

CHAIRMAN TOMMY CAVIGLIA
COMMISSIONER TIFFANY EAST
COMMISSIONER RON PIERNI
COMMISSIONER SHANE ROGERS
CABMW REP. JOE CRIM
CABMW REP. ARNIE PITTS
PUBLIC REP. MEGHAN BROWN

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
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MINUTES
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS
TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 @ 3:00PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88053197813?pwd=ajJmMXN3Q2lVc2lqeWxXUjNkTllmZz09>

Passcode: 378396

Committee Members in attendance: Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Tiffany East, Commissioner Ron Pierini, Commissioner Rogers, Public Representative Meghan Brown.

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance: Data and Technology Services (DATS) Division Administrator Kim Munoz, Management Analyst Megan Manfredi, Management Analyst Kailey Musso, Deputy Director Jack Robb, Game Division Administrator Mike Scott, Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder, Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee, Executive Assistant Missy Stanford, Deputy Director Bonnie Long

County advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Members and public in attendance: Matt Melarkey, Rex Flowers, Cory Lytle

1. Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Commissioner Rogers led the pledge. Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commissioner Tiffany East, Commissioner Ron Pierini, Commissioner Rogers, Public Representative Meghan Brown were present. CABMW Representative Joe Crim and CABMW Representative Arnie Pitts was absent.

2. Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairman Tommy 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.

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

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

The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner East noted a pronoun change for a statement made by Chairman Caviglia on the last page of the minutes.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE, SECONDED BY PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE BROWN. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

4.* Specialty Tags Closed Units Procedure Review – DATS Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz – For Possible Action

The Committee will discuss updating the procedure for how units are closed to Bighorn Sheep hunts for specialty tags.

DATS Division Administrator Kim Munoz stated that the DATS and Game division staff met to discuss changes to be made to the Department procedure in closing units for specialty tags. The proposed language in the support materials was what the divisions agreed upon.

Chairman Caviglia stated he noticed the change of the California bighorn sheep from the Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) program to the Silver State program.

Deputy Director Jack Robb added that the Department looked at the revenue generated from both programs and noted that the Silver State program outperforms the PIW program by a lot of money. The Department is looking to convert the California bighorn sheep into the Silver State program as a way of doubling the revenue generated from that tag while still utilizing the same number of tags available in the specialty tag programs.

Public Representative Brown asked for clarification on if the support material is a Department policy or procedure.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz answered that it is a procedure that the Department references when creating the Commission Regulations for the specialty tags that the Commission hears in January's meeting.

Commissioner Rogers asked what the cost difference was to the customer between the PIW and Silver State tags.

Deputy Director Robb answered that the fees are currently 10 dollars to apply for a PIW tag and 20 dollars to apply for the Silver State tag. Data shows that more people participate in the Silver State program than they do the PIW program, even though the cost to participate is higher.

Discussion continued around the differences between the two specialty tag programs and the amount of funds received in each program over the past application period.

Chairman Caviglia asked if this change would reflect in January's Commission Regulations.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz answered because the Heritage Commission Regulations are set a year in advance to the actual season dates due to the vendor auction dates, January's meeting will see this change implemented in the Heritage tag Commission Regulation for the 2023 season while the Silver State Commission Regulation will still follow the old procedure until January of 2023 where the procedure would be utilized for the Silver State regulation. At that time both regulations would be utilizing the updated procedure.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated that he liked the idea of moving the California bighorn sheep tag from the PIW program into the Silver State program because it would allow for people in a waiting period to still apply for the tag through the program because waiting periods do not apply to the Silver State tags. He applauded the Department for making that change.

COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE TO THE POLICY AS PRESENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 5-0.

5. Mule Deer Waiting Period – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action
The Committee will discuss the possibility of creating a waiting period for those applicants who were successful in drawing a mule deer tag.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz shared a PowerPoint presentation around mule deer applicant data.

Commissioner Rogers left the meeting.

Chairman Caviglia stated that he added this to the Committee agenda out of a request from the public. Seeing the data shows that most of the people draw a mule deer tag with three or less points and those with high bonus points are giving themselves lower odds by the areas and the number of areas they are applying for.

Commissioner East added that the applicants with zero to two bonus points are applying in the areas with the best draw odds. This was really good information because it was straight data. It does not feel like we should make a change at this point.

Commissioner Pierini stated that it was good to see what the data says and added that it was a good option to keep the program as it is.

No public comment.

Chairman Caviglia shared the possibility that if a waiting period was applied to mule deer, those individuals who were happy to apply in the less sought-after areas would possibly begin to apply in the more popular ones.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA CLOSED THE AGENDA ITEM WITH NO MOTION.

- 6.* Junior Hunt Program - Commission Policy 24 and Commission General Regulation 502 Changes – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – Informational
The Committee will receive an update on the Department’s review of Commission Policy 24. The Committee will review the proposed changes of the Department at a future Committee meeting. The Committee will review the draft language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 chapters that would change the age eligibility to apply for the junior hunt program to 16-years-old and the eligibility to participate based on draw success to four years.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi gave an update on the draft language of Commission General Regulation 502 being sent to the Legislative Council Bureau (LCB) and once received back will be added to a future Committee agenda.

Commissioner Pierini asked why the decision was made to bring the age down to 16 when the age of an adult is 18.

Deputy Director Robb explained that data showed the age of 16 would provide more opportunities than limiting the age to 17. He also explained that 16 was the age chosen when the program was originally developed and that was the thought process around the change.

Discussion was had around the age range of participation in the Junior Hunt Program.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne asked if the intent of the discussion was to limit the years a junior has to apply in the program or to limit the number of successful tags they are awarded. The current language is written to limit the years they are able to apply.

Deputy Director Robb stated that originally a person had five draw periods but were limited to four tags.

Chairman Caviglia understood what Division Administrator Jenne said that the NAC just talks about limiting the years to apply and not the number of tags.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz stated that the NAC just talks about the number of years a junior can apply and the number of tags is not mentioned.

Discussion continued around changing the language to limit the number of tags to be drawn opposed to limiting the number of years a junior could apply. It was agreed to bring that topic back to the Committee for further discussion once the language has been received from LCB.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott reminded the Committee of the approval to break the weapon class of junior hunts into two weapon classes, any legal weapon, and an archery muzzleloader combo class. This option combined with the limiting of the age for the program would allow for approximately 1000 additional tags to juniors.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the weapon class breakout would need to be added in NAC as well.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz answered that the weapon class change is being made in Commission Policy 24.

Public comment:

Rex Flowers stated that he would like to see the NAC not change as the intent of that regulation was to create additional opportunity. Some juniors don't begin hunting until 15 or 16 years old. He did agree to limiting the number of tags a junior can draw. The additional opportunities will come from the any legal weapon category for adults and how much are you willing to take away from those individuals? The sport needs to remain fair and equitable for everyone at the end of the day.

Matt Melarkey stated that one of the subjects that came up at the Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) meeting was the ability for the juniors to harvest does. It seems like it is something that should be addressed at the same time as the seasons the juniors can hunt.

Chairman Caviglia asked the Department if the juniors being allowed to hunt does in areas that do not allow for doe hunts for adults could be addressed with the review of Commission Policy 24.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered that it can be reviewed with Commission Policy 24.

Management Analyst Manfredi continued with her update on Commission Policy 24 stating that the Department has met a handful of times to discuss change recommendations to the policy. It is currently with the Game Division as they are reviewing their management objectives at the same time and would like both items to reflect matching goals.

Commissioner East asked if changes to the youth hunting seasons are being considered as well. She stated that she hears from the public that it is perceived that the juniors have too long of a time period to hunt their tags.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered that the Department is not currently planning on changing the junior seasons, but it is something that can be done during the January Commission meeting. He did caution that changes on the fly will affect overlap in the field for other hunts and requested that if the Committee was aware of a change they wish to see, let the Department know before January's meeting for additional planning.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the changes to the Junior Hunt Program would be seen in the 2023 season?

Management Analyst Manfredi confirmed Chairman Caviglia's question.

7. Future Committee Meeting – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – For Possible Action

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

Chairman Caviglia stated that Commission Policy 24 and the Junior Hunt Program changes are remaining on the list for the Committee to review.

Management Analyst Manfredi added that once the tag transfer regulation language is received back from LCB, the Committee will see that item again.

Public Representative Brown requested that a novice hunter and mentor program be placed on a future TAAHC agenda.

Discussion was had around the authority of the Commission to establish a mentor program and the potential for what a program would look like.

DATS Division Administrator Munoz asked for clarification on what the Department could prepare in order for the Committee to have a proper discussion.

Chairman Caviglia asked for the Department to lay out the steps needed for the Committee to take in order to see a mentor program established.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso requested guidance from the Committee on what they foresee the program looking like. Based on that, the Department could then begin the steps to change NAC or request a change in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) during the next legislative session.

Chairman Caviglia stated that he would think about what it would look like and get back to the Department.

Commissioner East suggested gathering ideas from the public on what they would like to see in a program like this. She added that it seems like a program such as this should be handled by an outside organization who would help facilitate the mentoring.

Deputy Director Robb suggested the Department pull regulations in NRS and NAC to show which provide the Commission authority to establish this type of program as well as the regulations that would need to be amended or created for reference and a starting point.

Public Representative Brown added that a program would help remove barriers from individuals who may not have grown up in a hunting family and an outlet for them to learn good ethics and good habits about what it means to be good sportsmen.

CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA CLOSED THE AGENDA ITEM.

8. 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.

No public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28PM.