

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS
TAG ALLOCATION and APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE (TAAHC)
APPROVED MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2020 @ 4:00 PM

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86265137549?pwd=R2J5M1UrdGVnN3BmbDhHMER1ZktYQT09>

Passcode: 231062

Committee Members: Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Tiffany East, Commissioner Ron Pierini, CABMW Representative Joe Crim, CABMW Representative Arnie Pitts, Public Representative Meghan Brown

Staff to the Committee: Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance: Administrative Assistant Megan Manfredi, Management Analyst Kailey Taylor, Deputy Director Jack Robb, Deputy Director Bonnie Long, Game Division Administrator Mike Scott, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee, Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne

County advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public in attendance: TC2-TV-13, Darin Elmore, Steve Robinson – Washoe CABMW, 1775****968.

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1. Call to Order and Roll Call of Committee Members – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM. Chairman Caviglia, Commissioner East, Commissioner Pierini, CABMW Representative Crim, Public Representative Brown were present. CABMW Representative Pitts arrived after the meeting began.

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

CABMW REPRESENTATIVE CRIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

3. Approval of Minutes – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action
The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the January 23, 2019 meeting.

CABMW REPRESENTATIVE CRIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

4. Regulation Update – Data and Technology Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – Informational

An update will be provided to the Committee on the status of the regulation approved by the Commission for adoption regarding party, military, and junior bonus points and first come first serve for returned tags.

Data and Technology Services (DATS) Division Administrator Kim Munoz gave an update on the approved Commission Regulations. The Committee did vote to change rules to allow active military members who are deployed to receive a return of their bonus points as well as change the junior bonus point rules relating to youth turning the age of 12. Both regulations relating to bonus points and the noticing of draw results will be heard at the Legislative Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 29, 2020.

5. Order to Draw Review - Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss the possibility of setting a species and gender order to the draw.

Chairman Caviglia provided a background on Commission and public discussion regarding the order of the tag draw process. If a change is made to draw male species before female, it would drop the draw odds for the female species. Transparency to the public is needed. He asked for an explanation on the steps needed to be taken for implementation.

Commissioner Pierini asked for a deeper explanation of the change being proposed.

Chairman Caviglia stated that many people do not know or understand that if an applicant applies for both the male and female sex of a species and the female is drawn first, you will receive the female tag over the male, even if you have a low enough draw number where you could have drawn the male tag.

CABMW Representative Pitts added that some people do not know that fact and unknowingly miss out on the male species. He expressed his thoughts that this change was a good idea.

Deputy Director Jack Robb explained that this subject has not been a major issue until the past year when the Department changed the number of elk tags per applicant to be one. Before people could draw a bull or a cow tag in the same year. He noted that for this change to be in place before the next application period, the Committee and Commission would need to decide by the January Commission meeting. He also noted that it would need to be determined where a spike elk would fall, since that is an additional elk option.

Commissioner East asked if the draw order of male before female would apply for all species.

Chairman Caviglia explained that the draw system would look to fill male applications before female and if an applicant drew a male species, they would be ineligible for the female of that species. He stated again that it would impact the draw odds for the female species but the number of applications received by the Department would increase.

Discussion was had regarding the change affecting how an applicant applied for the draw and how the Department could better educate the public of the draw process.

Deputy Director Robb stated that before an applicant could apply for tags of either sex of an animal in the same year, the majority of people applying for the female species were those who were in a male waiting period. This was giving a person the ability to obtain a tag for either sex while most people were still waiting to draw one. That rule was changed to spread out the opportunity of obtaining a tag.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated that it seemed like a person who has a lot of male bonus points would keep away from applying for the female. In the spirit of hunting, the change may be for the best as it would keep the trophy hunt option as the first choice.

Public Representative Brown asked if the Department could share numbers regarding what the change implications might be.

Deputy Director Robb noted that the ewe and ram eligibility has stayed the same since implementation but that the elk process has changed in the past few years.

Management Analyst Kailey Taylor stated that many of the public who called into the Department's call center during the application period were asking for clarification on this subject.

Deputy Director Robb stated that the tag draw process has been extensively covered on third party social medial cites and blogs, sometimes being more efficient at communicating the process than the Department.

Public comment period 4:31 PM – 4:36 PM

Darin Elmore stated: The sportsmen of Nevada have the most limited opportunity to Big Game hunt than in any other state. We should be allowed to manage our own limited opportunity and applications as we wish. The idea that an applicant can draw a cow tag and exempt his bull opportunity is crazy. The sequencing of antlered hunts before antlerless hunts is critical.

Public Representative Brown asked for clarification on the timeline that this subject would be heard at the Commission.

Deputy Director Robb answered that the seasons and bag limit regulations are scheduled to be heard in January and is when the Department would need to know of a change in order to educate the public on how it may affect how they apply.

Discussion was had regarding how the Department would implement educating the public on the proposed change.

Commissioner Pierini stated that he thought the idea was a great change and would potentially make it easier for the public to understand the process.

Chairman Caviglia agreed that this change would mirror how most members of the public already viewed the draw process.

Deputy Director Robb stated that this would be a procedural change and would not need to be a change made in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). He requested that if the Committee chose to move forward, if they could advise the Commission of their decision during the Committee update in November's Commission meeting and provide guidance to the Department at that time.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MOVED TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT A REGULATION TO THE COMMISSION DEFINING A DRAW ORDER RELATING TO SPECIES AND GENDER. SECONDED BY CABMW REPRESENTATIVE PITTS. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

6. Youth Hunt Program Review - Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action
The Committee will discuss the possibility of adding a youth antelope or elk hunt to the Youth Hunt Program.

Chairman Caviglia stated that at the last Committee meeting, an interest was shown regarding a youth hunt for additional species. He said that he did not think this was a good direction considering the pre-established youth hunt and the limited number of tags for additional species.

Commissioner East expressed her desire for a potential pilot program with one additional species for the youth hunt to allow more of our youth to get outside and enjoy nature while instilling outdoor and conservation values.

Deputy Director Robb noted that Lander County has brought forth similar options for the youth hunts. The Department could look at the statistics of success and eligibility of age to determine if additional tags for other species would afford the youth a better opportunity to get into the system and have a good chance of harvesting. He added that there are some mule deer tags left over in some areas more so than others.

Commissioner Pierini shared that this proposal would be a good option if the number of tags were not so large that it would be considered unsavory to those adults who have been waiting years for a tag.

CABMW Representative Pitts liked the idea of giving additional opportunities to the youth but added that a youth can still be included on someone else's hunt. That would still allow for the hunting experience. He did not think an additional program was necessary.

Public Representative Brown brought up other ways to afford kids the opportunity to hunt without allotting additional tags. She noted that transferring tags was a discussion topic at previous meetings.

CABMW Representative Crim stated that it might create more difficulties for the Department. He shared that kids are currently able to draw tags of other species without a program in place.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott explained that the Game Division has discussed removing the stratified hunt option for mule deer. Youths would then be able to apply for different weapon classes such as rifle and muzzleloader / archery. Currently, a youth is potentially holding three potential tags in one when weapon class is considered. This suggestion could potentially satisfy the discussion of providing youth more field opportunities with the mule deer hunt alone.

Public comment 4:58 PM – 5:03 PM

Darin Elmore stated: Nevada's youth already are allocated an unprecedented segment of Nevada's overall deer tags (is it still 25 percent?). Expanding the species offering within the mix does not necessarily equate to increased hunter recruitment which is the ultimate goal with the youth program. If you are going to offer a youth antelope hunt where adults are already experiencing a 5 or 6 to 1 odd, why not offer youth sheep and mountain goat as well? I think a portion (unknown number) are already applying for these other "trophy" species. Youth deer tags are already an amazing opportunity in weapons and season length. Expanding the species offering does not expand hunter initiation or recruitment.

Chairman Caviglia stated that the Committee received public comment from Rex Flowers who was opposed to the proposal.

Discussion was had regarding this option reducing the pressure on the mule deer.

CABMW Representative Pitts stated he was inclined to deny the proposal and adopt something more along the lines of a mentor hunt, as Public Representative Brown suggested earlier.

Commissioner East asked if the idea of a mentor program was brought up during the last Legislative Session.

Management Analyst Taylor answered that something similar was brought forth regarding giving drawn tags to disabled veterans. It did not pass out of the Legislative Committee, but it looks as if the same Legislator has put forth another bill titled similarly. The language of that bill is not yet provided to the public until the next Legislative Session starts.

Commissioner East expressed her interest in looking into the suggestion brought forth by the Game Division.

Chairman Caviglia stated his opposition for the change.

Commissioner Pierini agreed.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA CLOSED THE AGENDA ITEM WITH NO MOTION.

7. Novice Hunter Hunt Review - Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss the possibility of adding a novice hunter hunt.

Commissioner Caviglia stated that this item was on prior Committee agendas and additional discussion was requested. There was interest in involving adults who have never hunted before in a similar program as the junior hunt. The intent is to try to get additional individuals to begin hunting but have never done so before.

CABMW Representative Pitts noted that he has read that recruitment with younger hunters is less than people who begin at an older age.

Deputy Director Robb stated that the Department has seen record growth of youth between the ages of 12 and 20. The ages between 18 and 22 are tough to retain due to a person's general life revolving around education. Growth comes back in the ages of the 25 to 35 range. He shared that the activated youth has grown tremendously with additional outreach programs. Recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters are each a critical opponent and if one pot shrinks, you may raise another and tip the balance.

DATS Administrator Munoz shared her screen showing 80,892 applicants, 9,137 lost, 4,930 new, 11,402 reactivated, 64,560 loyal during the last application period.

Public Representative Brown agreed with Deputy Director Robb's previous statement but noted that she is also passionate about getting new members into the sportsmen world. She shared that the pandemic shutdown has impacted recreation and that there are new opportunities to get people engaged. She would like to see the age groups in the 4,930 new customers and find out what is driving their desire to begin hunting.

Commissioner East stated that she has been approached by people asking when seniors will have a better opportunity to draw a tag. She also noted the Commission petition heard last summer regarding the bonus points of seniors. He expressed her fears regarding beginning a specialty hunt like this and asked where the line would be drawn. She stated that this proposal might be doing a disservice to our sportsmen with the creation of more specialty hunts.

Chairman Caviglia asked how we would define "novice hunter" and that it might create a potential for abuse.

Public comment 5:23 PM – 5:28 PM

No public comment.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA CLOSED THE AGENDA ITEM WITH NO MOTION.

8. Mule Deer Junior Hunt Eligibility Requirement Review – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss the possibility limiting the number of tags a junior can be awarded and/or the junior age requirements to give more opportunities to more juniors.

Chairman Caviglia noted that is was also an item from the last Committee agenda left on for additional discussion. He asked the Department is there was a way to see how many juniors were unsuccessful in their hunts.

Deputy Director Robb stated that this implementation would need a deeper discussion and it would not be something that would be implemented for the next draw season even if the Committee decided to move forward today.

Chairman Caviglia agreed that this would be something he would like to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

DATS Administrator Munoz stated that the requested data could be collected and brought to a future meeting.

Deputy Director Robb added that the data could be organized in different ways so the Committee could see all aspects of the program. He noted that many applications rely on where the parents wish to put in. We would need to look closely at the numbers to make the most informed decision as possible.

Chairman Caviglia agreed.

Public Representative Brown stated her desire to know what areas had left over tags.

Commissioner East shared a personal story regarding her kid's youth hunts. She agreed that a lot of the decisions comes from the parents.

CABMW Representative Pitts asked for clarification of the earlier suggestion brought forth by the Game Division.

Game Administrator Scott stated that the suggestion included splitting the weapon class for the youth hunts into a rifle or muzzleloader/archer combination. The Department would then apply the demand / success formula to those tags, resulting in more tags but not more mule deer being harvested due to the more primitive weapon types being selected for tags.

Public comment period 5:38 PM – 5:43 PM

No public comment.

Deputy Director Robb stated that the Department has been provided with direction and will bring back additional information to the next Committee meeting.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA CLOSED THE AGENDA ITEM WITH NO MOTION.

9. Public Comment Period

This period is for general comment on anything not on the agenda. No committee action will be taken but may be scheduled on a future committee agenda. The 3- and 6-minute time limits still apply.

Public comment period 4:45 PM – 5:48 PM

Darin Elmore stated: I would ask that this committee keep the "novice hunter" concept on the docket for evolution. A new 35-year-old female hunter potentially has more recruitment value than a 13-year-old kid and her opportunity can be blended into an evolved youth/novice hunt.

10. Future Committee Meeting – Commissioner and Committee Chairman Caviglia– For Possible Action

The committee will discuss possible future agenda topics set a date and time for the next committee meeting.

Chairman Caviglia expressed a desire to see the draw order and mule deer youth hunts, with additional information on the next Committee agenda with the date to be scheduled prior to the January Commission meeting.

Deputy Director Robb suggested the Monday before January's Commission meeting.

CABMW Representative Pitts asked for a broader discussion on the mentor program.

Commissioner East added that the Committee may want to wait on a decision regarding the mentor program until we see what is proposed during the Legislative Session.

Public comment period 5:52 PM – 5:55 PM

No public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.