

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Draft Minutes

Meeting Location

Clark County Government Center  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89155

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

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

If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Friday, March 10, 2023.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81508843759?pwd=WTJVUTZETUV3cjQ4bTNkZHVJRIJqUT09>

Passcode: 655647

If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Saturday, March 11, 2023

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83836514615?pwd=bkc5d05lR2NzeDNCUW9mRGZQZHVOZz09>

Passcode: 486174

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

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. **Persons attending virtually wishing to comment are invited to raise their virtual hands in the virtual meeting forum during the appropriate time; each person offering public comment during this period will be limited to not more than three minutes. If you are a CABMW member participating in the virtual option, please provide your county and CABMW after your name display. If you are a member of the public representing yourself, include self after your name display.** The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org) or make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

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

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the meeting:

Chairman Tommy Caviglia  
Commissioner Eddie Booth  
Commissioner Casey Kiel  
Commissioner Alana Wise

Vice Chairman Shane Rogers  
Commissioner Tiffany East  
Commissioner David McNinch

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

Secretary Alan Jenne

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Administrative Assistant Cameron Tull	Executive Assistant Meghan Beyer
Staff Game Warden Jake Kreamer	Wildlife Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber
Field Biologist Dane Horowski	Field Biologist Brad Hardenbrook
Field Biologist Tracy Kipke	Wildlife Staff Specialist Jonathan Young
Program Officer Alejandra Medina	Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Game Warden Zachary Blackwood	Game Warden Emilee Cain
Game Warden Hunter Parrish	Administrative Assistant Bernie Keane
Field Biologist Joe Bennet	Field Biologist Mark Enders
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Freese	Field Biologist Erin Wood
Conservation Educator Doug Nielsen	Conservation Educator Bobby Jones
Fisheries Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks	Deputy Director Mike Scott
Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark	Deputy Director Jordan Goshert
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey	
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance via Zoom:

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee	Field Biologist Tom Donham
Field Biologist Ed Partee	Management Analyst Kailey Musso

Public in Attendance:

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW	Jana Wright, private citizen
Stephanie Myers, private citizen	Alex Harper, private citizen

Public in Attendance via Zoom:

Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW	Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Joe Crawford, Lyon CABMW	Larry Allen, Humboldt CABMW
Joel Blakeslee, private citizen	Fred Voltz, private citizen
Mel Belding, private citizen	Rex Flowers, private citizen

**Friday, March 10, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

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

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81508843759?pwd=WTJVUTZETUV3cjQ4bTNkZHVJRIJqUT09>**

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

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Commissioner Booth led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Assistant Cameron Tull called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Barnes, East and Walther were absent. Chairman Caviglia made note of the CABMW members in attendance.

**2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Tommy Caviglia – 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.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #2. He asked to discuss Items 6C and 6E one after the other due to them being related.

*No CABMW comment.*

Secretary Jenne stated that the last sentence in Item 10 stated that the meeting would reconvene at the close of the field trip. This was incorrect. We would not reconvene.

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES. VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 6-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES, COMMISSIONER EAST AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

**3.\* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action**

Commission minutes may be approved from the January 27 and 28, 2023 meeting.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #3.

Commissioner Booth noted his name was missing under the list of Commissioners present.

Chairman Caviglia noted that on page 36, fourth paragraph, it should read “gather at the Mormon Mountains” not Lake Mead.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY COMMISSION MEETING WITH THE NOTED CHANGES. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 6-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES, COMMISSIONER EAST AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

**4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Tommy Caviglia – 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 Alan Jenne may also be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #4. He stated that he had received correspondence including a letter from the Nevada Farm Bureau regarding the Nevada Sagebrush Habitat Plan, an email from a sportsman regarding a guiding outfit in Humboldt County and info on the water power project in White Pine County regarding their approval from the Department of Energy.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he was frustrated for the sportsman involved in the Humboldt County incident and wanted to make sure his correspondence was noted at Commission and that the Department was looking into the situation. He stated that this was an important discussion to be had and that there should be boundaries in place to address this.

Secretary Jenne stated that the Department received a letter on Commission General Regulation (CGR) 506 Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances from the North American Falconers Association and International Eagle Austringer's Association.

Chairman Caviglia noted that the Commissioners received that letter, as well as a letter of support from Canvasback Gun Club regarding CGR 506.

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

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #5.

*No CABMW comment.*

6. **Reports – Informational**
  - A. **Department Activity Report – Secretary Alan Jenne and Division Administrators**  
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

## **DIRECTOR'S OFFICE**

Secretary Jenne presented the Director's Office Division Activity Report.

As many are aware, Mike Scott has been appointed Deputy Director of Resource Management after serving as the Game Division Administrator and working for the Department for over 30 years. The Director's Office is excited to have Mike's experience and leadership as part of our team. We are now fully staffed and look forward to guiding the Department on conservation efforts.

The Director's Office has been busy since the start of the legislative session. The Department's budget was presented to the Legislative Commission's Budget Subcommittee on February 1. The presentation went very well and there were few questions asked. The Director's Office has had "Meet and Greets" with a number of legislators to introduce the new Director and two new Deputy Directors as well as share the Department's priorities. Those legislators include: Senators Scheible and Pazina and Assemblymembers Cohen and Watts.

The Department presented to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday, February 15 and again, that presentation went extremely well. There were a few questions on habitat and Operation Game Thief which the Department has provided responses to.

The Legislative Breakfast was held on Friday, February 17 and went extremely well. We would like to thank all who attended and especially NBU, the Coalition For Nevada's Wildlife and Nevada Wildlife Federation for their sponsorship of the event. The Department will continue to keep the Commission apprised of any legislative activity!

## **GAME DIVISON**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme presented the Game Division Activity Report.

**Mule Deer:** Staff specialist attended the 2023 Western Hunting and Conservation Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2023 Nevada Heritage Statewide Mule Deer tag sold for \$160,000 at the Friday night auction.

Capture plans are being coordinated with Regional field offices for upcoming mule deer captures in Elko, Pershing, and Washoe Counties for February 12-18, about 60 mule deer will be targeted for this capture event.

**Moose:** Eastern region biologists classified 53 moose during this winter's elk surveys in Management Areas 6 and 7, including a day spent specifically searching for moose in Unit 061. In total, 21 bulls, 21 cows and 11 calves have been observed during aerial surveys so far in 2023. Nevada's moose population remains strong and continues to increase in both number and distribution.

**Antelope:** Capture plans are being prepared to capture about 15 adult female antelope in Lander County in cooperation with Nevada Gold Mines. A new GPS solar ear tag will be deployed on 5 antelope to test new and emerging technology in GPS tracking devices for wildlife.

**Bighorn Sheep:** The inception season of the one horned ram hunt has been a success thus far. To date five rams have been checked into the Las Vegas office. Four of the five rams have been 11 or 12 years old and represent the objective of the management ram hunt.

**Upland Game:** Game Division Field Biologists in the Western Region have been actively trapping California quail from urbanized settings for translocation to wildlands, including the new Licking Ranch Wildlife Management Area near Battle Mountain. Detailed information about the total number of birds moved will be available next month.

Eastern and Western Region Game Division personnel, along with several volunteers, successfully captured a total 40 turkeys from northeastern Nevada for translocation on the western side of the state. The turkeys have been causing depredation issues on private land, and the translocation should help reduce some of the conflicts in the area.

Staff have been coordinating with Colorado Parks and Wildlife about the potential to obtain Columbian sharp-tailed grouse and augment the existing population in northeastern Nevada. We hope to capture and move birds during this coming April.

**Nevada Test and Training Range Post Hunt Briefing:** NDOW Staff attended the post-hunt meeting with Department of Defense (DOD) and Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the NTTR hunt. The department was briefed about multiple violations of the DULA (Depleted Uranium sites) and removing a deadhead from the Refuge during the NTTR hunt. Several lifetime bans are being pursued. The group discussed the possibility of discontinuing the NTTR hunt and made multiple suggestions for measures to mitigate future violations if the hunt is continued. Ultimately the DOD agreed to proceed with the hunt. New changes that will be implemented include, hunt parties will now be restricted to five (as many individuals can attend the briefing that a hunter thinks is necessary but only four plus the hunter are allowed on range at any given time) and there will be one access point at Point Bravo. The White Sage Gap access will also be restricted to through traffic.

**Personnel:** Interviews for the Panaca and Eureka Resource Area Game biologist positions were held on January 25 and 26. Matthew Shanks was selected for the Panaca position and Joshua Kirk was selected

to fill the Eureka Resource Areas position. The Game Division is very excited to have these two new biologists in place.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme also noted that the James Lathrop and Wayne Capurro Memorial Internship selections were made and noted that there were two qualified candidates. The NBU Board decided to allow another scholarship position totaling six, which included new Chloe Crookshanks, the daughter of Fisheries Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks and Hailey Lattin from Virginia City.

Commissioner McNinch asked Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme to give a brief overview of the scholarship program.

Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme provided a brief overview of the program. For more information visit the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/blog/james-lathrop-and-wayne-capurro-memorial-internship/>

## **HABITAT DIVISION**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Freese presented the Habitat Division Activity Report.

**Technical Review Program:** The Greenlink North Transmission Line wildlife working group began meeting in February to discuss data needs, and wildlife concerns. Most concerns orient around impact to greater Sage-Grouse and big game, as well as raptors. The Department began working with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on potential for modifying Sage-Grouse habitat management categories for the BLM Sage-Grouse plan revision, and provided comments on the BLM Solar Programmatic EIS effort that will revisit the establishment of Solar Energy Zones, add 5 states to the plan, and evaluate solar variance zones. The energy review program under Technical Review has received a total of nine energy project (9) applications since the first of the year, including four (4) solar projects, four (4) transmission projects, and one (1) fossil fuel project.

**Habitat Conservation Framework:** Since the last Commission Meeting, the Department and Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical team hosted a local work group meeting on the Sagebrush Habitat Plan in Las Vegas on January 31<sup>st</sup> and presented to the Nevada Cattleman's February 17<sup>th</sup>. The focus of these meetings was to receive public input on the mapping products and tools that will be used to help prioritize sagebrush habitat and future conservation efforts. Additionally, the SETT will use portions of the Sagebrush Habitat Plan to update their strategic Action Plan.

**Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team:** The SETT is working Dr. Pete Coates Lab to update the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) to include a Space Use Index using Sage-Grouse location data from across Nevada. The inclusion of Greater Sage-Grouse space use location data around lekking and breeding habitat within the HQT will result in a more thorough analysis of impacts from surface occupancy projects and could achieve increased conservation for Greater Sage-Grouse, particularly where it is needed: around leks and their respective clusters.

**Fire Rehabilitation and Restoration:** The 2022 fire season burned approximately 59,228 acres, which is significantly below the 20-year average of 452,000 acres per year. We thank Nevada's land management agencies and fire suppression personnel for their fire containment efforts. Given the low number of acres consumed by fire this year, NDOW and partners were able to rehabilitate and restore many of this year's burned acres as well past burns that remain in a degraded state. NDOW biologist implemented 20,296 acres of herbicide treatment and 34,752 acres of aerial seeding for a total of 55,048 acres of treatments across 19 projects. The cost of these treatments is nearing \$1.4 million dollars. We would like to thank our partners that provided financial support to make these rehabilitation and

restoration actions happen, which include the BLM, Dream Tag program, and NGO's such as Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Muley's, Nevada Chukar Foundation, and Muley Fanatics. Since 2017, NDOW biologist have implemented 560,278 acres of treatment at a cost of \$11.4 million dollars (\$11,385,217). We thank our habitat biologist for their significant efforts and contributions addressing invasive species and wildfire threats through rehabilitating and restoring Nevada's wildlife habitat.

**Water Development Program:** The southern region water development crew recently finished up annual maintenance flights and as expected found very good water supply conditions were observed across nearly all guzzlers. After several years of poor water supply at guzzlers in the southern region, this is a welcome change. Most guzzlers were at or near capacity. The southern crew also recently finished the Tommy Guzzler Project on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The northern crew has finalized the volunteer build schedule, which includes installing five guzzler units in the Trinity, Nightingale, and Fairview Ranges, and Calico and Butte Mountains. Additionally, a spring and meadow fence will be installed in the Desatoya Mountains. The volunteer build season will begin March 11<sup>th</sup> in the Trinity Range (Toulon #1) and finish the season June 17<sup>th</sup> with a guzzler build in the Butte Mountains and spring and meadow fence in the Desatoya Mountains.

Commissioner Kiel asked if the Department was thinking ahead about fire season preparation considering the high precipitation that has occurred this year.

Staff Specialist Freese stated that the Department coordinates with other partners and is available to assist if necessary. He assured the Commission that those agencies in charge have control of it and that they do expect a very active fire season. The Department is repositioning resources for a Spring seed buy and chemical purchases to have on hand for a quick response.

Commissioner Kiel stated that them being proactive is much appreciated.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

Staff Conservation Educator Chris Vasey presented the Conservation Education Division Activity Report.

**Events:** Our annual National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) tournaments were a huge success this year. In total we had 651 youth archers compete in these tournaments. We had 66 archers at our western region tournament that was held at Wasting Arrows on January 19 and 20, we had 108 archers shoot remotely, and a total of 477 archers at our southern region shoot which was hosted at the South Point Hotel & Casino on February 1.

Preparations are underway for the NDOW exhibit at the 2023 Clark County Fair & Rodeo. In 2022, the event saw record attendance estimated at nearly 109,000 people.

Conservation Education staff in Elko hosted the Elko Sportsmen's Expo on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The event featured two days of outdoor related activities and booths presented by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Elko Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The event hosted a total of 36 vendors and was sponsored by Gateway RV, 5th Gear Powersports, Riverton, Stockmen's, and Exit Outdoors. Educational activities for kids and families were a hit.

Conservation Education staff hosted a table at the legislative building on February 13<sup>th</sup> as part of "Tourism Day" at the legislature, sharing information on the various ways the Department supports tourism in Nevada.

NDOW staff from each division including Conservation Education hosted the Wild Harvest Breakfast on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the legislative building to provide legislators and their staff with an opportunity to talk to

NDOW employees about Nevada's wildlife, current projects, and challenges as well as to highlight the value of wild-harvested food.

**Volunteer:** As Spring arrives, many volunteer projects have been rolling out including guzzler builds in the southern region and wood duck nest box monitoring in the western region. Sage grouse lek volunteers have been trained and will be deployed throughout northern Nevada until mid-May.

**Outreach:** Conservation Education Staff sent NDOW's first big game application promotional email for the big game tag application period to almost 50,000 people, encouraging them to get their friends and family signed up for hunter education classes and our big game seminars. Conservation Education staff has planned a variety of promotions for later this month including email campaigns, text messages, website content, news segments, and social media posts to promote the big game tag application period and to provide hunters with useful resources.

Conservation Education staff has planned a Women's Month social media campaign for the month of March. Content will include Instagram takeovers, podcasts, women's history posts, and more to highlight the contributions women have made to conservation and the outdoors.

Conservation Education staff recognized National Invasive Species Awareness Week with a series of social media posts, raising awareness of the different invasive species in Nevada and what can be done to stop their spread. The posts received a lot of engagement from NDOW's social media audience.

**Media Highlight:** NDOW has officially launched a new external newsletter "The Wildside" which is designed to help keep our partners and the public informed on agency updates and action items from the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The newsletter is slated to be released each week following the seven annual Commission meetings.

NDOW held a media event at its first Sparks Marina stocking for the year. Staff also posted social media content with the goal of promoting the fish stocking season and easy access to fishing at urban ponds throughout the state.

Over the last 30 days NDOW has been mentioned 600 times in the news through paper and broadcasted stories of various topics. These topics include coyote awareness, invasive species, the impacts of feeding wildlife, habitat improvement projects, agency updates, and more.

Commissioner Wise stated her appreciation of the newsletter that was provided.

Administrator Vasey noted the highlight video within the newsletter.

## **WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

Wildlife Diversity Biologist Mark Enders presented the Wildlife Diversity Division Activity Report.

**Winter Raptor Surveys:** Wildlife Diversity biologists recently completed the 50<sup>th</sup> annual statewide winter raptor survey. This survey is an attempt to gather long-term data on two dozen raptor species that are using habitats all across Nevada during winter, including local breeders and seasonal migrants that rely on resources in our state to survive the winter.

This survey effort was started in 1973 by a single non-game biologist who surveyed six driving routes that covered 227 miles. Today, it has grown to involve more than 100 people, including biologists from all NDOW divisions, other state and federal agencies, and scores of volunteers that cover more than 4,500 miles across the state each January. There are currently 63 driving survey routes, where surveyors



attempt to locate raptors along paved or dirt roads, and 8 boat survey routes on Lake Mead and Lake Mojave.

Unfortunately, 3 routes were inaccessible this year due to snowy conditions and a few others could only be partially surveyed. Despite these challenges, more than 1,000 raptor observations were made. The most common species was the red-tailed hawk, but we also had large numbers of golden eagles, bald eagles, and rough-legged hawks. Rough-legged hawks are particularly interesting because they breed in the arctic tundra, and winter is the only time you will find them in Nevada.

**White-nose Syndrome Surveillance:** Wildlife Diversity biologists also participated in a national effort to monitor the spread of white-nose syndrome across North America. White-nose syndrome is a disease caused by a non-native fungus called *Pd* that affects hibernating bats, and it has killed millions of them in North America since 2006. The fungus has been found in 43 states and was most recently detected in California and Idaho.

Surveillance and monitoring give us the best opportunity to be prepared for its eventual arrival in Nevada. Over the past 20 years, NDOW has surveyed more than 4,000 abandoned mines and found important bat roosts in more than 1,200 of them. That important knowledge helps guide our white-nose syndrome surveillance today.

Last month, 11 abandoned mines across six Nevada counties were surveyed for evidence of white-nose syndrome. Biologists used tracked ATVs and snowshoes to access these remote sites and worked in teams of four to ensure safety. Once underground, they found more than 800 hibernating bats and were able to sample 230 of them for white-nose syndrome by rubbing cotton swabs over their exposed skin. NDOW began surveillance for white-nose syndrome in 2015, and to-date, no infected bats have been found and all swab samples have come back negative for the fungus.

**Endangered Species Act Update:** USFWS recently announced a proposed “threatened” listing for the Sierra Nevada population of California spotted owls under the Endangered Species Act. This species occurs on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe and is one of the rarest wildlife species in our state. Nesting territories have been monitored by NDOW since 2015, and we plan to continue working with partners to monitor and manage this species.

**Upcoming Projects:** Wildlife Diversity biologists are preparing for shorebird surveys throughout the state this spring. It will be part of a 30-year re-survey effort across multiple states in the Intermountain West to determine how habitat conditions have changed for migrating shorebirds. Nevada has the highest number of shorebird sites in the western U.S. (56), and we are partnering with local Audubon Society chapters to tackle this large multi-year effort.

We are also preparing for the Amargosa Valley Bio-Blitz this spring. The BLM Pahrump Field Office is hosting the event, and Wildlife Diversity biologists will be participating to survey for reptiles, small mammals, and bats.

## **FISHERIES DIVISION**

Fisheries Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks presented the Fisheries Division Activity Report.

Biologists continue their normal wintertime activities such as analyzing data from the previous field season and preparing required Field Trip and Job Progress reports. Many Fisheries Division personnel have participated in various interagency coordination, species recovery, and planning meetings which are traditionally held in the winter when biologists are not in the field. Fisheries biologists throughout the state have been assisting with Trout in the Classroom educational activities.

The epic winter of 2022 / 2023 continues. As of early-March, all Nevada hydrological basins were well above long-term averages with many over 200% of normal. Although there is now concern for the well-being of some of our terrestrial species, water conditions in 2023 should make for happy fish.

**Fish Hatcheries:** Hatchery headquarters staff has been coordinating funding for a refurbishment of cooling towers at Mason Valley Hatchery, a feasibility study for a recirculating system at Spring Creek Rearing Station, and a motor/pump replacement at Gallagher Hatchery that will help pull water from the hatchery building. Jeff McDonald recently started at Gallagher Hatchery as a Hatchery Tech II. Jeff comes from Idaho and has worked in fisheries and hatcheries over the last ten years. We welcome Jeff and look forward to having him on board.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Program:** Staff received reports from USGS in late-January of Australian Red Claw Crayfish inhabiting ponds located on the Clark County Wetlands Park on the east side of Las Vegas. An on-site visit confirmed the presence of this highly invasive and destructive species in the two uppermost ponds at the park. In coordination with the County, personnel were mobilized for a rapid eradication response. While water was being drained from the ponds holding the crayfish, intensive efforts of trapping and seining were employed to mechanically remove crayfish. Conservation Education staff were on-site to assist with messaging and a story by the Channel 5 News in Las Vegas. Upcoming post-treatment surveys will determine the success of the project.

**Eastern Region Fisheries:** Eastern Region biologists assisted the Conservation Education Division in an ice fishing clinic at Wildhorse Reservoir that was very well attended. They also worked the President's Day ice fishing derby at Wildhorse Reservoir that had approximately 400 participants. Fishing during the derby was uncharacteristically slow. The White Pine County Rotary Club's annual ice fishing derby was held at Comins Lake in late-January with nearly 500 participants. Fishing was reported to have been successful for large trout while roughly 50 Northern Pike were also harvested.

**Southern Region Fisheries:** The spring Razorback Sucker sampling effort on Lake Mead was recently conducted by Southern Region personnel with Razorback roundup efforts on Lake Mohave scheduled for mid-March. Staff are working with a local high school aquaculture/aquaponics program to raise Bonytail in a classroom aquaculture system. Fish would be procured from the Fish & Wildlife Service and covered under a Safe Harbor Agreement permit. Southern Region Fisheries staff was instrumental in conducting the crayfish eradication at the Clark County Wetlands Park.

**Western Region Fisheries:** Western Region Fisheries staff recently participated in Wilderness First Aid, CPR, and Epinephrine certification course that was reportedly very valuable for field personnel. The "Monster Fish" exhibit will soon be returning to Nevada Discovery Museum in Reno after a North American tour. Western region personnel are coordinating with the University of Nevada and museum staff who would like to incorporate some Nevada native fish interpretative displays into the exhibit.

Chairman Caviglia inquired on the source of the Australian Crayfish.

Administrator Crookshanks stated that it most likely came from the aquarium or pet shop trade. He noted that they are unable to tolerate cold temperatures, don't walk across dry land and don't burrow. They are a highly invasive and destructive species.

Chairman Caviglia asked if there was any concern that they would end up in the wash.

Administrator Crookshanks stated that currently they were found only in the upper two ponds, which are much warmer than the others. Should they travel downstream they wouldn't be able to tolerate the colder water temperatures. Intensive surveys would be done to monitor.

## DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

DATS Program Officer Kim Munoz presented the DATS Division Activity Report.

**2023 Hunt Applications:** The Data and Technology Services Licensing & Hunt Application units kicked off the 2023 Hunt Application Seasons with a successful Spring Turkey draw. We had a 27% increase in the number of turkey applications from 2022.

The Non-resident Restricted Guided Mule Deer Hunt applications closed on March 6<sup>th</sup> and the draw results were released on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

The division is ready for the 2023 Big Game application period which opened on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> and closes on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**2023 Heritage Auction Tag Sales Update:** The following is a recap of the 2022 Heritage Auction Tag sales so far:

- Turkey Tag #1 auctioned by Pershing County Chukars Unlimited sold for \$800 vs \$1,700 in 2022 auctioned by Safari Club International
- Antelope Tag #1 auctioned by Pershing County Chukars Unlimited sold for \$9,500 vs \$32,500 in 2022 auctioned by Wild Sheep Foundation
- Antelope Tag #2 auctioned by Wild Sheep Foundation for \$19,000 vs \$25,000 in 2022 auctioned by Safari Club International sold for \$25,000
- Nelson Big Horn Sheep Ram Tag #1 auctioned by Wild Sheep Foundation sold for \$145,000 vs. \$160,000 in 2022 at the online auction sponsored by Nevada Bighorn Unlimited
- Elk Bull Tag #1 auctioned by Nevada Big Horn Unlimited sold for \$220,000 which is the same amount as it went for in 2022 by Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited.
- Mule Deer Tag #2 auctioned by Mule Deer Foundation sold for \$160,000 vs. \$140,000 in 2022 auctioned by the same vendor.

The overall sales year-to-do for the Heritage Auction Tags have sold for \$554,300.

The Heritage Committee is now accepting Vendor proposals the 2024 Heritage Auction Tags. The deadline for submission is April 17, 2023.

**Kalkomey Contract Assignment:** The Department has submitted the paperwork to the Nevada Board of Examiners to assign the Kalkomey contract to Gordan Darby effective March 15, 2023. Kalkomey will continue to support the system on behalf of Gordan Darby past the Big Game draw in May.

**Geographic Information System:** Our Geographic Information System staff have all left the Department and we are currently in the process of hiring the Timmons Group to do managed services for us until we can hire new staff.

**Information Technology:** Finally, the Information Technology staff has deployed SharePoint for the Division and are preparing a training session for everyone on how to use and manage documents within SharePoint. Staff have set up mobile device management for the Game Divisions tablets. They have completed all the annual computer replacements for Headquarters staff and are preparing to travel the

state to conduct a physical inventory. Lastly, they are working on getting communications set up at the new Fallon office.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

Game Warden Captain Jake Kreamer presented the Law Enforcement Division Activity Report.

Winter season brought a new set of challenges for the Law Enforcement Division to address. Wardens have been busy in all aspects of their mission including wildlife law issues, preparing for a suspected busy boating season, numerous public safety issues, community services, training and administrative duties.

**Wildlife Patrol and Enforcement:** Wardens patrolled ice fishing derbies at Cave Lake and Comins Lakes resulting in hundreds of fishing contacts. In addition, wardens investigated several wildlife violations including a motorist attempting to take horns from roadkill pronghorn near Panaca and three separate cases surrounding the unlawful killing of mountain lions of which warrants in two of those cases.

Wardens conducted focused patrols during scheduled privately sponsored predator contests. As a result of the patrols, wardens issued a citation for having a loaded rifle in a vehicle. With the heavy winter snowfall, trapping season saw reduced participation throughout the state, however, wardens still conducted several trap visitation investigations. Another result from the heavy winter, wardens across northern Nevada saw a large increase in unlawful feeding of deer resulting in issuing two official warnings and one citation for feeding big game. Wardens also investigated a deer attacked and injured by pit bulls resulting in euthanizing the deer. At Overton WMA, wardens issued a citation to an adult hunter for shooting waterfowl during the youth season and are investigating circumstances concerning geese in the Reno area urban parks and reservoirs which had been shot with arrows and crossbow bolts.

**Boating Safety Patrol and Enforcement:** Vessel maintenance and readiness continues for the upcoming boating season. We are expecting an increase in boating activity throughout the state, especially Northern Nevada once the water from the increased snowpack reaches the reservoirs.

Wardens are working with DATS Division on a vessel registration/fraud case in the Southern Region and a warden investigated an issue concerning a vessel displaying the wrong hull identification number (HIN). The investigation showed numerous issues with the vessel, which were created by errors made in another state during previous registration.

**Public Safety:** Wardens assisted in numerous weather-related public safety traffic incidents, including traffic control for a disabled vehicle stranded in a travel lane on SR 225 and several instances where motorists had slid off the roadway during snowstorm events.

In addition, the Tonopah Warden assisted Nye County Sheriff's with an alleged report of active shooters at schools in Goldfield and Tonopah. All reports were unsubstantiated, and no physical threat was found.

**Community Relations:** A warden instructed two classes for a Wells High School Forensics class.

**Training:** Field training began for two new hire game wardens in the Southern Region.

**Admin:** The Southern Region Lieutenant Chris Walther and Evidence Officer Victor Jordan conducted an evidence audit in the Las Vegas, Tonopah and Panaca offices. Game meat was donated in completed cases where meat was forfeited as part of a wildlife crime. In addition, annual firearms armory inspections are being conducted statewide.

Lastly, Lieutenants and Captains conducted internal audits of body worn camera data, reported hours, activities logs, and our case reporting system.

Warden Kreamer added that Brian Bowles, the Boating Law Administrator had resigned his position to work for the Office of Project Management.

Chairman Caviglia asked if there were any legal ramifications for the owners of the dogs if negligence was proven.

Staff Game Warden Kreamer stated that it was an open case and that he couldn't discuss it.

Commissioner McNinch stated that laws and regulations were not necessarily punitive, but are in place to encourage people to voluntarily comply. He suggested that in consideration of some of these instances being brought to the Commission's attention, it should discuss increasing consequences for those that are breaking these laws.

Chairman Caviglia noted that Utah implemented a shed hunting ban until May 1, 2023. He asked if there was any expectation that individuals would travel to Nevada requiring added attention from law enforcement prior to the May 1<sup>st</sup> date.

Staff Game Warden Kreamer stated that there was always concern and always those that take advantage of closures. Personnel were aware of incidents and were actively pursuing some cases.

Chairman Caviglia noted that this was the kind of year, with all of the snow, where that shed antler regulation is needed.

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

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

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6B.

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett stated that he and Deputy Director Mike Scott attended a Supreme Court settlement conference pertaining to Mark Smith and claims of defamation and collection of attorney's fees. It was an unsuccessful attempt at settlement and to resolve differences, however an offer was made and the settlement case was extended. In regard to a previous discussion that took place at the last Commission meeting regarding edible portions of bears, he stated that rather than give a response he should have offered to provide an answer upon further review. He commissioned his staff to perform an exhaustive review and search of the edible portion statutes in Nevada, all legislative history conducted on that issue and will provide the best advice possible once that has been completed. He apologized for not handling the situation accordingly the first time. He will provide a legal memorandum that will advise what the status of law is on the issue and will provide guidance to the Commission should it seek implement a regulation to require that the edible portions be consumed.

**D. Regulation Simplification Committee Report - Committee Chairman Shane Rogers**

A report will provide clarification on the Governor's Executive Order 2023-003 pertaining to all boards and commissions in the state and how it pertains to the Department.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6C.

Vice Chairman Rogers provided a report on the most recent Regulation Simplification Committee meeting convened to address Executive Order 2023-003. He noted the May 1, 2023 deadline requirement and

noted the next meeting would be the week of March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and a subsequent meeting in conjunction with the April Commission meeting as well.

**C. Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report – Committee Chairwoman Alana Wise**

A report will be provided on the recent Wildlife Damage Management Committee Meeting.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6C.

Commissioner Wise provided a report on the Wildlife Damage Management Committee. She noted that Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson provided a more in-depth description of Project 47 and how it would incorporate Mule Deer Enhancement, which the Committee requested be shared with the Commission. Time was also spent discussing best courses of action for Mule Deer Enhancement projects. It was decided that the Department, being given autonomy over these projects, with the greatest level of expertise, would provide the most effective management and execution of these projects. This would allow decisions to be based on the most up to date scientific evidence providing a basis for what predation management looks like moving forward.

**E.\* Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action**

The draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for review. A report from the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) Meeting, held on February 2nd will be shared with the Commission. All comments from the Commission, PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested publics will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at the March 2023 meeting. One new proposed Mule Deer Enhancement Program Project 47 will be considered for inclusion in the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6E.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson asked whether he would be authorized to discuss items from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee meeting due to it not being expressly stated in the Commission agenda Item #6E.

Chairman Caviglia added that he too was unsure whether it could be discussed. He noted that the Committee made recommendations pertaining to the Predator Plan and that it appeared that the description within the agenda item would allow the discussion to proceed.

DAG Burkett agreed.

Chairman Caviglia asked whether the Commission could discuss those items.

DAG Burkett answered in the affirmative.

Staff Specialist Jackson suggested taking a break before he began his presentation.

Chair Caviglia stated that they could continue and didn't require a break.

Staff Specialist Jackson presented the FY 2024 Predator Management Plan. Please find the PowerPoint presentation at the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/events/march-2023-commission-meeting/>

He noted input opportunities for the plan as follows:

1. January NBWC Meeting
2. PARC Meeting
3. WDMC Meeting
4. March NWBC Meeting
5. May NWBC Meeting
6. All supporting CABMW meetings
7. Contact Staff Specialist Pat Jackson directly [pjackson@ndow.org](mailto:pjackson@ndow.org)
8. Please find the PowerPoint presentation at the link below:

Staff Specialist Jackson provided a description of Project 47: Mule Deer Enhancement Program – Mule Deer Protection and Assessment and directed attention to the paper written by Tony Wasley titled, “Nevada’s Mule Deer – Population Dynamics.” To view the report please use the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/NV-A-NDOW-Wasley-2004-Mule-Deer-Population-Dynamics-Issues-and-Influences.pdf>

Commissioner Kiel noted that the NEPA process had been a barrier to the amount of take of Ravens and asked what the Commission could do, if anything, to assist in the progression of the process.

Staff Specialist Jackson stated that he would defer to the NDOW Director or DAG Burkett to provide advice on how the Commission could assist.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the Commission could provide no assistance in influencing the Fish and Wildlife Service on this matter.

Commissioner McNinch noted his appreciation of Staff Specialist Jackson and his efforts to present this information. He acknowledged that there were biases on all sides of the discussion, but that it was important to progress past the circular discussion that had been commonplace and find a way forward. He confirmed that in his own bird counts, the numbers of Ravens had increased.

Chairman Caviglia directed the discussion to Mule deer proposals.

Staff Specialist Jackson noted that the proposals presented at the Wildlife Damage Management Committee the previous evening could be viewed under the support material for that meeting at the following link:

<https://www.ndow.org/events/wildlife-damage-management/>

Staff Specialist Jackson noted that these proposals were spawned locally, presented through the Mule Deer Enhancement public process and were recommended to be funded through Projects 37 and 38 by the Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee. He provided an analogy as to how he viewed this process. He noted that predator proposals were at the top of a three-legged stool. The first leg represented the public process, consisting of input by the public and sportsmen, who provide the funding through the three-dollar predator fee and the proposals discussed. The second leg represented proven technique described in the implementation style projects that have been documented to work. The third leg was represented by experiments when there are things to be learned. He noted that there are no proposals written that he could say would definitively provide the certain outcome that killing coyotes and

mountain lions would help Mule deer populations. He noted that with the fawn ratio proposal, he could not definitively say whether predation was solely, partially or not at all responsible for the outcomes.

Chairman Caviglia noted that the funding amounts that the Mule deer committees were asking for were not set in stone and that most likely these proposals would require less money than requested. He noted that this was discussed at the Wildlife Damage Management Committee the previous evening.

*No CABMW comment.*

Paul Dixon, private citizen, stated that he attended the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and made the point that there was a very strong public piece in reference to Staff Specialist Jackson's analogy. He noted that having the information necessary to show if what had been performed was effective was the backbone of the process. He added that it was important to invest in the non-lethal prior to performing lethal prescriptions. The focus had been driven by the public process and performing lethal, rather than including the other parts. He expressed appreciation for Staff Specialist Jackson's presentation, which he believed illustrated the concept that there would be predators removed, but that the impact and the relationship on how that effects everything would never be fully understood without incorporating the other pieces. He noted that NRS was changed to require 80 percent of the predator fee to be used toward lethal removal, that public perception was that increasing that percentage would translate to greater impact, however the up-front science piece was missing. He noted that if we had the upfront science piece, matching funds could be utilized to go further. He stated that that wasn't being done because of lack of public support for it and that he didn't know how to make that happen.

Commissioner McNinch asked if there was a Pittman-Robertson match when using the predator fee funds for lethal removal.

Staff Specialist Jackson responded no or at least not to date. He believed that the Fish and Wildlife Service would allow that to happen in the case of endangered species after an environmental assessment. That is a situation that is not applicable in Nevada at this time.

Commissioner McNinch noted that some people believe that is the case and are irritated that funds are not being matched and utilized. He noted that funds are matched on the non-lethal removal side of things.

Staff Specialist Jackson noted that he was asked the same question at the Wildlife Damage Management Committee meeting. He stated that the FWS draws a line with regard to monitoring non-lethal removal, was unsure of the specifics exactly, but that he also was not sure what they deem lethal or non-lethal. He stated that in regards to other states, a colleague of his said Colorado was spending PR funds on predator control in experimental fashion and were threatened to be sued and stopped.

Commissioner McNinch noted that it was hard to start these conversations when people won't trust the facts.

Commissioner Kiel asked if there was any way to analyze historic data since we have been controlling predators for years. Is it necessary to have a control area or experimental project from the inception.

Staff Specialist Jackson stated that it was a great question. He answered that it depends and that it would be an in-depth discussion at the Mule Deer Summit and that was the study design. He made the point that they will have fawn ratio numbers, but in regard to understanding the cause, weather, fire, predation or combination of those, then more data would need to be collected. He noted that the counting costs more than the killing.



Chairman Caviglia stated that the Mule Deer Enhancement Program and those involved had put a lot of time into the process. An additional item discussed at the Wildlife Damage Management meeting was the ranking of the projects on the habitat side. He asked whether the same had been done on the predator component with regard to the Mule Deer Enhancement Program. The Department provided input on the ranking sheet, however, he didn't believe that was the case on the predator side of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program.

Commissioner Kiel asked for clarification on the Wildlife Damage Management Committee's view, stating that they were supportive of the four projects, but that they weren't ranked and that they weren't necessarily comfortable with the funding amounts requested.

Chairman Caviglia stated that they wanted to bring it to the Commission, that the consensus was that the dollar amounts seemed high. He suggested that it might be beneficial to look solely at fawn recruitment.

Commissioner Booth stated that he recalled that it was suggested that the matrix aspect of the projects will provide the necessary evidence of whether it's effective or not.

Chairman Caviglia agreed and stated that they were all proposed for three years, based solely off of fawn counts. He added that they all understood that there were more variables at play.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE DRAFT FY 2024 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, TO INCLUDE THE MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS, TO THE MAY COMMISSION MEETING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISE. MOTION PASSED 6-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES, COMMISSIONER EAST AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

*Chairman Caviglia recessed at 11:10 am.*

*Chairman Caviglia reconvened at 11:22 am.*

**F.\* Wildlife Heritage Grants Manual – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Freese**

The Commission will review recommendations made by the Heritage Committee to cap principal balance projects at 50% of the available balance per year.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6F.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mark Freese presented the memorandum provided for agenda Item #6F.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the Commission had discussed formalizing this awhile ago, that it was a lot of money and that it should be put in writing.

Commissioner McNinch asked for clarification of what the language meant.

Secretary Jenne stated that the Heritage balance was currently around \$12M. What is currently available (above the \$5M) of the principal balance is roughly \$7M. This language addresses or manages that principal account. It doesn't touch the 75 percent funds plus interest accrued that funds the annual projects. This considers that larger balance. The idea presented at the Wildlife Heritage Committee would be to maintain those funds over time at a manageable pace. It serves simply as guidance for future commissions and the expectation within the Heritage Grants Manual.

Commissioner McNinch thanked Secretary Jenne for the explanation and stated that the Board needed to be careful not to imply that it was overriding the opportunity provided by the statute.

Chairman Caviglia noted that one advantage of leaving those funds is the Commission's ability to spend the interest every year, and so the more interest accrued the more money is able to be spent on heritage projects.

Commissioner McNinch stated that there had been a good effort to leave the principal alone, but that it was a bad time to be discussing this issue during a legislative year, with such a large amount of money in the account. He added that he would love to see it used for a seed bank.

Chairman Caviglia stated that this wasn't an action item.

DAG Burkett agreed and stated they had no authority to do anything with it.

Chairman Caviglia stated that it would be placed on a future agenda as an action item.

Commissioner McNinch asked whether it should be incorporated into Policy 11. This document is the Department's manual that references the Board's policy. Does the Board want this in policy as a statement from the Board.

Secretary Jenne stated that he appreciated Commissioner McNinch's question and acknowledged that it had become a circular conversation due to the fact that Policy 11 points to the Heritage Manual as the guidance and how the program would be administered. He noted that the Department could add that to the manual and reference the decision. It could be incorporated in a revision of Policy 11 if the Commission felt strong enough.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he would like to get it right and was processing.

Chairman Caviglia stated that he and Commissioner McNinch should get together prior to adding it to the next agenda and discuss a little more.

**H. Pathways To Relevancy Project - Conservation Educator Bobby Jones**

A presentation on NDOW's Pathways to Relevancy Project consisting of a brief project overview and synopsis of the statewide survey results.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #6H.

Secretary Jenne provided background on a survey conducted as part of a multi-state conservation grant pertaining to the Relevancy Project that would allow a better understanding of the public, including Nevada's outdoor interests, possible barriers and how they feel about the agency.

Conservation Educator Bobby Jones gave a presentation on the Pathways To Relevancy Project. To access the PowerPoint Presentation please click on the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/events/march-2023-commission-meeting/>

Chairman Caviglia asked if the survey results were online.

Educator Jones stated that they were. There is also a post titled, "Nevada Relevancy Project," in addition to a link to a podcast and link to the Relevancy road map.

Commissioner Booth asked why the Commission wasn't trusted at a higher percentage and if it was specifically NDOW.

Educator Jones stated that 73 percent was pretty good and that NDOW is well liked compared to other federal and state agencies. There could just be a general distrust of government or a belief that we have opposing views that aren't representative of who they are. He added that those that trust the Department the least are those that have never heard of it. A simple understanding of who NDOW is as an agency would go a long way.

Commissioner Booth stated that he felt 80-90 percent would have been better, but after hearing that those numbers were higher than other governmental agencies he agreed that it was a well-received perception.

Educator Jones agreed and stated that if the agency was able to reach those that were unfamiliar with the agency, there was definitely room for uplift.

Commissioner Booth thanked Educator Jones.

Commissioner McNinch stated that they had a good product to sell with wildlife and nature. He asked what was next and if there was anything the Commission could do.

Educator Jones stated that there was a draft Relevancy Plan that had not been finalized, that would consist of Relevancy goals set in-line with Strategic Plan goals to answer the question "How do you better serve those three groups? The young adults, Hispanics/Latinos, and people who recreate outdoors that aren't primarily wildlife focused.

Commissioner McNinch stated it all tied into the earlier discussion about the apprentice and mentor program. He asked how we could improve those numbers and provide what they are looking for. It is a large task.

Educator Jones noted that outdoor interest was very high, no matter the activity. People want to spend time outdoors, they are very interested in it, but interest far outstrips those that are actually participating in it.

Vice Chairman Rogers thanked Educator Jones for the presentation. He asked whether the sample size was an adequate size to pull data. He also asked if the sample reflected percentages from Reno, Las Vegas and rural, relative to the city or area it was representing.

Educator Jones stated that the sample size (863 individuals) did represent the state. The survey tool was sent out in both Spanish and English. With 863 people, anything that was four percent of the average or greater, the Department could say with confidence that it was statistically significant. The Department went through the company, Responsive Management, who sent out the survey tool. They have provided polling data and utilized similar methodologies for sampling people for the last 20-30 years. More is better, however it is a function of cost.

Commissioner McNinch stated that it was interesting how they set studies up. He assumed they ask what confidence level would you like to be at, for example, 95 percent, 75 percent, one percent. The closer you get to that 100 percent, the more individuals need to be surveyed. He asked if the Department wanted to be at 95 percent.

Educator Jones stated that he believed every survey was set up for a 95 percent confidence interval.

Commissioner McNinch stated that it didn't seem possible that 863 could represent 3.3 M, however statistically that pans out. If you want it tighter, more people will need to be surveyed.

Vice Chairman Rogers clarified that the assumption was that surveying more people would statistically produce a smaller deviation.

Commissioner McNinch confirmed that it would produce a smaller deviation the closer one got to the actual total number.

Secretary Jenne explained that the Department was very adept at servicing traditional constituents, those that hunt and fish. Additionally, we have conversations about recruitment, retention, and reactivation. We also talk about Relevancy in relation to providing the public with an understanding about the Department and what it does. After having participated in the Legislative Session, it's apparent that there are individuals that aren't fully aware of what the Department does. This is a great opportunity to see what public perception is and then find ways to improve communication with the public. Helping them understand that we help manage many of the simple things that the public values, for example clean air, clean water, healthy habitats and ecosystems. He stated that there was a lot of space to work with the public and that the Department is looking for the opportunity to improve our relationship with them and help them understand our relevancy to them.

Chairman Caviglia asked if they should break for lunch or continue on.

Secretary Jenne suggested they continue due to the field trip.

Chairman Caviglia agreed.

**7. Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP) Committee – Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action**

The APRP Committee has concluded with committee meetings and will focus on the last four policies through the Commission.

**A.\* Commission Policy 23 – Predation Management – Third Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch and Deputy Director Mike Scott– For Possible Action**

The Commission will review Commission Policy 23 and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #7A.

Commissioner McNinch reminded the Commission that the plan has been modified to match new statutory language and that the Department provided changes on a 2013 and 2016 version. They have removed the education component.

Staff Specialist Jackson noted that the Department jostled between 2013 and 2016 version. He noted that he would like to combine paragraph four and five due to some redundancy. He recommended to delete the final sentence in paragraph four and halfway through paragraph five. He stated the two paragraphs capture the process well and affords the Commission autonomy to approve the Predator Plan in March or bring it back at May Commission. He also suggested to remove the words "with respect to lethal control projects," in paragraph four, second sentence.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked Staff Specialist Jackson to clarify what he wanted to strike.

Staff Specialist Jackson agreed with what Vice Chairman Rogers reiterated and state that his preference would be to combine the two paragraphs and leave as a shorter paragraph.

Chairman Caviglia noted that when this plan went through the committee and the previous Commission there was an additional item that required the Department to provide a status update, cost expenditures, amount left, how long the project has been going and it was removed. He added that it would be brought up in public comment as well.

Staff Specialist Jackson directed attention to the last page, number nine, Annual Predator Management Status Report, an informational item that he presents to the Commission and iterated that there is a risk of redundancy. He noted several instances throughout the plan that address those items mentioned. Letter R, Project Summary, was intended to capture everything the Department, committees, and public have raised concerns about.

Commissioner McNinch acknowledged that he didn't have time to talk with Staff Specialist Jackson and that he believed the public was still interested in incorporating some concepts like cost expenditures in it. There is a balance that needs to be provided on both sides, but that the little bit of ambiguity is appropriate.

*No CABMW comment.*

Jana Wright, representing self, stated that it was very difficult to follow. She noted that in October 2022, the APRP Committee made changes to the policy and that Commissioner Wise provided changes that didn't make it into this current version presented. She suggested that it would be helpful to bring forward the October 2022 version. She didn't agree with what the Commission was proposing to approve.

Commissioner McNinch noted that providing track changes may have caused some confusion, but that it was unintentional. He noted that the current version was rewritten as a new policy to remove redundancy and improve the flow of language. There may be concepts missing and it would be a good idea to identify those and put them in. It would be difficult to bring back the other versions with track changes.

Chairman Caviglia agreed that was difficult to try to bring back old versions. He suggested giving everyone one more opportunity to take a look at it.

Commissioner McNinch noted that it would be nice to get done. He suggested to work through it and bring it back.

Staff Specialist Jackson stated that there was BDR to change the three dollar Predator Fee and that after this current session in the Legislature the Department may need t to revisit this policy.

Commissioner Wise added that it appeared that there may be language that was stricken in a previous version and that it would be a good idea to review the policy language.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he, Staff Specialist Jackson and Deputy Director Mike Scott would discuss how to frame the review and provide clarity for everyone and explain their decisions thus far. Deputy Director Scott stated apologized for the confusion and explained that the current version was an attempt to clean up all track changes in previous versions and would be our recommendation and starting point. He suggested to bring it back with suggested edits. He was not concerned with the timeline, but getting the policy right.

Commissioner McNinch noted that this process has taken a year and a half and also agreed that they needed to get it right.

**8. Commission General Regulations – Workshop - Public Comment Allowed**

**A.\* Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances – Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark – For Possible Action**

The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 to allow for possession of a golden eagle under certain circumstances.

Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark presented on CGR 506. The presentation can be found at the link provided below:

[https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CGR506\\_GoldenEaglePossession\\_SecondWorkshop\\_Mar2023.pdf](https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CGR506_GoldenEaglePossession_SecondWorkshop_Mar2023.pdf)

Commissioner Kiel asked to clarify that all sections are as presented other than section nine.

Wildlife Diversity Administrator Newmark stated section three also has added language as noted in the presentation.

Commissioner Wise stated the word physical needs to be added under section four, part B before “address of eagle’s location”. She also stated that they received a lot of really good feedback about this CGR and based on the changes made, the Department really took all of it to heart.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 506 POSSESSION OF GOLDEN EAGLES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES AS PRESENTED WITH NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER WALTHER 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.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #9.

*No public comment.*

**10. Field Trip – Gemini Solar Project - Tour will begin at the close of Agenda Item #10**

The Commission will tour a large-scaled solar facility outside of Las Vegas, and time allowing, an established Solar Energy Zone in the vicinity. An informational discussion on novel approaches to energy development and wildlife habitat will accompany. No action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their own

transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location. The meeting will reconvene at the at the close of the field tour.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #10.

Secretary Jenne explained the process and how the group should proceed for the tour.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber gave a brief description of the tour of the solar facility.

*Chairman Caviglia adjourned the meeting at 12:42pm.*

**Saturday, March 11, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83836514615?pwd=bkc5d05IR2NzeDNCUW9mRGZQZHVOZz09>

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

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Commissioner East led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Administrative Assistant Cameron Tull called the roll of the Commission. Commissioner Barnes and Walther were absent. Chairman Caviglia made note of the CABMW members in attendance.

**12. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Tommy Caviglia– 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.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #12.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WISE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

**13. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Tommy Caviglia – 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 Alan Jenne may also be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #13. He noted that they received an email from a member of the public regarding some Junior hunt changes, both on items that have already been passed and on items that are on hold. He addressed the comment that inferred the Commission made a sudden and rash

decision and he wanted to note that the process to make those decisions took over a year and he wanted to reassure the public that the Commission didn't make any rash decisions.

Commissioner East stated that she participated in the Lathrop-Capurro interviews and noted that there were fewer applicants this year than in previous years, but of the three that interviewed they were phenomenal youth and she looked forward to future leaders in the natural resource field. She thanked Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme, who runs the intern program and noted that NBU committed to a sixth seasonal intern rather than five. She noted that they were young women and that it was good to see an increase in their participation. Chris Crookshanks' daughter was one of the young ladies chosen.

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

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, asked if there was another way for those that harvest swans to have their harvest verified and checked in rather than having to come in to an office location.

- 15. Legislative Committee Report - Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – For Possible Action**  
A report will be provided on the recent Legislative Committee meeting.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #15.

Commissioner East stated that there had been two Legislative Committee Meetings so far. The following BDRs were discussed and voted on as follows:

- 1.) AB 102 – Killing Contests - Committee remained neutral – It was noted that this was previously discussed at length in 2021, in which the Commission ultimately decided not to prohibit these contests. It was noted that there was never much of a compromise by either side. As a result, those concerned have brought the issue forward through the legislature. The legislation addresses the contest aspect of this discussion and not the ability to harvest certain species. It was acknowledged that many find these contests offensive. It has been a very polarizing issue and both the Commission and its constituents have been decidedly split.

*No CABMW comment.*

Joel Blakeslee, private citizen, stated that he had been part of this fight for the past 23 sessions. He believed remaining neutral benefits the minority. In the past, the Commission and CABMWs have voted against this concept twice. This represents hundreds of people. No county had ever supported this concept. He requested that the Commission vote in opposition of this bill rather than stay neutral.

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that he agreed with Joel Blakeslee. He believed taking a neutral position does no one any good. He believed that the Commission should take a position to oppose the Legislature managing wildlife. He asked the Commission to take a position in opposition.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen, stated that wildlife advocates had brought this to the Commission three times. Twice in 2015 and once in 2021. She noted that the Commission didn't ban these contests, so this was taken to the Legislature. She stated that neighboring states had banned these contests. She pointed out that it didn't take away anyone's opportunity to kill a coyote at any time, that the contests are the problem. She hoped the Commission would stay neutral.



**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO REMAIN NEUTRAL ON AB 102 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 4-3. VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS, COMMISSIONER BOOTH AND COMMISSIONER KIEL DISSENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 2.) AB 221 – Management of Non-Pest Insects – Committee supported legislation – The Department would need additional staffing to support and requested necessary funding to do so. It was noted that this bill was trying to consolidate coordination efforts.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 221 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE . SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 3.) AB 112 – Create Account for Wildlife Crossings – Committee supported legislation. The Wildlife Coalition requested a \$15M allocation be attached which would receive a three to one match.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 112 AND THE \$15M FUNDING ALLOCATION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOSTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 4.) AB 70 – Predator Fee Changes – Removes the minimum 80 percent mandate – Committee opposed legislation and Commissioner McNinch voted to stay neutral. It was noted that there could be an instance where science says there isn't 80 percent worth of projects, yet the Department will be held to the 80 percent mandate without a scientific basis. If it was lowered to 50 percent, the Department could still use up to 100 percent, it was just lowering the minimum percentage. Currently the bill language says zero minimum. It was noted that the current 20 percent non-lethal funds are the only funds available for match. It was also noted that currently the 80 percent mandate provides the Department its only funds to perform predator control. Ravens were an example of predator control mentioned that would be affected negatively if this legislation passed with it's current language. The Department was neutral on this legislation.

*No CABMW comment.*

Stephanie Myers, private citizen, asked if the mandate was effective. She noted that it totals almost \$1M/yr and asked if it works. She stated that she assumed the goal was to benefit game species and asked if there were more Mule deer as a result prior to all the projects that have been performed. She stated that the projects weren't working and that the Department should have the flexibility to use those funds on other things like studies and education. This made more sense. She asked the Commission to keep in mind that even if this was supported or they remained neutral, funds could still be used for lethal predator removal.

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that he would like the Commission to oppose this legislation. He noted that the original concept was that sportsmen supported this fee so that the Department could

perform lethal removal. If this legislation is supported and those funds are not going towards what they were originally supposed to, then there should no longer be a fee collected.

Joel Blakeslee, private citizen, stated that he had been involved with the Predator Fee since its inception and noted that there was no discussion about using these funds for habitat or Sage grouse. He agreed with Rex Flowers, that the Predator Fee shouldn't be collected if they weren't used for the original purpose.

**CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO OPPOSE AB 70 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 6-1. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH DISSENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 5.) SB 88 – Study of the Make-up of Boards and Commissions that Regulate Natural Resources – Committee took no position. This includes the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. It was unknown who would be performing this study and what the criteria would include. It was felt that it may be a conflict of interest due to the Board being specifically named. It is going to a work session in the Senate.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO TAKE A NO POSITION STANCE ON SB 88 AT THIS TIME AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 6.) SB 90 - Wild Mustang to Become the Official State Horse – Committee opposed legislation. Commissioner McNinch on behalf of the Legislative Committee, provided testimony to the legislature at a hearing on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in opposition. The Commission had not had a chance to vote on this as of that time. It was noted that it's no longer a wild mustang, but feral horses and burros. Nevada has one of the highest number of feral horses and burros in the western states. It was also noted that they are impacting state wildlife and habitat.

*No CABMW comment.*

Joel Blakeslee, private citizen, stated that public lands in Nevada are owned by 49 other landlords. Every state in the union owns Nevada land. If this legislation passed, it would send the wrong signal, that there are no issues caused by wild horses. We need to let everyone know the reality is that Nevada does have an issue with wild horses.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO OPPOSE SB 90 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 7.) SB 224 – Adds Members to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners – Committee opposed legislation – It would increase the number of Commissioners to 11 members. It would add a spot that would represent guides or sub-guides and spot that would represent a member of a County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife. It was believed that the Commission already had sufficient representation and provide plenty of opportunity for CABMWs to participate and give comment. It was noted that there is rarely representation from guides or sub-guides at Commission. This

type of legislation had been opposed previously by the Commission. It was mentioned that guides have previously wanted access to the hunter list and that it may be an ulterior motive.

*No CABMW comment.*

Rex Flowers, private citizen, stated that he spoke against this legislation at the Legislative Committee meeting and is opposed to it. He questioned whether the Commission should take a position of opposition, rather than remaining neutral as the Commission did on the previous bill.

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO OPPOSE ON SB 224 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

- 8.) SB 87 – Creates Nevada Natural Resources Corps – Committee supported legislation - It codifies the ability for an appointing authority to appoint a person to fill a position in the classified service without competition for the position if they meet minimum qualifications and have completed 900 hours in an AmeriCorps program.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO SUPPORT SB 87 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

Commissioner East proposed to have the next Legislative Committee meeting on April 6, 2023, held virtually at 5:30pm. She proposed to hold the April Commission meeting between April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>. The next Legislative Committee meeting would be held May 5<sup>th</sup> in person, prior to the start of the May Commission meeting in Reno. If necessary, May 16<sup>th</sup> would be an additional meeting date.

*Chairman Caviglia recessed at 10:35 am.*

*Chairman Caviglia reconvened at 10:46 am.*

## **16. Commission Regulations – For Possible Action – Public Comment Allowed**

### **A.\* Commission Regulation 23-13, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2023 – 2024 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action**

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Chairman Caviglia introduced item #16A.

Game Division Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme presented Mourning and White-Wing Dove and American Crow.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTIONS TITLED MOURNING & WHITE-WINGED DOVE AND AMERICAN CROW AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented Ducks & Mergansers.

Chairman Caviglia noticed the possession limit on Hen Mallard/ Mexican ducks is missing and should be six total in possession.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the two daily limit would be a combination of Hen Mallard and Mexican ducks, or if it is a limit of two Hen Mallards and two Mexican ducks.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme stated it is a total of two daily.

Commissioner Booth stated that Humboldt County CABMW was opposed to the split seasons. However, he learned that the split causes the season to end after a weekend which increases the opportunity for sportsmen to hunt.

Commissioner Rogers stated he also noted Humboldt County's opposition but thinks their issue has been addressed after Commissioner Booth's comment.

Larry Allen, representing Humboldt CABMW stated that if the Humboldt CABMW had known the reason for the split season, they wouldn't have opposed it.

*No public comment*

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED DUCKS AND MERGANSERS WITH THE NOTED CHANGES TO ADD A POSSESSION LIMIT OF TWO DAILY AND SIX IN POSSESSION FOR HEN MALLARD AND MEXICAN DUCKS. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented the next several sections together as they share season dates. This section included Coots and Gallinules, Snipe, Canada and Cackling Geese and Brant, White-Fronted Geese, and Falconry Seasons for Migratory Game Birds.

Chairman Caviglia asked if Snow and Ross' Geese will be presented separately.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme clarified that Scaup, Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt, Snow and Ross' Geese, and Swan seasons will be presented separately.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTIONS TITLED COOTS AND GALLINULES, SNIPE, CANADA AND CACKLING GEESE AND BRANT, WHITE-FRONTED GEESE, AND FALCONRY SEASONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented Scaup (Lesser and Greater).

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED SCAUP (LESSER AND GREATER) AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented on the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented Snow and Ross' Geese.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented Swans.

Commissioner East asked if the Department had to close the season in 2022.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme stated they did not need to close the season because only one trumpeter swan was taken out of ten allowed last year.

Commissioner McNinch mentioned the reason why there was a limit on trumpeter swans was due to population levels being low.

Chairman Caviglia commented on a complaint from a CABMW about needing to check in the swans within three days. However, he wanted to maintain the current time limit for check-ins.

Commissioner McNinch mentioned that trumpeter swans are huge and easy to pick out, therefore adhering to the check-in time limit should be part of the choice to take a trumpeter swan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme stated that a swan draw used to be a part of this regulation, however, it is now covered in a different regulation.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED SWAN AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme presented Public Hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands. He stated there was a change on page ten under Waterfowl Remainder of Season Reservation Process. The Department added a definition of what “Remainder of Season” meant. There was also language included to clarify if you are successful in your draw for opening day or weekend then you are not allowed to put in again until after opening day or weekend.

Commissioner East asked if the language applied to a successful draw or a successful hunt.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme confirmed it was only for a successful draw. This process ensures that hunters can only have one reservation at a time and no one can stack reservations.

*No CABMW comment*

*No public comment*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-13 SECTION TITLED PUBLIC HUNTING ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

- B.\* Commission Regulation 23-04 Amendment 1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons – Deputy Director Mike Scott – For Possible Action**  
The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quota.

Deputy Director Mike Scott stated that during the last Commission meeting the emergency depredation hunt was left out of the CR on accident. He stated that this amendment just added that hunt to the CR.

Chairman Caviglia asked if an emergency hunt was deemed necessary would that come to the Commission before it was approved.

Deputy Director Scott stated it would not go to the Commission before approval.

Commissioner East asked if language under “tag quota not to exceed 2,000 tags”, was for all species, or per species.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed it was 2,000 tags cumulative.

Commissioner East asked to add the word cumulative to the language.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed that language will be added.

Fred Voltz, private citizen stated, “How can a non-existent problem be solved in advance with an appropriate solution? An investment manager doesn’t put a plan together without an objective. A doctor doesn’t prescribe drugs without knowing what disease or condition is being treated. A builder doesn’t construct a building without a plan for its use. Approving emergency hunting seasons with specific parameters when there is no specific emergency needing a response is equally inappropriate. NRS Section 501.339 gives NDOW’s Executive Director the responsibility to assemble a targeted response to a given emergency concerning wildlife after consulting the Governor. This Commission can weigh it at its next regularly scheduled meeting on the implemented remedies. A targeted response would reflect the specific emergency and its fact pattern, the extent of the emergency and what resources might need to be brought to bear that don’t necessarily and exclusively call for killing additional wildlife beyond the regular hunting quotas. Moreover, beyond the ‘big four’ wildlife species most desired for hunting by NDOW licensees, there is no consideration given in the proposed regulation to the welfare of up to 900 or so other wildlife species present in the state that NDOW and this Commission have management responsibility to address in the event of an emergency through this proposed regulation. Why not? Is this emergency hunt regulation only about furthering hunter opportunity?”

Commissioner Booth asked how many times the emergency hunt had been used.

Deputy Director Scott stated it was not used very often. It was last used two or three years ago.

Commissioner Booth asked to confirm the emergency hunt is not used annually.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed. He added the emergency hunt is also residents only.

Chairman Caviglia asked if that needs to be stated in writing.

Deputy Director Scott stated his understanding was that they would always go to the resident list when calling for the emergency hunt.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the emergency hunt referenced the hunt numbers and thought the hunt numbers might be specific to the resident hunts.

Deputy Director Scott stated Data and Technology Services (DATS) Division Administrator Kim Munoz might know if the emergency hunt is specific to residents.

Data and Technology Services (DATS) Division Administrator Kim Munoz stated she was unsure of the answer and would need to look up the hunt number to confirm.

Deputy Director Scott stated that language can be added into the motion and that would suffice.

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AMENDMENT #1, 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 BIG GAME SEASONS AS PRESENTED WITH THE TWO NOTED CHANGES, “NOT TO EXCEED 2,000 TAGS CUMULATIVE STATEWIDE” AND THE SECOND “THE EMERGENCY HUNT TAGS WILL BE AWARDED BY DRAW ORDER SEQUENCE OF UNSUCCESSFUL RESIDENT APPLICANTS.” SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER ABSENT.**

**17. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Alan Jenne and Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action**

The next Commission meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The Commission will review and approve the Commission Meeting schedule for 2024-2025. The chairman 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.

Chairman Caviglia introduced Item #17. He stated that the April 11<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting should be held in the morning due to there being a legislative hearing later on in the day.

Commissioner East noted that there could be a Senate Natural Resources meeting at 3:30pm, a bill might come up that would require the presence of the Department.

Secretary Jenne stated that the Commission had not taken action to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> date and said that it could be moved to an earlier date to avoid the conflict with the meeting.

Commissioner East stated that it didn't need to be sooner, but that it should be in the morning or evening. Chairman Caviglia asked other Commissioners if the morning was acceptable.

Commission members were in agreement.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the next Commission meeting would include discussion on legislative items and the suggestions of the Regulation Simplification Committee pertaining to Executive Order 2023-003. The Commission will make a final decision on what regulations to remove to abide by that order. He asked if the Department would like to change the previously scheduled August Commission meeting.

Secretary Jenne stated that August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> had been suggested if combining the August and September meetings.

Commissioner McNinch noted that the Mule Deer Summit was recently scheduled for August 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

Secretary Jenne answered that was correct.

Chairman Caviglia stated that they could set the August Commission meeting at the April Commission meeting.

Commissioner East stated that she hesitated to combine meetings due to the importance of the rural meetings. There is such value in visiting rural communities.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the last years August and September meetings were not very full. He didn't like to exclude rural Nevada which is only two meetings of the whole year. If we combine those meetings it should be in a rural. He noted that there are a majority of meetings in Reno and that he wouldn't want to see a meeting pulled from Las Vegas, which consists of 75 percent of the states population.

Commissioner McNinch pointed out that many constituents have felt as though there aren't enough conversations happening. He suggested adding a workshop or an opportunity to partner with a



cooperative extension. There are plenty of areas that the Commission could discuss for example, the Mule Deer Bulletin, RAWA (Restoring America's Wildlife Act), what the Department does from a scientific or statistical standpoint.

Chairman Caviglia noted that there are costs associated with travel for the Department.

Secretary Jenne stated that the Department was available for whatever the Commission would like to do.

Chairman Caviglia stated that everyone could think about dates and provide input at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Rogers agreed and stated that the rural meetings were valuable and that there are many issues effecting wildlife that could be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia asked if Secretary Jenne had anything else to add.

Secretary Jenne stated that the next Commission meeting would include Legislative Committee findings, Regulation Simplification discussion and the calendar discussion for the August and September meetings. He stated that May Commission items would include a presentation by Gordon Darby, Big Game Quotas, FY24 Predator Management Plan, Big Game Status Report, a meeting and report from the Wildlife Heritage Committee and possibly Regulation Simplification and Legislative Committee meetings.

Chairman Caviglia stated that there would also be discussion on Policy 23 and the Heritage Grants Manual as well.

*No CABMW comment.*

*No public comment.*

**COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 2023 DATE FOR THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING TIME TO BE DETERMINED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES AND COMMISSIONER WALTHER WERE ABSENT.**

**18. Public Comment Period**

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

Linda Linton, private citizen stated that she attended the Legislative Committee meeting that morning and there was no discussion of AB 70 or AB 102 and apologized that she missed the report given by the Legislative Committee at this Commission meeting. She then asked whether either of those were discussed.

Chairman Caviglia answered yes.

Linda Linton, private citizen stated that the language in AB 70 should stay the same and the mandate should remain 80 percent. She was opposed to the bill. She then stated that AB 102 was social bigotry against the Rurals and that there are many ranchers that require predation and help during calving season of any animal including cow, sheep, and goats. She had personally witnessed animals fighting off coyotes while giving birth and was unable to assist due to being too far away. She noted that killing contests were the same as any other contest Clark County might have. The Rural's contests, like the

Coyote Killing contests are part of its history and rural way of life. She listed multiple contests held in other counties within the state. *\*Her allotted three minutes ended and her microphone was muted.*

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW stated that a senior member of the public attended the last CABMW meeting and made the comment that he had 20-25 bonus points for Mountain goats and he inquired about the possibility of donating the points to an organization to raffle them for someone to go hunting. He let him know that he would bring it up at the Commission meeting.

*Chairman Caviglia adjourned the meeting at 11:49 am.*

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

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