

**THE WHITE PINE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE
WILDLIFE MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON
MAY 1, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT THE WHITE PINE COUNTY LIBRARY**

Present:

Steve Marquez (Board Vice Chairman)

Ray Sawyer

Jake Rosevear

Kayla Couch (Board Secretary)

Absent:

Mitchell McVicars (Board Chairman)

Adam Ruesch

Visitors:

Kody Menghini (NDOW)

Cody Byrne (NDOW)

Adam Henroid (NDOW)

Josh Kirk (NDOW)

Thomas Brunson

Trevor Marques

Called to order:

Board Vice Chairman Marquez called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Period: No public comment.

***Approval of Agenda:**

Vice Chairman Marquez called for a motion to approve the agenda for the May 1, 2023 meeting.

A motion to approve the agenda May 1, 2023 meeting was made by Board member Sawyer. The Motion was seconded by Board member Rosevear and the motion carried with no opposition.

Approval of SFY 2024 Budget Request and Worksheet: Kayla Couch reported that she had sent the budget out for the CAB for review. Kayla informed the CAB that the budget request had already been submitted to the State.

Board Sawyer made a motion to approve the SFY 2024 budget request that was submitted to the State, as proposed. Board member Rosevear seconded the motion and the motion carried with no opposition.

***Approval of minutes:**

Board reviewed the March 6, 2023 special meeting minutes for approval.

Board Vice Chairman entertained a motion.

A motion to approve the minutes for the March 6, 2023 special meeting, was made by Board member Sawyer seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

***Payment of Bills:**

The Board was presented a bill for Kayla Couch, for secretary services for the May 1, 2023 meeting in the amount of \$150.00.

Board Vice Chairman entertained a motion.

A motion to approve the payment of bills to Kayla Couch in the amount of \$150.00 was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

***Correspondence:** No correspondence.

Information Introduction for Proposed changes to Fishing Regulation: Cody Byrne (NDOW) the fishery supervisor out of Elko, clarified that this item is just informational and that action cannot be taken until the September Commission meeting. Byrne announced that there will be two different proposals on the table. The Washoe County CAB approached the staff of the department and asked “why there is not a possession limit for fish, like there is for waterfowl and upland game birds in Nevada?” Byrne stated that over the past year the department has researched how other states manage daily and possession limits for fishing, and has come up with the proposal for the eastern region (Elko, White Pine, Eureka, and Lander counties) to establish a possession limit that would be two times the daily limit. Byrne stated that this will be the department’s recommendation in the September meeting. Byrne announced that he will be briefing Elko and Lander counties in June and has already informed the Eureka County CAB, who were in support, last week. Board member Marquez asked if the possession limit was already in the regulation. Byrne responded, no. In Nevada the current season regulation allows the daily limit to be the possession limit for fishing. Board member Rosevear asked and clarified that the possession limit would mean how many fish you can have in your freezer? Byrne responded, that is correct. Byrne stated that in an effort to standardize and simplify fishing limits for the eastern region, the department will also be proposing a five trout limit for streams, rivers, lakes and reservoirs. Byrne mentioned that this would eliminate the special regulations in White Pine County that is on Cave Lake, Steptoe Creek, Cave Creek, Illipah, Illipah Reservoir, Illipah Creek, Cleve Creek, Silver Creek and White River. At Ruby Lake it would increase the limit from three to five trout daily, on the southern end of the Rubies it would decrease the daily limit from ten trout to five trout daily and then that general blanket regulation for any waters not captured that we have for each of the four counties here, it would decrease the daily limit from ten trout to five trout daily. Byrne reminded the Board the first regulation that would be establishing a possession limit of ten trout possession limit, so daily limits will go to five trout for basically all waters on it, and then establish a ten trout possession limit. Byrne’s example was if you fish for two consecutive days, you can still catch and harvest five trout each day for a total of ten trout. Board member Rosevear asked if there were any changes with the bass regulations. Byrne responded that the department will start with the possession limit and the trout limit, and then probably in two years, will propose adjustments to the bass limits.

***Reports:**

Cave Lake Project- Heath Korell (NDOW) reported that there has been movement at Cave Lake. Korell stated that a bird survey had been conducted, but due to high winds they had to shut down a portion of the survey. Korell informed the CAB that the areas of the project that have been surveyed, allows for work to start, by removing vegetation, but does not have a full timeline for construction. Board member Marquez asked about the fish die off at Comins Lake. Korell responded that he had observed dead fish on the northern shoreline, and believed that as ice was coming off the shoreline the lake turned over quickly, depriving the fish of oxygen. Korell stated that it was likely no more than a couple hundred fish that had died and doesn’t believe that evidence points to a massive fish kill. Board member Rosevear asked if it was similar to the Wild Horse situation that happened last year. Korell responded, no. Wild Horse was a different situation that was caused by a small pool of water going into winter with a large biomass of fish and bacteria that is naturally occurring, and wide spread throughout the West and was present in Wild Horse. Korell stated that it affects certain species more than others and Yellow Perch is on the list of species that it impacts as well as channel catfish. Korell stated with the large amount of yellow perch concentrated in a small pool of water, and a rapid ice off event, as well as pre, spawning was a bad combination for Wild Horse. Korell reported that he had visited the site recently and did not notice any signs of die off. Board member Rosevear asked how the fish numbers were after the affect. Korell responded it definitely took off that top, that older age class of perch, but it unbelievable how many now, class one- and two-year-old fish there are in Wild Horse. Korell stated the department will start shocking this week for pike, to observe any changes in life at Comins Lake.

Commission Agenda items:

6I.* Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support agenda item 6I. Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan, as written, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

8A* Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP) Committee – Committee Chairman David McNinch.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support agenda item 8A Administrative Procedures, Regulation and Policy (APRP) as written was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

14A.* Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances – Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support agenda item 14A. Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles under Certain Circumstances, as written was made by Board member Sawyerr, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

16A.* Commission Regulation 23-05, Amendment #1, 2023 Black Bear Quotas and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson.

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer stated he would like to support the CABs proposal by eliminating the sow hunts.

Public comment: Thomas Brunson stated that one of the CABs was going to propose removing the sow limits. Board member Sawyer asked what unit would that be. Brunson responded for all of them. Brunson stated that he didn't know any other state that has a draw for a quota, it could take 20 years to draw a tag and then not even get a hunt in that time, instead of just having only eight or boars or sows. Kody Menghini stated that there may be a sense of urgency to kill bears when sow harvests could end the hunt early.

A motion to support agenda item 16A. Commission Regulation 23-05 Amendment 1, 2023 Black Bear Quotas and Harvest Limits with the following change of eliminating the sow harvest limits, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

16B.* Commission Regulation 23-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 Season –Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, and Cody McKee.

Antelope:

Board discussion: Board member Rosevear stated that there hasn't been like a huge increase in tags but has there been enough bond recruitment with the drought in the last three years to increase the tags. Rosevear stated that the numbers has

gone up to 120 tags, but it seems like less antelope. Kody Menghini responded it depends where you're at. In an area like 14 and 15, those animals are increasing, but areas near White Pine are not doing well, but is seeing the tag numbers decrease. Rosevear mentioned that there are five more rifle horns longer than ear tags, in 13. Josh Kirk (NDOW) stated that is mainly just to change the 25 bucks per hundred does objective, and that there is slight modeling adjustment with the reduction of tags from last year. Kirk stated that there are more bucks on the landscape, and a slight increase of a couple of bucks is not really going to move the needle, that's why you're seeing that five tag increase, just to hit that objective. Rosevear stated that it's a small increase in tag numbers to make a difference but wanted the department's insight.

Public comment:

A motion to support agenda item 16B. Commission Regulation 23-14 Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 season as written for antelope hunts 2171, 2271, 2161, 2261 and 2181 was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

Elk:

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer stated that the 50 inch main beam bad way to manage. The only way he believes that it works, is if the department does the measuring, because most people will never actually measure the antlers and throw a number out there. Rosevear agreed and stated that there are plenty of young long inch main beam bulls. Menghini pointed out the record book, stating 50 inch main beams can be found on a 325 bull or a 400 bull. Rosevear asked what the cap recruitment was on the surveys. Menghini responded, this last year, area 22 was 40 and area 11 was 34 Rosevear stated there's been a significant trend of going down every year. Menghini responded that it's been balancing back and forth. Area 22 in, the last four or five years, will be in the twenties one year and the next year will be back down. Area 11 has been the same. Three years ago, it was 39, last year, 27 and this year it is 34. Rosevear asked if there were a lot of calves that died off this year. Menghini responded that some have died, due to timing of the surveys they may have been able to count other deaths. Board member Sawyer stated that he would like to propose changes that include moving rifle tags to muzzle loader tags and eliminating a portion of the rifle tags as well as some cuts in the spike elk hunts. Rosevear asked for Menghini's outlook on the elk herds. Menghini responded that he has seen a decrease in quality and the population, and has concerns with area 22 based on numbers. Menghini experienced a collared cow die in area 23 that may have been due to age. Sawyer asked on the area 113 what the reasoning for the increase of 10 tag was for. Kirk explained that based on a model that produces a percentage based off population.

Public comment: Trevor Marques stated he doesn't see, with area 22, the jump in numbers for tags, when the survey on bulls went from 165 to 141 to 151 this year, with estimated population down a 100, but possible 31 more spike tags, 25 more depredation tags, 30 more, 15 in each early in late, increasing the total bull tags by 85. Rosevear agreed that he is starting to see killing too many bulls and would recommend that if the Board is going to the quotas what they are the board should take some hunts out of the rifle harvest, where the success rates are higher, especially areas 22 and 12. Marques asked if there was much die off. Menghini responded that there is probably a loss of some. Marques asked what the justification, was for wanting more rifle tags. Menghini responded to Rosevears comment on the muzzle loader tags and stated the demand success kicks out those low quotas, there just isn't the demand. But every year, White Pine shifts tags and, and that's why you see the decrease. Menghini stated as far as the rifle quotas, specifically for areas 12 and 22, the increase is being generated off of one harvest metric and is not factoring in population, past trends of calf ratios, or anything else. Menghini reported that in area 11, the department did decrease tags slightly, but that's the justification. Marques asked Menghini if he thinks this year was or should've counted more elk, being more exposed to how deep snow was in the North slopes. Menghini responded that in area 11 he was battling with delays within the survey and didn't get as of comprehensive numbers as he would have liked to. Marques stated that he has a hard time with moving the tags and keeping them at their high quotas, especially being one of the worst winters since 1993 and doesn't want to see the elk herds get to where the deer herds are. Marques asked what the purpose of the spike elk hunt was for. Menghini responded that it's to keep the bull ratios down without impacting the quality of mature bulls. Marques argued that some of the spikes that are taken, are future quality bulls. Menghini explained that it's mainly to keep the bull ratios down so that it's not a 1:1 ratio.

A motion to support agenda item 16B. Commission Regulation 23-14 Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 season as written, with the following changes for elk; Hunt 4151, units 104, 108b, 121 eliminating 5 tags and moving an additional 5 tags to the muzzle loader hunt for both the early and late hunts, units 108c, 131, 132 early moving 5 tags to the muzzle loader hunt, units 111-115 early eliminating 5 tags and moving an additional 5 tag to the muzzle loader hunt, units 111-115 late eliminating 5 tags and moving an additional 10 tags to the muzzle loader hunt, units 221-223 eliminating 15 tags and moving 5 tags to the muzzle loader hunt for both the early and late hunts. Hunt 4251, adjust changes according to the proposed changes of the hunt 4151 if needed, Hunt 4156, units 104, 108b, and 121 adding the 10 tags as proposed in hunt 4151, units 108c, 131 and 132 adding the 5 tags as proposed in hunt 4151, units 111-115 adding the 15 tags as proposed in hunt 4151, units 221-223 adding the 10 tags as proposed in hunt 4151. Hunt 4651 units 111, 112 eliminate 10 tags for both early and late hunts, unit 113 eliminate 5 tags from both the early and late hunts, units 114, 115 eliminate 5 tags for both the early and late hunts, unit 221 early eliminate 8 tags unit 221 late eliminate 4 tags and in units 222, 223 eliminate 10 tags from both the early and late hunts. Hunt 4181, unit 113 late eliminating 15 tags, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

Big Horn Sheep/ Mountain Goat:

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support agenda item 16B. Commission Regulation 23-14 Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 season, for big horn sheep and mountain goat as proposed, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition

Mule Deer:

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer stated that he doesn't have a lot to propose with deer, except taking a couple of rifle tags and moving them to the muzzle loader tags. Board member Rosevear stated that his concern is with the huge cut in youth tags. Rosevear stated that it's going in the right direction as far as removing the antlerless out of the hunt, but that there are a lot of 16 and 17 year olds who have never drawn a tag. Sawyer stated that he agrees with Rosevear but knows that a large portion of the youth have already drawn their limit on youth tags. Rosevear asked if it would be possible to take from the general hunts and move them to the youth hunts, so that kids have a better chance to draw. Board member Marquez stated that he believes it's hard to do what Rosevear suggested because there is a percentage of tags that are allocated to the youth hunts. Kody Menghini stated that there are two factors that contribute to the decrease in the youth tags, one the continued decline in population and also the three year average on doe harvest that gets added to each unit and now that the doe hunt has been eliminated from the youth that plays apart in the decline of tag numbers. Board member Sawyer asked if the only way to increase it, would be to increase the percentage 25 %, to increase the General Rifle tags, which he feels would not be affordable. Menghini responded that the Board can recommend whatever changes, the 25% is just an overall that the department decides. Sawyer's concerns are with area, 11 and area 22 where these late hunts play a role, and doesn't feel its right to throw all those kid tags into the late hunts. Menghini, suggested a divide in weapon class may help the numbers go up. Sawyer stated he liked the idea of letting the first year you hunt with a rifle and then the second and third be hunted with a primitive weapon.

Public comment: Marques state he would like to see a waiting period on mule deer, every other species has a waiting period, even if it's just for one year. Rosevear agreed and thought it would be a good topic for the season settings. Thomas Bruson stated that the topic should go on a commission agenda before the season settings or even bringing it up with the TACC committee. Marques stated, he thinks the youth should still be given the weapons, but the late hunt be a separate, similar to the adult hunts and allocate 5% to that season.

A motion to support agenda item 16B. Commission Regulation 23-14 Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 season, for mule deer youth hunts 1107 as proposed, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

A motion to support agenda item 16B. Commission Regulation 23-14 Big Game Quotas for the 2023-2024 season with the following changes for mule deer hunt 1331 any legal weapon, units 111-113 late, moving 10 tags to the muzzle loader hunt, unit 121, moving 5 tags to the muzzle loader hunt. Hunt 1331 muzzle loader, units 111-113 adding the 10 tags as proposed from hunt 1331 any legal weapon, unit 121, adding 5 tags as proposed from hunt 1331 any legal weapon, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

Next Commission meeting scheduled for May 5th, and 6th, 2023 the location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The Chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

A motion to allow and approve travel and expenses for an available Board member to attend the State Commission meeting on the dates of May 5th and 6th, 2023 in Reno, Nevada, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

Board discussed having the next advisory meeting on June 16th or 20th, 2023 due to the National Holiday on June 19th and venue availability at 6:00pm at the White Pine County Library.

A motion to accept the next meeting date of June 16th or 20th, 2023 at 6pm at the White Pine County Library, was made by Board member Sawyer seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.

Public comment: No public comment.

Board Vice Chairman entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm

A motion to adjourn the White Pine County Wildlife Advisory meeting on May 1, 2023 was made by Board member Rosevear, seconded by Board member Sawyer. The motion carried with no opposition

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.