

## Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's May 21, 2020 Declaration of Emergency Directive 020, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, anyone planning to participate in the meeting must participate via the web link provided below.

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

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

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

Chairwoman Tiffany East  
Commissioner Jon AlMBERG  
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs  
Commissioner Ron Pierini  
Commissioner Shane Rogers

Vice Chairman Tom Barnes  
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia  
Commissioner David McNinch  
Commissioner Casey Kiel

Secretary Tony Wasley

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

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

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor  
Executive Assistant Missy Stanford  
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne  
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz  
Game Division Administrator Mike Scott  
Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg  
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey  
Captain Game Warden Brian Bowles  
Wildlife Specialist Cody McKee  
Wildlife Specialist Pat Jackson  
Wildlife Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Administrative Assistant III Alejandra Medina  
Management Analyst Megan Manfredi  
Chief Game Warden Michael Maynard  
Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark  
Deputy Director Jack Robb  
Game Warden Randy Lusetti  
Wildlife Specialist Cody Schroeder  
Game Warden Jake Kreamer  
Game Warden Brady Phillips

Public in Attendance via NDOW YouTube channel:

Bob Cook, Douglas CABMW  
Jim Rhea, Washoe CABMW  
Larry Allen, Humboldt CABMW  
Joe Crawford, Lyon CABMW  
Chris Jasmine, self  
Fred Voltz, self  
David Ricker, self  
Kathryn Bricker, self  
Elaine Carrick, self  
Zack Lambert, self  
David Gough, self

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW  
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW  
Rob Boehmer, Carson CABMW  
Cathine Smith, self  
Shawn O'Neil, self  
Therese Campbell, self  
Rex Flowers, self  
Caron Tayloe, self  
Jana Wright, self  
Aaron Piche, self  
Jonathan Lesperance, self

**Friday, January 29, 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**  
CABMW members who are present and viewing the meeting through the YouTube link should send an email to [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org) indicating their presence.

**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.

Public comment period 9:09am – 9:12am

No public comment.

**MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH, SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR BARNES. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

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

Commission minutes may be approved from the November 6, 2020, meeting.

Chairwoman East: Page 8, there is a redundancy in that line, clean up that section. Page 11 under Game Warden Randy Lusetti should insert the word “stated” in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph down for the top.

Commissioner McNinch noted Page 2, under item #3, “caring” and “carrying” should be switched. Page 3, 6(A), 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, needs to be “adapted”. Page 7, item #9a, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, at the end of that, . Page 9, B, 4 small paragraphs down I believe that should say “Blue Grouse”. Page10, change the word arraigned to arranged. Page 24, the motion, “Almber” should be “Almberg”

Commissioner Almberg noted on Page 24, “telemetry collars” rather than “GPS collars”.

Public comment period 9:18am – 9:21am

No public comment.

**MOTION MOVED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH TO ACCEPT THE DRAFT MINUTES WITH NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY COMISSIONER HUBBS. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0**

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

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

Chairwoman East indicated she sent emails to Wildlife Commission to be distributed to all who needed the correspondence.

Vice Chair Barnes discussed the Sac Bee Article talking about bear hunting.

Secretary Wasley stated that the department received a lot of correspondence, there wasn’t anything that the department received that hasn’t been shared. Announced the passing of former wildlife commissioner Ron Lurie passed away on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

CABMW members may present emergent items at [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org); these comments will be shared with the Commission. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

**6. Commission General Regulations - Workshop / Public Comment Allowed**

**A.\* Commission General Regulation 495, NAC 502 Simplification – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action**

The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee’s recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 relating to licensing.

Management Analyst Taylor ensured Commissioners were looking at the updated regulations approved by the committee on January 19, 2021. Shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the changes made to NAC Chapter 502.

Commissioner Kiel: commended Commissioner McNinch for edits on 502, clearer and cleaner.

Commission Pierini commended the work done.

Break for public Comment 9:35 - 9:38

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett had a minor suggestion to section H; indicated language should read “having been previously captured”.

Public Comment:

Joe Crim: We believe that having to add UTM of Lat. Long should not be required. A location on a mountain or canyon should suffice.

Game Division Administrator Scott discussed the significance of latitude and longitude.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CGR 495 WITH THE CHANGES NOTED DURING DISCUSSION. REVIEW SIMPLIFICATION COMMITTEE APPROVED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY COMMISSION CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 9-0. WILL BE ADOPTED NEXT MEETING.**

**B.\* Commission General Regulation 496, NAC 503 Simplification – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action**

The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee’s recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 relating to wildlife.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding changes to NAC 503.

Commissioner McNinch asked for clarification on 503.183 and 503.205 to remove the words “in writing”?

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor agreed and clarified.

Commissioner McNinch asked about 503.144?

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated she does not have it listed as a change on her list.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated there was discussion at Committee on suitcase traps. Stated he would like to see a suitcase traps included in the definition of a box trap. Gave a background of what the suitcase

trap is used for. My understanding the definition has flip-flopped in the past. Do not have a problem as allowing a suitcase trap as a box trap but would like Commission deliberation.

Commissioner Hubbs stated it would be helpful to go over the types of traps to know the difference between the types. What happens when an animal goes into the trap? Asked about the various trapping methods.

Chief Game Warden Maynard explained traps. Discussion and clarification between Commissioner Hubbs, Chief Game Warden Maynard and Warden Lusetti.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if we can assume that a suitcase trap holds part of the animal in place where it restricts movement in the trap.

Division Administrator Mike Scott stated suitcase traps are often used in urban environments. Lot of issues in Reno surrounding beavers. Suitcase is probably the best option to trap and remove beavers. Is the best tool in an urban environment. Would like from my perspective to continue to allow these in an urban environment.

Chairwoman East - if it is not available to them for use, what is?

Commissioner Rogers asked if there was a reason that suitcase traps not added to this NAC or was it assumed it is similar to the box trap?

Secretary Wasley speculated that it is not as common as other traps and might have been an oversight. To speak to it as a tool, it is an effective tool. 2 pieces of this; 1) what the language currently does or does not allow for 2) based on the interpretation of the language, does this tool remain in the toolbox and what needs to be done to exercise that tool? Even if the commission determines what definition it falls in, it does not remove the use, but it might change the process by which an individual can or can't use it but defines the person obtaining a permit to do so. It requires the issuance of a SLAP permit, special license, and permit.

Commissioner Hubbs – have a hard time with setting traps that kill whatever goes by. Feel like this is wasteful to our wildlife. Find that personally disturbing. Like the live traps. Ironically, I would choose a live trap to see what species you have and act accordingly. If the suitcase trap does not kill the species, would prefer that over a trap that kills the animal.

Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that the department does not move beavers unless there is a management activity for it. Lethal means would be used but the suitcase trap is safer to use in an urban environment for whatever non target animal enters the trap. We use lethal means on beavers when we capture them.

Commissioner Almberg – not familiar with the traps themselves but understand that they are used for catching and release activities. Meant to contain until release, moved or disposed. Would be supportive for adding language allowing the use to continue in this setting.

Commissioner McNinch – to fit suitcase type trap in one of these definitions for purpose of the regulation. Suitcase traps can be submerged under water and still function to catch. AFWA best management practices does fit the suitcase trap into a cage trap definition. Had a chance to think about it we don't always use BMPs for trapping stuff to begin with. There are things we acknowledge but we don't always have Best Management Practices in our trapping world to begin with. Intent is to secure people around the river and trap could close on pets or people. Not taking the tool out of the box but would require a permit to be obtained before use. People probably out there wanting work done that don't want their

name on the public record for the permit. For transparency purposes, would like this as a box trap definition.

Commissioner Kiel - 503.155 in respect to along the entirety of the catching surface, I don't think that is possible with a leg hold trap. get the intent but do not think it is physically possible to achieve catching an animal along the catching surface.

Vice Chair Barnes agreed with Commissioner AlMBERG about adding language to cover the suitcase trap. Is a confinement that is not lethal trap. Would like to come back to me with a comment on a different portion of the reg.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if we were using the suitcase trap?

Chief Game Warden Maynard – confusion and questions from the public on whether or not the suitcase trap is considered a box trap. Relevant for trapping purposes in urban areas that comes with restrictions of only box traps can be used. Currently it would be excluded under current regulations but does not mean you cannot get a SLAP permit to use one.

Secretary Wasley asked Chief Maynard to expound on if the circumstances could be explained where suitcases are allowed but others are not.

Commissioner Hubbs – can we go into trapping the beaver? Do you trap the beaver as it is underwater or are they trapped on the banks?

Chief Game Warden Maynard – yes trapped both partially under water and on the bank.

Commissioner Hubbs – what trap are they using if not the suitcase trap?

Chief Game Warden Maynard – depends on the area of what they are allowed to use and what they choose to use. beaver is typically trapped with a suitcase as it is the most efficient in trapping beavers. Leg hold and box traps are not as efficient. Stated he would of over the limits for box traps.

Division Administrator Mike Scott – suitcase can be used both underwater and on land. In urban areas would like to see suitcase used over a conibear which is lethal trap.

Commissioner Hubbs – even if we use a suitcase trap underwater, it would be lethal. The animal would drown, right?

Division Administrator Mike Scott – yes but can also be used on land. He explained what the trap looks like and how they work. It is the most effective way to safely catch beavers.

Commissioner Hubbs – saying even though whatever gets in the trap will die if it is trapped underwater, but it is better used than other traps that could injure or harm a child.

Division Administrator Mike Scott – used cage traps to catch beavers in collect but traps are intended to be used at the surface of the water and not underwater. It could be used under water, but it's generally used as a live trap.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she preferred a live trap.

Chief Game Warden Maynard stated there are two regulations NAC 503.165 and 504.340 that cover the base of where traps are able to be used. He read the regs. .... Shall not trap other than with a box or

cage trap 1/2 miles of a residence, in an urban area; exemptions include private proper. Wanted to limit the effect of pet and human interaction in urban areas. There was limitation to allow for a pet to be easily released for example. The question here is does the commission want to allow the clam shell trap to fit in the same category as a post or cage trap?

Warden Lusetti stated that the true intent was not a matter of personal preference, it comes down to asking for clarification as interpretation differs. For our wardens, trappers and our public.

Secretary Wasley - ...depends on the circumstances. If there was an objections to a permit it wouldn't be solely on the trap, there are many other reasons. We know conibear is lethal and on other end cage/box trap there is language in both that pertains to suitcase ..... the department can have objection due to the utility, is it the best tool to use in an urban type setting. We are looking for consistency in the intent of that language.

Commissioner Almborg asked would adding language stating the trap can only be set in a non-lethal manner satisfy the Department t if a permit would be issued? Wont the trapper still have to put their trapping info on the trap?

Chief Game Warden Maynard – yes, the requirement under trapping calls to follow every trapping reg. SLAPs determine conditions of use, what manner, what conditions, what areas. Better than having to write a reg for each determined use. Private lands do not require trapper info. Trappers do need to follow all trapping regs while trapping.

Commissioner Caviglia understanding trappers in Washoe utilizing suitcase traps in recent history? Has the dept been made aware of pets or people getting stuck in traps? Is the permittee the trapper or the owner that's hiring the trapper to catch the beaver?

Deputy Director Robb – person that does need to hold the permit is the property owner, not the trapper. We have two laws that protects an owner's information from public records when reporting nuisance wildlife. 239 and wildlife statutes.

Chief Game Warden Maynard deferred to Warden Lusetti

Warden Lusetti stated that he had not personally had issues with use of suitcase traps.

Chairwoman East asked that it be reflected on the record that Commissioner Hubbs had to leave for a personal appointment but is listening in.

Commissioner McNinch – Commissioner Almborg thought on restricting use of traps could be probable. Would still like to maintain the integrity of the regulation. The gist of the conversation was around highly used areas, protection of people and pets from traps. Clear that suitcase trap fits in the cage trap category but it might retract from the intent of the section that it is in.

Commissioner Barnes: 503.152, manned or unmanned aircraft, why is that in there? Why would that not be allowed to check traps.

Management Analyst Taylor stated that is was her understanding that Law Enforcement wants people to visit their traps and if they use drones the trap isn't actually being visited.

Chief Game Warden Maynard stated that visitation is important. There are plenty of factors involved in regard to being physically able to check it.

Warden Lusetti echoed what Chief Game Warden Maynard mentioned. Stated that the intent of this is to get clarification. Physically visitation is much more thorough.

Commissioner Kiel stated he was not comfortable with the use of drones for reason spoken to by Warden Lusetti.

Public comment period; 10:51-10:56

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor showed an additional change to NAC 503.193.

From: Steve Robinson Washoe CAB  
Sent: Friday, January 25, 2021 09:51 a.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission

At the Washoe CAB meeting we received public concern that the banning of suitcase traps are being discussed.

We recommended that NAC 503.165 change to say Section 1. Box cage or suitcase trap Section 3d. Box, case, or suitcase trap

*From: Trish Swain*

*There is a long history about trapping which I very much want to share with you. The discussion began in 2007 and culminated with three laws to regulate trapping: SB 226, SB213 and SB364. The resulting NAC has been referenced in today's discussion. Please, Commissioner Hubbs, consider the experience of a helpless animal which to me is the basic issue.*

*I will research points brought up today and communicate soon at greater length.*

*Thank everyone for considering this question.*

From: Caron Tayloe

This Commission discussion is a perfect example as to why we need public trapping reform discussions immediately. Where are the biologists (who are not trappers)? Where are the scientific studies that state suitcase traps help with non-target animals? Suitcase traps may actually make it easier for trappers (surface area). The fact that suitcase traps help wildlife has not been established today and needs more research. Also the fact that the non-consumptive community has not been consulted in advance (like the trappers) reduces the credibility of the process.

From Joel Blakeslee

I'm not comfortable with language requiring that suitcase traps be set in a non lethal manner. There are a number of reasons but one is that there are things you cant control.

1 -Say someone came along and tossed the animal into deep water for you.

2-There are irrigation canals where you simply can't control deep water because of the steep banks.

3-There are more but I don't have time to type it all out.

Also I can't control the rise and fall of a waterway. These traps are almost always set in water. The lethality is determined by the depth that they are set.

From: Rex Flowers

I would hope you would add language to definition of cage and box traps to include suitcase traps. It is quite evident that even within the Dept. there is differing opinions as to what is or isn't a cage trap and AFWA clearly makes the description of a suitcase trap as a cage trap. It would be better to lean on science rather than opinion when passing regulations and there is no known negatives to public safety - Rex Flowers

Chairwoman East encouraged everyone to submit public comment through the means available to the public via direction of the agenda. Do we have a pleasure of the commission?

Commissioner McNinch stated that there was a lot going on with this. Suggested the Commission provide direction to the dept and take it back to the committee and then bring it back to commission for further discussion. Many sections that need to be added in final language. Value in giving guidance to the dept and committee.

Chairwoman East agreed and would like this to go back to the committee and then commission for workshop.

Commissioner Pierini stated that the legislative session is coming up, asked for timeline clarification.

Management Analyst Taylor stated that we do have time to work on this due to temp regulation period. Cautioned that the later the changes are made, longer it will take to go into effect. Has not been submitted to LCB.

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO SEND BACK TO THE REGULATION SIMPLIFICATION COMMISSION AND THEN TO COMMISSION FOR ANOTHER WORKSHOP. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0, WITH COMMISSIONER HUBBS ABSENT**

- C.\* Commission General Regulation 497, NAC 504 Simplification – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the Regulation Simplification Committee’s recommendations regarding language updates and simplification of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 504 relating to wildlife management areas and other wildlife related topics.

Management Analyst Taylor – first time commission seeing NAC 504 changes. She shared a PowerPoint presentation on the suggested changes to 504. Removed animals not related to the state, this is in regard to elk damage.

Meeting recess 11:15 – 11:20.

Management Analyst Taylor continued with the changes suggested in NAC 504.

Vice Chair Barnes asked in the portion regarding damage caused by elk, do we need to account for moose in the future? 504.375 at the bottom under the co-op agreement; if the damage happens before they are under the agreement, what if the damage happens before any agreement?

Division Administrator Mike Scott – regarding moose, they would not be covered and cannot pay for them out of the elk fund as is. If we start seeing damage caused by moose, we will need to create language to cover those damages. He clarified the process of creating a co-op agreement with the Dept to manage and monitor damage caused by elk. If it is discovered months later, we sign the agreement and the dept determines the compensation accordingly.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated NAC 503.465 addresses what happens when not in the co-op and how to notify the dept and begin the process. Chose to add business days in those section, those 5 days are for after subsequent damage.

Vice Chair Barnes asked for clarification on moose. Should we get out in front of the potential issue?

Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that the challenge is we do not have a funding method for moose at the moment. If moose continue to increase and we have both damage and a hunt, we would be

provided with a mechanism to fund a depredation program. Would leave it up to the Commission to provide direction.

Commissioner McNinch asked about 504.451 under 2(f), did you intend to leave the “and” or should that be made an “or”?

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated it should be an “or”.

Public comment period 11:34 – 11:38

No public comment.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor clarified where the “and” should be in 504.451.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS PRESENTATED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES AND BRING BACK TO A FUTURE COMMISSION MEETING FOR ADOPTION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSES 8-0, COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT.**

## **7. Reports – Informational**

- A.** Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley  
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

Secretary Wasley and Division Administrators read the department activity report.

### **DIRECTOR’S OFFICE**

The Director’s Office is pleased to announce that the recently vacated position of Administrative Assistant 3 has been filled by Ali Medina after Megan Manfredi was promoted into the Data and Technology Services Division. After months of searching for a perfect Executive Assistant, we have finally hired Missy Stanford who comes to us with previous Commission experience.

Many staff were fortunate enough to participate in various Winter Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) sessions due to the convenience of a virtual platform. Director Wasley chaired the Sagebrush Executive Oversight and attended the WAFWA Executive Committee and the Directors and Commissioners Forum. Deputy Director Robb participated in R3 Workshops, the Director’s Forum, and various other meetings.

The Department was also fortunate enough to be selected to participate in a scenario planning study with Colorado State University. The Department had 23 staff participate to plan for the future of wildlife management while considering the diverse wildlife values in Nevada using the “America’s Wildlife Values” research.

The Director’s Office has been busy preparing for the upcoming legislative session, meeting with legislators, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) staff, and conservation partners. Budgetary questions from the Governor’s Finance Office staff were frequent in advance of this week’s pre-session budget meetings and the Director’s Office primary focus has been responding to budgetary questions.

### **GAME**

**Development of Aerial Survey Application:** Game Division Staff continue to coordinate internally and externally with contractors for development of a tablet-based aerial survey data collection application.

The first demo version has been received and field testing will begin in the near future and will significantly improve the efficiency with which data are collected, summarized, and analyzed.

**Mule Deer Enhancement Program:** The kick-off meeting for the Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee was held in mid-December. All of the Committee members were in attendance as well as many of the members of Mule Deer teams. A total of 14 teams have been created and NDOW biologists will be providing presentation in each sub-committee meeting.

**Translocation Guidelines for Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse:** Game Division staff participated in a WAFWA-sponsored paper documenting past translocation efforts which has required review and revision from all western states. Game Division staff also provided technical review to the WAFWA Sage and Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse Technical Committee on the Guidelines for Collection, Storage, and Analysis of a Sage-grouse Lek Data document. This document provides three different population modeling approaches including state space, N-mixture and Integrated Population Models and discusses data collection needs for each and provides consistency among states in data collection methods and storage.

**Risk of Contact Modeling:** Game Staff have been involved in helping the Eastern Region with “Risk of Contact” modeling for proposed domestic sheep and goat grazing on BLM allotments associated with nearby bighorn sheep herds. Staff have pulled together habitat layers, previous modelling spatial data outputs, and GPS collar datasets for adjacent herds to allow calculating core herd home ranges as well as foray distance and frequency estimates to be developed specific to Nevada and Great Basin topography.

**Bighorn Disease Investigation:** Game Division staff are collaborating with University of Nevada, Reno, College of Agriculture and Agriculture Experiment Station professors and staff and its Rafter 7 domestic sheep flock managers to evaluate the prevalence of the deadly pathogen in their domestic sheep that causes bighorn sheep die-offs and disease events. All involved are excited to participate in the research project. Initially we will sub-sample the large domestic flock to get prevalence rate for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi), and then based on that information, we hope to conduct a series of longitudinal (time series) sampling of domestic sheep groups to discern “chronic shedders” in the flock and evaluate the heritability traits associated with shedders vs. non-shedders. This could lead to the potential of eliminating M.ovi from the Rafter 7 flock which is a closed population, and which provides replacement rams for the majority of Nevada woolgrowers.

**Big Game Captures:** Game Division staff are coordinating and scheduling with big game helicopter capture crews and regional biologists for captures in December, January, and February for various projects. This also requires coordinating and negotiating with State Purchasing and a British Columbia-based capture crew to develop a contract with them since our existing contracted crews are extremely busy and not able to accommodate our capture needs this season.

**CWD Sampling Update:** We have reached 200 animals and continue to receive samples from taxidermists. If you have heads/samples in your freezers at regional offices, please let us know so we can get them. We had a productive discussion about options for collection of roadkill. We will continue to explore this possibility.

**RHDV2:** Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV2) has been identified in a hybrid cottontail/domestic rabbit from Pahrump associated with a domestic rabbit disease outbreak. Since the domestic outbreak is of a highly sensitive nature, we are holding off on doing any outreach until we get approval from NDA. RHDV2 was identified in a rabbit found in Kyle Canyon outside of Las Vegas in the Spring Mountains and has now been found in 2 locations in Clark and Nye counties.

**COVID-19:** There have been several updates in COVID-19 and wildlife research. White-tailed deer fawns have been shown to become infected and be able to transmit the virus to other fawns with no clinical signs noted. At this point we are assuming that other cervid species may also be susceptible. We have requested our contract capture crews (and all employees) wear masks and gloves when handling all mammals. Additionally, a wild mink tested positive near the site of a mink farm outbreak in Utah. To date this is the first known case of SARS-CoV-2 identified in free-ranging wildlife. In light of susceptibility of mink, guidance will be provided to those with beaver SLAP permits who may live trap and release mink incidentally to wear masks and gloves when handling/releasing them.

**Wildlife Health:** Game Division staff have continued to review disease sampling for elk and mule deer and identify where gaps exist in understanding disease in these species in Nevada. Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) continues to be a potential concern among mule deer. Adenovirus has been identified as a potential concern in Area 6 elk, sampling from captures this winter of other herds should help provide a comparison.

**Panaca Game Biologist:** Interviews for the Panaca Game Biologist position were completed. The position was offered to Daniel Sallee, and he has verbally accepted the position with a tentative start date of February 8. Daniel was a Lathrop-Capurro scholar who recently obtained his master's degree from BYU.

**Sage Grouse Harvest Data:** NDOW classified 1,262 sage-grouse wings collected during the 2020 season. This represented an improvement over the 833 wings collected and classified in 2019, but still less than the 10-year average of 1,369 wings analyzed. Estimated recruitment improved slightly from 1.14 chicks/hen in 2019 to 1.22 in 2020. The long-term average production rate is 1.51 for Nevada and it is estimated that 1.56 chicks per hen maintains population stability. We have not experienced that level of recruitment since 2016. Estimated nest success was 56.3% in 2020, which was the highest since 2009, unfortunately that did not translate into recruitment levels which would lead to population increases.

**Wildfire Response Coordination:** Updating and revising the "Please Don't Let This Burn" map that was created in 2018. The updated map will include mule deer critical habitat, sage-grouse breeding density encapsulating the upper 75% breeding distribution, occupied LCT streams with a 1 km buffer, CHAT Species of Economic and Recreational Importance and UNR's pygmy rabbit habitat model. Previous fire polygons will be overlaid to indicate losses or impact and remaining habitat intersections will be given "Extreme" priority.

## **HABITAT**

NDOW is entering the project funding season with external Heritage Grant Proposals due by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Grant proposals for Duck Stamp and Upland Game Bird Stamp as well as the Habitat Conservation Fee and Industrial Development Fee Programs will be due late spring/early summer. These programs bring over 2 million dollars of support to a variety of habitat, big game, and wildlife diversity on the ground projects that are important to meeting the Department's mission.

NDOW continues our involvement in the Governor's Shared Stewardship Technical Advisory and Executive Committees to make progress on the goal of increasing fuels and post-fire related treatments within the state by 50% by 2025. Two initial interagency pilot-projects have been selected, one in the Elko-Spring Creek-Lamoille area and one in the Spring Mountains-Pahrump area.

The Habitat Division is making progress on completion of a new Partner's in Conservation Database that will house user-friendly spatial and tabular data related to Department projects. This system will feature a publicly available dashboard and interactive map to provide information on habitat improvement and conservation efforts in Nevada. The web application is scheduled for completion by summer or early fall 2021.

Waterfowl seasons are winding down across the State, the Northeast Zone ended on Jan. 17th while the Northwest and South Zones end on Jan. 31st. WMA's have seen an increase in hunter use this season, especially in the southern region likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Habitat Staff continue to work with US Bureau of Reclamation and BLM on the transfer of the Carson Lake Wetlands south of Fallon, NV from Federal to State ownership. It seems likely the transfer will take place in the next few months and will allow NDOW to incorporate this property into the WMA System.

The Habitat Division has a representative on the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT), which is responsible for developing and implementing the State of Nevada's sage-grouse Compensatory Mitigation Program, the Conservation Credit System (CCS). To date, 22 private land Credit projects have enrolled in the program since 2016, conserving and enhancing almost 115,000 acres of sage-grouse habitat. 23 Debit projects are in the process of or have analyzed their impacts using the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT), and ten of those projects have purchased or transferred credits to offset their impacts.

The record setting lack of precipitation observed in 2020 resulted in critically low water levels at big game guzzlers spread across much of Nevada's Desert bighorn sheep range. Over the past several months, and as recently as the week of January 4th, NDOW responded with emergency water hauls at an unprecedented scale with helicopters, 4 wheel-drive trucks and water tenders. Without supplemental water, a high proportion of bighorn sheep in certain mountains ranges would have likely died from dehydration. In total, approximately 167,000 gallons of supplemental water has been provided to 30 different guzzlers. A special thanks goes out to all the NDOW personnel that helped with this effort and the generous funding received by NBU Reno, the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, and Nevada Dream Tag.

NDOW biologist continue to work with mining companies to ensure compliance with NDOW's Industrial Artificial Pond Permit program to reduce wildlife mortalities at industrial operations. There are currently 83 active IAP permits and permitted operations include mining, metal refining, as well as geothermal, solar, coal, and natural gas power plants. The 2016 revised Industrial Artificial Pond Permit cost-recovery is still proving successful with NDOW collecting 2020 assessment fees totaling almost \$620,000. In addition to paying for IAP program costs, a portion of these fees are allocated for on-the-ground research and habitat enhancement projects. Since 2018, almost \$1.25 million dollars have been provided to sixteen projects ranging from research on mule deer migration and goshawk habitat use to fire rehabilitation and spring restoration.

The recent passage of the National Defense Authorization Act in December, resulted with both the Fallon Range and Training Center as well as the Nellis Test and Training Range only being granted a renewal for their existing withdrawal lands, but was directed to continue working with stakeholders to "secure a mutually-agreed upon expansion." While we expect the Navy's effort to expand the bombing range will continue in 2021, this provides an opportunity for stakeholders and the Navy to resolve outstanding conflicts.

The Technical Review Program continues to administer of the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund and the Fund for the Recovery of Costs (AB 307) and is finalizing a biennial report for public release describing applications for energy projects in Nevada from 2019-2020. During the last two years, 50 AB 307 applications were submitted for the following energy development projects in Nevada: 15 energy transmission lines, 19 solar facilities, one wind farm, nine geothermal facilities, and six others that include hydroelectric generation, power storage, and substation expansions. With the significant increase in applications over the last year, applications received between 2019-2020 account for 43% of all applications since the inception of the program.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

Conservation Education staff held its Annual Volunteer Instructor Appreciation events virtually due to pandemic restrictions. Instructors were recognized for their service in the Angler Education, Archery Education, Hunter Education and Wildlife Education programs.

Wild Sheep Foundation's Sheep Show was held virtually this year, and we designed and hosted an interactive booth. NDOW's virtual booth included Nevada specific PSA's, downloadable bighorn sheep hunt summaries and links to social media. Over the course of the week NDOW's Outdoor Education Coordinator hosted a live chat and answered questions from the public. Sheep Week was January 11-16, but our conservation partner registration gives us unlimited access to the virtual platform through February 16, 2021.

Conservation Education personnel participated in WAFWA workshops and committee meetings on R3, Diversity and Inclusion, and Human Dimensions.

Staff developed signage and messaging for campaign encouraging pet fish owners not to release their aquarium fish and other aquatic species into Nevada waters. The campaign is called "Don't Ditch a Fish!" Regional Conservation Education personnel also designed pocket cards carrying information for addressing four different aspects of Urban Wildlife: Living with Coyotes, Baby Birds, Feeding Wildlife and Living with Waterfowl. They also researched and wrote a wildlife brief for the "What's in Your Backyard?" post that goes up every Thursday on the Nextdoor App.

Conservation Educators trained to facilitate teacher training workshops on the Project WILD Aquatic and Project WILD Terrestrial guides. Over 100 teachers were interested in attending the workshop. The workshops are 6-8 hours of hands-on training on how to use the outdoors to teach, and to learn about wildlife. The Project WILD Aquatic guides fit right in with our Trout in the Classroom program, and teachers are interested in having the guide as an extra resource for the program.

Conservation Education staff coordinated two sagebrush seed collection projects in January. Over 40 volunteers participated resulting in over 50 volunteer hours and 591 miles being logged for in-kind match. Additionally, 37 pounds of seed were collected.

In December, staff celebrated 25 Days of Fishmas on social media, which consisted of a fishing related post at least once a day from December 1 through December 25. Posts included fishing spots, recipes, and pictures that were sent in by page followers. The campaign was well-received, and we received more than 50 fishing photos from the public for use during the campaign and in the future. During this time, we promoted the Department's new FishNV app on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Posts included an announcement, three tutorial videos, and a podcast. They all performed well. The campaign also included two email blasts; one to current anglers, and one to lapsed anglers.

From October through December, the Department worked with Lake Tahoe TV to reach the Tahoe audience through a weekly segment every Monday morning. Topics included wildlife diversity in Tahoe, various tips on urban wildlife, fishing, boating, and educational programs.

Media interviews over the past month have included interviews with various local news stations educating the public on living with wildlife, including mountain lions and bears. Some of the interviews covered specific incidents and sightings. In addition, Conservation Education staff was also interviewed by the Nevada Appeal on mule deer herds in Carson City, and the Department's Public Information Officer was interviewed by Stateline, a Pew Charitable Trust news station, about an increase in license sales caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The story was featured into USA today.

The Wildlife Education team put on a BioBlitz event for NDOW staff and volunteers. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour survey of every living thing within an area. For this event we used the app iNaturalist. Staff and

volunteers could log all their observations for the date of the project, December 19<sup>th</sup>, in the app. The event was a success. 42 people participated with a total of 462 observations logged within the project. These observations can become 'research grade' within the app and be used by biologists for various projects. We hope to facilitate this project with the public in the future.

### **Public Programming-**

Webinars continue to be facilitated through zoom for public programs. These webinars cover all sorts of wildlife topics from urban wildlife to tying flies. Between November and December, we had over 700 public participants join us for our webinars.

### **School Programming-**

School programming ramped up in November and December as teachers tried to get programs in before the end of the semester.

Know Your Nevada Nov-Dec Total – 1009 students

Other School Program Nov-Dec Total – 719 students

## **2020 Totals - School and Public Programming Online**

Nevada Knockout – **118** classrooms signed up with approximately **3500** students

Know Your Nevada – **2700** students

Total Webinars Presented Live: **114**

Total Live Participants: **6,450**

Total Webinar YouTube Videos: **54**

Total Webinar YouTube Views: **8,048**

Wildlife Ed programming (does not include Nevada Knockout numbers, but does include Know Your Nevada numbers): **3,626**

Urban Wildlife Post performance on Facebook and Instagram: **317,189** Impressions

Urban Wildlife Post performance on Nextdoor: **5,070,867** impressions

## **DIVERSITY**

As part of our recent annual coordination meeting, Wildlife Diversity provided a series of professional talks to over 80 partners on various projects the Division has been conducting as we are implementing our Wildlife Action Plan. These talks represent the broad conservation work that the division and our partners have been focused on in the past few years. Briefly they covered:

- Gila monsters, home ranges and habitat affinities, along with extensive genetic studies resulting from over 50 individually tracked animals across three separate populations.
- Annual migration patterns of Yuma Ridgeway's Rail – along with surprising results of areas where you wouldn't think a rail would hang out in while migrating.
- Golden eagle satellite tracking and documenting decreased nesting success in the past few years that could be because of low prey populations of jackrabbits amongst other issues.
- Rabbit Hemorrhagic disease is an emerging issue impacting wild and domestic rabbits in the US with a mortality between five (5) percent and seventy (70) percent. This disease is native to other parts of the world but novel and new to US, with positive cases found in AZ, NM, TX and in NV where we have had two positive samples in Nye County. We are surveying areas for rabbit mortalities but so far, no large-scale die-offs have been found.
- We've completed a study on shrew populations in NV. There are nine shrews in our state, five of which are species priorities with the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan. Shrews as a whole are really hard to tell apart and really hard to catch! Genetic analysis showed potentially misidentified species, and some species that may actually be more than one species.
- Pikas have a relatively small population and are tied to specialized habitat that is often stressed or altered, with limited ability to travel between suitable habitat patches. We have been monitoring populations in the northwestern region and developing a statewide pika atlas.

- 175 western pond turtles were trapped over three years. Nevada populations are skewed towards older age classes – turtles can live over 50 years. A greater number of older turtles show that rivers are providing habitat for adults, but the lower prevalence of younger age classes could be indicative of low recruitment. Work will continue this year with eDNA studies and deploying GPS transmitters. Pond turtles are under review for Endangered Species Act protection.
- Shorebirds have been monitored in the Lahontan Valley for more than 30 years. Survey protocols have been expanded and revamped in partnership with the National Audubon Society and Manomet. We are also contributing to a comprehensive shorebird monitoring plan is being developed for the interior west through the Pacific Flyway Council and several other partners.
- Pale and dark kangaroo mice are being surveyed in central Nevada. These surveys are also providing information on many other small mammals in the area.
- In our Abandoned Mines Land program, not only are we surveying individual mines for habitat for bats and other wildlife, but we are also doing an intensive survey of all the mines we have gated over the past decade or so. There are approximately 1300 sites that have wildlife friendly gates installed that allow access to wildlife but prevent human access. We visited almost 900 sites and found that a little over 10% of those sites had been vandalized or breached. Sites closer to urban areas were more likely to be vandalized than more remote sites.

A few other Division highlights:

- Rose Guano Cave in eastern Nevada is monitored annually for returning banded Mexican free-tailed bats. Over twenty-five thousand bats have been banded.
- A disease response plan is being developed if white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease impacting many bat species, is detected in Nevada.
- Annual surveys for reptiles in southern Nevada are continuing through a strong volunteer network that drives desert roads in the early evening looking for reptiles. Over the years, these surveys have provided species range extensions, natural history notes and hundreds of observations of many of the species that are prioritized in the NV Wildlife Action Plan.
- In partnership with the national Pinyon Jay Working Group, we participated in the development of a conservation strategy to address an estimated eighty-three (83) percent decline in the species range wide. We will be using the recently developed survey protocol to begin surveys in central Nevada this coming year.
- Yellow-billed cuckoo surveys and data in Nevada are providing support to a regionwide effort to document population status and study habitat requirements. This effort was recently supported with a competitive state wildlife grant award.
- Wildlife Diversity is participating in a national bat monitoring effort called NABat. Data gathered through this effort will be provided to the national dataset to aid in assessing changes in bat populations at local, regional, and range wide scales.
- Northern goshawks in aspen-dominated woodlands are being monitored and data are being used in a regional population analysis. In addition, there are several birds with transmitters in the eastern region to study and document habitat use in different seasons.
- A study of genetic diversity and habitat relationships of an isolated endemic chipmunk in whitebark pine dominated areas of the Pine Forest Range was completed and recently published in the Journal of Mammalogy.
- In conjunction with federal partners, a cave that has a large population of the rare California leaf-nosed bat was protected with NDOW helicopters and staff flying in several tons of steel to build a wildlife friendly gate. This cave also has extensive archeological artifacts – some dated to over eight-hundred years old. Selected artifacts are now on display at the Las Vegas Natural History Museum.

- The Nevada Bat Conservation Plan is being revised as is the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan.
- In partnership with other Nevada and California agencies, a Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Lake Tahoe was recently finalized.
- Ferruginous hawks in the eastern region are being tracked using satellite transmitters. Three (3) Nevada birds have dispersed to southern California, central California, and north Texas.
- More than sixteen thousand (16,000) acres were surveyed near Lake Tahoe for spotted owls. Only one territory was identified. Surveys are planned for this summer and a first-ever habitat suitability model for Nevada is being developed in partnership with UNR using over thirty years of Tahoe area data.
- Ongoing surveys are conducted for songbirds, raptors, Pacific marten, snowshoe hares, fringe-toed lizards, and many other species of reptiles.
- Several small intensive bat surveys or blitzes are planned for the upcoming year, one in each region.

## **FISHERIES**

Current snowpack conditions in northern Nevada suggest that 2021 could see significant impacts to stream flows, reservoir storage and fisheries resources this year unless we see improvement in the next few months. Precipitation so far this water year in western Nevada including the Truckee, Carson and Walker river basins is below 50% of average and most of northwestern and eastern Nevada isn't much better.

Fisheries Staff are continuing to work on improvements to the spawning station at Marlette Lake near Lake Tahoe. This station is critical for production of rainbow trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) eggs to support NDOW's trout stocking programs. Changes over time have made it difficult for adult fish to access the spawning station from the lake and design plans have been finalized for restoration of the access channel to be completed by fall 2021.

Eastern Region fisheries staff have been working on repairing and replacing habitat structures at Willow Creek Reservoir in Elko County. Many of the purchased structures had fallen over and sunk into the mud and some of the older structures had washed up onto the high-water mark.

The Truckee River's wild fish populations continue to improve with good water flows available thanks to reservoir storage this fall in the upper watershed. Results of fall 2020 surveys showed good representation and multiple age classes of wild rainbow, brown and whitefish populations; and the average size of fish continue to increase from previous years.

Recent surveys at Hobart Reservoir in Washoe County documented continued success with the tiger trout fishery, with tiger trout increasing in both density and size (largest around 20"), in addition to stocked brook and rainbow trout. We are continuing to work closely with State Public Works on developing plans for needed dam reconstruction that will minimize impacts to the fishery resources.

NDOW staff are working with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Western Rivers Conservancy to implement surveys and initial conservation actions on Disaster Peak Ranch and McDermitt Creek in northern Humboldt County and adjacent areas of Oregon. This property was acquired by WRC late last year and these efforts will significantly advance LCT recovery in northwestern Nevada.

NDOW co-hosted the annual Lahontan cutthroat trout interagency meeting the week of January 19. This had over 120 attendees in a virtual format this year and is an opportunity to review progress towards the recovery of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed LCT and to coordinate critical conservation activities for 2021 among multiple states and agency partners.

NDOW staff recently completed an updated monitoring plan for the Columbia Spotted Frog in central Nevada which is undergoing partner review. This plan was last updated in 2005 and is a critical tool for monitoring the success of conservation efforts for this species. The Columbia Spotted Frog in Nevada is a significant conservation success story. Efforts by NDOW and our partners to conserve and enhance these spotted frog populations resulted in the US Fish and Wildlife Service determining that listing of this species under the ESA was not warranted in 2016.

Southern Region staff assisted with monitoring surveys for Relict leopard frog populations in Black Canyon on Lake Mohave in early January. This endemic amphibian is another conservation success story with cooperative efforts between Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and the National Park service resulting also in a decision that ESA listing of the species wasn't warranted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Despite Covid related restrictions fisheries staff in both northern and southern Nevada have been able to continue scheduled monitoring and status assessment surveys for a number of ESA listed and state protected native fish species including the Soldier Meadows Desert Dace, Hiko White River springfish in Pahranaagat Valley and Blue Link Spring in Mineral County, and the Dixie Valley tui chub in Churchill County. In all cases monitoring results indicated population numbers consistent with past trends. Southern Region staff in early January completed a project to eradicate illegally dumped nonnative aquarium fish from ponds at Corn Creek on Desert NWR which have severely impacted a population of endangered Pahrump poolfish. This follows a similar effort necessary at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park near Red Rock also in Clark County. Fisheries and Conservation Education staff are working with the US FWS and other partners on a public outreach campaign on illegal pet dumping, which continues to be a major impact on native fish species populations. Our Lake Mead Hatchery has been successful in rearing and releasing several thousand endangered razorback suckers and bonytail into the lower Colorado River over the past few months in cooperation with the US Bureau of Reclamation. Additional razorbacks reared at Lake Mead will be stocked into the lower Grand Canyon later this spring to support research efforts by the National Park Service.

### **DATA & TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

The Data and Technologies Services Division is proud to announce the hire of Megan Manfredi into the Management Analyst position formerly held by retiree Maureen Hullinger. We are happy to announce the promotion of GIS Analyst Biologist Mitch Gritts into the Data Analytics position.

In review of the 2020 annual sales, the Department was successful for the third straight year of growth in license sale. A total of hundred and six thousand nine hundred and nineteen (106,919) hunting licenses for an increase of 11.78 percent over 2019. This is a three-year gain of 53.4 percent since implementing the Kalkomey AMS system. We also sold 183,866 fishing licenses for an increase of 24.26 percent over 2019 sales. Fishing license sales increase over the past three years are up 56.94 percent.

In December, DATS implemented a new vessel package product in AMS by combining the registration and AIS sticker into one product. This enhancement simplifies the requirements for boating customers and we fully anticipate this year to see an increase in the number of AIS stickers sold because of it.

On January 1<sup>st</sup> we auto renewed a record number of boats; ten thousand three hundred fifty-eight vessel auto renewed on the new package product and five thousand three hundred thirty-seven renewed on the registration only. This was fifty-seven percent of the total number of vessels registered in 2019.

Applications for the Spring Turkey Hunt opened on January 11<sup>th</sup> and the Licensing and Hunt staff are preparing for the Non-resident Guided Mule Deer Hunt that opens on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

The Geographic Information System was excited to able to hire two new staff members Alex Dierker and Ian Holl, which makes this unit fully staffed for the first time in almost a year.

The Information Technology staff was able to implement a mobile device management (MDM) software to manage the mobile devices issued by the department. This MDM will allow us to easily push down mobile apps to phones, as well as give us control to wipe devices in the event they are lost or stolen.

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

#### **Wildlife Patrol and Investigations:**

Wildlife patrol has been very busy over the last few months with numerous wildlife cases ongoing or in final stages throughout the state to include hunters trespassing on private property, multiple waste of game investigations statewide, investigation into a mule deer buck shot in a residential area, a guided hunt where one bighorn sheep was wounded and another was harvested by the same hunter and second hunter ending up taking the first wounded bighorn sheep ram, a mule deer buck that was allegedly shot and roaming wounded around the Carson City, Nevada, a mule deer doe near an urban area with an arrow sticking out of it, an Operation Game Thief (OGT) report of a shot and left cow elk and hunting

during a waterfowl closed season, and investigation of a tour helicopter company that may be harassing wildlife at guzzlers.

An Eastern Region game warden investigated an incident where a hunter wounded a 370-class bull elk. The same bull elk was killed shortly thereafter by a second hunter nearby when he came upon it who realized the animal was wounded. Unbeknownst to the second hunter, the original hunters were tracking the animal following their poor shot placement. This led to issues when the parties met. The investigating game warden explained the legalities in this case, due to the second hunter placing the mortal wound, to both parties. The parties worked out a civil agreement for a replica of the antlers to be created for the first hunter, and the second hunter tagged the animal, taking the meat and head.

Additionally, the Division of Law Enforcement investigations unit finalized seven possible residency cases after working alongside Utah and Arizona. Multiple additional residency cases have been identified and are underway statewide.

Game wardens have been involved in numerous non-hunting related incidents throughout the state including multiple mountain lions being released from leg hold traps, a spotted mountain lion cub that may have been trapped, multiple incidents involving mountain lions depredating on dogs, goats, and close calls with humans in the Moundhouse, Nevada area, game wardens citing a subject for second offense of feeding big game, and a repeat offender feeding a black bear. A Southern Region game warden contacted over 200 anglers in three days due to good weather and recent fish stocking.

Game wardens are addressing multiple expired and not-renewed special license and permit (SLAP) issues throughout the state.

### **Boating Safety Patrol**

Southern Region game wardens worked a Special Permit enforcement on Christmas Day and New Year's Day in Laughlin, Nevada on the Colorado River, throughout the events, no major issues were encountered. Game wardens also responded to a single vessel collision on Lake Mead. Game wardens conducted boat patrol the day after Christmas on Lake Mead and found several boating violations. The investigation unit is currently working on a stolen boat case as well.

### **Public Safety Events**

A game warden was first on scene to a three-vehicle motor vehicle collision. This resulted in three subjects going to the hospital, a DUI charge on one driver and a DUI drug (marijuana) charge on the other driver. Another game warden was first on scene to an overturned semi-truck, the game warden assisted EMS and Nevada Highway Patrol throughout the incident. A game warden in the Western Region helped a lost eight-year-old child locate his dad near Bedell Flats. A Southern Region game warden assisted National Park Service with the recovery of a deceased missing person in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

### **Headquarters and Administration**

The Law Enforcement Division began participation in the COVID-19 vaccination roll out for Tier One, which encompassed medical personnel and first responders such as law enforcement officers. Participating officers who wished for vaccination began the series in January.

A recruitment is open for seven vacancies due to promotions, resignations, retirements, and upcoming internal transfers. The remaining Game Warden Captain of Wildlife/OGT/Guides position has been filled by Jake Kreamer, who will be working in the Reno Headquarters. Two lieutenant positions, in Elko and Las Vegas, were filled in November of 2020. Lieutenant Buck Tingle is now the Game Warden Supervisor in the Eastern Region and Lieutenant Chris Walther is now the new Game Warden Supervisor in the Southern Region. Two new hires began in January, with one cadet to attend the February POST

academy for the Winnemucca, Nevada position and the other position a transfer officer from another agency starting the Law Enforcement Division mini academy and field training and evaluation program prior to being assigned to Overton, NV.

Pursuant to collective bargaining legislation passed in 2019, the Chief Game Warden is currently working with other State partners in negotiations with the Nevada Police Union regarding a future Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) and these meetings are ongoing.

Secretary Wasley explained further about one really successful program from ConEd is the trout in the classroom where a teacher has an aquarium where the dept places eggs so the class can monitor the life cycle development and eventual release. With COVID, we have a virtual tank that is live streamed online and are able to reach a larger variety of school aged children and classrooms.

Chairwoman East shared a personal story regarding her father's passing and a donation to the trout in the classroom program.

Chairwoman East asked if Diversity was involved in the bald eagle count around Lake Tahoe.

Division Administrator Jen Newmark answered typically yes, our western region biologists participate in those surveys. Across the board, we are seeing....

Chairwoman East asked who and what type of fish are being dumped.

Division Administrator Jon Sjoberg answered that regular aquarium fish are being released. NV have habitats where these fish can thrive and reproduce which in turn causes additional problems for habitats and native species.

Chairwoman East assumed that the increases in the licenses and registration is because of the automation? Do we have anything to attribute these increases to?

Secretary Wasley stated yes, this is a teaser to the project update agenda item scheduled for tomorrow.

Chairwoman East thanked the Department for their update and reflected in the record that Commissioner Hubbs has returned to join the meeting.

Break 12:45 – 1:15

- B.\*     Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General  
          A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

Deputy Attorney General Burkett brought attention to a case regarding dismissal on a challenge to the predator management program and how Director Wasley was instrumental in assisting in that case. Oral argument on a summary judgement as it relates to a defamation case regarding Mark Smith. Summary judgement file was not granted and there a trial date scheduled for August 2. Case added to the litigation report that we are voluntarily engaged in filing a motion on an intervention of USFWS declaring that the Bi-State sage grouse population was not warranted for listing under the Endangered Species Act. We are in support of that decision with extensive voluntary cooperative agreements and conservation efforts in action to assist the Bi-State population. The more I work for the department, the more I realize the department does for wildlife and it warms my heart.

- C.       Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Mid-Winter Conference –  
          Secretary Wasley and Commissioner McNinch

A report from the conference will be provided by the attendees.

Chairwoman East stated that she attended some of the conference and will add comments.

Commissioner McNinch began with symposium on fire. We talk about fire and this had my mind working with new concepts and ideas. Things being experienced on evaluation of fires. Symposium was recorded and is available for people to watch. Lots of distinctions between forest and range fires, in one scenario, maybe we haven't had enough fire and in another we may have had too many. 40-50 years ago, fires that were newsworthy are not close to what we are seeing now a days. Crazy how accepted the amount of burned acreage in a single fire is. Lost the concept of fire season and have grown accustomed to year-round fires. New concept brought up called pyro-diversity and was interesting, you get these burned-out areas, depending on the intensity of the burn, create burn intensity but an area on the other side of the hill that's less burned and what does that mean for species. Silver lining shows benefit that fires have variation in burn intensities and how they create mosaics in the landscapes within the fire area. Pyro-diversity equals biodiversity. High push on investments in shared and social sciences including social science to create awareness that fires affect everyone. Discuss the impacts of communities and increase the awareness. Western Nevada trout initiatives highlighted Nevada's fish map as a model for participation. A recreational opportunity to catch native trout and mark them off their list of what they have caught. They used Nevada's fishing map and wanted to give them a little shout out. Time and money are a challenge but a lot of large and relevant projects on the table. Discussion on the COVID bump; is it a bump or a shift? In Nevada it feels like a bump of a shift. We were already seeing some bumps in those and then COVID hits and we see another surge and now we are thinking about how to keep those folks. Discussion on its just not hunting and fishing there were other people interested in participating in outdoor activities; but the important thing is that more people are getting involved with the outdoors and that means they may be supportive of wildlife and related funding and activities. Nevada is not unique in dealing with bear issues. At the summer meeting to commissioners committee wants to hear more about the issues from the states.

Chairwoman East commended Commissioner McNinch's brief. Stated that she found the commissioner's forum to be helpful.

Secretary Wasley provided a background of what AFWA is. Benefits: shared science and data for professional development, unified position, to be able to discuss and issue and develop a unified position carries a lot more weight. Summer meeting is more robust than the winter meeting. The Fire Symposium is on WAFWA's website. Terms R3 and R5 were mentioned, recruitment retention and reactivation; and now in line with COVID, relevance and resilience. One of the regularly occurring meetings: Colorado River fish and wildlife council; discussing specific Colorado River issues; Arizona, New Mexico, California, Colorado, Utah, looking at anticipated water flows, coordinating AIS issues, sharing challenges, sciences, and opportunities. Three panels; fire impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, human relationship with fire and coordinated decision making for fire response. Some additional discussions that were held: National Bear-wise program, broader R3 workshop, ability to present industry type priorities to incoming administration.

Deputy Director Robb discussed the R3. AFWA and R3 in conjunction, but the R3 is a nationwide event that's held. I can tell you, between R3 conference and the annual Recreation Fishing and Boating conference we attend, everything NDOW has put in place recently through license simplification, through auto renew, the 365 license, our outreach; all these ideas are not new ideas for NDOW. I do think we are unique in the way we bundled these ideas. A lot of these other agencies try a few of these items, we did about 10 of them at the same time to get a different result. It's been a great learning experience for us. I truly believe helping others, help us. We make more sales on non-resident hunting licenses than we do on resident hunting license. Shed hunting was a very long discussed item and spoken to at lengths in the

commissioner/directors meeting; we see when one state makes a change, it affects other states. We get the most complaints about shed hunting; we need to figure this out.

Commissioner McNinch stated that Wyoming commissioner and Utah commissioner were going to take lead on that. I appreciate you being in the middle of that and being involved.

Commissioner Almborg wanted to extend thanks to the directors and commissioners for taking those steps and starting those conversations.

- D.\* Wildlife Heritage Account Report – Division Administrator Alan Jenne  
A report will be provided on the funds available (interest and principal) for expenditure from the Wildlife Heritage account in the upcoming year and an update on available principal balance.

Division Administrator Alan Jenne gave a report of the Wildlife Heritage Account as corresponded with the support material. External heritage proposals period is open until March 1 and the dept will go through those to work with the authors for needed clarification. Then on April 15th will bring those to the CABs and Commission At the May Commission meeting, the heritage committee will meet to hear this year's heritage project proposals. All information regarding the heritage proposal process can be found on the Heritage committee page on the NDOW website.

Chairwoman East asked when the vendor tags are due as she knew that the deadline was missed last year by quite a few people. Understood that the Commission was going to hear the dates the following date and opted to wait until Saturday's Commission meeting to get those dates.

- E. Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee and Mule Deer Enhancement Program Update – Committee Chairman Casey Kiel and Division Administrator Mike Scott - Informational  
A report will be provided on the recent Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee and the Department will provide an update on the current status of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program that was approved by the Commission at the June 26, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Kiel December 16, 2020 committee meeting was held. There is a clear path forward with the diverse array of perspective on the area teams, the oversight committees, the Department staff, and NGO's. Gave example of running into sportsmen in the field who expressed their excitement.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott stated that the next steps would be to work with Commissioner Kiel to set up the next oversight committee. A few agenda items would include developing a code of conduct for the oversight teams as well mule deer team meetings; have Cody Schroeder prepare a presentation of mule deer in Nevada and some of this history of where we are. All the 14 teams have been formed and some of them already started having meetings. Encouraged all CAB members to attend the discussions and participate in the team meetings. Stressed that this is not a sprint but a marathon. It is not a short-term process that will end soon but see this as the new way of doing business going forward. Relations between some of the limiting factors and the solutions are complex in that effort will not be successful if people do not work together to agree on direction moving forward.

Chairwoman East stated she sat through the meeting as an observer. Understandable that this is a slower process than what people want but we must do it right.

- F. Legislative Committee Report – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – Informational  
A report will be provided on the recent Legislative Committee Meeting.

Chairwoman East gave an update on the Legislative session and the committees assignments. Cancela and Assefa replacements will be named next week. Discussed the BDR list, at that time there were no bills drafted out of that BDR list and now have been a couple do now have a bit of info. Titus is bringing back her legislation from 2019 to donate a tag to an organization that supports youth or disabled veterans. Another would build legislation around salvaging animals who have been killed while struck by vehicles. A few firearm related BDRs. One BDR that revises the commission structure; one member who is a master guide pursuant to NRS 290 and one who is elected officer representing governing body of a local political subdivision. Will bring more info to the commission to determine a stance or a statement if necessary.

Secretary Wasley offered to share the Departments abilities and roles vs the Commissions abilities and roles, as there are new commissioners.

- G. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – Informational  
A report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.

Commissioner Caviglia discussed the junior mule deer eligibility data and wanted to further look at that before recommendations to the commission, that will be on a future agenda. Also looked at the specialty tag closure procedure, specifically related to the sheep tags. Gave a background of when areas are closed due to specialty tag harvests. That item will also be discussed at the next committee meeting.

- H. Regulation Simplification Committee Report – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – Informational  
A report will be provided on the recent Regulation Simplification Committee meeting.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that the Committee met and reviewed the regulations that were presented earlier today. Imagined 503 will be on the agenda next committee but there is not much more on the list provided by the Department.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated that the Department did not have changes to 505 but opened it to the commissioner but the department does not have any changes to it. I believe we have 701 and I have staff looking into that currently but if they do not find changes to that program then we will be done after these regulations.

- 8. Use of Hounds on Bear Hunts – Game Division Administrator Mike Scott - For Possible Action  
The Commission will hear data compiled by the Department relating to the use of hounds on bear hunts, as directed by the Commission in November 2020's meeting as a follow-up to a petition. The Commission will direct the Department as to how to proceed with the petition process.

Deputy Attorney General Burkett stated that the Department received an email from the petitioner late last night with questions around the rule making process and structure. There is a problem on the manner of the present item is agenized and that it is not agenized as a workshop. Last meeting the commission accepted the petition and requested further information. The agenized item was meant to accomplish that but its clear under NRS 233b.061 that following accepting the petition, a workshop needs to be held. Agenda needs to reflect this as a workshop and suggested that the commission move this agenda item to the next meeting to agenize as a workshop. It is my opinion that you should remove the item and set it for the next meeting. My understanding language would not be received back from LCB until sept so allows time for in depth review.

Deputy Director Robb took blame for confusion. At 8-hour 35-minute mark in the previous commission meeting, the video shows the discussion for Department direction. Realized that in further discussions with Deputy Attorney General Burkett, this item needed to be a workshop. Apologized and understood that there were a lot of people in attendance and put a lot of work into this; stated that we must move forward this way, not because we do not want to go forward but legally prudent not to go forward this time.

Commissioner McNinch assumed that we are beginning that process that we are gathering info to make changes. I would fall in the same boat as Deputy Director Robb did. Made the same discussion as the dept. with that in mind, doing a workshop, what is presented in the workshop...

Deputy Attorney General Burkett - .... Items identified in agenda item is appropriate for a workshop and is not a workshop. Can discuss the petition and the reg and all facets of it. Offers a wide scope activities. Can talk about all considerations and going forward with the petition or otherwise. I think its appropriate to be a workshop but it has to be a workshop.

Commissioner McNinch asked if we had specific language for the workshop.

DAG Burkett reminded Commissioner McNinch that the petitioner had draft language to be used.

Commissioner Hubbs stated her frustration. Asked why is that not ok now if everyone was onboard last Commission meeting.

Chairwoman East stated that the way it's a workshop and not what we were hoping or thinking to get out of this meeting.

DAG Burkett offered this opinion that the petition was accepted that the next thing that has to happen is a workshop to happen. Stated its important to follow the rule making policy.

Discussion on clarification of an "workshop"

DAG Burkett read from the Rule Making Policy "... the agency must conduct a workshop to solicit comments from interested persons on one or more topics to be proposed regulation".

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO HOLD THIS ITEM UNTIL THE MARCH 2021 MEETING TO BE HELD AS A WORKSHOP. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH.**

Commissioner Hubbs requested an apology from the department and the commission to the general public.

Deputy Director Robb stated that public comment needed to be taken.

Break for public comment, 2:39 – 2:43

Marcial Evertsen

To: Wildlife Commission

Will specific groups have an option to present their case in a professional manner during the next meeting? rather than through email in opposition to the petition.

Marcial Evertsen

Jonathan Lesperance

To: Wildlife Commission

I appreciate the tabling of this agenda item until properly posted as a workshop. I would enjoyed the informational update from the department but look forward to the next commission meeting. Please consider the prior written correspondence sent on this item from NSDA, Western Bear Foundation, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, and BHA.

Thank you,

Jonathan Lesperance

Joe Crawford

To: Wildlife Commission

Please take the necessary time to make informed decisions on this petition.

Joe Crawford

Lyon CAB

Jana Wright

To: Wildlife Commission

Major disappointment on holding this item until March

Please keep all correspondence so we don't have to re-send emails and letters

Jana

Clark County

Elaine Carrick

To: Wildlife Commission

Below are my Public Comments to be read in support of Agenda Item # 8, the petition to ban the use of hounds in the hunting of black bears in Nevada. I have focused on factual points below regarding the negative effect on black bears on using hounds to hunt them. With approving this petition, hunters will still be able to successfully hunt black bears using their own hunting skills without the use of hounds. Thank you for considering this petition which levels the playing field & gives our bears a fair chance.

Elaine Carrick, Reno, NV 89511

FACTS:

1. The Nevada State Report 2018 titled "America's Wildlife Values" commissioned by NDOW has these statistics for NV residents regarding using hounds to hunt black bears: 63% of residents surveyed DISAGREE with using dogs/hounds to hunt Black Bears.  
2.3 % of NV residents are hunters. Public opinion should be given full consideration.
2. Fair Chase, described by the Boone & Crockett Club, is "pursuit & taking a big game animal in a manner that does not give an improper advantage over such animals."  
The use of hounds does give the hunter an advantage over an animal which is why hounds are used to hunt & kill Black Bears.
3. In the fall during the hunt season (Sept. 15-Dec.1), bears can forage 20hrs. a day to increase their body weight 35% eating 25,000 calories a day, called Hyperphagia, so they can survive their long hibernation without eating. Using hounds to make bears run great distances can affect their ability to find & retain calories.
4. A female bear will send her cubs up a tree to safety if she is alerted to danger. A hunter may not know she has cubs because he doesn't see them & may release his hounds to chase her which can result in her being killed or unable to get back to her cubs which can result in their death by starvation.
5. If hounds catch a bear on the ground, both the bear & hounds can be severely wounded or killed until the hunter finally arrives on the scene to call off his hounds.
6. A pack of hounds running through the forest & brush can disturb and/or kill other wildlife living in the path of the running hounds.
7. Female bears mate in the spring & summer and could be pregnant with an embryo that she could lose during a long, hot run to escape a pack of hounds.
8. Bear Biology.org states that 38% of treed bears cannot be identified by hunters as to their gender.

9. President Teddy Roosevelt refused to shoot an exhausted bear that had been chased by hounds & tried to hide in a mud hole. Perhaps he didn't consider this a fair chase?  
Elaine Carrick , 6180 S. Featherstone Cir., Reno, NV 89511  
(This public comment was not initially read into the record, was then read by Chairwoman East on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021)

Kathryn Bricker  
To: Wildlife Commission  
Commissioner,

Please vote in favor of rescheduling the bear hunting w hounds agenda item as a workshop to be heard at your March meeting. The information compiled by the Dept to present to the commission should be made available to the public prior to the meeting. Thank you for your service and consideration of my remarks.

Kathryn Bricker  
Douglas County NV

**MOTION PASSES 8-0, COMMISSIONER HUBBS WAS ABSENT**

9. 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.

Break for public comment, 2:48 – 2:52

No public comment.

Adjourned to reconvene Saturday January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Saturday, January 30, 2021 – 9:00 a.m.**

10. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East  
CABMW members who are present and viewing the meeting through the YouTube link should send an email to [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org) indicating their presence.

Meeting called to order at 9:03am. Commissioner Pierini led the pledge. All present except Commissioner AlMBERG who showed late.

11. 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.

Public comment period 9:05 – 9:08

No comment.

**COMMISSIONER ALMBERG MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

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

Chairwoman East read into the record public comments from yesterday. Requested brevity when sending public comments.

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

Chairwoman East requested CABs send correspondence to the email.

14. **Commission General Regulations - Adoption / Public Comment Allowed**

- A.\* Commission General Regulation 493, NAC 488 Simplification – Management Analyst Kailey Taylor – For Possible Action  
The Commission will review the Legislative Council Bureau's drafted language of the updates and simplifications to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 488 relating to watercrafts, as proposed by the Commission and Regulation Simplification Committee.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor had submitted language to Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) from the last workshop and received it back with no concerns.

Public comment period 9:19 – 9:22

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO ADOPT CGR 493 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

15. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Deputy Director Jack Robb – 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.

Secretary Wasley began that there is uncertainty around us throughout the country due to COVID. There is comfort and reliance being sought in the outdoors. We have seen unprecedented demands on our resources and there has been challenges to the state budget. The Department is mainly funded by sales and fees collected, creating 95% of the agency's budget. On the contrary to the public comment the agency has a very broad mission, we take it very seriously. Only 8% on the 895 commonly occurring species in the state provide any opportunity for revenue generation so we have a very narrow funding model and a very broad statutory charge which creates challenges and sustainability of our funding model. This would be an opportune time to look at those changes and approaches that the department has taken to sustain the ability to conserve the states natural resources.

Deputy Director Robb shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the licenses, sales and steps taken by the Department to increase sales and keep customer base.

Secretary Wasley clarified that the 10% cap was on non-residents rather than residents.

Commissioner Kiel asked about the 8% of species that generate revenue and if the Department has thought about gaining revenue around the other 92% of the species.

Secretary Wasley stated that there has been proposed legislation teaming with wildlife that would assess a similar excise tax on outdoor equipment that received pushback from industry resenting additional taxes and that failed. The most current and promising legislation involves RAWA, there is a lot of momentum in DC, we are optimistic of what the future of that would hold. What it would do is provided state wildlife agencies with a dedicated funding source to the implementation of state wildlife action plan. Species of conservation priority for our state is not a game/nongame divide its of species conservation priority. Does not come from an excise tax like what fishing equipment, guns and ammo, but it is a funding source that would assist us in meeting the needs of the other 92% of the species of Nevada.

Commissioner Hubbs asked if a there could be some type of prompt to ask customers if they would like to donate money towards something in some capacity towards species of Nevada. Thinks that most of consumers donate as we purchase equipment from hunting, fishing, and sporting goods stores.

Secretary Wasley stated that there are some similar efforts underway, license plates for example. There are several efforts and attempts but not nearly as many examples of successful efforts and attempts. Exploring and discussing ways to fully fund and conserve efforts of all species. In some instances, industry partners have distanced themselves from state wildlife agencies or consumptive uses. A lot of nuance to it and appreciates the question and welcomed any questions to explore funding to meet the needs of all species.

Deputy Director Robb stated that it is an opportunity for the general public who are not purchasing a license to help fund the department, the resource enhancement stamp. Described the resource enhancement stamp; its history, system compatibility with new vendor, its decoupling from the dream tag and the amount of revenue its produced.

Chairwoman East asked for demographic information on the resource enhancement stamp.

Deputy Director Robb stated that did not know off the top of his head but guessed that majority of the revenue came from dream tag sales and big game application process.

Commissioner McNinch stated that there was a time where there was legislation proposed a fee for those going into the state wildlife management areas for entry, those with a hunting or fishing license did not have to pay a fee. The intent was to create an awareness to the public that it costs money to do these things and to engage them in "paying their way" and getting them to understand that their general tax isn't paying for the Department to operate. The fact that there is an interest now signals a major change. The only reason behind it was sportsmen did not want nonusers having a seat at the table. Goes to the whole push to human dimensions and understanding constituencies and commends the department on the work that they've done to understand and to know their constituencies and make these changes. The whole talk of increasing fees is not an issue in Nevada because there's other things happening. The dept is finding way to generate revenue without having to charge those taxes. Excise tax on bird seeds came up at WAFWA by another state's commissioner. Point is there is a mindset that was a big hurdle, and it is encouraging that maybe that wall is coming down and have a chance in the future for these opportunities. RAWA is the best option and is something to consider in the future.

Commissioner Hubbs added there is a large part of the population that is very interested in the other 92% of the species and feel like we are unable to reach those at this time. Would like to explore that. If we can tie wildlife to those activities, it would help in a positive way.

Secretary Wasley stated that he has observed that there is a huge lack of awareness to the whole mission, the statutory charge of state wildlife agencies and that disproportionate reliance on funding on a disproportionate number of our species has made it harder on the industry to achieve that broader understanding. We are reminded every time we go to the state legislature of what is assumed are department responsibilities. They only see us for the controversial issues that take so much of our team here as a commission and an agency; those things tend to define us in their eyes, and we may not have been doing the best job we could in achieving an understanding and an appreciation for the full breadth of our statutory charge and conservation mission. There are a number of discussions with the outdoor rec round table, with industry partners including bass pro shops and Patagonia and others to try to better integrate some of the wildlife pieces into those outdoor rec pieces. Try to find how we can all work together to synergize our capacity, our interest, our customers to elevate the importance of wild animals and wild places to the American citizens.

Commissioner McNinch commended Tony's work with the relevancy road map, which is a major component to this whole thing. Wish we spent enough time on that as we do other issues because if we want to see change towards finding a broad-based funding structure and getting people involved with wildlife it begins there. There is committee after committee and hours spent on this trying to turn the train on this narrow track. There are efforts, it just takes time to see this change. The Department and Tony's involvement is high; there is a lot going on and appreciate the efforts and encourage the work despite the timing it is taking to move forward.

Commissioner Rogers thanked Deputy Director Robb for the presentation as it was educational and informative.

Chairwoman East asked if we are seeing a resurgence to the younger audience in knowing where their food comes from and asked if we could take advantage of it if so.

Deputy Director Robb stated that anecdotally hear about it but the numbers in the 20 to 35-year-old range show that we are seeing that. With Hunter Ed online last year, 49% bump in Hunter Ed. If you were over 21 you could do Hunter Ed online only. We encourage people to take the in-class Hunter Ed and those who took online last year we will circle back them and offer a field day for them to give them that exposure. We are seeing it, but we can't tease it out of the data.

Secretary Wasley wanted to add that the commission is aware that the Department is a partner in the wild harvest initiative effort. Continuing work on survey materials to understand the food value and sharing index. As we learn will share more when we learn more. We have an outdoor connection coordinator position approved in the last legislative session to engage the nontraditional audiences and has the responsibility of the wild harvest initiative relationship. You will see recipes being shared through our social media to connect the value of wild harvest.

Chairwoman East asked about the savings under the new contract, the \$4.7m, asked if marketing included in that savings number presented.

Deputy Director Robb stated this it is just workflow dollars; licenses, boat registration transactions, and application transactions.

Break 10:35 – 10:45

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

- A.\* Commission Regulation 21-03, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, and Cody McKee – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics, hunt boundary restrictions, and legal weapon requirements, and emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quota.

Cody Schroeder began stating the recommendations of the antelope seasons as presented in the support materials. Went over the survey results submitted by the CABs.

Cody Schroeder clarified the muzzleloader hunt for Chairwoman East.

Commissioner Kiel asked if archery tags were being moved over to the muzzleloader hunt. Or if there will be an increase in tags for muzzleloaders.

Cody Schroeder stated that we are not adding tags, will likely shift tags away from the “any legal weapon” hunt where there are more tags. Our existing muzzleloader hunts quotas range from 1 to 10 for residents. Looking at the statewide average of demand using the demand success formula. We used data based on the prior year applications, we are talking a very few tags for muzzleloaders.

Chairwoman East asked if he thinks we can accommodate what Mineral County request in hunt units 202-204.

Cody Schroeder stated it is a small population (less than 100) so there is not a ton of opportunity. It does not result in any more antelope being taken it just reallocating a tag to a different weapons class.

Commissioner Rogers asked about the season dates, curious what the thought process or methodology on a few of the units that have that shortened to August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Cody Schroeder explained the two season structure formats. When we rolled these out, it was up to the individual biologists to decide which of those two season structures to choose from. They are interchangeable, there is no overlap among the weapon classes that we would have to worry about.

Game Division Administrator Scott added that there is a set of harvest and hunt guidelines that we use. Those two structures can be used for antelope, we are staying consistent with what we have and some of those units can be added in between the archery and rifle hunts. Stated that there was a question from one of the CABs, about antelope after the rut and getting ready to go into winter but believes almost every other western States hunt antelope after the rut. We are one of the few states that has the early seasons.

Cody Schroeder reiterated what Game Division Administrator Scott stated. Because we have had these going for year, we haven’t seen negative impact. There are so very few hunters that they are not putting harm on the herds by hunting during that period. Many of the other big game species hunts are during and post rut.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that one of the CABs reported that antelope numbers were lower in their area than previous years, requested wanted an overall feeling for how the antelope are doing around the state.

Cody Schroeder explained overall, antelope have been doing well across the state. However, the reference was likely to some localized herds that have had depressed recruitment rates. Indicated that there have not been any reports about large scale population decline. Less recruitment means less growth of the herd.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if there is a reason why the muzzleloader hunt was early.

Cody Schroeder stated that it was a preference of the biologist managing the area. There isn't any reason we couldn't do that to accommodate the archers concerns from the Carson City CAB.

Public comment break 11:20 – 11:25.

From: Mel Belding

To: Wildlife Commission

I would respectfully urge the Commission to review the Big Game Status book from the past couple of years before deciding to approve a tag in either of these units. The Area Biologist stated that these herds were stable or declining and stable or maybe slightly increasing. We have had multiple augmentations in both of these units and have yet to see even modest herd population gains, not at all like what we've experienced with the majority of transplants and augmentations throughout the State. Neither of these units have had regular aerial flights the past couple of years and more data should be considered before a hunt is approved. Just what is the current status of these herds. We were told just last year at this time that there were not sufficient older aged class rams to offer a tag. What has changed since then other than that Area Biologist has retired after many years of faithful service to the State and its' Wildlife?

Is this a "one shot" tag for this year and this year only? Can this hunt be sustained for more than just this season.

Unfortunately, as confirmed Mt Lion predation on all CBS units in Washoe County and the Sheldon have been documented those units are in danger of closing along with 041 because of it.

Please deny the opening of a hunt in 011, 013. Thank you.

From: Mel Belding

To: Wildlife Commission

Horns shorter than ears hunt.

Please consider closing the horns shorter than ears in 041-042 as recommended by the Pershing CAB and the understanding that this herd has declined since the adoption of the hunt and poor fawn survival rates being experienced in 041-042.

From: Joe Crim

To: Wildlife Commission

WE voted to not support Antelope Doe hunts in units 041-041. Reasons for this is the declining herd. In 2019 we had a projected population of 2000 and now we are projected to have 1400 and a Post Season Fawn Ratio of 19. We feel these Antelope need time to recover.

As for 043-046 Antelope Doe Hunt. We feel if a Doe hunt happens in this unit the unit will end up like 041-042 with low population numbers and almost non existent fawn recruitment. Having said that we would implore the Commission to not pass Antelope Doe Hunts in units 043-046.

If the Muzzleloader hunt is a go we would like to see the dates the same as presented as to not interfere with future surveys.

Joe Crim

Pershing CAB

From: Rex Flowers

To: Wildlife Commission

I had not planned to comment on this item but given the fact we are going to have a hunt based not on herd health but rather on "it follows within our guidelines" I feel a need to comment. Facts are facts Post season fawn ratios since 2016 have dropped every year from 45/100 does to 19/100; total population has dropped 30% since the 2019 estimated population and this past year buck harvest is below 100- first time in the past eleven years. As a member of the public whose family spends much time recreating in this area we have seen less and less antelope each year and I would hope you would recommend not to have an antlerless antelope hunt for the next two years. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Rex Flowers

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ANTELOPE PORTION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: HUNT 2171 CHANGE DATES OF UNIT 041, 042 AND 043, 046 TO SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 4 AND ADD HUNT SEASON TO UNITY 202-204 WITH DATES OF SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 4. HUNT 2271 CHANGING DATES OF 043-046 SEPTEMBER 25 – OCTOBER 4. HUNT 2161 CHANGING DATES IN UNITS 041, 042 AND 043-046 TO AUGUST 1 – AUGUST 21. HUNT 2261 CHANGING DATES IN 041, 042 AND 043-046 TO AUGUST 1 – AUGUST 21. HUNT 2181 EXPAND THE EXPLANATION OF THE BAKER RANCH PROPERTIES IN UNITS 114 AND 115. SECONDED BY COMMISSION CAVIGLIA. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Cody McKee began by presenting the Department's recommendations to the elk seasons with a PowerPoint presentation. Went over the survey results submitted by the CABs.

Break for public comment 12:54 – 1:00.

From: Steve Robinson Washoe CAB

To: Wildlife Commission

Our CAB recommended hunt 4151 Resident Elk Unit group 161-164, 171-173 Early to be put back into a rotation for weapon class. We would like 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 season to be archery, the following 2 seasons Muzzleloader and the following 2 seasons Rifle. This gives everyone the opportunity to experience this great hunt.

We would also like the Elk management plan to be reviewed as Chairwoman East asked for last meeting. This may help clarify the need for spike elk hunts in the east and how does that contribute to the future of trophy class Bull Elk. Also, how does this improve the Bull to cow ratios when cow hunts are still being conducted.

From: Ray Sawyer

To: Wildlife Commission

What's the possible long term solution Cody mentioned but didn't talk about?

From: Ray Sawyer

To: Wildlife Commission

Is SNWA complaining about the Elk? Do we have to act this year?

From: Chrissy Pope

To: Wildlife Commission

The Nye CAB does not support a spike bull hunt in unit 161-164. We already feel this area is congested enough due to cow elk season being the same time a spike hunt would be offered. We also fear during this late season more cows would be killed rather than spikes due to the way they gather in our hunt unit. When we have a healthy winter season we typically have 50-100 or more cows gathering in a herd with a few spikes, adding a cow quota of 70 (last years quota for this area) and a spike quota of say 5 or 10, to us this is asking for more problems than accomplishments.

We did look at offering this hunt at a different time than what was proposed by NDOW but were unable to fit this hunt into any other season that would not congest the area or cause problems. For example; If I had an elk tag (that took me 25 bonus points to draw) and had my sights on a 350 bull and someone at the same time as me had a spike tag and shot his spike near my bull, running mine out of the country I would have to say I would not be very happy.

Thank you for your time!

Chrissy

From: Tobi Tyler

To: Wildlife Commission

With all due respect, if natural predation on elk (i.e., mountain lions) were not limited to the extent it is in NV (365/24/7 for hunting lions), then maybe the elk population could be naturally controlled.

From: Kelly Dean

To: Wildlife Commission

Kelly Dean, bow hunting chairman of the Nevada Bow Hunters Association, a statewide organization representing bow hunters in Nevada This was not specifically discussed yet, but I was glad to see the antlerless archery seasons In area 72 go back to a three week season

Cody McKee answered questions.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE ELK PORTION AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: HUNT 4651 REMOVE THE 062, 064, 066-068 LATE SEASON. HUNT 4181 REMOVE 062,064-068 LATE SEASON. HUNT 4281 REMOVE THE 062, 064-068 LATE SEASON. HUNT 4017 EDIT THE EXPLANATION IN C TO READ AS IT DID IN PAST REGULATIONS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

Break 1:25 – 2:00

Mike Cox opened the nelson bighorn sheep portion of the regulation as presented by the Department.

Public comment period 2:33 – 2:36

From: Chris Jasmine

To: Wildlife Commission

Wildlife Commissioners,

The Traditional Archers of Nevada (TAN) fully supports the addition of Hunt 3161 (Archery Ram) to Nevadas hunting regulations.

In an ever evolving world of technological advances in the hunting industry, our organization supports any effort to expand opportunities for Nevada hunters through the use of close range weapons. TAN believes that developing more archery specific opportunities in the State of Nevada will, over time, lead to increases in hunter opportunity, through lower success rates.

Although Commissioner Caviglia is correct that some CABs did not support this effort, others around the State did support it, with some even seeking additional units to be added. TAN would ask that all CAB comments be read into the record on this topic, as the commission only listed the CABs that were against it.

Thank you for your consideration to approve Hunt 3161, and we hope that the Commission will see this as an avenue to expand hunter opportunity through the use of proven, fair chase hunting methods.

Chris M. Jasmine

President - Traditional Archers of Nevada

From: Joe Crim

To: Wildlife Commission

Pershing CAB would like to see Ewe's transplanted to an area that needs augmentation instead of them being hunted in overpopulated areas.

Joe Crim

Pershing CAB

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVED THE NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: HUNT 3251, REMOVE HUNTS IN UNITS 261 AND 262 AND ADD HUNTS IN UNITS 244 AND 253 FOR SAME SEASON DATES. HUNT 3161, REMOVED HUNT IN UNITS 271, 242 AND ADD A SINGLE HUNT IN UNITS 202, 204 WITH THE SAME SEASON DATES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

Mike Cox continued with the California bighorn sheep portion of the regulation as presented by the department.

Break for public comment, 3:00 – 3:03

From: Mitch McVicars

To: Wildlife Commission

Unit 114 Rocky Mountain Bighorn Herd

We would like to see a collaring project in this unit, it has been discussed in the past years. Mature rams are hard to locate in the unit for the 2020 season.

Thanks Mitch McVicars

From: Mel Belding

To: Wildlife Commission

I would respectfully urge the Commission to review the Big Game Status book from the past couple of years before deciding to approve a tag in either of these units. The Area Biologist stated that these herds were stable or declining and stable or maybe slightly increasing. We have had multiple augmentations in both of these units and have yet to see even modest herd population gains, not at all like what we've experienced with the majority of transplants and augmentations throughout the State. Neither of these units have had regular aerial flights the past couple of years and more data should be considered before a hunt is approved. Just what is the current status of these herds. We were told just last year at this time that there were not sufficient older aged class rams to offer a tag. What has changed since then other than that Area Biologist has retired after many years of faithful service to the State and its' Wildlife?

Is this a "one shot" tag for this year and this year only? Can this hunt be sustained for more than just this season.

Unfortunately, as confirmed Mt Lion predation on all CBS units in Washoe County and the Sheldon have been documented those units are in danger of closing along with 041 because of it.

Please deny the opening of a hunt in 011, 013. Thank you.

From: Joe Crim

To: Wildlife Commission

I don't support the hunt in unit 011, 013 due to specialty tags also being able to hunt there.

Joe Crim

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE REST OF THE SHEEP PORTION AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED SUBSCRIPT CHANGE TO THE 035 IN HUNT 8251. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

Cody Schroeder opened the mule deer portion of the regulation as proposed by the Department and went through the CAB recommendations.

Break for public comment 3:27 – 3:30.

From: Steve Robinson  
To: Wildlife Commission  
Washoe CAB recommended to eliminate antlerless from all Junior hunts and make it an antlered hunt only  
Steve Robinson Washoe CAB

From: Mitch McVicars  
To: Wildlife Commission  
We just discussed doe hunts in general. All youth does hunts would be the easiest.

From: Mike Reese  
To: Wildlife Commission  
I apologize that I missed this during our cab meeting but i am opposed to hunting does while our deer populations are as low as they are and I dont want to see any doe's harvested!!!!  
Mike Reese

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED WITH THE ADDITION TO EXTRA DETAIL ABOUT BAKER RANCH BE ADDED TO HUNT 1181 IN UNITS 114 AND 115. HUNT 1331 AND 1332 REMOVING UNIT 111-113 LATE HUNT. SECONDED BY CHAIRWOMAN EAST. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

- B.\* Commission Regulation 21-04, 2021 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting the 2021 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson opened continued with the black bear portion of the regulation as presented by the department.

Break for public comment 3:57 p.m. – 04:00 p.m.

From: Steve Robinson Washoe CAB  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 03:58 p.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission  
Washoe CAB unanimously supported the black bear hunt with 100% support from our public.

From: Jennifer Simeo  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 03:58 p.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission  
Good Afternoon Wildlife Commissioners,  
I'm in opposition to the 2021 Black Bear Hunt. This hunt is not for population control and is not supported by Nevadans. According to the most recent America's Wildlife Values, Nevada State Report, 49% of respondents disagreed with the Black Bear hunt, while only 30% agreed. When asked if they supported the use of hunting dogs to hunt Black Bears, a whopping 63% of respondents disagreed with the use of this technique. When broken down by geography, 74% of Las Vegas residents and 66% of Reno and

Carson City residents did not support the Black Bear hunt. As to what Nevadans value, 76% of respondents were interested in wildlife viewing compared to 29% who were interested in hunting. A living bear is more valuable to Nevadans. Thank you for your consideration,  
Jennifer Simeo  
Reno, NV

From: Stephanie Myers  
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 03:58 p.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission

Dear Commissioners,

I oppose the Black Bear hunt, as many people do, on the following grounds:

1. There is no stated management objective. We don't hear NDOW say that the hunt is for "the health of the herd;" no, it is always that "the population can sustain these losses." ONLY HUNTER OPPORTUNITY! Is that a good reason for this hunt?
2. The Black Bear hunt is a trophy hunt- the head goes on the wall as decoration and the skin on the floor as a rug. That's it – decoration. There is no redeeming social value.
3. The use of hounds is destructive – even in exercising these dogs, what do dogs do? Harass wildlife. They certainly harass bears, even female bears with cubs. What happens to these cubs when the mother is treed and killed?

Because Nevada's wildlife belongs to all the people of Nevada, it is important that you consider the voices of ALL Nevadans, not just hunters.

Problem bears can be dealt with separately – moving them out of the area and educating people about proper garbage receptacles is a good start.

Please make the limit at 0 or 1.

Thank you,  
Stephanie Myers  
Las Vegas

From: Haley Stewart  
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2021 03:59 p.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission

Good morning Chairperson East and Members of the Commission,

Please see the attached testimony on behalf of Jeff Dixon, Nevada State director for the Humane Society of the United States, regarding the black bear hunting season.

Thank you,  
Haley Stewart  
Program Manager, Wildlife Protection

From: Cathy Smith  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 03:59 p.m.  
To: Wildlife Commission

Dear Chairwoman East and Commissioners,

It is inherently risky to hunt small populations. I will only comment to say that the matrix has only a slight chance of detecting a significant decline in population due to the very small sample size. It is virtually useless, especially given that it is well reported *that populations can decline without an alteration of sex and age ratios*. I am hoping the department will run some simulations on possible outcomes of the hunt to determine the odds of detecting a declining population.

Thank you,

Cathy Smith

From: Fred Voltz

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 03:58 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

The compelling reasons against the bear hunts haven't changed from year-to-year.

NDOW's continuing inability to accurately gauge bear populations in each hunt unit surfaces in its wildly fluctuating guesstimates. If its lowest guesstimate is accurate and we have 400 bears in the entire state, killing 20 of them for hunter convenience, opportunity and success, layered on top of the roughly 20 who die each year because they are designated by NDOW staff as nuisances or are hit by speeding drivers, translates into a 10% loss. From an objective biologist's standpoint, those mortality statistics should be very concerning to each and every commissioner with a responsibility to preserve, not destroy, our wildlife species.

Kudos to Commissioner Barnes for bringing up the recent Sacramento Bee news article about another California legislative initiative benefitting wildlife that seeks an end to sport bear hunting. The article's author, a California bear hunter, managed to tell a number of facts amidst his obvious bias toward hunters and hunting in what should have been objective reporting. California has made too few wise public policy decisions of late, but with wildlife it is showing incredible wisdom and foresight compared to states mired in backward 19th Century thinking. Nevada and this Commission would be well advised to follow California's path in banning sport hunting of bears, bobcats and mountain lions along with for-profit trapping.

Although the Commission has already approved a bear hunt for later this year, the total number of bears to be potentially killed by hunters should be no more than five given other causes of death mentioned that dangerously reduce the Nevada bear population's ability to survive.

From: Paul R. Dixon, Clark CABMW

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 03:59 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

In a Split (6-1) vote, the Clark CABMW recommends approving Commission Regulation 21-04, 2021 Black Bear Seasons as presented.

The dissenting opinion was opposed to all black bear hunting, and wanted there to be no season.

Paul R. Dixon

Deputy Director

Commissioner Hubbs, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner McNinch, Pat Jackson have discussion about harvest limits and clarification on age of female bears.

**VICE CHAIR BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 7-2, COMMISSION HUBBS AND COMMISSIONER MCNINCH OPPOSED**

C.\* Commission Regulation 21-05 2021-2022 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting the 2021-2022 mountain lion hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours, and special regulations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

Pat Jackson and Commission Hubbs back and forth.

Break for public comment 4:25 p.m. – 4:28 p.m.

From: Paul R. Dixon, Clark CABMW

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 004:26 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

In a split (6-1) vote, the Clark CABMW recommends approving Commission Regulation 21-05 2021-2022 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits as presented.

In addition, the Clark CABMW felt that unit 033 (Sheldon's) should be open to lion hunting.

The one dissenting opinion opposed all mountain lion hunting. They wanted there to be no season. This person also felt that the whole mountain lion management plan needed to be overhauled.

Paul R. Dixon

Chair Clark CABMW

From: Cathy Smith

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:26 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Dear Chairwoman East and Commissioners,

Thank you for reading my comments into the record (I was able to read this in around 2min, 30sec).

Only a few states allow 24 hour hunting of mountain lions for 365 days a year, one mini step above vermin. Nevada doesn't hunt mountain lions with a population goal in mind, so this is another opportunity hunt. According to comments in the predator management plan, the lion harvest is "unlikely" to be reducing state populations--well, that's comforting. But department staff admits that small sample size in regional areas limit evaluation of harvest effects. I believe most lions are hunted with dogs. When hunting mountain lions, unlike bears, there is solid scientific data confirming improvement in accurate sex determination. When hunters are able to accurately select males to kill, how exactly can you use the sex-kill data to determine a population decline?????

Studies confirmed that "trophy" mountain lion hunting increases human wildlife conflict (Teichman et al, 201; Teichman et al, 2016; Laundre, 2019). California has banned lion hunting and has one of the lowest rate of human lion interactions in the country per capita. Washington state biologist Wielgus says, "The best thing you can do is just leave them alone." He also added, "In the 20 years of research I did with WDFW, we conducted the largest study of cougars ever done anywhere. We found that heavy retaliatory killing or preventative killing actually increased problems." This data has been replicated in other states. The department and commission seems so concerned about humans being injured by bears and at the same are supporting recommendations regarding lion hunts that have been shown to increase negative encounters with people. Even a commissioner (who represented ranching) told me that he has actually seen first hand that mountain lion conflict increases because of hunting, although he still supported lion hunting.

In summary, I think we need to start respecting Nevada's mountain lions more, follow the science science, and decrease the risk of mountain lion conflict with humans by substantially limiting the season.

Thank you so much for your time,

Cathy Smith

From: Jana Wright

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:27 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Why doesn't staff provide a chart showing what hunt units the 178 lions were taken?

The Commission should ask for that information for future presentations.

Jana Wright

From: Haley Stewart

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:27 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Good afternoon Chairperson East and Members of the Commission,

The Humane Society of the United States opposes the mountain lion hunting season and harvest limit proposal before you. Hunters in Nevada kill hundreds of mountain lions every year for a trophy, not for subsistence. Hunters primarily use dogs to hunt mountain lions which, as with bears, is not considered fair chase hunting by most Americans and causes significant harm to mountain lions, other wildlife, and the dogs themselves who can be injured or killed during their chase. Moreover, hunters are permitted to kill mountain lions year-round, at any time of day or night, including during peak birthing season when kittens are most vulnerable.

In addition to the harms it causes to mountain lions, hunting of this keystone species has negative effects on other wildlife and even entire ecosystems. For example, research shows that killing mountain lions to protect big game species, such as bighorn sheep, is typically ineffective and may expose larger numbers of herd animals to disease. Research also demonstrates that trophy hunting of mountain lions is associated with increased conflicts with humans, pets, and livestock. Readily available non-lethal methods are much more effective for preventing conflicts with mountain lions before they occur.

Therefore, we urge you to oppose the mountain lion hunting proposal and, instead, prohibit the hunting of these native carnivores. If Nevada does continue allowing the hunting of mountain lions, it must limit quotas to sustainable levels, which is approximately 14% of the adult population, and no longer permit hunting with dogs and night hunting. It must also limit the season to prevent overlap with peak birthing season, which occurs from summer through the fall, to reduce the death of newborn kittens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Haley Stewart

Program Manager, Wildlife Protection

From: Fred Voltz

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:27 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Hunter convenience, opportunity and success have once again overridden good biology and sound stewardship of Nevada's mountain lion population.

The backup material for this item disavows any NDOW responsibility to change NAC 502.370 that permits the year-round killing season, 24-hours a day, and which fails to give mountain lions time to recuperate from hunter pursuit. Any hunted species should have some period of time when they needn't live in fear of hunters if only for procreation purposes. Nowhere in the backup do we even see a guesstimate of mountain lion populations by hunt unit, yet it has been proposed that up to 247 of them die from trophy hunters' acts, plus contract killers' actions. There is no allocation of allowable deaths by hunt unit to minimize the local impact on survival prospects of the species. Predation Project 42 later in this agenda admits the department lacks reliable mountain lion census information. No matter, the mountain lion hunting season and contract killing must go on. How is this biologically sound for preservation of the species?

Send staff back to the drawing board with a better killing plan that offers some modicum of protection for mountain lions and increases the probability of species' survival in any given, active hunt unit.

From: Jonathan Lesperance

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:28 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

On behalf of the Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance, we support the proposed season and quota limits for mountain lions as written.

Jonathan Lesperance, Washoe County

From: Joel Blakeslee

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:28 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Lions and Bears are spreading all along the California border. The deer/lion ratio is really bad in NW Nevada.

From: Stephanie Myers

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021 04:28 p.m.

To: Wildlife Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Wildlife belongs to ALL of us...all of the public. Wildlife does not belong only to hunters. The views of the public must be taken into account. We speak for the entire ecotourism industry which needs wild animals in their natural state for viewing. We speak for the majority of Nevadans who do not hunt for sport.

The season is ALL YEAR long. There is not a single minute of any day this or any year when you cannot legally shoot a mountain lion. This is simply wrong. The support materials say that the season is dictated by NAC. NAC can be changed and should be changed in regards to the mountain lion season. WHY is the mountain lion the only animal (besides the coyote) which can be hunted on any day of the year at any hour of the day or night? What science allows this kind of ubiquitous hunt?

The kill limit should not be raised.

Please make the harvest limit at 0 or 1.

Thank you for considering my views,

Stephanie Myers

Las Vegas

Clark County

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTATION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 8-1, COMMISSIONER HUBBS OPPOSED.**

- D.\* Commission Regulation 21-06, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas - Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 hunting seasons and quotas for restricted nonresident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions.

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

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

Break for public comment 4:41 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

No public comment.

- E.\* Commission Regulation 21-07, 2022 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2022 Heritage Tag species, seasons, and quota.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Kimberly Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

Break for public comment 4:53 p.m. – 4:56 p.m.

No public comment.

- F.\* Commission Regulation 21-08, 2021 Silver State Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2021 Silver State tag species, seasons, and quota.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

No questions or comments.

Break for public comment 4:59 p.m. – 5:01 p.m.

No public comment.

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION PASSES 9-0.**

- G.\* Commission Regulation 21-09, 2021 Partnership in Wildlife Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2021 Partnership in Wildlife tags hunt species, seasons, and quota.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

Commissioner Caviglia on California big horn we need to change it 011 and 013 we do not want to allow the PIW to hunt in there.

Game Division Administrator Scott 068 please consider closing this for California Bighorn sheep.

Break for public comment 5:05 p.m. – 5:07 p.m.

No public comment.

Commissioner Caviglia do we need to exclude 041 if there is not even a hunt there.

Game Division Administrator Scott stated that it was not required but yes, to be clear to hunters.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MOVED TO APPROVED WITH THE ADDITION TO CALIFORNIA BIG HORN TAG, EXCLUDING 011, 013 AND 068. SECONDED BY COMMISSION PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

- H.\* Commission Regulation 21-10, 2021 Dream Tag – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2021 Dream Tag species, seasons, and quota.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

Chairwoman East mentioned that unit 011, 013 and 068 should as well be excluded for the 2021 California Big Horn Sheep Dream Tag

Break for public comment 5:10 – 5:12.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIR BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE AS PRESENTED BUT CLOSE CALIFORNIA UNITS OF 011, 013 AND 068. INITIALLY SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS, COMMISSIONER HUBBS WITHDREW AS SHE OPPOSES THE BEAR PORTION. SECOND BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 7-2, COMMISSIONER HUBBS AND COMMISSIONER MCNINCH OPPOSED.**

Commissioner McNinch wanted to make note that he supported all of the dream tags except for the bear tag.

- I.\* Commission Regulation 21-11, 2021 Big Game Application Deadlines – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2021 big game tag application deadlines and related information.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

Commissioner East we had CAB public comment that PIW come before Silver State, asked for explanation.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz stated that it could be changed.

Chairwoman East would like to see that.

Break for public comment 5:19 p.m. – 05:21 p.m.

From: Joe Crim, Pershing CAB  
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2021  
To: Wildlife Commission

Pershing CAB supports the Departments Recommendations with the following exceptions: We think the Silver State tag should be drawn before the PIW in the Big Game Main Draw. And the dates for the Second Draw and the First Come first Serve should be changed and not on the same day.

Joe Crim  
Pershing CAB

**CHAIRWOMAN EAST MOVED TO APPROVED NRGH DATE TO MARCH 15, SILVER STATE BEFORE PIW AND REMOVING FCFS APPLICATION DEADLINE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

- J.\* Commission Regulation 21-12, 2021 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action  
The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2021 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz reviewed the support material sent in advance to the Commissioners, CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Department's website for the public.

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

No questions or comments

Break for public comment 5:27 p.m. – 5:29 p.m.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIR BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

- 17.\* Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action  
The draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2021 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2021 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time.
18. Wildlife Heritage Auction Tags – Deputy Director Jack Robb – for Possible Action  
Some of the Commission approved vendors for the 2021 Heritage Auction Tags canceled or may cancel their scheduled fundraising events due to COVID-19. The Commission may select an alternate method by which to auction these tags. Options may include, receiving sealed bids or working with the current vendor or other vendors that possess the ability to administer a live internet auction.

Public comment 5:46 – 5:48

From: Fred Voltz

To: Wildlife Commission

Final Public Comment—NV Wildlife Commission—January 30, 2021—Fred Voltz

Nevadans who find sport bear and mountain lion hunting, trapping-for-profit, 96-hour trap inspection intervals, and wildlife killing contests abhorrent are ignored, marginalized and unrepresented in any meaningful way by this Commission. Even the programs proclaimed as 'helping' wildlife only serve to set up wildlife for another hunting season. . .in no way an altruistic end.

This meeting's agenda items, discussion and member backgrounds overwhelmingly reflect a kill, kill, kill emphasis.

Do we see any effort to equitably populate this Commission with non-wildlife killers, as well as a proportionate number of sport killers, by sponsoring NRS modifications? Why are sport wildlife killers presumed to be only ones who know what's best for wildlife?

The earlier claim that hunters exclusively pay for wildlife agency operations ignores the reality that 15 million hunters are far eclipsed by an estimated 100 million plus gun owners nationwide who don't hunt and don't automatically support hunting and for-profit trapping, yet pay excise fees. Nor do fishermen automatically support hunting, while they typically oppose for-profit trapping as brutal.

While each state funds its wildlife agency differently, we see no bold actions by trade organizations, such as WAFWA, to engage the non-killing public about the benefits wildlife's presence (not death) generate. Where are the actions that protect wildlife from trophy-focused human predation and exploitation? Where is the education effort explaining to non-hunters that if they contribute, whether it be through a tax, fee, voluntary contribution or some other mechanism, it will be used to preserve wildlife species and allow for a natural lifespan? When will state wildlife agencies pursue reform and broaden participation, not cling to a deeply broken and unrepresentative status quo?

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO DIRECT PLAN TO THE COMMITTEES THEN TO THE COMMISSION.**

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

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 19 and 20, 2021, and the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Chairwoman East stated that she made a committee assignment change Regulation Simplification Committee, Chairwoman East's seat filled by Commissioner McNinch.

Director Wasley discussed items for the March Commission meeting; draft predation management plan, set our waterfowl seasons and limits, legislative items, set commission meeting schedule. Reports: report from the wildlife damage management committee, wildlife trust fund 6-month report, anticipate a legislative committee report. Workshops: CGR 498, NAC 503, hounding petition, two possible adopted for CGR 495, NAC 502 and CGR 496, NAC 504, opportunity to discuss our April meeting for legislative matters.

Chairwoman East noted policies were outdated and needed review and discuss getting together to determine which policies to get out to which Committees. Elk management plan.

**20. 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.

Break for public comment 6:14pm - 6:19pm.

No public comment.

Adjourned 6:21.