gave a presentation on the Greater Sage-Grouse in Northwestern Great Basin. A copy of the presentation can be found on the NDOW website.

Lunch Break 12:30 – 1:18pm.

9. Wildlife Heritage Committee – Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes - Informational

A. Wildlife Heritage Committee Report – Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – Informational

The Commission will hear a report on the Committee’s recent meeting.

Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes gave report on the Wildlife Heritage Committee’s recent meeting.

B. Heritage Project Extension Requests – Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve extension request from projects approved in previous fiscal years.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXTENSIONS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

C. Heritage Funding Reallocation – Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – 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.

No CABMW comment or public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE REALLOCATION OF HERITAGE PROJECT FUNDING AS FOLLOWS; \$22,900 FROM PROJECT 18-11 TO PROJECT 18-05, \$30,000 FROM PROJECT 19-07 TO PROJECT 19-10. \$30.31 FROM PROJECT 19-14 TO PROJECT 19-10. \$1,569.26 FROM PROJECT 21-01 TO PROJECT 21-07. \$26,000 FROM PROJECT 21-09 TO PROJECT 21-11. ANY UNSPENT MONEY REMAINING FROM PROJECT 21-07 TO PROJECT 21-11. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

D. Fiscal Year 2022 Heritage Project Proposals – Vice Chair and Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$1,268,276.61 for projects submitted for FY 2022 funding from the Committee are listed below and may be approved by the Commission.

- 2021-2022 Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Capture, Transplant, Test, Remove, Monitoring, and Research Programs (\$161,950)
- Wildlife Related Restoration and Seed Purchase (\$150,000)

- Wildlife Water Development – Emergency Water Haul (\$50,000)
- Izzenhood WMA Mule Deer Winter Habitat Restoration Project (\$71,850)
- Area 10 Mule Deer Migration Corridor Habitat Enhancement (\$75,000)
- Pole Canyon Conservation Easement (\$200,000)
- Nelson Creek Mule Deer Improvement (\$57,750)
- Smith Valley Habitat Restoration (\$75,000)
- Whistler Mountain Pinyon/Juniper Hand Thinning (\$40,000)
- Argenta Rim Mule Deer Enhancement Project (\$75,000)
- Optimizing management towards maximizing brood habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse (\$50,000)
- Mule Deer radio-collaring study in Northwest Nevada (\$324,099.24)
- Area 6 Elk Mortality Investigation (\$85,000)
- Moose Monitoring (\$20,000)
- Common Raven Monitoring (\$30,000)
- Investigating Potential Limiting Factors Impacting Mule Deer in Northwest Nevada (\$30,000)

Proposals Submitted by Others

- Milk Ranch Spring and Habitat Enhancement (\$90,000)
- Cave Valley Ranch Pinyon Juniper Removal (\$50,000)
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Guzzlers (\$41,000)
- Restoration, foraging ecology, and mating behavior in Greater Sage-Grouse (phase 2) (\$69,521)
- Quantifying the influence of feral horses on Greater Sage-Grouse populations in Nevada (\$5,900)

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne made note that the amount listed on the agenda should be \$1,355,649.24 rather than \$1,268,276.61. He also stated that amount for Mule Deer radio-collaring study in Northwest Nevada should be \$25,000 rather than \$324,099.24. He reviewed each of the projects. *A copy of the support material can be found on the NDOW website.*

No CABMW comment or public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FY 22 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED RECOGNIZING THAT PROJECT 22-03 IS BEING ROLLED INTO THE SURVEY AND MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING BIG GAME GUZZLERS PROJECT AND THAT INCLUDES AN ADDITIONAL \$97,321.76 FROM THE HERITAGE ACCOUNT TO FUND THE PROJECTS IN TOTAL AND THE AMOUNT FOR MULE DEER RADIO-COLLARING STUDY IN NORTHWEST NEVADA SHOULD BE \$25,000. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

10. Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck – For Possible Action

A. Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck

The Commission will hear a report on the Committee’s recent meeting.

Finance Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck presented a report on the recent Finance Committee Meeting.

B.* Fiscal Year 2022 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck

The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 to be added to the reported cash balance on hand for County Advisory Boards, as requested, to Manage Wildlife budgets for Fiscal Year 2022.

Finance Committee Chairman Gil Yanuck noted that the \$36,526 was the Governor's recommended budget but the Finance Committee determined that they would add \$13,579.98 to the cash balance on hand for the CABMWs.

No CABMW or public comment.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MOVED TO APPROVE FY2022 CABMW BUDGET REQUESTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,579.98. SCODED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.

Break 2pm – 2:10 pm.

11. Wildlife Contests – Commissioner McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission may discuss Wildlife Contests. The Commission may provide direction to the Department regarding Wildlife Contests for consideration by the Commission at a future meeting.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor took notes from the brainstorming discussion and public comments and will categorize them. A matrix will be available on the NDOW website and sent out once created.

Commissioner McNinch expressed his appreciation to the Commission and Department for keeping the wildlife contest discussions going. He expressed the importance to address difficult conversations. He stated that he continues to get calls asking how to get engaged. The initial engagement is usually on the real controversial and polarizing issues. I want to find a process to get information on the table to get better information. He stated he received criticism after the May Commission meeting because he was pushing to bring language to the table and seemed that he was trying to close the door on the conversation and that was not his intent. Says he fully believes that the Commission will see petitions, lawsuits, and bills at the legislature about these contests in the future. Stated that having everyone on polarizing sides is not beneficial, there has to be a way to work through this together, even if there is some disagreement at the end, maybe there is some respect for the process. He hopes to have the same kind of discussions that we had during the shed antler regulation discussions.

Secretary Wasley echoed some of the statements made by Chairwoman East and Commissioner McNinch. Stated that it is accurate in depicting these discussions as a proves and there is an uncertain end point, this is a complicated issue. Addressed the public comments comparing Nevada to other states; based on the conversations the Department has had with those stated, they each have different aspects they are choosing to regulator or not choosing to regulate; promotion, awards, etc. He stated that it is important to acknowledge that this is not a simple continuance of the same or a complete cessation of it, there are many nuances around the issue. He stated that the Department and the Commission have to look at what aspects would be appropriate to discuss in Nevada as a public lands state versus any other state that may not have as much public land. He offered the Department's assistance in compiling language from other states to look at what aspects other states choose to regulate and the means by which they are regulating those. He stated that looking at what happens on the front end in terms of promotion, what happens during the event, whether the event is on public or private land, what happens after the event in terms of the claims of salvaging of the furs or wanton waste and being able to bring forward the regulations that have been passed, addressed, or considered in other states will add richness to these conversations.

Commissioner McNinch said that the two things that he constantly hears in the calls he has received was that the Commission is taking away people's rights to do what they want and that these contests have

an economic impact. He said that the Commission has heard folks bring up predator and disease control, deer numbers, and about the tradition and the culture of going out as a family and participating in coyote contests; these are all things that have to be considered in these conversations.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that some of the comments that she has received have been regarding the wanton waste issue, and the visual image of the contests. She stated that there have been arguments of a biological perspective of these contests, but she has not seen data or science behind those arguments. She stated that the Commission should focus on the ecological role of the coyote for all of wildlife, in general.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that US Fish and Wildlife Services kills almost 20,000+ coyotes a year. He asked if there is really an impact from these contests and how they compare to the numbers of coyotes killed by US Fish and Wildlife. He said he strongly believes this is a social issue.

Vice Chair Barnes echoed Commissioner Caviglia about the contests being a social issue as people who are participating in these contests are not doing anything illegal. He stated he viewed the contests as people with common interests getting together to have a good time. He agreed that the images posted online do not look good. He expressed that it takes skill to call in a coyote so the portrayal of mass killings at these contests are unrealistic.

Commissioner McNinch indicated he had heard that some individuals are concerned that banning these contests would limit their ability to build hunting skills.

Chairwoman East stated that she conducted some informal focus groups and asked how people felt about these contests. She said that she heard from one person that they like the comradery of the events but did not like the killing of the coyote's portion of the event. She said she has major concerns with the law enforcement aspect; how is the commission going to enforce something like this? Is the Commission authorized to enforce these? Are these contests legal? There are many questions that the Commission will need to consider.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she would like to hear the Commission talk about hunting, seasons, and overlap and how that might impact wildlife. She believes that if these contests are potentially happening throughout the year the Commission has to consider how they may be a nuisance or disturbance both to communities and to other wildlife.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that coyotes are an unregulated species in Nevada that is something else to consider.

Chairwoman East commented that licensure may be something to consider.

Commissioner Pierini stated that he would like to hear more from the public on this issue. He stated he understands a rancher's perspective, the disease control aspect, the social aspect, and comradery aspect but does not understand why there is prize money involved. He stated he sees the importance in continuing these conversations.

Commissioner Almborg stated the importance of keep wildlife wild and that the contests help with keeping coyotes afraid of humans and out of urban settings.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, stated that the Carson CABMW has voted to continue wildlife contests. He stated that looking at the North American Values Report, there are two counties in Nevada that where the results are weighed, Washoe and Clark. The county that voted to ban these contests, Clark County, would be considered non-traditionalists. Elko and Lincoln Counties have submitted county

petitions to continue the wildlife contests because there are financial and other benefits to their counties. He agreed that this is a social issue and that there are people who truly have good intentions in these contests, but there are people who do dumb things as well. Stated that issues like these pull at the heartstrings of people; pulls at the heartstrings of folks that do not want to see any animal killed and it pulls at the heartstrings of the traditionalists who want to continue to do things for the various reasons that have been discussed. He agreed that the Commission should hear everyone out but should not build regulations around social issues, especially since those social issues will likely change in a few years. He stated that these should be ethical contests and those who are not should be punished though coyotes are not a protected species.

Gene Green representing Carson City CABMW, stated that the Carson CABMW has discussed this on more than one occasion and agree that there is a social issue specifically in the way that the words “killing”, and “contests” are being used. He stated that the only real winner of these contests was the promoter who take the money for the entry fees. He said that the pictures and videos depicted online may not even be taken in Nevada but are being used to validate the petitions to ban the contests. He stated that the Carson CABMW members feel like the contests should be left alone, coyotes are an unregulated species that are being killed legally.

Tom Cassinelli representing the Humboldt CABMW, stated that the Humboldt CABMW also opposes the banning of wildlife contests. He explained the horse issue in the 60’s, when the issue was regulated by the Government, it cost billions of dollars for what the public was already doing for free. He stated that we have to find a way of keeping predator and prey numbers equal.

Jana Hoefeditz private citizen stated she is a long-time Nevada resident that lives on 40 acres of land in Palomino Valley, North of Reno. She wanted to address the fact that the coyotes contests that have happened in Lemmon Valley for the last five years have been on BLM land, and it is illegal to have the contests on BLM land without a Special Recreation Permit (SRP). She says she has had to warn families and motor cross riders of contests happening in the area to ensure they stayed safe and out of the way of the participants of the wildlife contests. She says she has been threatened by participants who were not happy with her telling them they need a permit. She stated that these contests should not happen during pup season and not considered “food on the table”.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen, says that as a lifelong wildlife watcher and Nevada resident since childhood and she comes from a family of hunters though that generation has died out. She expressed the importance to respect and value wildlife and to honor traditions. She emphasized that the contests are “killing” contests; people call in the coyotes and kill them. She asked about her rights as a wildlife watcher. She stated that pet cats do not belong outside and that it is bad for wildlife.

Bobbie McCullum, private citizen, asked for evidence that the wildlife contests solve predator problems as she has not seen anything but has only heard statements of such. She addressed the comment that US Fish & Wildlife Services kill thousands of coyotes each year, she agreed that they did but emphasized that they do not collect money or disburse money. She stated that the contests can be seen as unregulated gambling because no one oversees them. She asked the economic benefit. She stated that because we have always done things this way, it does not make it right.

Fauna Tomlinson, private citizen, after completing the HunterEd course a couple weeks ago, I learned the importance of hunter safety as well as a positive public perception. This is not a positive public perception. Yes, it is a social issue, and it is giving the hunting community the hunting heritage a bad name, its something that we have been saying for a long time. I just do not see this issue going away. I would like the hunting heritage to continue to have a positive face. Enforcement. I reached out to all of the states that have banned the contests, and I found no enforcement issue whatsoever. Its hard to promote a killing contest without putting it out there publicly. If 30 people were going to be outlaws and

do this, its just not happening. I see that you care about public safety issues, I wanted to tell you on February 14th a warden was shot in California in the neck at a nighttime hunting wildlife contest. We were out on BLM on contests, and there were dog walkers, we told them there were contests going on and they immediately packed up their digs and left. It is about education, I paired up with NDOW and the Sierra Club and we did a sold-out webinar about coyotes coexisting with Jessica Wolff from NDOW. We are going around the state trying to educate people on how to keep their pets safe. If I open the front door and I throw a dollar bill out and I go out and the dollar bill is missing, whose fault is that.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, agreed with the statement that wildlife contests is unregulated gambling. He stated that it does not matter whether or not coyotes are an unprotected species, the issue is the vacuum created in particular geographical locations when a large number of animals is taken out. He continued that there is not enough focus on public safety as discharging a lethal weapon indiscriminately to shoot as many animals as possible can lead to human harm. He stated that protecting wildlife species is the Commission's responsibility as noted at the beginning of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 501 and the Commission is not doing their job if they are allowing the indiscriminate killing of any wildlife species.

Don Molde, private citizen, said he wanted to get the US FWS off the hook, he believes Department of Agriculture is the Department that kills thousands of coyotes rather than US FWS. He stated that he does not believe that enforcement is an issue. He explained that unnecessary, unwarranted killing of an animal should be considered destruction of public property; coyotes belong to the public, as noted in the public trust doctrine and the frivolous killing of coyotes is a crime. Says he finds it interesting that in this agency there can be destruction of public property, and no one pays the price for it.

Mel Belding, private citizen, it might surprise you all, I do not enter coyote calling contests at all. I have called coyotes, but I do not consider them contests. I do not begrudge anyone that wants to participate in the contests. I would like to talk about some years back, my mom was on the Granite Mountains in November of 1957, I was born in February 1958. I remember the years after 1080 and there were not any, it was tough to find a coyote, I have seen some changes in my life. I have friends that work for wildlife services and different counties throughout the state. A couple of years ago I was not seeing a lot of coyotes, I called a friend of mine in Wyoming and asked him about the numbers he was seeing – he said this year I am seeing 12-13 pups per den. This was three years ago. His average before that was 8-9. Director Wasley talked about mountain lion problems in Vegas, they are coming out because of dry conditions, no prey in the hills. In my opinions there are a lot more of them, it is the same with coyotes. Someone needs to explain to me why in these times that these guys that den are seeing 50 percent more numbers. I think some data like that would be interesting to learn.

Jarrett Clark, representing the Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy, prefaced his comment with noting that his was not a native Nevada and moved from Arkansas 9 years ago. He said he wanted to encourage to Commission to initiate a rulemaking process that will effectively end these contests in our state. He explained his reaction when learning about the wildlife contests in the state of Nevada and stated that they should not be anyone's way of life. He addressed the claim that wildlife contests are a form of predator control and stated that he believes that NDOW's biologists dispelled those claims recently. He stated that these contests are simply a blood sport and violate the seven components of the North American Model. He asked that common sense be used and that wildlife contests are senseless.

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that he is a sportsman, a conservationist, and an advocate for sportsman, recreationists, and wildlife. He asked why the Commission is having this conversation as he believes that due to lack of science regarding whether or not the contests affect coyotes biologically. He stated that there are more important concerns on the Commission's plate and spending so much time on these contests when there are other species such as mule deer and sage-grouse that need more attention from the Department.

Jeff Dixon, Human Society of the United States, thanked the Commission for continuing this conversation and allowing the workshop-type process for everyone to put all of their issues on the table. Stated that this discussion should stay in the Commission's court to maintain control and avoid the chance of the Legislature intervention, the Commission has handled ethic issues in the past such as trail cams and drones so the Commission can handle this discussion without Legislative intervention. Explained that his organization has been a part of the bans of these contests in other states and believes that there is not an enforcement issue in those states.

Connie Howard, Sierra Club Toiyabe Chapter, stated that the Sierra club in Nevada has 7,000 paid members and 40,000 and all are supporting the ban of wildlife contests nationally. She expressed that most members of the public assume that all species are regulated by the Commission and that there is no such thing as an unregulated species. Stated that the Commission would never allow people to go out and shoot deer unregulated why allow people to go out and shoot coyotes unregulated. There are a lot of things that we do not do anymore because times have changed, and wildlife agencies need to change with the times as well.

Josh Smith, private citizen, and a Nevada sportsman, commented that the discussion covers wildlife contests as a whole, not just coyotes. He continued that NDOW awards hunters with a gold buckle if they shoot the biggest mule deer or the biggest big horn sheep and even though its not called a "contest", it is a contest and if the Commission were to ban wildlife contests, other contests will go away as well and that is taking away from the sportsmen in the state. He stated further that there are youth tags available and there are promotions to get the youth out there with their families, it is a bonding experience.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he appreciated everyone's thoughts and comments, he reiterated some concerns that came up in the discussion including advertising for these contests, awards given at these contests, these contest violate the North American Model of Wildlife Management, these contests are not a form of conservation or science, public land use versus private land use and the perceived restrictions on both, how it would affect the sporting heritage in Nevada, and the slippery slope concern of if we ban coyote calling contests will the Commission be expected to ban other contests. He asked what is going to change mind on these issues? Will there be room for compromise in these discussions? Are we going to be able to collaborate on these issues? He discussed an exercise he has done in the past where issues are laid out on the table then prioritized those issues by using stickers; doing the exercise they found that of the 75 issues that had been listed, only 11 of those items had stickers next to them showing their importance and the remainder items were issues by perspective. He suggested we find an exercise similar to determine and prioritize issues.

Chairwoman East asked the Commission if they wanted to come back at a future meeting with the matrix created by Management Analyst Kailey Taylor and additional information about what other states have done and do a similar exercise that Commissioner McNinch stated he has done in the past.

Secretary Wasley stated that he would offer the Department's assistance in trying to capture the information in a way that would allow the Commission to both reflect on it and express some personal priorities as Commissioners especially as it related to existing language in other states and what they have done. He offered for Management Analyst Kailey Taylor to categorize the notes taken during the discussion, share language from other states that covers some of the same issues and get it back to the Commission to review.

Chairwoman East asked if these contests are under the jurisdiction of the Commission and would like to hear more on that.

Commissioner Caviglia asked how many contests there were in Nevada and if the time that the Commission is spending on them is worth it.

Commissioner McNinch answered that there have been three dozen contests over the last three years and the numbers are increasing due to people coming from states that have banned the contests.

Chairwoman East asked the Commission if an action was to be taken; no action taken. She asked the DAG if the vote was necessary.

DAG PETER HANDY INDICATED IF NO ACTION IS BEING TAKEN, A VOTE IS UNNECESSARY.

Break 3:53- 4pm.

7. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational

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

Wildlife Biologist Brad Baumann presented information on the Urban Fishpond program. *A copy of the presentation can be found on the NDOW website.*

Secretary Wasley thanked the Winnemucca community for all of their work and the opportunity to participate.

12. Public Comment Period

Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future commission agenda.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen, stated she wanted to say goodbye to Commissioner Hubbs on behalf of the bear advocates, "We want to thank her, she has been a light in a very dark chapter in Nevada wildlife management. When those tasked with protecting bears promote a mentality that considers killing another species as a sport, we see her as a light in the darkness." From me, I wanted to say thank you so much, what distinguishes you from so many other people is that you put wildlife first and your decisions were based on sounds thinking about the needs of wildlife and not just the species that seem to drive the money. You spoke up when it was important for all wildlife, and I respect your courage and all the best for the future. Thanked her for her service. Expressed gratitude for the fisheries and ponds. Expressed her concerns about the amount of fishing line she has found during her trash pick ups and hopes there is education out there to make sure understand to pick up their fishing line.

No other public comment.

Recess at 4:32 pm – *NDOW staff, Commission members and the public travelled to the James Kinney urban fishing pond.*

Friday, June 25, 2021 – Tour will begin at the close of Agenda Item #12

Commission Tour – Informational

The Commission will tour the urban fishing pond in Winnemucca. An informational presentation will be made, but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their own transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location.

Saturday, June 26, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.

13. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Commissioner Almborg led the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford called the Commission roll call, noted the Commissioner McNinch was absent. Asked County Advisory members to identify themselves.

14. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No CABMW or public comment.

VICE CHAIR BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

15. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – Informational

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

Game Warden Captain Brian Bowles read an acknowledgement for the NDOW Law Enforcement received by Glenn Bunch.

16. 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 member items.

17. Status Update for Greater Sage-Grouse and their Habitat – Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa – Informational

The Game Division will provide an update on sage-grouse populations throughout their range in Nevada as well as provide information on habitat conditions, availability, and threats.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa presented *State of Greater Sage-Grouse and their Habitat*. The presentation can be found on the NDOW website.

18.* Duck Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Zahradka and Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$118,600 for projects submitted for FY 2022 funding from the Duck Stamp Account. The specific Duck Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Carson Lake and Pasture Infrastructure Improvement (\$40,000)
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support FY22 (\$10,000)
- Eastern Complex Weed Control (\$10,000)
- Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots (\$2,600)
- Mason Valley WMA Prescribed Burn (\$20,000)
- Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Improvement Projects (\$20,000)
- Washoe Dam Repairs (\$16,000)

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne noted changes to the balance amount due to increased license and tag sales and reviewed the project proposals.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, asked the Department if there was Overton food plot money and stated he was concerned to not see it on the requests as it is the largest area in Clark County for duck, dove, and other small game bird hunting.

Gene Green representing Carson CABMW, asked about additional funds for Carson Lake and Pasture. He stated that with the drought year, it may be the ideal time for additional repair for that damage that has happened in the last couple of years.

Chairwoman East asked Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne to address the questions from the CABMWs.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne answered that the Department receives match funding and federal grant funds that support the WMAs, the funds noted here today are only the Department's portion of the funding. He stated that the share cropping at Overton will continue, the Department will be working with federal partners, its just not represented within this Duck Stamp project proposal. As for Carson Lake and Pasture, there is a long list of work that needs to be done out there and in addition to the Duck Stamp funding, sportfish restoration funds will also be used to for some of the work that needs to be done at Carson Lake and Pasture.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DUCK STAMP REQUESTS AS PRESENTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

Break 10:40 – 10:55

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

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$341,081 for projects submitted for FY 2022 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Bi-State Sage-Grouse Coordinator (\$5,000)
- Bi-State Sage-Grouse Monitoring within the Mount Grant and Desert Creek Population Management Unit (\$22,500)
- Desert Creek Weed Treatment (\$2,500)
- Estimating Greater Sage-Grouse Vital Rates (\$22,500)
- Greater Sage-Grouse monitoring (\$44,440)
- Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots (\$3,900)

- Monitoring Greater Sage-Grouse Response to the Martin Fire (\$22,500)
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape Level Treatments on Greater Sage-Grouse in the Desatoya Mountains of Central Nevada (\$22,500)
- Montana-Humboldt SGI Spring Protection (\$15,000)
- Native Seed Acquisition for Private Landowner Transition to Native Seed Production (\$14,000)
- Nine-Mile Unit Riparian Monitoring (\$19,400)
- Upland Game Translocation and Monitoring (\$19,400)
- Virginia Mountains Greenstrip 2021 (\$22,500)
- Mormon Mountains Post-Fire Restoration (\$20,000)
- Assessing Impacts to Sage-Grouse from Anthropogenic Noise in Nevada (\$50,000)
- Nelson Creek Habitat Improvement (\$18,750)

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne wanted to note that there are two additional projects that were not included in the support material, the Desert Creek Conservation Easement for \$10,417 and the Eastern Complex Weed Control for \$10,000. He provided an overview of the budget that can be found in the support material. *The support material can be found on the NDOW website.*

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa and Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne reviewed the Upland Bird Game Stamp projects together.

Commissioner Kiel asked if there was going to be more money coming from somewhere else for the Native Seed Project.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne answered that there is \$8,400 for seed, \$5,000 for seed cleaning and \$600 for seed testing.

Commissioner Kiel stated that is great and think it is a great project.

Chairwoman East asked for Commission comment, hearing none, moved to public comment. Hearing none, requested a motion from the Commission.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUESTS PROJECTS IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

20. Commission Regulations – For Possible Action/Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

A.* Commission Regulation 20-12, Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialists Shawn Espinosa and Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action

The Commission will establish and may vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2021-2022 season. This regulation may also include modifications to the fall wild turkey seasons for 2021 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2022.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Nevada Department of Wildlife website for the public for the 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits.

Staff Specialist Espinosa focused on the Memorandum that listed all the changes for Greater Sage-Grouse to begin his recommendations, those changes included:

- Re-opening Hunt Unit 051 in Humboldt County (2-day season)
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 154 and 155 of Lander County to a 2-day season
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 143, 154 and 155 of Eureka County to a 2-day season
- Reducing season length for Hunt Units 011-015 of Washoe County to a 2-day season
- Closing Hunt Unit 144 in Eureka County
- Closing Hunt Unit 076 in Elko County
- Reducing the season length in the following Hunt Units from a 16-day season to a 9-day season extending from September 25 to October 3, 2021:
 - Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 062, 064, 065, 067, 071-075, 077, 101-103 and 109 in Elko County.
 - Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 162 and 163 in Eureka County.
 - Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161, 162, 172 and 173 in Lander County.
 - Hunt Units, or those portions of Hunt Units, 161-163, 172 and 173 in Nye County.
- Closing Hunt Units 104 and 121 in Elko and White Pine County
- Closing Hunt Units 108, 111-113, and 131 in White Pine County
- Reducing the number of reservations available for the Sheldon Special Sage-grouse Hunt from 45 to 35 for both 2-day seasons that are available to apply for.

Staff Specialist Espinosa continued to read the hunt strategies NDOW utilizes to determine if a Sage Grouse hunt would occur and the length of the season. These strategies are based off the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife as well as additions from the Department.

Commissioner Hubbs requested an explanation for re-opening unit 051.

Staff Specialist Espinosa answered that restoration work had done well and natural recovery was taking place. Male attendance increased this year and exceeded the threshold. The Department believed a two-day season was warranted based on their guidelines for population.

Commissioner Barnes queried if the reduction in Elko units from a 16-day season to a 9-day seasons could be more conservative, suggesting a 2-day season.

Staff Specialist Espinosa noted that in Area 7 the numbers of males were close in line with what was seen in 2019 if not higher. There was a bump in male attendance.

Staff Specialist Espinosa continued, stating harvest rates are low in Elko County relative to other areas in the state.

Commissioner Hubbs added she was open to lowering any hunting rates overall, sage grouse included.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, provided public comment, stating despite two presentations on sage grouse during this Commission's meeting, there are a few omitted sage grouse facts needing publication: In late March 2021, a Reno judge suspended new cattle grazing permits over 400 square miles of Nevada and Utah because it was found as a matter of fact that the federal government deliberately misled the public by underestimating the damage cattle could do to the land and sagebrush habitat. A U.S. Geological Service study cited today also indicated that if current trends continue, there is only a 50% chance the remaining sage grouse leks will be productive in 60 years' time. Acknowledging that this Commission lacks primary influence over wild horses or cattle, sage grouse hunting quotas are an area the Commission can influence. The Department's reduction of sage grouse killing quotas by NDOW is a step in the right direction, but why are we intentionally killing ANY sage grouse given the negative population

trends? Hunter convenience, opportunity and success should not be the primary concern, but are informing this decision about sage grouse, just as the killing quotas set by this Commission for all the other species hunted in Nevada. Your own research has shown that sage grouse populations are on a precipitous decline across the state. Why, then, have a sage grouse hunt at all, especially on what are supposed to be wildlife refuges?

Commissioner Caviglia sought clarification, asking if the wing data was beneficial to the Department.

Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa responded the data was important but not as important as conservation of the species. Hunter strategies and guidelines are being followed and keeping the Department conservative.

Secretary Wasley addressed the study Staff Specialist Espinosa referenced, stating hunters were harvesting 2 percent, whether it was compensatory or additive, that data gave the Department the ability to discern things such as nest success and chicks per hen, that could then be used to provide input to the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service. He oftentimes looked at the wing data as a return on investment, if the harvest of 50 birds can allow for input into a land use plan that potentially affords protection for a thousand birds than clearly that is a wise return on investment. The Department is clearly at a point where we are not comfortable in making recommendations based on either season length or limits in certain areas, were not willing to take that risk because the population is at a level that were not comfortable with. In those areas where we are recommending either no change or continuation of those seasons it is due to our belief that the value of the data provided by those wings will afford greater protection to the population as a whole.

VICE CHAIR BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PORTION OF CR 20-12 AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER KIEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH WAS ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Nevada Department of Wildlife website for the public for the 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits.

Staff Specialist Espinosa focused on the Memorandum that listed all the recommendations for Wild Turkey, those changes included:

- Altering the Junior wild turkey season for the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area to begin on the first Saturday in April and continue through the second Sunday in May;
- Discontinue (temporarily) the second Junior wild turkey season for Hunt Unit 115 in White Pine County and modify the first season to extend through the first Sunday in May;
- Increase the quota for the Spring Limited Entry Hunt for 2022 for Hunt Units 151 and 152 in Lander County from 3 to 5;
- Increase the quota for the Lincoln County Limited Entry Hunt for 2022 from 12 to 15;
- Alter the season dates for the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area Spring Limited Entry Hunt to begin one week later for each available season and reduce quotas available for each hunt from 5 to 3;
- Discontinue (temporarily) the second season for the Spring Limited Entry Hunt for Hunt Unit 115 of White Pine County. Extend the hunt period for the first season to continue through the first Sunday in May and reduce the quota from 8 to 4.

Chairwoman East asked about the reduction in the quota for White Pine County.

Staff Specialist Espinosa noted that the 2018 and 2019 Winter effected the population in unit 115, he noted there was a significant drought in that area which led to a low count in population as well as a reduction in harvest success the past year.

Break for public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE WILD TURKEY PORTION OF CR 20-12 AMENDMENT #1 AS PROPOSED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Division Administrator Kim Munoz asked that the Commission consider an amendment to CR 20-12 Amendment #1, Wild Turkey, with respect to when draw results are releases. The release date would state “on or before the first Friday in March”. That would provide the Department the authority to fulfill the tags and out sooner.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST AMENDED HER MOTION TO INCLUDE A LANGUAGE CHANGE FOR THE RELEASE DATE OF WILD TURKEY DRAW RESULTS, READING, “ON OR BEFORE THE FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH”. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG ACCEPTED THE AMENDMENT. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH WAS ABSENT.

B.* Commission Regulation 21-07 Amendment #1, 2022 Heritage Tag Vendors – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the Wildlife Heritage Committee’s recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor proposals for 2022 and may take action on the proposals.

Commissioner Barnes reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Nevada Department of Wildlife website for the public for the 2022 Heritage Tag Vendors.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi explained the changes that were made by the Heritage Committee. Those changes include:

- Heritage vendor proposals
- The year for the Wild Turkey Tag
- Additional clarification to the Sheep tag disclaimer

Break for public comment.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 21-07 AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH WAS ABSENT.

C.* Commission Regulation 21-13 Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider amending the Overton WMA dove application portion of the Commission Regulation to allow for application to be submitted electronically and for the draw to be conducted by the Department’s licensing vendor, Kalkomey, for the 2021 season.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Chairmen and posted on the Nevada

Department of Wildlife website for the public for the 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds.

Break for public comment.

Commissioner Rogers questioned whether the contract with Kalkomey would be amended or cause a reduction in cost by adding this responsibility to their programming.

Management Analyst Manfredi stated the change would not affect the cost to the Department.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 21-13 AMENDMENT #1 AS PRESENTED. VICE CHARIMAN BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH WAS ABSENT.

21.* Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 – 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 2022 and 2023.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa reviewed the Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023. *A copy of the plan can be found on the NDOW website.*

Commissioner Kiel asked if there were any pending requests for beaver.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa stated that he has only received one request for beavers and that was in the Salmon Falls creek drainage near Jackpot by a landowner. There was an agreement that once beavers were put there, it was their responsibility to maintain any issues that they might have had with the beavers. Beyond that, the Department has not received any additional requests.

Commissioner Hubbs asked how the Department goes about making their decisions for introduction.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Shawn Espinosa answered that its largely based on habitat suitability and it needs to match some of the habitat requirements of these species.

COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVE THE BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

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

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 13 and 14, 2021, in Tonopah. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Secretary Wasley explained that due to logistic conflicts, the Department is requesting the Commission to consider moving the August meeting in Tonopah be a week earlier than previously scheduled, from August 13th and 14th to August 6th and 7th.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MOVE OF MEETING IN TONOPAH, FROM AUGUST 13th AND 14th TO AUGUST 6th AND 7th. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION CARRIES 8-0, COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.

Chairwoman East continued; wanted to change the name of the Wildlife Scholarship Recipient Selection Committee name to the *Lathrop and Capurro Internship Selection Committee*. There was a consensus to add another member to the Committee that has been a recipient of the internship previously. She has asked Jeremy Drew to be the first former intern to sit in on the committee.

Secretary Wasley listed the election of a Commission Chairperson and Vice Chair, a CABMW workshop, a WAFWA report, discussion of the public works contracts, two potential Committee meetings the Thursday before the August Commission meeting: TAAHC and the APRP Committee. He stated that the Department is still working with the LCB on the landowner tag regulation and shed antler regulation, Kalcomey will do a report and demonstration of the new first come first serve process, wildlife contests; the Department has committed to bring forward some of the identified issues to facilitate continued discussion, the *Living with Wildlife* presentation possibly in Las Vegas at the September Commission Meeting, a wildlife disease report, and a report on raven research.

Chairwoman East asked about the mule deer enhancement proposals, and she would like to hear about the relevancy phase of RAWA in August or September.

23. Public Comment Period

Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, stated that he would like to speak on public agency public access. He explained that the Department received money for videoconferencing equipment but found they did not have enough to move forward with complete implementation. He expressed that the public would be more engaged if they had the opportunity to join the meeting whether via zoom or teleconference. He asked that the Commission meeting not be held in locations that do not have the technological capabilities.

Meeting adjourned 12:18pm.

*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/. Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1599 or wildlifecommission@ndow.org. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/.

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