

Committee Members: Commissioner Kiel (Chair),
Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Rogers, Commissioner
Wise, Jim Rackley, Jeremy Drew, Charlie Clements,
Josh Vittori, Cory Lytle, Alan Shepherd, Kris Boatner

Staff to the Committee: Mike Scott
Alan Jenne
Cody Schroeder

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee
Nevada Department of Wildlife
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120
Reno, Nevada 89511**

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 / 6:00 p.m.

Meeting held also via www.Zoom.us

DRAFT Minutes

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

In attendance:

Commissioner Kiel, Chair
Commissioner Barnes
Commissioner Rogers
Commissioner Wise
Jim Rackley, Nevada Muleys Association
Charlie Clements, Rangeland Scientist
Cory Lytle, Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
Alan Shepherd, Bureau of Land Management
Kris Boatner, US Forest Service
Mike Scott, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Alan Jenne, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Cody Schroeder, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Mark Freese, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife

Absent:

Jeremy Drew, Resource Specialist
Josh Vittori, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited

2. Approval of Agenda – For Possible Action

Chair Kiel motioned to approve the agenda.

Committee Member Clements seconded the motion.

The motion passed. Member Vittori and Member Drew absent.

3. Approval of Minutes (September 21, 2022) – Chairman Kiel – For Possible Action

Committee Member Rackley motioned to approve the September 21, 2022, Minutes with the noted changes by the Chair.

Committee Member Shepherd seconded the motion.

The motion passed. Member Vittori and Member Drew absent.

4. Member Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Kiel – Informational

Chair Kiel welcomed Commissioner Wise to the Oversight Committee.

5. *Mule Deer Enhancement Program Project Proposal Scoring – Chairman Kiel – For Possible Action

Game Administrator Scott invited Staff Specialist Schroder to open the discussion on the Investigation projects proposed for 2022. (Attachment A) Mr. Schroeder stated there were six projects that were considered for Investigations. These projects took into account regional priority and an overall state priority. The re-ranking of the Investigations projects took expected costs from an estimated \$700,000 to under \$300,00, which is roughly what had been allocated in 2021, thus keeping the budget flat. Chair Kiel asked if the list being presented today had the same ranking as the list provided at the September 21, 2022, Oversight Committee meeting. Mr. Schroeder replied no, the list was in a different order, as the list presented here had been re-ranked according to regional priorities.

Chair Kiel asked if there had been any significant updates on current projects. Staff Specialist Schroder replied there were not any significant updates, although a capture was scheduled near Thanksgiving, most of the activity would take place in February 2023. Mr. Schroeder stated that the tooth collection process was ongoing.

Chair Kiel closed the subject of Investigations projects and opened the discussion regarding the proposed Predator projects. Referring to the displayed spreadsheet (Attachment A), Game Administrator Scott stated that the four Predator projects that were requested could very easily be covered within the scope of the Predator Plan's Projects 37 and 38. Using the spreadsheet, Mr. Scott discussed the costs involved with the predator projects.

Chair Kiel asked if the proposed Predator projects would require the approval of the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) and if there were any significant pieces of information the Oversight Committee might need to know prior to the upcoming Board of Wildlife Commission meeting.

Staff Specialist Jackson confirmed that the proposed Predator projects could be covered within Projects 37 and 38 of the Predator Plan. Mr. Jackson stated that when the FY2024 Predator Plan is presented next year, the proposed MDEP Predator projects can be introduced and discussed. Mr. Jackson reminded the Oversight Committee that the Predator Plan must be approved annually by the Predatory Animal and Rodent Control (PARC) Committee, the WDMC, and the Wildlife Commission

Committee Member Lytle asked about the duration of the proposed Predator projects. Game Administrator Scott answered that, in general, the Department would consider doing these projects throughout a 3-year period and examining the results. Staff Specialist Jackson commented there were other projects under his remit that are intended to run for consecutive years and reminded the Oversight Committee that Predator Plan must be approved annually, so no predator project is guaranteed for multiple years. Mr. Scott discussed the costs involved with the proposed predator projects, stating he envisioned the projects would run for 3 years, subject to the approval of the WDMC.

Chair Kiel closed the subject of Predator projects and opened the discussion on the proposed Habitat projects. Habitat Administrator Jenne referred to the displayed spreadsheet (Attachment A), stating the top of the table showed the prioritized habitat projects, with a dark line marking a 40% line. The 40% line marked the top 40% ranking projects based on regional and statewide priorities that the Department could prioritize for funding. Staff Specialist Freese presented a more detailed discussion about the regional prioritization and statewide prioritization of the proposed habitat projects. The Oversight Committee discussed the ranking process, and asked clarification questions regarding the projects. Committee Member Shepherd asked Mr. Freese if the Oversight Committee was expected to make a recommendation to use the projects above the 40% line. Mr. Jenne answered the projects above the 40% line were the Department's funding priority. Game Administrator Scott reminded the Oversight Committee that this process was constantly evolving and that the Department may face roadblocks on some projects and also find funding for a lower ranked project. Mr. Scott continued that the priority list was not set in stone and the Department would keep the Oversight Committee updated on changes when and if they occur.

Committee Member Lytle asked how the Department sees the Oversight Committee meshing the proposed projects with the Heritage process when the funding cycle starts again. Habitat Administrator Jenne answered it would be the same scenario as last year, and that the projects going through the Oversight Committee was the first process. After being vetted by the Oversight Committee, the Habitat projects would be evaluated by the Heritage Committee and then finally by the Wildlife Commission. Mr. Jenne reiterated that the Department receives or is granted funds from other sources throughout the fiscal year and that the Department would contemplate the availability of those funds when deciding which projects to pursue. Mr.

Jenne stated that the Department will take the projects that will compete well within the Heritage Committee, but if those projects are not accepted by the Heritage Committee, they may fit within another stream of funding. Mr. Jenne stated the Department was committed to work on funding the top 40% of projects. Mr. Lytle asked if the 40% will be the NDOW-sponsored projects for the Heritage Committee. Mr. Jenne answered yes, stating while some projects might fit within the federal grant and so may come off the list, some projects that are smaller may fit somewhere else. Mr. Jenne reaffirmed that the Department would take the high priority projects and put those forward with the Heritage Committee.

Chair Kiel motioned to adopt the prioritization as presented with the caveat that the Department has the discretion to advance the projects when funding becomes available.

Committee Member Lytle seconded the motion.

The motion passed. Member Vittori and Member Drew absent.

6. Public Comment Period

Larry Johnson, member of the Washoe Subcommittee, commented on the status and position of Management Area 1 and 2 Subcommittee and on the Mule Deer Enhancement Program process as a whole.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm.

2022 MDEP Project Proposals

Mule Deer Investigation Projects

Project Name	Project Type	Project Description	Subcommittee	Unit Group	Amount Requested?	Score	Regional Priority	Statewide Priority	Comments
Mgt. Area 1 Mule Deer Collaring	Capture	Mortality/Habitat Use Invest.	Washoe	011-015	\$0	74.8	WR1	6	NGO's and NDOW budget will be used for this project
Area 8 Tooth Collection & Age Analysis	Harvest Study	Tooth Age Analysis	Elko Area 7, 8, 9	081	\$3,000	32.6	ER5	5	Elko NBU commitment
Mgt. Area 12 Mule Deer Collaring	Capture	Mortality/Habitat Use Invest.	White Pine	MA 12	\$96,000	74.3	ER1	2	
Mgt. Area 13 Mule Deer Collaring	Capture	Mortality/Habitat Use Invest.	Area 13	MA 13	\$100,000	65	ER2	3	Modified \$\$ amount from original proposal
Mgt. Area 22 Mule Deer Collaring	Capture	Mortality/Habitat Use Invest.	Lincoln	221-223	\$78,080	65	SR2	1	(Modified) \$80K donations from NGO's committed.
Spring Mtn Camera Project	Investigation	Trail Camera Study	Clark	MA 26, 27, & 28	\$8,000	69	SR1	4	

\$285,080 Requested from NDOW P/R funds for FY 2024

Habitat Projects

Project Name	Project Type	Project Description	Subcommittee	Unit Group	Amount Requested?	Score	Regional Priority	Statewide Priority	Potential Fund Source
Wildcat Fire Bitterbrush Planting	Restoration/Rehab.	Planting	Elko Area 7, 8, 9	071-079, 091	\$117,000	85.4	ER1	1	Heritage, NDOW Fire Rehab funds, FS, SO3362, NGO
Corta Fire Seedling Planting Phase II	Restoration/Rehab.	Planting	Elko Area 10	102-103	\$75,000	74.4	ER2	2	Heritage, W-24 Restoration Grant?
Izzenhood WMA Winter Range Habitat Restoration	Restoration/Rehab.	Herbicide and Planting	Elko Area 6	068	\$125,000	66	ER3	3	Heritage, WSFR Grant?
Granite Range Overspray Projects	Restoration/Rehab.	Herbicide and Seeding	Washoe	014	\$200,000	67.4	WR1	4	Heritage, W-24 Restoration Grant?, BLM AA?
Spring Protection	Water Dev./Spring Protection	Spring Protection	Nye-Esmeralda	MA 17, 21	N/A	66	SR1	5	Heritage, Water Dev. Grant, BLMAA?
Current to Upper Perish Habitat Enhancement:	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	Area 13	MA 13	\$250,000	70.3	ER4	6	Heritage, BLM AA?
Bald Mtn Pinyon-Juniper Thinning	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	Lander	151-156	\$425,000	66.3	ER5	7	Heritage, BLM AA?
Spring Restoration in Clark County	Water Dev./Spring Protection	Spring Protection	Clark	MA 26, 27, & 28	\$100,000	72	SR2	8	Heritage, Water Dev. Grant, BLMAA?
Granite Range Water Dev.s	Water Dev./Spring Protection	Guzzler	Washoe	014	\$43,000	68.8	WR2	9	Water Dev. Grant, volunteers
Milk Ranch Guzzler	Water Dev./Spring Protection	Guzzler	Lincoln	222	\$45,000	69	SR3	10	Heritage, Water Dev. Grant, BLMAA?
Fire Creek Cheatgrass Treatment	Restoration/Rehab.	Herbicide and seeding	Lander	151-156	\$390,000	54.3	ER6	11	Heritage, W-24 Restoration Grant??. BLM AA?
Vinini and Henderson Creek PJ Removal	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	Area 14	MA 14	\$150,000	69	ER7	12	Heritage, Eureka CD, NRCS, BLM AA?
Private Land Snowstorm and Imm. Kochia Seeding	Restoration/Rehab.	Seeding	Elko Area 6	065	\$71,000	63.8	ER8	13	Heritage
Robert's Creek Corridor Pinyon-Juniper Removal	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	Area 14	MA 14	\$150,000	71	ER9	14	Heritage, Eureka CD, NRCS, BLM AA?
Area 7 Fence Removal in Migration Corridor	Fence	Fence Removal	Elko Area 7, 8, 9	071-079, 091	\$25,000	66.1	ER10	15	RMEF Volunteers
Toe Jam Mule Deer Corridor Fence Modification	Fence	Fence Modification	Elko Area 6	067	\$144,500	66.4	ER11	16	Heritage
Queen Spring Pinyon-Juniper Hand Thinning	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	White Pine	111-113	\$130,000	64.6	ER12	17	Heritage
East Whistler Mtn Pinyon-Juniper Removal	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal/Spring Enhancement	Area 14	MA 14	\$80,000	71	ER13	18	Heritage, Eureka CD, NRCS, BLM AA?
Elephant Head Aspen Enclosure Repair	Fence Or Spring Protection?	Spring Protection	Lander	151-156	\$231,250	52	ER14	19	Heritage, BLM AA?
Northern Golden Gate Range Guzzler Series	Water Dev./Spring Protection	Guzzler	Area 13	MA 13	\$120,000	64.8	ER15	20	Water Dev. Grant, volunteers
Spring Mtns Mullein Removal	Restoration/Rehab.	Invasive Species Removal	Clark	MA 26, 27, & 28	\$25,000	48	SR4	21	Heritage, HCF, BLMAA?
Little Fish Lake Valley Pinyon-Juniper Treatment	Restoration/Rehab.	PJ Removal	Nye-Esmeralda	162-163	\$150,000	65.4	SR5	22	Heritage, BLM AA?

\$3,046,750

\$2,126,750

40% line

Habitat Investigation Projects on Hold

Project Name	Project Type	Project Description	Subcommittee	Unit Group	Fiscal Year 2023 Amount Requested?	Score	Regional Priority	Statewide Priority	Potential Fund Source
Wild Horse Impacts on Mule Deer	Investigation		White Pine	MA 11 / 12	N/A	78.9	ER 4		
Triple B HMA Remote Sensing	Investigation		Elko Area 10	101-109	\$191,000	69.4	ER 3		BLM WH&B Proposal?

Predator Projects

Project Name	Project Type	Project Description	Subcommittee	Unit Group	Fiscal Year 2023 Amount Requested?	Score	Regional Priority	Statewide Priority	Potential Fund Source
Coyote Removal During Fawning Period	Project 38	Coyote Removal	Pershing	043-046	\$40,000	N/A	WR 3		\$3 Predator Fee
Antelope Range Mtn Lion Removal	Project 37	Lion Removal	White Pine	111-113	\$40,000	N/A	ER		\$3 Predator Fee
Cherry Creek Range Mtn Lion Removal	Project 37	Lion Removal	White Pine	121	\$40,000	N/A	ER		\$3 Predator Fee
Fawning Ground Coyote Removal	Project 38	Coyote Removal	Lincoln	231	\$40,000	N/A	SR		\$3 Predator Fee

\$120,000

Estimated Funding Available: \$120,000

(Pulled from Consideration in 2022)

081	Crucial Winter Range Bitterbrush Planting		Elko Area 7-8-9	081	\$26,000	78.4			
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