

<b>Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Draft Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Location**

Sparks Legislative  
Building 745 4<sup>th</sup>  
Street  
Sparks, NV 89431

**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, January 26, 2024:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86749955371?pwd=dnN3Wm55MnhRc0k0UnljMmxVM3VoUT09>

**If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Saturday, January 27, 2024:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86096552018?pwd=TmZlaEtUZzBjSFpReHFvc3ZmTys0dz09>

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.** 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 attend and make comment during the meeting. 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. All persons present are asked to sign-in, whether speaking or not.

In accordance with NRS 501.105 and Commission Policy 1, Adoption of Commission Policies, Resolutions, and Record Keeping: *"The Commission will have a minimum of two readings not on consecutive days of the revised or proposed policy in public meetings before the Commission takes action to adopt, amend, or repeal, or disapprove the policy. Exception: If the policy is declared an emergency the Commission may read, amend, and adopt the policy in two readings on two consecutive days."*

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the meeting:

Chairman Tommy Caviglia

Vice Chairman Shane Rogers

Commissioner Tom Barnes  
Commissioner Casey Kiel  
Commissioner Alana Wise  
Commissioner Mario Walther

Commissioner Eddie Booth  
Commissioner David McNinch  
Commissioner Paul Young

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

Secretary Alan Jenne

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance

Deputy Director Caleb McAdoo  
Deputy Director Jordan Goshert  
Deputy Director Mike Scott  
Fisheries Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks  
Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa  
Habitat Division Administrator Mark Freese  
Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight  
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz  
Wildlife Diversity Administrator Jennifer Newmark  
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey  
Fiscal Division Administrator Nancy Camarena

Executive Assistant Lynda Barr  
Management Analyst Megan Manfredi  
Administrative Services Officer Cathy Balcon  
Administrative Services Officer Jessica Treece  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson  
Conservation Educator Logan Klonic  
Staff Specialist Amanda Gearhart  
Eastern Region Game Supervisor Scott Roberts  
Administrative Assistant 4 Hollie Timmons

Management Analyst Kailey Musso  
Conservation Educator Zach Campbell  
Staff Biologist Travis Hawks  
Game Warden Mike McCusker  
Game Biologist Hunter Burkett  
Game Warden James Mortimer  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Kim Tisdale

Public In Attendance

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW  
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW  
Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW  
Larry Allen, Humboldt CABMW  
CABMW

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW  
Matt Melarkey, Washoe CABMW  
Coby Rowe, Washoe CABMW  
Daniel Thompson, Carson City

Mel Belding, public citizen  
Caron Tayloe, public citizen  
Tiffany East, public citizen  
Dr Lisa Grayshield, public citizen  
Pat Lettimer, public citizen

Larry Johnson, public citizen  
Catherine Smith, public citizen  
Jackquie Chandler, Sustain Tahoe  
Mitch Strobl, Gordan Darby  
Keyton Grangruth, public citizen

Gene Green, public citizen

Public in Attendance via ZOOM

Jamie Halpin, Eureka Clark CABMW  
CABMW

Ryan Browne, Washoe

Dre Arman, Back Country Hunters and Anglers  
Stephanie Meyers, public citizen  
Fred Voltz, public citizen  
Melissa Soderston, Tahoe Forrest Matters  
Katherine Bricker, public citizen  
Randal Massaro, Union members for the Preservation of Wildlife International  
Gina Greisen, Nevada Voters for Animals

Jana Wright, public citizen  
Sharon Gregory, public citizen  
Jennifer Simio, public citizen  
Jim Schmidt, public citizen

**Friday, January 26, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.**

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

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 08:30 a.m. and Commissioner Young led the Commissioner in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll of the Commission taken by Executive Assistant Lynda Barr. Chairman Caviglia, Vice Chairman Rogers, Commissioners Barnes, Booth, Kiel, McNinch, Walter, Wise and Young were present. Chairman Caviglia made note of the CABMW members in attendance.

**2. Public Comment Period IFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comments are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

**3. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Caviglia FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda for January 26, 2024. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No CABMW comment.  
No public comment.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 8-0.**

**4\*. Approval of Minutes – Chairman Caviglia FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Commission minutes may be approved from the November 3 and 4, 2023 meeting.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY 26 AND 27, 2024 COMMISSION AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WISE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSTAINED.**

**5. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence INFORMATIONAL  
Chairman Caviglia**

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 Jenne may also be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia noted that a lot of correspondence had been received including on the bear hunt on the lion hunt and one concern with lion removal and horses in the Clan Alpines, an email notification of the State of California adjusting their Mountain lion estimate, an email was also received advising the Commission that the State of New York banned Wildlife killing contests and lastly the Coalition for Healthy Nevada Lands sent a letter that had been sent to Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Secretary Jenne brought attention to a letter from a junior talking about his experience, he also mentioned correspondence the Commission had been copied on regarding the “First Amendment” issue, and Deputy Director Mike Scott would be talking to this issue.

Deputy Director Scott spoke to letters forwarded to the Commission and advised that a self-identified “First Amendment Auditor” created a highly edited video of the event, edited to make NDOW employees look bad, he released that video on YouTube and we ended up with hundreds of phone calls, emails and dozens of public record requests. This was highly disruptive to our agency. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Burkett gave some advice on this issue. We advised our staff to stop checking their phones and every two hours to check voicemails to allow the true business of NDOW to continue. We received some of the most vile, disgusting horrible comments, threats etc. We wanted to make you aware that it was highly disruptive. Within about a week this person had made a new video and correspondence levels on this issue dropped.

DAG Burkett reiterated the reason for brief comment is not to give someone who is engaging in this kind of conduct, more clicks for money out of a claimed support for the First Amendment. He explained what the Department’s rights were in this type of

situation. Secondly, we responded to every Public Record Request (PRR), no matter how they were received. The way the Department handled the issue was very well done, it muted the intended effect. Thirdly the Attorney General's (AG) office is upset that people who work for the Department were attacked mercilessly. Multiple attorneys tried to come up with a solution for individuals, and executive agencies. We are still considering options but at the end of the day the best option is to move on so as not to give more attention and therefore more money.

Chairman Caviglia spoke to the event after watching and also thought it was about disruption.

Secretary Jenne spoke to the excellent job done by all employees handling this issue.

**6. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) INFORMATIONAL Member Items**

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.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW mentioned the letter sent by the Commissioner regarding attendance at Commission meetings by the CABMW. One thing learned in Clark county over the pandemic was the use of TEAMS, and he feels that for many rural communities to use TEAMS or Zoom to get these rural communities involved. Clark CABMW mentioned the recent Nevada Sportsman's Caucus and asked if it would be possible to have one in future that dealt with Southern Nevada horses and horse conditions. One of the members asked if in the future Swan tag prices could be doubled. Lastly he requested Winecup Gamble update.

**7. Reports INFORMATIONAL**

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

**DIRECTORS OFFICE**

The Director and Deputy Director's, along with two commissioners, participated in the WAFWA Executive Leadership Meeting hosted in Henderson, Nevada. This meeting is set to replace the traditional mid- winter WAFWA meeting to have more focused discussions amongst state directors.

Deputy Directors Goshert and McAdoo attended the December Board of Examiners (BOE) and Interim Finance Committee (IFC) meetings. All Department items were approved with no questions.

Deputy Director McAdoo has been working with the Elko County Commission to acquire water rights for the recent 12th Street Pond purchase, which was recently approved on January 17<sup>th</sup>, which is very significant for an urban pond that the Department is trying to get established in Elko, he has been working with the Community and Elko County actually donated 120 acre feet to those ponds.

The Director's Office, along with the Leadership Team, hosted the Department's Leadership Conference January 9th through the 11th at the Nugget Casino Resort. Over

the course of the conference, the group heard from Dr. Tom Kalous on emotional intelligence and communication, participated in team building exercises, and discussed the importance of partnerships along with opportunities to build upon traditional partnerships and to develop new ones.

Many of you may already be aware that Cameron Tull has taken a position in the Fiscal Services Section at the Department. We want to thank him for his efforts in the Director's Office and help with the Commission. We wish him the best in his future endeavors and are looking to open a recruitment for the position soon. Until that position is filled, we thank you all for your patience with us.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Personnel Updates:** Two lateral new hires started in January. One new hire is from Elko County Sheriff's Office and will stay in Elko County. The other lateral officer is from Nevada Highway Patrol and will be stationed in Overton. They both have begun field training.

**Water Operations:** Southern Region wardens were recognized by NPS for their assistance at Lake Mead National Recreation Area this past year. Lt. Walther received recognition from the National Guard for supporting a National Guard Game Warden during his training and deployment.

**Land Operations:** We received a successful prosecution on the Arson case out of Northern Washoe County. The subject was found guilty of 3rd degree arson. His sentencing is in February. This case was mentioned in our last Commission meeting and involves a man living out of his van in Northern Washoe County. Game Warden Jamie Williams noticed the camp and thought it was a hunter's camp. While traveling to the camp, Warden Williams noticed burn spots along her way. Once to the camp, she noticed a man standing next to a fire. She promptly detained the subject and began her investigation. The Subject started over 80 fires.

Game wardens conducted multiple investigations for self-report of wrong physical characteristics and two for 1 take on big game tags.

The Gardnerville warden successfully recovered a deer stuck in a swimming pool and an Elko game warden successfully lassoed a deer that was stuck on the ice and got it to dry land. The latter became an internet sensation.

Wardens were able to recover taxidermic items from a delinquent taxidermist and returned them to the hunters.

Investigations turned in a Residency Case to the White Pine County District Attorney's Office. This is a prosecution of 14 gross misdemeanors and 4 felony charges involving 2 suspects. That residency case represents multiple search warrants served, interviews done, and working closely with Utah Game Wardens.

**Outreach:** Wardens attended law enforcement officer's funeral services in Ely and Las Vegas.

An Eastern Region warden went to Spring Creek Middle School and gave a presentation to the sixth-grade class on the world of a game warden.

Las Vegas wardens responded to the active shooter event at UNLV. They were rapidly on scene due to the proximity of the Las Vegas office to UNLV.

## **DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

In the Hunt and Licensing Units, we closed out the 2023 license and application numbers. The 2023 License Sales saw a 3% growth in hunting license sales (111,336) and a decrease of 3% in fishing license sales (157,047). A total of 42.8% of all tags returned went to alternates last year. First Come First Serve recap had 947 Big Game Tags, which is a 7% decrease from 2022.

Residents purchased 846 tags and Non-residents purchased 83 tags. The following tags

went FCFS:

- 183 Antelope Horns Longer than Ears Tags (158 in 2022)
- 35 Antelope Horns Shorter than Ears Tags (15 in 2022)
- 7 Junior Mule Deer Antlered/Antlerless Tags (same in 2022)
- 463 Antlered Mule Deer Tags (572 in 2022)
- 7 Antlerless Mule Deer Tags (16 in 2022)
- 95 Antlered (Bull) Elk Tags (108 in 2022)
- 1 Depredation Antlered (Bull) Elk Tags (2 in 2022)
- 119 Antlerless (Cow) Elk Tags (74 in 2022)
- 19 Spike Elk Tags (10 in 2022)
- 4 Nelson Desert Bighorn Sheep Ram Tags (13 in 2022)
- 5 Nelson Desert Bighorn Sheep Ewe Tags (6 in 2022)
- 2 Bear Tags (0 in 2022)
- 1 California Ram Tag (0 in 2022)
- 1 Mountain Goat (0 in 2022)

The 2023 Big Game tag holders have until January 31st to submit their harvest return cards or there is a \$50 penalty assigned to their account and they'll be unable to apply for big game in 2024 until the penalty is paid and return card is submitted. Due to changes in carrier requirements, we can only send text message reminders to any who has opted in to receiving our text messages, which is about half our customers.

Applications for the Spring Turkey Hunt opened on January 15th and the Licensing and Hunt staff are preparing for the Non-resident Guided Mule Deer Hunt applications to open on February 12th.

On January 1st our annual vessel auto registration renewal went of smoothly, with over 22,000 vessels or half of the total vessel have been registered for the 2024 year. We also finalized the second half of the 2023 Vessel Registration report which we give 50% of our registration fees, which is over \$212k to the Nevada Department of Education. Finally, we've been working with Gordan Darby to roll out new equipment, a sleek tablet mounted for easy access and a smaller footprint, to our License Agents who sell hunting and fishing licenses. We are targeting to have this rollout completed by Spring this year.

## **FISHERIES DIVISION**

Although somewhat delayed when compared to last year, winter is in full swing with several January storms bringing much anticipated rain and snow throughout the state.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program:** A marketing group was contracted to georeference reservoirs and boat ramps at Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, Lake Tahoe, Topaz Reservoir, Lahontan Reservoir, South Fork Reservoir, and Wildhorse Reservoir while distributing "Clean, Drain and Dry" messaging. Within the first month, the campaign made 233,000 impressions statewide. AIS staff at Lake Mead recently decontaminated a houseboat that had been on the water for more than 30 years. The boat was extensively encrusted in quagga mussels and required several staff members to complete the effort.

Several new "Don't Let it Loose" signs will be posted at selected fisheries throughout the state, concentrating on urban areas where the liberation of unwanted pets is problematic.

**Fish Hatcheries:** Hatchery staff are currently working with field biologists to determine the feasibility of raising Wiper fry at our Mason Valley Hatchery on an experimental basis. If the experiment proves positive, it may open the door for further talks about warmwater fish culture at our facilities in the future. We are pleased to welcome Jordan Griffin as a new technician at our Gallagher Fish Hatchery in Ruby Valley. Jordan hails from Texas

and comes with a multitude of experience in the zoo and animal husbandry world.

**Sportfish Program:** Sportfish staff assisted with the preparation and review of the 2024 Fishing Regulation Book and participated in a podcast detailing the numerous changes made in fishing seasons and regulations for this year.

**Eastern Region Fisheries:** A new state record Yellow Perch was caught at Wildhorse Reservoir in December that weighed 1 lb. 9 oz which beats previous record by an ounce that was held by Wildhorse Reservoir and Dufurrena Ponds (tie). The Department learned of a new leak in the outlet structure at Willow Creek Reservoir in Elko County. The leak is in the same tube that was repaired last year and will prevent warmwater fish stocking at the reservoir in 2024. Until recently, ice conditions were variable at Eastern Region waters. Two children fell through the ice at Spring Creek Marina but were quickly rescued by bystanders.

**Southern Region Fisheries:** Fisheries and Law Enforcement staff attended a fishing tournament on Lake Mohave in December. Fish care pamphlets prepared in conjunction with the Arizona Game & Fish Department were handed out at a pre-tournament meeting which led to a much lower fish mortality rate during the tournament. Several large Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass were captured and implanted with floy tags during the annual Razorback Roundup in December. Annual surveys Safe Harbor Agreement populations at Desert Shores and Lake Sahara were completed in December and resulted in good numbers of Razorback Suckers and Bonytail which were in great body condition. A 13 lb. Striped Bass was also captured and culled and serves as a reminder to “Don’t Let it Loose.”

**Western Region Fisheries:** The annual electrofishing survey of the East Fork Walker River was conducted in November. The addition of two new transects revealed high numbers of sportfish, specifically in areas associated with newly constructed j-hook rock weir structures that were installed as part of a cooperative project with Trout Unlimited. Results from other transects were similar to previous efforts. The lone permitted commercial fishing operation on Lake Tahoe began a full-scale operation in January with plans to take over a million pounds of crayfish in 2024.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION**

**Events:** The 14th Annual Nevada State National Archery in the Schools Program–Western Nevada State Tournament took place on January 18 at the Reno/Sparks Convention Center. The event hall was sponsored by the Wild Sheep Foundation, and just under 200 student archers competed in the tournament. We are also hosting the Eastern Nevada Tournament in Ely and the Southern Nevada Tournament in Las Vegas later this month. The Nevada State Tournament is a qualifier for the Western States National Tournament held in Sandy, Utah.

The 2024 Sheep Show hosted by the Wild Sheep Foundation took place in Reno from January 18-20. Conservation Education Staff partners with the Wild Sheep Foundation to put on the Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience. This event is made up of 37 stations which includes 3 types of archery, a kayak pool, pellet and bb gun ranges, wildlife education, arrow building, bear claw necklace crafts, fly tying, casting, CSI wildlife, operation game thief and much more. We set a new record attendance of 2,754 in 3 days, with 1,771 attending on the Saturday alone.

Volunteer instructor dinners will be taking place over the next few weeks to honor and recognize our dedicated volunteers that facilitate Conservation Education programming throughout the state.

**Outreach:** Conservation Education staff highlighted fishing and Nevada fish species with its 12 days of Fishmas celebration on social media. Staff shared fishing related posts each day leading up to Christmas. Content included fish recipes; a fishing-related



Mythbuster, fishing tips, species highlights and more!

Conservation Education Staff sent the first big game tag application email promotion, encouraging people to register their hunter education if they haven't hunted in Nevada before, and having friends and family complete their hunter education if they plan on applying for tags.

In 2023, courtesy of donations made to the Nevada Youth License Fund NDOW was able to issue 3,712 youth combination licenses to kids at no cost to them. Of the kids who took advantage of the program, 70% had never had a Nevada license before.

**Education:** Conservation Education staff wrapped up another successful season of Nevada Knockout in schools. Nevada Knockout is a fun way to encourage people and students to learn more about Nevada's Wildlife!

Thirty-three animals who call Nevada home have been chosen to compete in a single-elimination tournament. Kind of like March Madness, but with animals! The idea is to have students research each match-up and decide whose adaptations would reign supreme and advance them to the next round in the bracket. Approximately 6,500 students participated in the program this year.

Trout in the Classroom programs are getting started and eggs are being distributed to teachers. The program will continue to livestream a tank as well so teachers who are on our waitlist will be able to participate using the livestream.

Urban Wildlife Coordinators met with Missouri Department of Conservation's communications team in early December to share how NDOW utilizes the NextDoor platform to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and engage with the public on human-wildlife conflict.

**Media Highlights:** In January, the Nevada Department of Wildlife has been mentioned by the media in 110,000 broadcast news stories. 133,000 radio stories and more than 96,000 print and online stories. Topics included the Nevada State Wildlife Action Plan, winter fishing, bear awareness, education on winter wildlife and more.

The statewide PIO continues a monthly Wildlife Wednesday segment with KOLO 8 news. Topics covered since November include Nevada's growing moose population, the importance of securing attractants to protect bears and other wildlife, and the Nevada State Wildlife Action Plan.

## **HABITAT DIVISION**

**Personnel Updates:** The Habitat Division recently hired Marrison Murphey for the Eastern Region Habitat Supervisor position, Amanda Gearhart for the Wildlife Staff Restoration position, and Madi Ellingwood for the Wildlife Staff Private Lands position. These professionals bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the habitat division and are welcome additions. Unfortunately, Lee Davis who was a Wildlife Staff Specialist that co-lead our Restoration Program recently left the agency leaving another vacancy. Lee was the leading the Sagebrush Habitat Planning process and oversaw our Special Reserve Account awards among other tasks and will be missed.

**Wildlife Management Areas:** With the help of Ducks Unlimited, Staff completed an enhancement of 1,199 acres of wetlands at Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Funds from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant were used to clean portions of the L-8 Canal and install a new water control structure to improve water delivery efficiency to the WMA. Partners on the project also included Nevada Waterfowl Association, US Bureau of Reclamation and Truckee Carson Irrigation District.

**Technical Review:** The Technical Review Program has been providing guidance on several large projects including BLM Sage-Grouse plan revision, BLM's Solar PEIS, Greenlink North and West Transmission line projects, Cross-Tie Transmission Line,

Stagecoach Wind, and Libra Solar projects. Additionally, program staff recently held an open house workshop to discuss the proposed draft regulation for subdivision review and will be incorporating feedback into the draft regulation for review by the commission. The Program continues to administer the Energy Review Program, with a total of 48 project applications received in 2023. These include 17 energy transmission projects, 22 solar projects, and 10 energy storage projects.

**Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team:** The SETT held a Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) meeting on December 5, 2023, and approved the semi-annual report and the performance report for the Governor. At a previous SEC meeting, two significant science updates were adopted into the Conservation Credit System (CCS). First, the Habitat Suitability Indexes were updated to include selection and survival. Second, the Distance to Lek map was updated with an Abundance and Space Use Index, which increases the value of source leks. These updates will be included in the latest version of the Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) used by the CCS.

**Restoration and Rehabilitation:** Biologists across the state continue implementing numerous restoration and rehabilitation projects with hopes of completing those soon. Once accomplishments for the year are finalized, we will provide the Wildlife Commission with an update.

## **WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION**

**State Wildlife Action Plan:** Wildlife Diversity is pleased to announce that the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan has been approved and is now available on the Department's website. All state wildlife action plans are submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who, along with another state agency, reviews the plan and ensures that the eight required elements are addressed.

Nevada's plan was very well received and only had minor comments. Department staff conducted a thorough final edit of the plan before publishing it late last year. We are currently exploring options of web-enabling the plan to make utilizing the plan easier for partners.

**Wildlife Diversity Annual Coordination Meeting:** Wildlife Diversity held our annual Division Coordination meeting this past November in Elko. All staff were on hand to plan the upcoming field season and the years beyond. For some projects, this year will be devoted to analyzing field data, including winter raptors, small mammal trapping results, and reptile road cruising. A few new projects are currently being developed, including efforts on Tahoe chipmunks, Mojave small mammals and energy development, and an expanded focus on pinyon jays.

**Wildlife Diversity Field Projects:** As is typical for this time of year, Wildlife Diversity staff are conducting winter camera traps in the Lake Tahoe basin focused on Pacific marten and snowshoe hares. Additionally, this month, Diversity staff, volunteers and agency partners are conducting our annual winter raptor surveys. We have 65 routes throughout the state, and once again, we are anticipating that all routes will be covered this year.

And finally, staff are preparing for our annual bat winter hibernation survey where we conduct disease surveillance for White Nose Syndrome and the fungus responsible for the disease. This year's efforts are slightly scaled back from prior years as we are challenged with finding hibernation sites for myotis species of bats, the kind of bats more susceptible to White Nose Syndrome. We plan to focus future efforts on finding additional hibernacula that are more accessible during the winter months for disease surveillance. We currently do not have any known sites in the state with White Nose Syndrome, or the fungal pathogen Pd that causes the disease, and hope this year's sampling continues to show negative results.

## **GAME DIVISION**

**Personnel Updates:** The Game Division recently hired CJ Ellingwood for the Area 7 game biologist position and Josh Kirk for the Area 10 game biologist position, both stationed in Elko.

**Mule Deer and Antelope:** Game Division has completed the final draft of the Connectivity Implementation Plan for 2023 and will begin building out the full Connectivity Plan in 2024. We plan to participate in NDOT's public scoping meetings in early 2024.

Staff has begun developing capture plans for mule deer in February 2024. Currently 5 capture sites are being planned throughout the state as part of the MDEP projects as well as some on-going projects from previous years.

Deer surveys results have averaged 27 bucks per 100 does and 52 fawns in the Eastern Region and 29 bucks per 100 does and 61 fawns in the Southern Region. In general, mule deer observed on survey were in good body condition and fawn ratios were much improved compared to previous years.

**Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats:** Staff sent a formal request letter to the USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the proposed mountain goat augmentation to the East Humboldt Range to enhance the herd's genetic diversity.

Coordination with Regions and Wildlife Health staff on investigating recent pathogen spillovers in various bighorn herds and planning out February bighorn captures for continued Test and Remove efforts in the Santa Rosa Range and Snowstorm Mtns.

The outbreak of Mycoplasma on Mt. Jefferson was confirmed to be the Pancake strain. Historically this strain has seen variable mortality, from relatively low mortality in the Pancakes to very high mortality in the Hot Creek Range (~70%). Hunters also reported coughing as well as dead sheep in the Gabbs Valley Range. PCR results showed only 1 positive and 1 indeterminate for 9 swabs. This indicates the outbreak may have passed. Strain typing is currently pending.

The outbreak of contagious ecthyma in the Virginia Range sheep herd appears to have run its course, at least in the herd east of USA parkway. Sheep are scattered due to precipitation so we are limited on monitoring in the western part of the herd.

**Elk and Moose:** NDOW has initiated a statewide analysis of habitat selection and survival of elk. This partnership with University of Nevada-Reno will yield revised habitat maps, as well as baseline demographic information for elk in Nevada. Staff are coordinating with USGS and Idaho Department of Fish and Game to delineate migration corridors for 4 elk herds in Elko County. Products of these efforts will summarize elk monitoring across the state and be integrated into the revision of the statewide Elk Management Plan where applicable.

After several years of monitoring, information gathering, and data analysis, staff have developed a proposed hunting season and area for moose beginning in fall 2024. The proposed season was developed with area biologists, neighboring states, as well an understanding of the biological parameters influencing movements and demographics of moose in the Silver State.

**Upland Game:** Staff are continuing to work with Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff and biologists to acquire 20 female Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (CSTG) to augment Nevada's Bull Run Basin population. However, a recent meeting indicated that the CSTG population may be genetically distinct and more related to Plains Sharp-tailed Grouse as suggested by recent research out of the University of Wyoming. We may pivot at this point and attempt to return to Idaho and use a new source stock there.

**Wildlife Health:** Staff collected 127 CWD samples, representing a potentially significant drop from last year. This may be attributed to lower tags available, hunter success, and lower interest.

- B\*. Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett**  
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett presented the Litigation report. A copy can be found at this link:

[7B-January-Litigation-Report.pdf \(ndow.org\)](#)

- C. Status of Moose in Nevada – Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee** A report will be provided on an overview of moose populations in Nevada, including important demographic parameters, movements, and results of a recent habitat analysis conducted by research faculty at Texas A & M University.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee presented the Status of Moose in Nevada. A copy can be accessed at the link below:

[Moose in Nevada \(ndow.org\)](#)

Dr. Marcus Blum, Research Scientist in the natural Resources Institute at Texas A & M University presented on Habitat Selection and Potential Population of Moose in Nevada. A copy can be accessed at the link below:

[Habitat Selection of Moose in Nevada \(ndow.org\)](#)

Kyle Garrison, ungulate section manager for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife presented on Moose management in Washington. A copy can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/agenda-item-7c-part-3-moose-mgmt-in-washington.pdf>

Staff Specialist McKee acknowledged the contribution of Marcus and Kyle for their presentations.

Vice Chairman Rogers thought it was a fascinating report and asked what the end goal was with all this research.

Staff Specialist McKee spoke to Dr. Blum's presentations and how it showed a representation of moose movements and what supportable habitat actually existed, depending on the season. He feels we are lacking in the number of radio marked individuals to help improve those models, but if we look at the current estimate of around 100 individuals and with current growth rate it will take about three years to hit 200 and that, again, could be a minimum number. It's about understanding how moose are using Nevada under climate change scenarios and what might we expect to happen to our existing quality moose habitat.

Staff Specialist McKee wants to give an understanding of not just where our moose population is now but where it can go. Given experiences from our other populations, there is an expectation of finite growth and while our moose populations is doing really well, we have to understand that the landscape is not going to be able to support infinite growth. Herds will start to stabilize or decline, he feels we should take the opportunity to

introduce conservative harvest within our population. He referenced Mr. Garrison's presentation of moose harvest as being a tool to understand age structure, antler characteristics and the collection of very important biomorph metric information about those individuals.

Commissioner Kiel thanked everyone for their presentations and thought it great to be able to reference a state that's already gone through this growth. He referenced the table that showed the metrics and asked how long it had been in place.

Mr. Garrison reiterated that the question was regarding how long the guidelines have been in place and how have they evolved over time?

Commissioner Kiel confirmed that was his question.

Mr. Garrison said those guidelines were put into place in 1997 at the same time a comprehensive game management plan was put in place, essentially saying if you're producing enough cows to absorb and then replace any of the loss of adult cows you should have stability. The table referred to in Commissioner Kiel's question comes from a different publication, he thinks out of Canada where they harvest many more moose.

Commissioner Booth asked if there had been any negative impacts due to moose coming to Nevada, to communities or traffic or possibly other wildlife.

Staff Specialist McKee mentioned a bull that showed up in Spring Creek about five years ago, there have been issues in other states that have more abundant moose herds moving into urban areas, but we don't currently have the numbers near the more urban areas of Elko, Spring Creek, Wells or Jackpot. Its probably something that will have to be dealt with in the next decade. We've fortunately not had a moose hit on a highway.

Commissioner Booth clarified he was asking whether moose have an adverse effect on Elko mule deer populations.

Staff Specialist McKee said relative to those populations the moose population is quite small and while there may be some direct interference from time to time he doesn't feel there is an issue of direct competition.

Chairman Caviglia asked if moose jump or plow through them.

Staff Specialist McKee noted that moose are quite lanky and could try to jump fences but he has seen them plow through fences.

Commissioner Young thanked Cody for the presentation, he asked what the optimal sex ratio is for moose?

Staff Specialist McKee said the bull to cow ration for moose does tend to be imbalanced and it tends to be slightly higher for moose than compared to elk and deer and there is also that imbalance right now with a naturally dispersing population. Males tend to be the ones to make that first dispersal movement. It's hard to say what the ideal bull ratio's, we know in some areas that the bull to cow ration is quite high, which can be problematic for the cow. It can also affect the ability to have a successful reproductive event and in some areas of the state where we have that imbalance harvest could potential address that situation. The Department has no evidence that predation is limiting our moose herd

in anyway.

Commissioner McNinch mentioned the fact that they can have a bad attitude or be temperamental and asked if there have there been instances where they have run off other wildlife from water or food sources.

Staff Specialist McKee wasn't able to answer that question given our population is so small, he supposed it could happen given their size and temperament, but he hasn't come across that in literature or from our other biologists.

Commissioner McNinch asked, with regard to moose running through fences, if Cody anticipated conversations related to compensation programs like we have for elk and deer and antelope.

Staff Specialist McKee said it was another question he couldn't give a firm answer to because elk were considered to be native to Nevada before our reintroduction efforts but at that time their numbers were so low, many people still believe that they were non-native to the state. Moose on the other hand is a unique scenario where Nevada is experiencing range expansion into the state so of course there are going to be fences in the way, but as to how we will manage this naturally patriating population as well as infrastructure that exists on the state, it may be good to get ahead of the situation.

Commissioner McNinch thought it exciting that moose are moving in but we need to temper expectations, he feels that every animal that comes into this state has a ceiling, the habitat can only support a certain number, and when there is competition that number will be even smaller. He thought the presentations were very interesting and appreciates the importance of the discussion about what the population the habitat can support.

Chairman Caviglia thanked Cody, Kyle and Dr. Blum for their presentations.

#### **D\*. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report – Committee Chairman Caviglia**

A report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.

TAAHC committee met January 25, and the Department provided an updated procedure and policy internally on how they deal with the Deferred tags but at also looked at the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) the Commission originally changed and it was literally the removal of one sentence, the committee recommended putting that back in so that will be back to the Commission in March for discussion. With regard to the Junior Tag Transfer, the Department put together some recommended language and the Committee made some minor changes. We will have a TAAHC committee meeting in March to look at that language, both of those items will be at the Commission next month.

#### **8\*. Petition – Mr Joshua Jenni**

#### **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Mr. Jenni has submitted a petition to add a separate resident only archery hunt for Rocky Mountain Goats. The Commission may take action to deny or accept the petition and initiate rulemaking.

Mr. Jennie was not present at the meeting nor on Zoom.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Burkett advised the Commission that they do have to make a finding of the fact that the petitioner did not show up and of course the

Commission does have the ability to make a decision in favor of the petition even if the petitioner is not here, but if you decide to rule against it the Commission needs to formally prepare a motion with a second denying the petition .

Chairman Caviglia asked if it was necessary to have a discussion.

DAG Burkett stated they may have a conversation or not.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the Commission had any desire to discuss the petition. He stated he wasn't in favor, given you only have ten tags to pull the Archery Hunters out of that.

Commissioner Booth said Humboldt County CAMBW opposed the petition for many reasons but primarily because it's any legal weapon and there are limited tags.

Commissioner Barnes also opposed the petition because there are so few tags.

Chairman Caviglia recalled that goats were killed with an Archery tag last season.

Commissioner McNinch thought that opportunity existed now, he thought it would be nice if we had so many animals we could break these user groups out or weapon classes out. He agreed with the Commission in that opportunity already exists.

Chairman Caviglia asked if Staff Specialist Mike Cox had a comment.

Staff Biologist Mike Cox wanted to reiterate we had two Mountain Goats harvest by archers last year which is 15 percent of the total harvest, the year before a Mountain Goat harvest with a bow and three years ago as well, so we are already seeing people have that opportunity.

Jim Cooney representing Elko CABMW stated they had had the discussion and as Mr. Cox mentioned, two animals have already been harvested utilizing a bow. I've hunted the particular area and during that time you get within a few feet of the goats if you really want to, so Elko CABMW disagreed with the petition.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION FOR DENIAL OF THE PETITION FOR A SEPARATE RESIDENT ONLY ARCHERY HUNT FOR ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT. COMMISSIONER WALTHER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**9\*. Commission Policy 24 – Hunting Opportunities Among FOR POSSIBLE ACTION Various Weapon and Hunter Groups, Third Reading – Chairman Caviglia, Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa and Management Analyst Kailey Musso**

The Department made changes requested by the Commission. The Commission may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa introduced the Third Reading of Commission Policy 24, a copy can be accessed at this link:

[Commission Policy 24 Support Material January 2024.pdf \(ndow.org\)](#)

Staff Specialist Cody McKee and Staff Specialist Cody Schroder spoke to a PowerPoint which can be found at this link:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/agenda-item-9-fixed-allocation-projections-for-policy-24.pdf>

Commissioner Kiel asked a question on how numbers were obtained for fixed allocation.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroder explained they looked historical figures and looked at what it would take to move more i to the muzzleloader and archery class.

Commissioner Kiel is fully supportive of fixed allocation, but curious about how comfortable the Department is with the split based on what is actually being seen, it seems that rifle hunters are going to take a hit on this with the Department being in favor of getting more people out with primitive weapons.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroder asked the Commission to keep in mind, this is still a goal post, the Department will shoot for the middle, if passed, depending on the season or demand.

Commissioner Young asked if it would be a fair estimate that we would see the same or similar amount of harvest even though we are increasing tags.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroder doesn't anticipate any drastic changes in success rates other than what we already observe just based on weather and things like that, this would presume no change in Harvest rates.

Commissioner McNinch asked what we anticipate for hunter congestion in some of these areas.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder doesn't anticipate this having a big affect on congestion, down the road we could always change or move seasons if we need to.

Commissioner McNinch agreed that was a good point and that we would probably hear more around May.

Commissioner McNinch said he would support the policy as written now, but doesn't want to lose sight of the juniors, he would like something in place to monitor changes made to our policy or Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

Commissioner Booth thanked Cody Schroeder for his presentation, he requested clarification on Mule Deer – Examples Scenarios, and wanted to make note that this reflects not an increase in funds for the Department but the opposite.

Commissioner McNinch appreciated Commissioner Booth's comments and reiterated that it was the Commissioner asking for these changes not the Department, he also added that he couldn't see a problem with the Department having more money for conservation work.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated funding is never used to calculate quotas, it's all



about the biology.

Chairman Caviglia said he has no problem with fixed demand but it is to the detriment of our biggest user group.

Secretary Jenne stated that some of the largest comments we receive back from Any Legal Weapon 'ALW' is congestion and so this is an opportunity to take care of and use the season structure and space available to redistribute and offer people a more quality hunt by taking advantage of those primitive weapons classes.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CAB, spoke of a presentation given by the Department at the CABMW meeting, he said the majority of people that attend the CABMW meetings and hold hunting licenses use any legal weapon and to acknowledge Chairman Caviglia's concern there were no concerns raised, he feels like Secretary Jenne that this allows a more quality hunt. There was zero push back at his meeting.

Larry Allen representing Humboldt CABMW, he thought they may have misworded her our action, they are asking that you don't adopt it at this time. We didn't have a presentation we just had support material that was provided so we didn't understand the why or how. We didn't have enough information to support it. When they reviewed the support material they really didn't understand the figures presented, so they are requesting the Commission hold off. They would like to see the program go forward, so they could have more information and adjust those levels at a CABMW level.

Matt Melarkey representing Washoe CABMW, first asked why did the Commission chose to eliminate the maximum of three Junior tags, they weren't sure why that change was made but would like to see that language added back in. As far as the fixed allocation they didn't have too much concern because they felt the CABMW level they could address that during quota sessions. They would like to see the program go forward, so they could have more information and adjust those levels at a CABMW level. They also thought that while there is a large increase in archery tags, there is no Hunter Education for Archery, he feels we also need some type of proficiency requirements.

Chairman Caviglia noted an additional 'and' on the sixth page.

Commissioner McNinch noted an issue with page five the definition of tag successes as compared to the definition on page four.

Chairman Caviglia asked for clarification on the "three to five year change" Juniors regarding a lengthy discussion at TAAHC level.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso advised that the TAAHC worked on a regulation a couple of years ago that would have amended Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.333 which is titled 'limitation on applying for junior hunts' that restricts them to applying for no more than five years. At the time we were going to try to restrict it to no more than three tags. The Executive Order that the Governor put forward halting regulations stalled that regulation and TAAHC has since moved in a different direction.

Secretary Jenne added it has been a long convoluted history between the freeze, the executive order and the junior tag transfer.

Chairman Caviglia felt that because it was never technically approved we should just leave it out rather than holding up the policy. He does hear Humboldt's concern and it was brought up at the last meeting, he didn't want to delay this issue as it is the Third reading but wanted to hear what the other Commissioners had to say.

Commissioner Kiel thought we had heard this enough and felt there was still room to maneuver at the May meeting.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT POLICY 24 WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES ON THE SECOND PARAGRAPH UNDERNEATH THE MULE DEER SECTION TO EITHER ADD A COMMENT OR STRIKE "THE" AND TO CLEAN UP THE FOUR STANDARD AND ALTERNATIVE AND STANDARD, THEN WORK THROUGH REDEFINING TAG SUCCESS TO WHAT IS WRITTEN ON PAGE FOUR AND MAKE THAT CONSISTENT WITH BELOW FIXED ALLOCATION TAG SUCCESS ON PAGE FIVE. COMMISSIONER WISE SECONDED THE MOTION. COMMISSIONER BOOTH DISSENTED. MOTION PASSED 8-1.**

Chairman Caviglia recessed the meeting at 12.00 p.m.  
Chairman Caviglia reconvened the meeting at 1.30 p.m.

**10\*. Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Predation Management Plan FOR POSSIBLE ACTION  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson**

The draft fiscal year 2025 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW), and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2024 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2024 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson introduced the Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Predation Management Plan. A copy can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/10-FY-2025-Predation-Management-Plan-1.pdf>

A PowerPoint presentation given can be accessed at the link below:

[Nevada Department of Wildlife Predator Management Plan Fiscal Year 2021 \(ndow.org\)](https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Nevada-Department-of-Wildlife-Predator-Management-Plan-Fiscal-Year-2021-ndow.org)

Commissioner McNinch asked if the Commission would get a copy of the manuscript mentioned at Project 42.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson advised when it was accepted and published it would be available for the Commission, Sportsmen and the public.

Commissioner Kiel asked why Project 22074 wasn't under the umbrella of Project 37.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson advised because it has more of a monitoring component it's his preference to maintain it as a project but he is amenable to suggestions.

Chairman Caviglia asked how many Mountain Lions had been killed, with regard to Project 44.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson advised that the Delamar have a long history of a struggling sheep population so the Department has lethally removed lions for quite some time, he feels without checking that some four to six sheep eaters have been removed.

Chairman Caviglia thought the title of Project 44 is not what this project has morphed in to.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson said he understood Chairman Caviglia's concerns but reiterated there hadn't been that many lion removals.

Paul Dixon representing Clark County CABMW, asked if Ravens become aware enough to realize that the eggs used are poisoned and the eggs then become ineffective

Stephanie Meyers public citizen, said almost a million dollars goes to wildlife services for the lethal removal but is it affecting the number of deer, elk and antelope, if not maybe it's not a predation problem, it could be habitat. Why spend so much money killing predators if these projects are not giving you more game animals?

Vice Chairman Rogers repeated the question from Mr. Dixon Clark CABMW and asked if ravens become habituated to the poison eggs and if they are still effective.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson doesn't know that anyone has a complete answer, but from what he has seen the majority don't learn not to eat those, and we do have some other tools to remove ravens.

Chairman Caviglia asked for clarification on whether a motion was needed.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson advised it was the Commission's prerogative on whether they needed a motion or not.

Chairman Caviglia thought there was no need for a motion at this point.

**11\*. Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years FOR POSSIBLE ACTION FY2024 and FY2025 – Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox**

The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed biennial bighorn sheep and mountain goat release plan for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox introduced the Biennial Big Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years FY2024 and FY2024, a copy can be accessed at the link below:

[11-Biennial-Big-Game-Release-Plan-for-Fiscal-Years-FY2024-and-FY2025.pdf](#)  
(ndow.org)

Commissioner Kiel asked what the Department is going to do prior to the release with Wildlife Services on the Still Waters, with sheep there and now with horses being removed, he asked Staff Specialist Cox to comment.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox advised that except for Mountain Goats the Department will conduct assessments and if necessary, begin a pre-treatment to reduce the mountain lion numbers to provide that complement of Bighorn sheep a chance to take hold and grow.

Commissioner Young asked where the Bighorns were going to come from for Units 181 and 141.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox said the Department had identified a few source populations and want to make sure those animals aren't actively shedding Mycoplasma Ovi pneumonia (M. ovi), the Department has tapped into herds that have gone through die off and been exposed to M. ovi; the only real source population in the state for Desert Bighorn Sheep that have not been exposed is the Muddy Mountains.

Commissioner Young is supportive of putting Bighorn Sheep back in the Montana's even though he is aware of the history and dangers.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox said there is not a place in the state where we don't have risk, the question is if can manage it. No perfect solution on the table right now.

Commissioners Booth and Walther expressed concerns about reintroduction to the Montana range.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox advised that the Department would continue to speak to John Ologaray, there are other things that we are considering. We could put an exclusionary fence to reduce movement, probably the biggest issue with Bighorns being inquisitive. He feels strongly that with high vigilance that we probably won't lose any lambs.

Commissioner Wise wanted to understand the lines of defense that are to be in place, volunteers and staff and the lambs are herded and fenced in addition to staff in the area.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox agreed that yes, they are behind an electric fence at all times.

Commissioner Wise asked what the plan for staff or volunteers if the Bighorn should wander into that area.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox explained they certainly aren't going to be bashful about

taking action should there be a risk of interaction.

Commissioner Wise is in support of these projects and they are a great opportunity.

Commissioner McNinch advised he was in agreement with Commissioners Wise and Young. This is never going to be risk free, there is information to be learned from failures, there is no option to do nothing. He thinks the Department has done a great job of processing the risks and trying to mitigate them.

Chairman Caviglia asked where the source stock for the Montana Mountains would be.

Staff Specialist Cox stated the Department was leaning toward the Sheep Creek Range.

Chairman Caviglia asked if any of those in the Sheep Creeks are even remotely close to what the Department would consider carrying capacity.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated the Department has been concerned about the Sheep Creeks for a decade. We have been having lots of discussion about where that population is, we are considering starting with 15 ewes and five rams.

Chairman Caviglia and Mr. Cox further discussed coordination with landowners and predation management tactics as in the Eastern Region.

Larry Allen representing Humboldt CABMW – would like to see the release plan approved as written and specific to 035 in the herd in the Montana Mountains.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, thought the Department had given the best possible set of assurances regarding risk.

Jamie Halpin representing Eureka CABMW, talked through this with Scott Roberts and they support this plan, on the Cortez Mountains and as they talked through with Scott Roberts once they get to meeting with the two Nevada goldmines to do some due diligence to reach out to the adjacent perimeters that are to the East and West of the Cortez range to make sure that it's not constricting some of those other perimeters is the only comment that we had but otherwise the CABMW was in support.

Chairman Caviglia asked Staff Specialist Mike Cox to speak to Mr Halpin's comments.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox advised they could definitely reach out to the closest permittees.

Commissioner McNinch asked for clarification in what was needed for the motion.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox stated he would ask that the contingent on receiving BLM

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document approval be removed.

**COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AS WRITTEN, EXCEPT IN REGARD TO THE MONTANA MOUNTAINS RELEASE; AND THAT THE NEPA PROVISION ASPECT OF THE CORTEZ MOUNTAIN RELEASE BE STRICKEN SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISE. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

**12. Commission General Regulations  
– Workshop/Public Comment Allowed**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A\*. Commission Regulation 514 – Moose – Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa and Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight**

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapters 502 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to provide for definitions, fees, and regulations concerning moose. This proposed regulation change is necessary to establish definitions for antlered and antlerless moose, eligibility requirements for a moose tag and fees for both resident and non-resident antlered and antlerless moose hunts and to establish requirements for maintaining physical characteristics of the harvested moose.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa and Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight introduced CR 514 – Moose. A copy can be accessed at the link below:

[#19C - CGR 514 Moose.pdf \(ndow.org\)](#)

Commissioner McNinch asked a question about once in a lifetime portion he thought we need to be more explicit.

Chairperson Caviglia agreed with Commissioner McNinch's comments.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso advised this regulation language came from the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), the language used was an attempt to mirror other regulations, but given this would be a once in a lifetime tag this is the language that LCB came up with. If the Commission has suggestions the Department would be happy to suggest the changes to LCB.

Commissioner McNinch gave a suggestion as to the changes he would like to see made.

Management Analyst Musso thanked Commissioner McNinch for his clarification.

Commissioner McNinch asked to see a page outlining the changes tomorrow.

Chairman Caviglia asked for clarification on what a replacement tag is.

Chief Game Warden Knight clarified it was under NAC 502.321 and is for a diseased animal.

Ryan Brown with Washoe CABMW stated that at their meeting it was noted that the prices were too low. Maybe next legislative session we could get that bumped up.

Fred Voltz public citizen stated “Despite the informational report in today’s item 7C, the science and biology behind promoting a moose hunt lacks objective credibility and sound stewardship of the public’s wildlife.

In the September 18, 2020 edition of *Go Hunt*, NDOW’s McKee and two of his colleagues are quoted as saying Nevada has 40-50 moose total. NDOW is again cited in a June 2022 edition of *Wildlife Informer* citing the same statistic, with the additional comment that multiple sightings may be of the same animal. We are now told that in little more than a year and a half, the NV moose numbers have risen to over 100 in 2024.

Omitted from the presentation was the fact that half of all moose die in the first year of life for various reasons. Thus, touting only adult survival numbers tells only part of the biological realities.

Even with the latest guesstimate based on sketchy information and the strong probability of repeated sightings of the same animal by members of the public, we still have very few moose in Nevada and an inadequate number to be sponsoring any type of moose hunting. It cannot be claimed that moose have come close to outstripping habitat carrying capacity or that they are harming communities, farmers, or ranchers.

Regrettably, we see no concern for moose well-being based in the contents of proposed Regulation 14. It was openly stated at the recent Clark CABMW meeting that the proposed moose hunt is an opportunity hunt and has nothing to do with managing, protecting or perpetuating this species. . . a clear obligation of the Commission under NRS 501.105.

Nothing constructive will be happening relative to moose if a hunt of their slight numbers is approved in this regulation.”

Stephanie Meyers, public citizen asked why a moose hunt at all, where is the management plan, the science and what are the real number of moose in Nevada. She referenced Staff Specialist Cody McKee’s comment stating Nevada has experienced a population eruption. What is an eruption, two more or five more than last year, she asked what was unsustainable in reference to his comments, should we kill a bunch of moose to sustain their numbers despite drought and heat? She stated that Staff Specialist Cody McKee said moose numbers are so low. She stated when the Department uses the word opportunity hunt what they mean is trophy hunt or sport hunt. Public opinion is moving away more and more from trophy hunts please stop this hunt before it begins. There is no good reason for this hunt. 90% -95% of Nevada residents do not want to see hunt or trap, we are the general public and want to see moose not kill moose. We beg you don’t move forward with the moose hunt.

Staff Specialist McKee asked to show slides regarding Department authority. The link can be accessed below:

[Existing Authority for Moose Season \(ndow.org\)](https://www.ndow.org/Existing-Authority-for-Moose-Season)

Commissioner Young agreed with Washoe CABMW, he is aware it's not going to be addressed at the Commission but feels the fees are way to low for once in a lifetime tags.

Commissioner McNinch referred to Ms. Meyers comments about a moose plan and asked if the Department had one.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated the Department did not have a plan, if the Commission wanted a plan we could pursue that.

Commissioner McNinch will support the moose hunt, but does think a plan is necessary. If there is an opportunity to do a Moose plan I would hope the Commission would support.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 514 AS PRESENTED WITH THE DISCUSSED CHANGES TO SECTION FOUR; ITEM ONE AND TWO RELATING TO CLARIFYING LANGUAGE ON MAKING THOSE TAGS ONCE IN A LIFETIME; ALSO THE CHANGES TO SECTION FIVE STRIKING "ACCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION TWO" AND RENUMBER THE LIST OF ALL THE ANIMALS AND ADDING WILD TURKEY TO THAT SECTION. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIES 9-0.**

### **13. Public Comment Period**

### **INFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, appreciated staff specialist Cody Mckee presentations. The non hunting community love wildlife just as the Commission does but felt that once a hunt is initiated there's very little chance of it being taken away even when science shows that it needs to be taken away. She was going to make these comments tomorrow is concerned tomorrow but is concerned that we don't have a habitat plan. It's not just about hunting moose it's about taking care of them, what do we do during a drought, in her opinion we do need a plan before we approve a hunt. She appreciated the care and thought that went into moose because she feels they didn't have that opportunity with bear in 2010 She would like to see this care taken with all wildlife in Nevada including bears, mountain lions and bobcats.

Catherine Smith, public citizen, wanted to point out that all decisions made today were based on social science and that biological science can inform decisions but they can never make them. Having a hunt, not having a hunt, how animals are killed, when they're killed, if they're transplanted all these decisions are social science there may be biological consequences based on those decisions but those decisions themselves they're all social science. This commission deals with the social aspect of it. She has heard many Commissioners in the past say they were following the science. Catherine feels the science doesn't lead the Commission to say there should be a hunt; it doesn't lead the Commission to say dogs should be allowed to maul bears. It doesn't lead the Commission to say these things are the things they are coming up with for social



reasons, everybody has their own different social reasons but biology makes these decisions, she hopes that after saying all this that those justifications end and we get more to what is motivating these decisions.

Meeting adjourned the meeting at 3:53 pm

**Saturday, January 27, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.**

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

Chairman Caviglia called the meeting to order at 08:30 a.m. and Commissioner Wise led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll of the Commission taken by Executive Assistant Lynda Barr. Chairman Caviglia, Vice Chairman Rogers, Commissioners Barnes, Booth, Kiel, McNinch, Walter, Wise and Young present. Chairman Caviglia made note of the CABMW members in attendance.

**15. Public Comment Period INFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Jana Wright, public citizen, made a comment about draft minutes not being online and asked committee to direct staff to upload the minutes.

Fred Voltz, public citizen, made a comment in support of Ms. Wright that there is a problem with support material being posted before the meetings. We see PowerPoints presentations from staff and other things but the public has no opportunity beforehand to review those. Staff need to do a better job of getting this posted at least a day ahead of the Meeting but preferable three.

**16. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Caviglia FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda for January 27, 2024. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

**COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 27, 2024 AS PRESENTED, COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**16. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - INFORMATIONAL Chairman Caviglia**

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 Jenne may also be discussed.

No CABMW comment.  
No public comment.

**17. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) INFORMATIONAL  
Member Items**

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.

Larry Allen representing Humboldt CABMW, would like to request that they address the Rifle doe and antelope hunt in Units 76 through 81; they believe there is a nine-day overlap with the archery bull seasons and it's creating a little issue for the archery bull hunters.

**18. Commission General Regulations – Adoption/ FOR POSSIBLE ACTION  
Public Comment Allowed**

**A\*. Commission General Regulation 512, Fishing Regulations - Wildlife  
Staff Specialist Kim Tisdale**

The Commission will hold an adoption hearing to consider amending Chapter 488 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would change vessel motor restrictions, amend tackle restrictions, and reclassify protected species classifications.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Kim Tisdale gave a presentation. A copy can be found below.

[19A-Commission-General-Regulation-512.pdf \(ndow.org\)](https://www.ndow.org/19A-Commission-General-Regulation-512.pdf)

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL  
REGULATION 512. COMMISSIONER WISE SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION  
PASSED 9-0**

**B\*. Commission General Regulation 513, Executive Order  
Regulations - Management Analysts Megan Manfredi and Kailey  
Musso**

The Commission will hold an adoption hearing to amend Chapters 488, 501, 502, 503 and 504 of the Nevada Administrative Code pursuant to Executive Order 2023-003.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi introduced CGR 513. The link can be accessed below:

[19B-CGR-513-Executive-Order-Regulations.pdf \(ndow.org\)](https://www.ndow.org/19B-CGR-513-Executive-Order-Regulations.pdf)

Dre Arman representing Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, notified video on Zoom had stopped.

Chairman Caviglia advised the Zoom feed had dropped but the public could still watch on YouTube.

Commissioner McNinch asked if the Commission wanted to proceed with page 25 (d) in the light of the Australian red claw crayfish license appeal.

Secretary Jenne asked Wildlife Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks to comment.

Wildlife Division Administrator Chris Crookshanks it would be appropriate to keep it because there are a number of species that are suitable for commercial aquaculture, the Department has the Prohibited Species list if needed.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he had discussed an item on page 27 with Management Analyst Kailey Musso as to whether portions had been codified or if that was an issue; Management Analyst Musso clarified for him that LCB does take care of this in the NAC.

Commissioner McNinch asked a question regarding replacement leg bands.

Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark advised that the Department does have bands but they are issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service and if the Commissioner wanted more clarification they could certainly add it.

Commissioner McNinch advised that if Administrator Newmark was fine with it as written, it is fine with him.

Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark thought it was fine as written.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 513 REGARDING THE EXECUTIVE ORDER AS PRESENTED WITH ONE NOTED CHANGE AND THAT IS THE REMOVAL OF SECTION SIX OF NAC 502.4188 AND ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 9-0.**

**C\*. Commission General Regulation 514, Moose – Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa and Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight**

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapters 502 and 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to provide for definitions, fees, and regulations concerning moose. This proposed regulation change is necessary to establish definitions for antlered and antlerless moose, eligibility requirements for a moose tag and fees for both resident and non-resident antlered and antlerless moose hunts and to establish requirements for maintaining physical characteristics of the harvested moose.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa and Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight

introduced Commission General Regulation 514. The link can be accessed below:

[19C-CGR-514-Moose.pdf \(ndow.org\)](#)

Document requested by Commission to clarify changes can be accessed at the link below:

[CGR-514-Changes-requested-by-Commission-for-display.pdf \(ndow.org\)](#)

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 514 AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIR ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION, MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**20. Commission Regulations –  
Public Comment Allowed**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**A\*. Commission Regulation 23-04, (Amendment 2) - 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder and Cody McKee**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve an amendment to the 2023- 2024 and 2024-2025 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and moose, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics and hunt boundary restrictions.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa, introduced Commission Regulation 23-04, Amendment 2 --- a copy can be accessed at the link below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20A-CR23-04-Amendment-2-2023-2024-and-2024-2025-Big-Game-Seasons.pdf>

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder spoke regarding antelope, proposing to eliminate two resident Antelope horns shorter than ears hunts.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

Chairman Caviglia asked the Department to present by species.

Commissioner Booth asked for law enforcement clarification on the issue of a potential game violation due to having a rifle in a vehicle.

Game Warden Kristy Knight clarified a hunter could not have a rifle with them while archery hunting, they could have it at camp.

Commissioner Booth thought there was a potential conflict, and it might need to be looked at later.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder thought the probability of that happening was probably close to zero.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AS IT PERTAINS TO ANTELOPE SEASON AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Staff Specialist Cody Mckee spoke regarding minor changes to the Elk season this year being for depredation hunts in units 144 and 145.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AMENDMENT TWO AS IT PERTAINS TO ELK. COMMISSIONER WISE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Staff Specialist Mike Cox introduced proposed Resident and Non Resident Bighorn sheep hunts.

Commissioner Young said he had received a number of calls about an issue in Unit 254 where sheep were summering in the Specter Range and going into fall on the base.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox said yes, the Department collared several animals to look at disease surveillance. We are aware of the movement onto the Nevada National Security Site.

Chairman Caviglia commented that he had previously had a hunt on 052 when sheep were everywhere.

Coby Rowe representing Washoe CABMW, reported recommendations from their meeting; California Bighorn sheep 8151 to close 012-014 and only open 012; in Hunts 3181 and 3281 to close unit 268.

Joe Crim representing Pershing CABMW, supported Washoe CABMW request.

Mel Belding, public citizen agreed with closing 012-014 and just opening up 012, he would like to see data from the collars.

Chairman Caviglia asked Staff Specialist Cox what his thoughts were on closing 014.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox advised that the Department would advise the situation if the public call the Department, it's not unprecedented that there is a unit that has a small herd.

Chairman Caviglia asked what the Department classified for Unit 014.

Staff Specialist Cox advised that the Department saw three mature rams.

Chairman Caviglia advised that there are a lot of young California sheep which is not ideal; he asked what the Department considered mature.

Staff Specialist Cox advised five years or older.

Commissioner Young asked if the Department were to eliminate 014, could 012 stand on itself.

Staff Specialist Cox said yes.

Commissioner McNinch asked if it was a goal to have 014 stand on its own.

Staff Specialist Cox said no.

There was further discussion regarding Units 012 and 014.

Commissioner Young appreciated comments and was favoring closing 014.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AMENDMENT NUMBER TWO AS IT RELATES TO BIG HORN SHEEP WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES. TO ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8151 CALIFORNIA BIG HORN SHEEP, REMOVE UNIT 014 AND HAVE UNIT 012 BE A STANDALONE; ADDING A FOOTNOTE TO EXCLUDE THE MONTANA MOUNTAINS FROM HUNT 031. COMMISSIONER WALTHER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner McNinch said he would support the motion but wondered what the Commission was protecting and what would be the trigger to reopen.

Chairman Caviglia bought the commissioner back to the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder introduced proposed Mule Deer hunts.

Commissioner McNinch advised he didn't have an issue with closing down the doe hunts, he asked how does removing this hunt affect the Junior Hunts.

Staff Specialist Schroeder advised it would reduce the overall opportunity by about 250 Junior tags, the Department has some proposals to mitigate that.

Commissioner McNinch asked if it was necessary separate to any of the current discussions around junior tags.

Staff Specialist Schroeder replied this was in response to the winter we had had and when the Department could bring them back it would.

Commissioner Young credited Mr Schroeder and the Department for their quick pivot after the devastating winter, he supports the removal of the antlerless hunts though he realizes it is unfortunate.

Vice Chairman Rogers thought the loss of tags for junior hunts unfortunate but given the dire times with Mule Deer herds that it is justified, he asked about the three seasons in units 221-223, asked what the justification was for having an early and late and not just one season.

Staff Specialist Schroeder explained why, but said the Department could consider the Commissions comments.

Chairman Caviglia is a fan of the early and late hunt and said it mirrors a number of the other multiple units.

Jim Cooney representing Elko CABMW, requested that the doe hunts be eliminated in areas six, seven and ten a year ago and he appreciates the Departments approach. H feels the time to address the reduction in junior tags that Commissioner McNinch mention will be during quota setting.

Commissioner Barnes thanked the Department and appreciates the elimination of the doe hunt, he has some real concerns about the Unit 10 herd. He will support the hunt but need to take a serious look during quota setting meeting. He felt it would be helpful to have the return cards back earlier.

Commissioner McNinch doesn't have a problem doing away with doe hunts this year, he isn't happy with changes going on to the junior hunt, he asked that we keep monitoring the impact on juniors. He feels it's damaging to the conservation of wildlife to not keep juniors involved.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVE TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AS IT PERTAINS TO MULE DEER. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Staff Specialist Cody McKee spoke to the proposed Moose hunt. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/agenda-item-20a-proposed-moose-hunting-season.pdf>

Caron Tayloe, public citizen thanked Staff Specialist McKee for his presentation, while she is resigned to a Moose hunt she wanted to reiterate that what the Department is doing is looking at science and spending time and attention and she wants the Department to do the same with other animals. The passions shown by Staff Specialists Cox and McKee is wonderful. Moose are big strong animals and she's seen the devastation to the animals when people feed them, she was referring to alternative waterways etc., she would like to see a public service plan; she is aware of two photographic groups to photo moose; she reiterated the Department doesn't just represent hunters they represent others also.

Larry Johnson, public citizen saw his first moose about ten years ago in Nevada, would never thought we would be at the point where we could have a hunt, he believes the Department's recommendations are appropriate.

Stephanie Meyers, public citizen feels there is no good reason to begin this moose hunt, it will be impossible to go back, there is no management plan, no science and the numbers are way to low. She asked the Commission to not move forward with the hunt.

Vice Chairman Rogers thanked the Department for presentations over the last few days, he is supportive of the moose hunt but referred to the notion of a moose plan and thought it would be important to come up with a specific plan.

Chairman Caviglia mirrored the statement that it is necessary to come up with a Plan and Hunt criteria.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 23-04 AMENDMENT TWO, RESIDENT MOOSE ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 10151 WITH THE ADDITION OF A SYMBOL TO IDENTIFY THE MANDATORY HUNTER CHECK IN ON THE HARVEST OF A MOOSE. VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS SECONDED MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.  
Meeting reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

- B\*. Commission Regulation 23-10, (Amendment 2) - 2024 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz** The Commission will consider amending the regulation for the 2024 Heritage Tag species, seasons, and quota regulation to add a mandatory call-in number for all Specialty Bighorn Sheep tag holders to verify which units are closed to hunting.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz proposed clarification of language for 2024 Heritage Tag Seasons. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20B-CR23-10-Amendment-2.pdf>

Chairman Caviglia recused himself due to associate with a tag sold last weekend.

Vice Chairman Rogers suggested a change the portion Heritage Tags to Bighorn Specialty Tags for consistency.

Administrator Munoz advised the change could be made.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW advised clarification on Pacific Time.

Coby Rowe representing Washoe CABMW, recommended on nelson bighorn sheep to align the date with other big game species to August 1.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked Administrator Munoz if there was any issue with changing the time from Pacific Standard Time (PST) to (Pacific Time).



Administrator Munoz said she would clarify the time issue and change if necessary.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT COMMISSION 23-10 AMENDMENT TWO AS PRESENTED WITH TWO NOTED CHANGES, ONE BEING THE REPORTED TIME TO PACIFIC TIME AND ALSO CHANGE OF LANGUAGE FROM HERITAGE TAGS TO BIG HORN SHEEP SPECIALTY TAGS. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA ABSTAINING.**

Commissioner Young asked for clarification on a Hunt removal on Unit 282.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox felt Unit 282 should be included.

Commissioner Walther asked if changing from Heritage tags to the language of Specialty tags would be creating any potential issues down the road.

Chairman Caviglia reiterated he wouldn't partake but all would be identical at that point which is the intent.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox thought the intent was to accommodate all of them.

Vice Chairman Rogers Young pointed out the omission of Unit 282, however also Unit 252 was proposed to be closed, would it also need to come off the list.

Administrator Munoz said Staff Specialist Cox indicated yes.

Management Analyst Manfredi asked if the proposed change from Heritage tags to Bighorn Sheep specialty tags limited the Commission in future.

Chairman Caviglia clarified that all Bighorn Sheep Specialty Tags are all combined together and he agreed with Vice Chairman Rogers that clarification may be needed for people to understand that Heritage, Dream, Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) and Silver State are all within the chart and are not separated.

Vice Chairman Rogers reiterated that is why he made the recommendation.

Management Analyst Manfredi clarified the if we make it specific we would be allowing someone to take advantage of the Depredation, Management or Emergency Hunts that are designed for one of the other species mentioned within the specialty regulations.

Chairman Caviglia clarified we were now discussing two separate items.

Commissioner McNinch asked if it would be appropriate to pull the motion back.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS REMOVED HIS MOTION.**

Deputy Director Mike Scott asked for time for the Department to clarify the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Meeting recommenced at 11:18 a.m.

Chairman Caviglia reopened Commissioner Regulation 23-10 – Amendment 2.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz presented item link below

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20B-CR23-10-Amendment-2.pdf>

Administrator Munoz clarified changed to be made to proposed language.

Vice Chairman Rogers requested clarification on language to be amended.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CAMBW clarified differences in times.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 23-10 AMENDMENT 2, 2024 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTAS WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES, ONE BEING FROM PACIFIC STANDARD TIME TO PACIFIC TIME, ALSO WITH NOTED CHANGES TO THE CHART, AND MOVING THE SENTENCE THAT STARTED WITH HERITAGE TAGS TO BE MOVED ABOVE THE CHART AND STRIKING THE LANGUAGE OF HERITAGE TAGS BUT ADDING SPECIALTY TAGS AND THEN BELOW THAT CHART USING THE LANGUAGE AS DIRECTED BY THE ABOVE TABLE AND IN CORRELATION WITH THE GENERAL HUNT QUOTAS FOR NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP AND THEN ADDING PORTIONS OF THE HUNT TO INCLUDE UNIT 282 AND THEN EXCLUDE UNITS 252 AND 212. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 8-0 WITH CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA ABSTAINING.**

**C\* Commission Regulation 24-01, 2024 Big Game Application Deadlines – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2024 big game tag application deadlines and related information.

Data and Technology Services Administrator Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-01, 2024 Big Game Application Deadlines. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20C-CR24-01-2024-Big-Game-Application-Deadlines.pdf>

Commissioner Barnes asked about season dates and getting the Harvest questionnaire earlier.

Commissioner Young agreed with Commissioner Barnes, he would like to have discussion about possibility of moving up the return date.

Shawn Espinosa Game Division Administrator, thought it would give the Department

enough time to advise CABMW or commission as support material, it would be an added burden to the Game Division. We could look into a different way of harvest reporting, say more electronic based.

Secretary Jenne requested time for the Department to discuss and come back to Commission and with our Contractor, he requested the commission deal with this as written.

Commissioner Barnes was good with the suggestion.

Vice Chairman Rogers agreed with Commissioner Barnes at how critical this information is and supported the Department looking into other ways to gather the data. He asked if the Department waits until Jan 31st to compile data or if it's compiled as it comes in.

Cody McKee clarified he is in charge of processing the data and he explained limitations in his time. The Department holds off presenting data until they have a near complete data set. He asked that the Department and Commission recognize the limitation and extra burden.

Commissioner Young asked if would help Cody to move the deadline up or is that irrelevant.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee advised to move up two weeks would be more than beneficial. If you have a hunt that ends in August but don't report till January, some information can become very vague.

Chairman Caviglia explained thought was not that the data would be ready to present to the Commission in January, more that it would be for the benefit of the Department.

Jim Cooney representing Elko CABMW thinks the idea of fourteen days after the season end is a great idea, would be beneficial for the CABMWs to have it sooner than later would be much better.

Larry Johnson public citizen, thinks getting the data earlier would be better, he thinks the Department should put this in bold in their Hunt Application book.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 2024 BIG GAME APPLICATION DEADLINES. COMMISSIONER YOUNG SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**D\*. Commission Regulation 24-02, 2024 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2024 big game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-02, 2024 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits. The link can be access below.

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20D-CR24-02-2024-Big-Game-Tag-Application-Eligibility-and-Tag-Limits.pdf>

Commissioner Wise asked for clarification on big game tag application eligibility.

Chairman Caviglia agreed given we have no antlerless Mule Deer hunts, we would be striking that language.

Administrator Munoz advised she would strike.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 24-02, 2024 BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND LIMITS AS PRESENTED WITH CHANGES TO EXCLUDE ANTLERLESS MULE DEER IN THE BIG GAME TAG APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY AND THE SECOND TO ADD MOOSE TO SECOND DRAW ELIGIBILITY AND THEN ADD MOOSE TO FIRST COME FIRST SERVE TO ADD MOOSE. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**E\*. Commission Regulation 24-03, 2024 Dream Tag – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**  
The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2024 Dream Tag species, seasons, and quota.

Data and Technology Services Administrator Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-03, 2024 Dream Tag. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20E-CR24-3-2024-Dream-Tag.pdf>

Chairman Caviglia asked if the Department wanted to strike language regarding Black Bear given there wasn't going to be a Black Bear Dream Tag.

Administrator Munoz said it would be best to keep otherwise it might not be remembered in future Commission Regulations if it came back.

Commissioner McNinch mentioned the difficulties in relying on memory for hunts removed or added.

No CABMW comment  
No public comment

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF COMMISSION**

**REGULATION 24-03 DREAM TAG AS PRESENTED WITH NOTED CHANGES: ONE BEING MOVING THE SENTENCE DREAM TAGS EXCLUDE FROM BELOW THE CHART TO ABOVE THE CHART, AND THEN ALSO BELOW THAT CHART ADDING THE SENTENCE “ AS DIRECTED BY THE ABOVE TABLE AND IN CORRELATION WITH THE GENERAL HUNT QUOTAS FOR NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP” AND THEN ALSO WITH THE ADDITION OF UNIT 282 AND THE EXCLUSION OF UNITS 252 AND 212. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER WISE. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**F\*. Commission Regulation 24-04, 2024 Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2024 Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) tags hunt species.

Data and Technology Services Administrator Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-04, 2024 Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) Tags. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20F-CR24-04-2024-Partnership-in-Wildlife.pdf>

Chairman Caviglia asked if there was any thought to the quota for Mule Deer Tags.

Administrator Munoz stated this was in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

Chairman Caviglia clarified not to exceed maximum. He asked if there was any consideration with the drop in deer tag numbers to drop the PIW.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroder indicated to Administrator Munoz no.

Joe Crim representing Pershing CABMW, thought that with the declining numbers in deer it should be five resident and zero nonresident.

**CHAIRMAN CAVILIA MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT COMMISSION REGULATION 24-04, 2024 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE (PIW) TAGS RELOCATING THE SENTENCES ABOVE AND BELOW THE TABLE; CHANGING “PST” TO “PT” AND MAKING NOTED OR DISCUSSED UNIT CHANGES IN THE NOTES AT THE END. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS. PASSED 9-0.**

Meeting adjourned 12.00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened 13:30 p.m.

**G\*. Commission Regulation 24-05, 2025 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2025 Heritage Tag species, seasons, and quota.

Data and Technology Services Administrator Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-05, 2025 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20G-CR-24-05-2025-Heritage-Tag-Seasons-and-Quotas.pdf>

Coby Rowe representing Washoe CABMW recommended to change Nelson Bighorn sheep to August 1<sup>st</sup> from July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVAL OF COMMISSION REGULATION 2025 HERITAGE TAG CONSISTENT WITH CHANGES NOTED IN PREVIOUS ITEMS. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**H\*. Commission Regulation 24-06, 2024 Silver State Tags – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kimberly Munoz**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2024 Silver State tag species, seasons, and quota.

Data and Technology Services Administrator Munoz introduced Commission Regulation 24-06, 2024 Silver State Tags. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20H-CR24-06-2024-Silver-State-Tags.pdf>

Commissioner Walther made a request for some minor clean up to formatting.

**VICE CHAIR ROGERS MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF CR24-06 SILVER STATE AS PRESENTED WITH NOTED CHANGES MADE PREVIOUSLY. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**I\*. Commission Regulation 24-07, 2024 Black Bear Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2024 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson introduced Commission Regulation 24-07, 2024 Black Bear Seasons. The link can be accessed below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20I-CR-24-07-Black-Bear-Seasons.pdf>

Staff Specialist also presented a Power Point in support of Item I. The link can be access below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-Black-Bear-Seasons-draft.pdf>

Chairman Caviglia asked Staff Specialist Jackson why in Unit group 201,202,204,206 not a single bear was harvested..

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson had not looked at effort, the Department knows there was some hunting but he couldn't comment as to why there was no harvest.

Chairman Caviglia stated we do look at harvest metrics and if the hunter doesn't harvest it typically raises a red flag.

Commissioner McNinch brought up hounding of bears, one of the major justifications was because there was emphasis trying to mitigate the take on females. The take of females this year was nine females and ten males taken in this hunt, he asked the determining factor for when you take a bear. Commissioner McNinch wondered about what the variables might be on where a bear was taken. We had a nursing sow taken, that doesn't sit well. There are certainly a lot of social issues that we don't discuss. The Commission doesn't talk about bear conservation.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson advised a correction to the Item, the Department recommended a half hour before sunrise and a half hour after sunset, not an hour.

Glenn Bunch representing Mineral County CABMW felt he could answer the question regarding why there was no take in those units by Chairman Caviglia , he stated the snow was too deep and people couldn't get to those areas.

Coby Rowe representing Washoe CABMW thought all edible portions of the harvested animal should be removed from the field.

Chairman Caviglia advised the Commission did pursue this, but it's a legislative change that has to be made through Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)

Coby Rowe representing Washoe CABMW, asked for clarification on whether that was because of the classification of the animal.

Chairman Caviglia said no and he would have the Department provide the NRS to Washoe CABMW.

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, stated 2010 was a rough year for people who cared about bears; her issue is not so much the hunt, the issue is how the animal lives and dies in Nevada it's pretty horrific. She doesn't feel it would be accepted for

any other species that we didn't have a prejudice against, she acknowledges she has hers but feels the Department also has theirs. No reasons to hound a bear. Prolific Wildlife killer Teddy Roosevelt wouldn't even kill a treed bear. Even a guided hunt is acceptable to her. As far as she is concerned it's animal exploitation and those hunters who took mother bears are guilty of worse than poaching and whoever guided them need to be fined.

Catherine Smith, public citizen, stated the bear population has been theoretically stable in Nevada for years despite drought, human encroachment and ever rising death toll, the problem with the Nevada bear population is it's small so small the statistics don't really work; the number in the matrix are so small it's laughable, she stated if the concern is about detecting a significant population decline you can run simulations to determine the odds of detecting a significant decline. The hypothesis that using hounds changes the sex ration has been disproven by large datasets from Colorado, Washington California and Oregon, she can provide those figures if required. A wildlife value study found that only 13% of Nevadans surveyed approved of hounding and this included hunters and traditionalists, She asked if the Commissioners to treat Wildlife any way they want as long as they are convinced the population is stable, she asked if they found it exciting to see bears and dogs fight. Ms. Smith believes the Commission owes the public an explanation.

Tiffany East, public citizen, stated that hunting bears is not her thing, she does feel we do have to manage a population. She reiterated the Commission was determining a season not a quota, they would come up with a quota at a later time, she is in support of the Commission.

Larry Johnson, public citizen, urged the Commission to support the seasons. He dislikes equating emotional conclusions, twisted into social-science-based and compares them to biological science that backs this hunt. He supports the Commission in continuing the hunt.

Jacque Chandler, executive director for Sustain Tahoe, remembers in 2010 when the hunt was legitimized, a Commissioner being interviewed on National Public Radio (NPR) being asked with over 95% of Nevada opposing a bear hunt why would you do this and the answer was because we can. NRS 501.171 does designate that seven out of nine of the Commission need to represent interests that see wildlife killing as the best way to manage Wildlife Conservation. She stated it's reminiscent of the councils who have determined over the last 200 years who lives and who dies; if it's not by the color of their skin or their region it's by how much fur and value you can put that hide because we have removed or replaced the apex predators with humans, we are now in charge of the blood hunt the video game blood hunt with drones, and technology that is not a sport because in a sport both teams know the rules in this sport one team controls and changes the rules to fit their need and the other has no way out and that's how she felt sitting here all day listening to how the Commission manages life, other life forms on Earth that we live on but don't live with. She doesn't see anyone speaking for the bear. She explained the mission of Sustain Tahoe is to accelerate the adoption of destination



stewardship that is responsible tourism where the visitors actually sustain and enhance the places they visit, it's possible it's been done other places in the world she pointed to Monterey Bay is an amazing example of this they used to be the whale killing capital of California they killed off the otter the whales the red Abalone and the sardines collapsed the ecosystem in the marina and then in 1992 due to some local initiatives and the Packard sisters they turned it around and created a marine Sanctuary. There's so much more money in Wildlife viewing than Wildlife killing; whale watching makes millions whereas the extermination of the whales left the bank empty, because even though we have a bear hunt only 2% of Nevadans hold a trapping or hunting license and so the Commission is not representing the majority of people that would rather take pictures than take a life, rather load a camera than load a gun. She agreed that another thing that the Commission has is the authority to do is clear-cut piñon Juniper Woodlands to better hunt mule deer or introduce non-native fish which drive out native fish, hunt Sage Grouse a species at the brink of endangerment. They've received multiple federal grants to subsidize hunting probably also a lot of money from the National Rifle Association (NRA) they've collected 55,000 in fees and spent 200,000 dollars in the first the bear hunt which means to kill 25 Bears that cost 8,000 each or 5800 if you take away the 55,000. She said there are a thousand licensed Trappers Statewide that pay \$33 annual fee year for unlimited trapping but endow spends \$100,000 to administer trapping as a net loss of \$67,000 so she thinks the best way forward is to get off the Titanic abolish or restructure NRS 501.171. She realizes the Commission has no power over that.

This is a legislative issue or to make it truly represent the 90% of the Nevada constituents who oppose the sport of killing and refocus on the preservation of wildlife. Nevada's conservation and natural resources already with trained staff that could better balance the needs of Wildlife and assess better ways to coexist, she proposed a wildlife habitat, a protected habitat like what Monterey Bay did; she asked if the Commission knew the tourism industry is worth 91 billion dollars a year with wildlife viewing earned 86 billion, in our state 43% of our Gross Domestic Product comes from tourism. With 91 billion ecotourism seeking Wildlife observation eclipses that any hunter Trapper economic contributions. In 2016 over 86 million people spent 75 billion on Wildlife tourism funding and supporting the preservation of wildlife and its habitat. Funded from tourism the income generated loading cameras not guns and have the data gathered in the field from the people that like to go out and track Wildlife have it available to the public to increase awareness and build respect and interest for careful viewing versus killing. That's the mission of Sustainable Tahoe to invite our visitors to walk softly and respect the wildlife and share the gratitude, the reciprocity that is the currency of nature. We have no ethical moral right to take life as a blood sport, a video game. Stop the hunt, abolish the board let's evolve our species to remake remember recover and restore our culture. She referenced the saying about Nevada means home and advised that the word ecology the root word is Eos, it means home. The ecology is our home the economy is based on the economy, she asked that we not tip and drown the potential we have here thank you for doing what you're doing which is in line with this.

Paul Dixon speaking on behalf of himself, has been involved in wildlife over the past 15 years through his involvement in Clark county CABMW, and he just heard from the last speaker and speakers earlier that 95% of Nevadans are against things. Although only two or three percent of Nevadans hold hunting and fishing licenses when you look at the America values report that was put out several years ago it does not hold that 95% of the people are against hunting and fishing the fact of the matter is that number who are totally against hunting and fishing is probably in the 5 to 10% range, which may be a little larger than the number of people hold licenses but the majority of people that live in this state millions of them don't give a crap right or left to be honest with you and so he get upset when he hears that 95% of the people who don't hold hunting and fishing licenses are against something because they don't care and if you asked them they wouldn't know to give you an answer he thinks to be truthful we have a small percentage of people that hunt and fish and support hunting and fishing and we have a small percentage of people that that don't and the rest of the people are ambivalent to it and if ask I think most of them would give you an answer well if it isn't hurting me I don't care.

Dr. Lisa Grayshield introduced herself in the native Washoe language, she explained she also doesn't like introducing emotion into subjects. The Washoe have been in this area since time in memorial, the bear is her brother and you know they've been on this land since time in Memorial we learned that the Bears are our brothers that they're a very important part of the ecosystem of their knowledge bearers they teach us about the plants they teach us how to live on the Earth in a good way they teach us about what's ripe what's ready what's good for digestion they show us where to dig; where to find our medicines all of these things and we leave them alone occasionally. She was asking her relatives what about this bear hunt when it started and they said oh yeah a lot of them have been involved in different protests and different this and different that and they said but they don't listen to us because you know they already have their minds made up they already know what they're doing and you know she just doesn't believe that at this time when we see we are all here together on this world and we see the environmental degradation that's taken place we've seen you know numerous things happening we've got climate change you know it's a scientific issue here it's not an emotional issue climate change is a reality and there is a human impact and the Bears are speaking I don't know why we have to kill bears you know why can't we listen to what they have to tell us to say I can't speak for the Bears either but she can speak for the historical and intergenerational trauma that she carries in her body when a board of whomever set up here at one point and decided who what Indians were going to get to live and what weren't going to get to live I mean you know that so I don't trust you all you know it's like I had this mistrust but then I do because I do believe in humanity you know I do believe that maybe we can make choices from a different vantage point we were Hunters too we didn't hunt the bear occasionally I did hear my auntie say once in in a while something like that would happen you know like a bear would come and the people would need something and that would be the offering but it was done with prayer and it was done with full knowledge but for the for the most part we left him alone. She asked her cousin hey what about that bear hunt he said oh yeah I know about that bear hunt so did you know that they're raising the numbers he goes man why do they got to do that.

Sharon Gregory, public citizen, is one of the 95% who voice their displeasure with bear hunts and she wanted to make sure that everyone understood agreed that this a small

percentage against bear hunting, she thinks it's much larger. She believes the 95% but nobody's listening, she is disgusted at the method used to tree these bears with the GPS. Collared dogs that's inhumane, and can't even believe we're even talking about this. Hunting is not this way is not sportsmanlike, any hunter who hunts with a collared dog and trees a bear they're not going to stop and wonder is that a female or a male they're going to kill that bear and that's why of the 19 bears that were killed in 2023 nine of them were females and to then say there's no cubs, that's not true there are cubs about she makes sure that she's got her Cubs treed before the dogs set off after her. It's disgusting and she wants to be one of the 95%, she believe that number is true, we are against this bear hunt and the method used to do it and she want to make sure her voice is heard.

Janna Wright, public citizen, speaking once again in opposition to the bear hunt, two issues of importance to her on the hunt come to mind the hunt, is not a management tool and the use of dogs in the hunt. It appears dogs are utilized by at least 75% of tag holders yet there is zero regulations on the use of dogs in a bear hunt. Dogs are running off leash equipped with Global Position System (GPS) collars that are in turn used to locate Bears, a violation of fair chase and probably against the law NRS 503 speaks of radiometry and it states it cannot be used to determine the location of a game mammal this is exactly what is happening in the bear hunt. Dogs chase bears and hunters locate dogs using their GPS collars and bears are killed. She asked the commission to pause the bear hunt and take up the idea of banning dogs in the hunt or at least regulating the dogs it seems this would be something the commission might want an agenda item on for an informational presentation by the Department on dogs used in the bear hunt with the possibility of a regulation on dogs not being allowed to hunt bears.

Fred Voltz, public citizen, verbatim "The Commission faces have changed over time, but the unwillingness to represent all Nevadans and the best interests of wildlife rigidly remain the same with an almost total obsession toward maximizing wildlife deaths whenever and wherever possible.

In this agenda item, we have a wildly unpopular bear hunt except among trophy hunters and overpaid guides who need to help the supposedly trained hunters do the sport killing. GPS collars, ATVs and packs of dogs offer up most of the skill, with hunters showing up at the last minute to finish off the hapless bear. That is not a sporting proposition or even equally matched opponents, just pre-meditated slaughter.

NDOW's staff work regarding bears has been wildly inconsistent, as population ranges fluctuate materially from year to year. Nothing shows in the posted support materials on this subject. How does NDOW know there is no existential threat to bears from trophy hunting activities and other sources of mortality when guesstimated population ranges lack consistency?

There is no formal management plan for bears, yet NDOW's and the Commission's statutory responsibilities are to manage various species in the state. It is impossible to judiciously manage something when accurate data and objectives are absent.

No need for a biology degree to total the complete body count of bears. Yet NDOW has consistently ignored mortalities caused by vehicle strikes and bears that are killed by wildlife officials because they are a nuisance to people, principally due to intentionally left attractants such as trash. Completely failing to factor in those bears seriously injured by inept hunters, speeding drivers, traps, poison-baited food or other forces, only to die unaccounted for in the wilderness, skews the death toll higher; it suggests caution, not a reckless approval of more hunter-inflicted bear deaths through an unjustified bear hunt. If this Commission had the least concern for protecting bears rather than promoting their death, it would be urging the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency to implement a Tahoe

Basin-wide wildlife-proof trash containment ordinance so that people and bears can amicably co-exist. Yosemite, Mammoth Lakes, Boulder and Durango, Colorado, and Cranbrook, British Columbia have all implemented this program years ago. Not only would wildlife not be killed by ingesting plastic and vehicle strikes, but the amount of wasted NDOW law enforcement time would be significantly reduced. Such a simple solution that no one on this Commission or with NDOW staff has bothered to champion and lead to implementation.

Jennifer Simio, public citizen, voicing her opposition to the bear hunt and she ask that the Commission to not authorize the bear hunt season this hunt is not supported by Nevadans especially the use of dogs to hunt bears.

Melissa Soderston, representing Tahoe Forest Matter, would just like to add their voice to the opposition to the bear hunt she think there's ample Community opposition into this and is sure that the Commission received letters from all of us this week. She would also like the Commission to take into consideration the flawed method of the count considering the bears the Department has taken our population here in the Tahoe Basin which we know is potentially overcrowded and used that as the metric across the state for numbers of bears killed she think that's really something that needs to be looked into. A pause on the bear hunt needs to be put in place until we get an accurate depiction of how many bears are actually in the Tahoe Basin. We also need to know how the logging of our forest has affected their habitat and forced them closer to town and how NDOW's own policies of what is essentially bait trapping mother bears acclimating them to humans making them easier to track for the hunters has affected this. In one five-week period here in Lake Tahoe we lost what was estimated to be around 20 Bears that's one five week period this summer after being hit by cars and that needs to be added to the count. There is great concern that these populations will decline due to climate and that they probably actually are declining due to human conflicts and DA's policy of killing them by moving them to areas where they are allowed to be hunted there's just great concern and we would like to say that we need to at least put a pause. As far as the dog hounding goes that's been almost universally just written off the books everywhere hounding is not an effective method of determining sex of bear as proven by your own numbers so that needs to if anything else be removed immediately from this ordinance.

Katherine Bricker, public citizen, would like to recommend the Commission consider two changes to the 2024 bear hunt regulations. I request that my comments be in the record verbatim the first change I'd like to request is that you reduce the time requirement to check in the carcass of a female bear doing so can allow staff to determine as they did in the 2023 hunt if houndsmen have killed a nursing mother as well as another mother with dependent cubs of the year as NDOW staff does when cubs are orphaned in other circumstances, doing so can provide critical time to locate the cubs and assess them for survivability as well as take the humane action of if warranted of placing them in rehab. Number two I would like you to consider disallowing hounding in hunt units 194 and 196 or portions thereof until a reassessment can be made of the safety and economic impact of their use in these areas since the hunts Inception the development and promotion of tourism on the trail systems has dramatically changed in the type and density of usage in these areas for example in unit 194 where six of the 19 bears were killed last year the nationally awarded Capital meaning the capital of Carson Capital to Tahoe Trail is being promoted by ecotourism businesses who are bringing in international cycling groups there has been an eruption of public concern and comment from those individuals and

groups who have encountered loose packs of dogs when hiking and biking the area this year my impression is that once the hounds are let loose who they encounter in their pursuit of the bear cannot be appropriately controlled thank you for considering my recommendations I have opposed the bear hunt since in inception and I continue to do so.

Dre Arman, representing Backcountry Hunters and Anglers stated she was speaking on behalf of hundreds of Sportsmen and women across Nevada and was here to voice general support for the bear hunting season in Nevada as a management tool for this bear population in alignment with the North American model of conservation. She thanked the Commission for their thoughtfulness in these regulations and thanked NDOW for their continued work on behalf of these bears to ensure healthy populations today and into the future.

Randal Massaro representing Union Members for the preservation of Wildlife International, I did send a short PS a video to you guys I don't know if you received it I would like to also commend your staff, Lynda Barr and some of your staff for answering the phones and taking care our issues they're the consummate professionals, so I do want to commend them for a job well done I just don't know whether we get three minutes or six minutes to speak.

Chairman Caviglia advised as he was speaking on behalf of an organization he would have six minutes.

Randal Massaro, National President of Union members for the Preservation of Wildlife International, verbatim comments, I'm a retired peace officer I was trained and worked with the feds and I also worked investigations longtime Greenpeace representative and turned Hollywood actor I believe me I'm not acting today ladies and gentlemen we have a serious situation on hand when Nevada Department of Wildlife chose for a bear hunt back in 2011 I believe we were the we were the organization that got the Native Americans involved along with the animal rights groups to oppose the spare hunt we've been involved since the beginning since it started I had a wonderful relationship with one of your workers named Chris Healey at that time your governor's office called me and told me to quell the situation with the Indians it's getting out of hand because so many natives were opposing this bear hunt our Union and our Teamsters Union that's against hunting trapping and poaching because of obviously economic reasons which brings in tourism which brings in more money than hunting and trapping ever will and the fact that you spend so much money to support hunting and trapping that's ARX dollars hard at work obviously the hunter does pay to go ahead and kill these animals but in turn when the majority of Nevada is against this and it's cruel it's barbaric it's inhumane listen hunting is one thing but using hound dogs we used to hunt Native Americans with hound dogs at one time we used to hunt black slaves with hound dogs at one time listen you how you go home at night and how you guys could sleep with this on my mind it bothers me as a union as the national president of Animal Rights group it really disturb I find it very disturbing I think you could do better I think you could start appealing to the tourism industry like up in British Columbia when our unions went up there to British Columbia and they show the fact that 3 to 5 million is brought in from hunting and trapping into British Columbia but ecotourism brings in 30 to 75 million I got to I got to hand it to our neighbors above us up there in Canada they're they are pretty smart business people attracting the tourism industry 30 to 75 million versus 3 to 5 million from hunting look at that unions are all about business okay listen I'm an Italian Sicilian from Brooklyn New York our people built Las Vegas Reno and Lake Tahoe it was all about business I'm not going to go back

into the history of how they were built and what needed to be done to build them but I'll tell you this much money economics smart business people built these built those towns you're representing Reno then represent Reno represent the people of Nevada it's stands the reason 87% to 90% of the people are against hunting or at least this bear hunt the Native Americans are insulted they're infuriated do you see them showing up not much anymore ever since you guys called the police on our natives that read the speech that we wrote there at endow we couldn't make it at that time but the Native Americans read a speech you guys called the police and brought up a three-year-old Venture War out for her arrest it made the papers it made the news so I had to call our Associates in Las Vegas which called up the judges and Reno and they released her right away no sooner the FBI went to their house this is picking on Native Americans no sooner your people sue another animal rights person speaking out against the bear hunt I was all part of this we orchestrated it. Ladies and gentlemen I'm Randal Massero we oppose any bear hunt at all in Nevada give some Native Americans some respect they're your neighbors they're your fellow workers they fight for this country they hold the bear sacred the least we could do is honor that with them instead of taking away their land Waging War on them and again calling them names and that representative from endow called me up and apologized to me said don't apologize to me apologize to the Native American that you insulted that time we got it on video we saved the videos of that time I encourage you and I implore you stop this bear hunt everyone's looking including actors like me in Hollywood we're looking at you we're taking a look and seeing what you're doing we won the fight to ban hound dog hunting on bears and bobcats in California thanks to our organization working with many others we won the fight to B Bobcat trapping in California we won the fight to protect the Wolves returning to California maybe you could learn something from California even though we have a long way to go welcome to Nevada we support Hound dog hunting Hound dog hunting trapping Wild Horse and burrow roundups and killing our Bears Nevada you've got a lot to learn don't be like Idaho Montana and Wyoming things are changing thank you very much we oppose the bear hunt.

Gina Greisen, representing Nevada Voters for Animals, wants to go on the record stating that we've always been against the bear hunt since this started in 2010 and definitely against the use of hounds with GPS radio collars, this clearly goes against the fair chase ethical standards for sportsmanlike hunting to use the radio collars and I mean it's basically cheating to allow the hounds to terrorize these bears chase them for miles get them up into a tree and then just shoot them out of the tree. There's actually a video that I had shared in one of my action alerts that shows a young man that's hunting and they documented that the bear was treed not once but twice by these GPS radio hound dogs and he missed the first shot with a rifle because he didn't want to use the rifle so he got a second chance the bear got down to retreat and he was able to shoot it with a crossbow and it just makes no sense. We hope that this Commission will also look at the science, the fires have created a lot of issues driven the bears into areas the environment is changing and the land use is changing. As of September of last year there was 70 bears hit by cars. She believes all of that needs to be taken into consideration when the Commission is looking at how many bears there actually are in Nevada. The fact that the recent article written by Dana Gentry just two days ago stated that 53% of the bears that were involved in last year's hunt had prior contact with NDOW in the form attacks. She strongly urges this Commission to please reconsider. She's not against hunting and wants to state that for the record. She's always stated though not a hunter herself but she's not against traditional hunting when you have to maintain the herd or for conservation. This bear hunt was always a trophy hunt to begin with, in 2010 everyone knows and your bear biologist I believe it is a huge conflict what has happened. I didn't

realize there was such a so much bad blood with this lawsuit that occurred and I think that you know the first time I met t Carl Lackey he said to her face in 2010 that he worked for the hunters, they pay his salary so she always thought that if you're a bear biologist you're there to represent the bears and speak for the bears and base your decisions on science not on who pays your paycheck. She hope that this Commission will strongly consider not allowing the bear hunt or significantly reducing the number of bears that are allowed to be hunted and not allowing the use of hounds.

Jim Schmidt, public citizen, stated he is an active hunter in Nevada as well as many other states and he opposes hunting with dogs, he would prefer that the Commission protect the reputation of all hunters by allowing only stock type bear hunting and disallowing dogs.

DRAFT

**From:** [Linda Miner](#)  
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**Subject:** Please enter into official record for Regulation 24-07 Bears; Trophy hunting bears in NV  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 24, 2024 9:27:34 PM

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**WARNING** - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To the Wildlife Commissioners:

I moved to Nevada in 1976 and have been a practicing veterinarian since 1992. It's probably needless to point out that I will never in this lifetime understand trophy hunts.

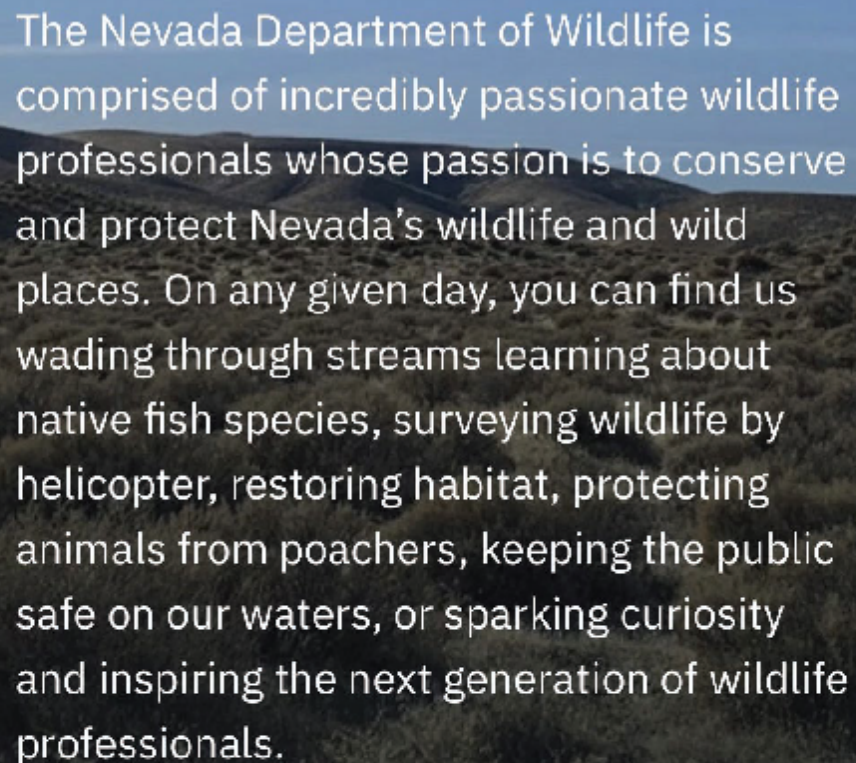
My investigation into the local hunt started when I learned that a cub rehabbed in Idaho had been killed 3 months after his touted "second chance" release photos were published. Not acceptable in my book. I was further informed that a similar scenario had occurred when a cub was rehabbed at our local Animal Ark. The staff and volunteers at these rehab facilities pour their hearts, souls and love into giving these cubs the long life that they deserve. Social media posts evidenced the tears, pain and anger of rehabbers who realized the cubs were killed by a trophy hunter.

I've since learned about hounding and the facts that citizens polled are against such a hunting method; many hunters consider hounding unethical and unsportsmanlike and 100% of the bears killed in Nevada last year were killed by using dogs to first find, chase and tree the animals. Hounding is illegal in some states.....animal cruelty for the bears and, sometimes, for the dogs who can be injured.

And two mother bears treed and killed — leaving four cubs orphaned in 2023. Shameful.....for a trophy on the wall or floor.

Please reconsider the Bear Hunt in light of NDOW's online claim:





The Nevada Department of Wildlife is comprised of incredibly passionate wildlife professionals whose passion is to conserve and protect Nevada's wildlife and wild places. On any given day, you can find us wading through streams learning about native fish species, surveying wildlife by helicopter, restoring habitat, protecting animals from poachers, keeping the public safe on our waters, or sparking curiosity and inspiring the next generation of wildlife professionals.

**The Black Bear population is not in need of control; many tourists revel in bear sightings. The Bear Hunt does nothing for the nuisance bear problem as that's a human training issue. Please consider ways to reduce or eliminate this cruel, unpopular and unnecessary hunt.**

Thank you,  
Linda J. Miner, DVM  
Gardnerville

Chairman Caviglia closed public comment and brought it back to the Commission.

Commissioner McNinch mentioned that Larry brought up emotion versus social emotional response and realizes it's a fine line. He mentioned a technical review of the North American model for wildlife conservation by the Wildlife Society and Boone and Crockett and it's an evaluation by people with Sportsman's interest evaluating what has essentially been the Sportsmen's bible for conservation. We heard it referenced today, something to be very proud of for Sportsmen, one part of the review warns not to be immune or ignorant or indifferent to the social aspects. It's why hunting has sustained for years. Things like a plume hunt or a Christmas hunt are long gone because Sportsman have adapted to new social norms, so as not to lose support. He feels it's important to bring that into the conversation, it's about maintaining relevancy. He would like a broad conversation, it isn't going to go away, people are upset. We took a vote on Bighorn Sheep Unit 014, due to a social issue, doe hunts we've voted against. He appreciated some of the comments from Kathryn Bricker, he wondered if the engagement would be different if the discussion were about Bighorn Sheep.

Commissioner Kiel will support the bear hunt based on the harvest matrix showed by Staff Specialist Pat Jackson, he said the decision about Unit 014 was most definitely based on biological information.

Chairman Caviglia stated since the inception of the bear hunt that the population has increased in Nevada.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson agreed the population had increased.

Commissioner McNinch stated it's not just about the biological aspect, it's also about the social aspect, just because it can be done doesn't mean it should be done.

Vice Chairman Rogers is supportive of the hunt, he appreciates the comments from the public and wanted to ensure that although he would support the Commission Regulation, he does hear and listen to those points raised.

Commissioner Wise asked Staff Specialist Jackson to go back to the QR code before Project 46. She supports the Commission Regulation but agrees with Commissioner McNinch in that it's important to have the conversation, to have some workshops so that people can have a discussion, is very much in favor of going to the legislature of edible portion.

Chairman Caviglia stated that bear hunting is very common, in Canada and worldwide and a lot of places allow baiting, this is nothing new that Nevada created in 2010.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF COMMISSION REGULATION 24-07 AS PRESENTED, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL, MOTION CARRIED 8-1 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION.**

**J\*. Commission Regulation 24-08, 2024 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2024-2025 hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours and special regulations.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented Commission Regulation 24-08 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits. The link can be access below:

<https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/20J-CR24-08-Mountain-Lion-Season.pdf>

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented a Power Point to support Commission Regulation 24-08 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits. The link can be access below:

[https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-2025-mountain-lion-seasons-and-harvest-limits\\_draft.pdf](https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-2025-mountain-lion-seasons-and-harvest-limits_draft.pdf)

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, represents a large board, there was one dissenting opinion who didn't feel we have a good handle on population standards, we need better population estimates, the harvesting of females and the take of five lactating females is a concern that we should be looking at this member thought we should not be harvesting lactating mountain lions, they also didn't like 24/7 hunting. He thought he would try to organize a workshop with the Department to educate his board.

Coby Rowe, representing Washoe CABMW, wanted the Commission to look into the edible portions issue.

Catherine Smith, public citizen, the Department has estimated 3200 mountain lions in the most recent big game status book, couldn't find a management plan. California just completed its first comprehensive estimate of mountain lions between 3200 and 4,500 Mountain animals the lowest density was in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The highest was in Northwest California as expected. Three studies were done costing about \$2.5 million, two of the three estimated the population at the lower number of 3,200 so I'm hoping that one of you Commissioners will ask how exactly does that work? How does Nevada, a state with poorer habitat, a dropping mule deer population in severe drought or abnormally dry conditions prior to last year how does it have as many mountain lions as the entire state of California. So what we do know since the population estimate should clearly be in question, we know we allow these animals to be hunted 24/7, 365 days a year. This fact diminishes the animals stature perceptually you allow them to be chased by dogs which data does actually show

allows hunters to prey on animals unlike bears but hunters still kill 30 to 50% of females in different subpopulations because some hunters just don't care. We know that the compensatory mortality hypothesis has been disproven by showing that hunting of males has a negative additive effect on female population growth and a potential increase in infanticide and we know that hunting the favorite adult male cougar collapses the species social structure resulting in increasing home ranges in release of juvenile males juvenile males are much more likely to be found near people and are more conflict prone, we know that you haven't changed trapping regulations which could decrease incidental trapping lions with missing toes and partial paws aren't as effective hunters this makes them more conflict prone as well in summary we really don't have a good population on the handle no offense to the Department but I think counting predators is hard and models have been found to be very inaccurate but we do know that multiple studies have found cougar hunting and other human cause mortality to be additive not compensatory we know that by multiple studies that cougar hunting increases human wildlife conflict. We know that large predators play an important role in shaping ecosystems we know that predators strengthen the genetics of ungulate populations, the only other question remaining outside of the population is you know what are you going to do , are you going to put your hunting identity aside and do what's right for our wildlife and significantly shorten the season until a new moralistic population estimate is obtained. Thank you.

Larry Johnson, public citizen, also questions the population estimate, he thinks it's significantly lower than what we really have, he referenced a college textbook published in 1947 that showed the distribution of mountain lions restricted to one third of the state. When he first came to the state almost 60 years ago you couldn't find a mountain lion track in the snow while you were deer hunting or chucker hunting and you can't go chucker hunting today without finding lion tracks in Washoe County. He had a lion take a juvenile horse about 300 yards from his front doorstep in late March. He has had lion tracks within 100 ft of his barn in summer I had a lion kill a three point mule deer in his garden in September. Last Saturday while walking his dog he saw three separate lion tracks and an adult male big track and a female track and on the next Ridge her juvenile kitten. We have such an abundance of mountain lions in in Western Nevada anyway that urges the Commission to support this lion season.

Stephanie Meyers, public citizen, says her hand was raised during the public comment portion for the bear hunt but she was ignored and doesn't know why. She wants to know how many letters pro and con the Commission received on both the bear and mountain lion hunt.

Hunters are permitted to kill about 250 mountain lions a year during a perpetual season that opens March 1st and ends the last day of February. Every hour of every day is open season on Mountain Lions. Hunters have told me that they hunt them only in the winter when they can see their paw prints in the snow well if that's true then confined the hunt to Winter. Between 2000 and 2021 at least 4,229 mountain lions were killed by Nevada hunters and trappers and the state's own lethal removal efforts. Although they can't be legally treed your own record show about two dozen lions are discovered each year in traps set for Bobcat, based on reports by Trappers which probably underestimate the real numbers. What we as humans deem acceptable treatment of wildlife is shifting in this era of unprecedented habit loss and biodiversity loss public opinion is swinging to more humane treatment of our animals. You as Commissioners

must understand and acknowledge this change by examining your own feelings and empathy for other creatures. Wildlife belongs to all of us, all of the public not just the hunters. The views of the public must be taken into account we are the majority of Nevadans please limit the take or the time or cancel this hunt all together.

Jim Schmid, public citizen, hunts in Nevada as well as all over the western states and opposes only the hound hunting of lions. He support \$5 lion tags for both residents and non-residents just like in Washington where you can attain the necessary lion harvest with only spot stock hunting. Washington lengthened their season and slashed their tag prices lion harvest in Washington is now up over the days of hound hunting. We cannot keep poking and ignoring the non-hunting community with the offensive tactic of hound hunting of lions. He encourages the Commission not to fall for the argument that all hunters must stand with hound hunters this is false. Nevada is a ballot initiative State, a ballot initiative banning all lion hunting will pass in Nevada if one makes it to voters therefore we need to ban hound hunting of lions to save lion hunting by spot and stock. He was with a friend and they harvested a lion in the middle of the day that he glassed up we can get this done spot and stock. Thank you.

Fred Voltz, public citizen, verbatim comments. Akin to the demonization and scapegoating of coyotes and wild horses, mountain lions have been the subject of much vitriol and visceral hatred in Nevada.

Finding projects to satisfy the counterproductive predator program statute requires the Commission and NDOW to spend 80% of collected monies on lethal activities and has caused several lethal projects targeting mountain lions. Does anyone know how many lions have been cumulatively killed because of these programs?

Just this month, a seven-year California study updated 40-year-old information about that state's mountain lion population. The number range declined significantly, by up to 46%. California admitted it had previously done a back-of-the-envelope calculation of mountain lion numbers without much data to support it.

Do we have anything better than a back-of-the-envelope guesstimate of Nevada mountain lion numbers before setting a 247 killing quota for licensees?

With the 365/24/7 hunting season, when do the lions ever catch a break from pursuit by human killers, be they NDOW licensees or government contract-killing mercenaries?

Where is the summarized data from Russell Woolstenhulme or the current NDOW employee responsible for chronicling all the unintended victims of trapping activities, including mountain lions? What are the mountain lion mortality numbers?

What is the additional mountain lion death count from vehicle strikes, rancher and farmer kills, poison, US Fish and Wildlife Service and all other sources?

We see no indication of the consolidated mortalities inflicted on mountain lions and how that relates to an informed guesstimate as to the total mountain lions in Nevada. Why not?

Where is the management plan for mountain lions?

All these unanswered questions directly impact the wisdom and appropriateness of a mountain lion hunt. To approve this hunt with such sketchy information once again proves the focus on hunter killing opportunities, not wildlife's best interests when they already face harsh climatic and habitat conditions.

Gina Greison representing Nevada Voter for Animals was troubled to know that it doesn't seem that the Commission is basing decisions on a plan or science or biology when it comes to many of the different hunts but especially the mountain lions and bears. The issue of fur trapping is beyond her that we still allow that again. For the record she not against hunting she is against fur trapping and against the bear hunt and not in support

of allowing a 24/7 365 hunt of the mountain lions. She is definitely in opposition of allowing hounds to hunt mountain lions and thinks would be nice if we could actually see a plan and see it based on science rather than hunter desires.

## MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

### *Saving America's Lion*

Our mission is to ensure America's lion survives and flourishes in the wild.



January 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2024

Nevada Department of  
Wildlife 6980 Sierra  
Center Pkwy #120,  
Reno, NV 89511

#### **RE: CR 24-08 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits**[\[1\]](#)

Dear Nevada Department of Wildlife Staff,

We write to you on behalf of our Nevada members regarding the upcoming decision CR 24-08 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits 1. We find the recommendations found in this letter to best align with current mountain lion research, and the NDOW's mission "to protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States."[\[2\]](#)

**We encourage the Commission to move forward with recommendation to close the interstate hunt with Utah.** The status of mountain lions hunting in Utah leaves concerns with allowing an interstate hunt. The previous interstate hunt allowed hunters in both states to purchase tags from their home state's department and fill them in the interstate hunt units.[\[3\]](#) Previously hunters in both states were required to purchase and attain a state hunting license and buy tags from their state's wildlife agency.[\[4\]](#) However, with the changes made by HB 0469 in 2023, Utah hunters are no longer required to purchase tags from their state and there is no limit on the number of cougars that can be killed in Utah by license holding hunters.

These changes create a rift both in practice and in the mutual management of overlapping mountain lion populations. The Utah DWR would not receive funds from tag sales, yet hunters would still be permitted to hunt in Nevada. Nevada hunters hunting in Utah, with a Nevada hunting license would also be able to hunt without limit in Utah and remain in accordance with Utah's regulations. Given the state of mountain lion management in Utah, allowing interstate hunting creates too great a dissonance in conservation practices and regulations accepted with a Nevada hunting license. Due to these issues, we recommend that

the Commission approve the recommendation to end the interstate hunt with Utah.

**We request that all sources of anthropogenic mortality be included in the 247 mountain lion statewide harvest limit.** The current recommendation for a statewide harvest limit of 247 mountain lions is within the recommended levels of mortality that Beausoleil et al (2013) determined can avoid risk of detriment to populations, social behavior, and conflict with humans.<sup>[5]</sup> This is achieved by maintaining harvest levels below the intrinsic growth rate of mountain lions (about 14%). The harvest limit of 247 mountain lions is below this limit, based on the 2015 population estimate of 3,400 lions by Mahoney and Benson (2021).<sup>[6]</sup> However, the harvest limit is only sustainable if it accounts for *all* anthropogenic mortality.

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In 2022, Wildlife Services reported killing 19 mountain lions,<sup>[7]</sup> and the Predator Management Plan Report reported an additional 13 mountain lions were killed by private contractors as part of bighorn sheep protection.<sup>[8]</sup> Outside of lethal removal from Wildlife Services and the Predator Management Plans, individuals experiencing conflict concerns can also apply for a depredation permit to kill a mountain lion. Mountain lions can also be caught in snare and leghold traps intended for bobcats.

These cats are not monitored after sustaining injuries from these traps, which could lead to their deaths if they are unable to hunt due to injury. All these deaths will affect mountain lion populations and should be included in the harvest limit to best conserve Nevada's mountain lions. As reported in the Nevada *Current*, incidental mortality from trapping kills dozens of mountain lions each year according to NDOW records, with the big cats often dying painfully as a result. The report included graphic photos of the harm caused by this incidental trapping.<sup>[9]</sup> Ensuring that this mortality counts toward season closures would benefit wildlife by preventing excessive mortality and would strengthen incentives for hunters and trappers to report dangerous trapping practices.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations regarding the CR 24-08 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits. Please include these comments as part of the official record regarding this decision.

Sincerely,



Josh Rosenau

Director of Policy & Advocacy  
916-442-2666 x107

[jrosenau@mountainlion.org](mailto:jrosenau@mountainlion.org)

## References

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Chairman Caviglia asked if Project 42 was for an updated population estimate for Mountain lions in Nevada.

Staff Specialist Pat Jackson said yes it was being updated for peer review.

Staff Specialist Jackson said 3,200 to 3,400 all individuals not adults.

Commissioner McNinch wanted to mentioned Nevada is complicated. We don't have a Mule Deer population that could support a large population, but we do have a large number of horses. Lion counting in Nevada is difficult. He does feel there is room for improvement. The take of lactating females will have people forming an opinion. He thinks the incidental take on trapping could be worked on. This number of 247 could see it going up or going down. We've been sitting on it for a long time.

**VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF COMMISSION REGULATION 24-08 MOUNTAIN LION SEASON AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER WALTHER SECONDED THE MOTION.**

Commissioner McNinch asked for clarification on Unit 091 being a huntable unit.

Chairman Caviglia clarified that 091 would stay open but not an interstate hunt.

Staff Specialist Jackson can hunt in Nevada in 091.

Chairman Caviglia brought the motion back to the Commission.

**MOTION CARRIED 8-1 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION.**

K\*. Commission Regulation 24-09, 2024-2025 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas – Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder  
The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2024-2025 hunting season and quotas for restricted non-resident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder presented Commission Regulation 24-09 2024-2025 Restricted Non resident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas. The regulation can be accessed at this link:

20K-CR-24-09-2024-2025-Restricted-Nonresident-Guided-Mule-Deer-Seasons-and-Quotas.pdf (ndow.org)

Joe Crim representing Pershing CABMW would like to see in Unit 043, 044 and 046, used to have 045 included. If it was made a standalone would like they to cut 043, 044, 046 to one as

opposed to three.

Chairman Caviglia asked if we were married to these numbers because of the NRS, he doesn't feel we are married but we can't exceed but we could lower the quota. Won't change the net, will take it away from guided hunt to general draw.

Commissioner Kiel asked if the intention was to put those tags in Unit 045.

Staff Specialist Schroeder said no he thought the intention was to change it from three to one.

Commissioner Kiel asked Joe Crim if it really mattered.

Joe Crim representing Pershing CABMW, advised it's neither here nor there because they didn't realize it would revert to the general hunt.

Commissioner Booth asked if any guides were consulted in Pershing CABMW.

Joe Crim representing Pershing CABMW said nobody ever showed up to the meetings.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 24-09 AS PRESENTED COMMISSIONER BOOTH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

**19. Future Commission Meetings and Commission FOR POSSIBLE ACTION  
Committee Assignments – Secretary Jenne and Chairman Caviglia**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 8 and 9, 2024 in Las Vegas. 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 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.

Secretary Jenne said that on his list, predator plan, wildlife damage, waterfowl seasons, wildlife trust account, update on the evaluation on harvest report. Committees meetings include TAAHC, Heritage, Wildlife Damage, APRP, and Mule Deer enhancement.

Chairman Caviglia requested an update on Winecup Gamble. He also mentioned that we needed to restart the Land Owner Compensation Committee and Vice Chairman Rogers would be involved.

No CABMW comment  
No Public Comment

**19. Public Comment Period**

**INFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Larry Johnson representing Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife I'm president hopefully I get six minutes because I've two items, first one Konkow tribe of the Feather river just the other side of Quincy the bear hunt was a portion of our religion portion of our tradition, it was a right of passage for our young men and we ate Bears. John Fremont, Kit Carson's journals documenting killing grizzly bears at the mouth of the Feather river and inviting our Warriors in for the banquet and when they recovered arrow heads beneath the skin of this of this grizzly bear and they marveled at the great quantity of meat these guys could consume. So it is the Bears were not off limits as far as Native Americans go I can't speak for the local Washoe tribe along those veins we did consume meat from what we killed and in that respect I support the change to use edible parts of both bears and mountain lions and I realize that requires an NRS and of course Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife that's what we do is legislation and I want to have discussions with the Department as to whether it would be their bill or our bill, we can arrange sponsors we can do whatever but it's something I think would be prudent to advance through the next legislature. Next item is Mule Deer, I also sit on Washoe County subcommittee for the Mule deer enhancement our deer in are in real trouble quite frankly it's hard for me to admit that I lived and hunted through the good old years in Nevada and so forth but we have tried to identify every adverse impact that would affect our deer herds and particularly we've singled out area 014. So we have thrown great sums of money at wildfire restoration, we've done a lot in Water Resource work, we've done a lot in GPS when it came to predator control which we felt was also important we had some arm wrestling to do quite frankly with the Department of Wildlife but we have a program underway in which we have removed more mountain lions from area 014 then could eat the entire projected population deer population probably twice the population. I urge us to look at every factor we can possibly throw at these Management areas along those lines I got to really commend the Department of Wildlife, their habitat division have put so many wonderful projects on the ground as many as they can permit, design contract out and do. That's their limiting factor and I want to enter into discussions with the Department as well as if there are potentially additional funds available in this arena for Habitat improvements and I don't care if it's control burns. Our deer in are in real trouble and we need to be doing everything that we can possibly think of. In the Feather my great-grandfather famous Indian tracker and manhunter some people said bounty hunter, Dixie Johnson the Dixie fire the second largest fire in in California history was on his pack trail is where it started and why it was named the Dixie fire he's probably rolling over in his grave because it'll take a lifetime to restore the damage that occurred from that fire. Thanks for your time.

Catherine Smith, public citizen. For the record I was a non-informed member of the public 10 years ago when the bear hunt started I also come from a hunting family in Texas and Alabama had my own support Wildlife tag when I lived in Tennessee. Moved out here heard about a bear

hunt and here we are. I didn't even know bears were hunted. I almost felt betrayed I have to say so this Commission created me and you are creating more people like me they're often silent because they see the futility in the process and it's continuing to perpetuate. Back to my originally scheduled comment, I recently took a trip to Rome and visited the Coliseum historian Carassius Dio estimated that over 9,000 animals were killed over the course of the 100 day inauguration. There are stories in Virginia City Museum that tell tales of bears and other animals fighting, dogs fighting the list goes on and on. Of course society has changed and these activities are now taboo but are they so many current wildlife regulations that allow a similar kind of behavior just outside of the public eye. Should anything go, if a population doesn't decline does taking the meat matter when the intent is clearly a trophy. I mean to me it only takes away from scavengers it's worse for the environment. What's okay when hunting an animal, the line is different for different people so once again I am going to request the commission have an Ethics Committee or something similar. In this forum I come across as lecturing, judgey there's nothing I can do about that everyone's shields are up and biases are working. Discussing these differences, making us all uncomfortable and I'm very uncomfortable, it's courageous though it's courageous to have a different opinion than those in your peer group and it's a shame that so many in the hunting community punish those who think differently so severely. The only way I see a small chance for understanding would be some type of committee allowing for open dialogue. Wildlife management is like a microcosm of the current political landscape demonizing each other only perpetuates this lack of understanding. Wildlife in the west is really struggling and it is so shortsighted to think that people with different perspectives aren't valuable and that's how we feel as useless so in close to quote Adam Grant one of my favorite authors, "the goal of a great discussion isn't to land on the same page it's to explore different views nods and smiles, stroke your ego and close your mind. Thoughtful questions stoke your curiosity and stretch your thinking consensus makes you comfortable dissent makes you stronger."

Glenn Bunch representing Mineral County CAMBW, feels like he came off a little hard earlier on the bear hunt, his county don't care if they have bear hunting or not. Last year there was bad weather like the rest of the state and people could get to the bears. He stated they don't have that many bear hunters in their area but when people call and ask him where the bears are he tells them they have to go where the deer are. The bears follow the deer because the deer beat down the snow and go to where the berries are and so to the bears because that's their food source. They follow in from California, we don't have an overflow of bears in Mineral County.

Caron Tayloe, public citizen, wanted to respond to the comment from a Sportsman made after her testimony, she wants to remind those sportsmen that hunter opportunity is all about emotion,

when you look at it. She also wanted to address anecdotal evidence about mountain lions in the state she lives in South Reno and has for most of her life. Her community has mountain lions all the time, they text each other and call each other and let them know when there is a mountain lion around. It's no reason to kill or hound them just because you have a Mountain Lion in your yard.

Stephanie Meyers, public citizen, she would just like to second Catherine Smith's idea of having

some ethics discussions. Despite what the Commission says say she does not feel heard she does not think the Commission are listening to her community. Meeting after meeting after meeting she is beaten down and she don't know how any of them have survived, we really need more discussion. The Commission needs more discussion and needs to hear what the general public has to say. Thank you.

Secretary Jenne wanted to give an update as this will be Jen Newmark's last Commission meeting she is going to Wildlife Management Institute having been stolen by Tony Wasley. She's been working with us for since 2015 and she has been a heck of an asset, she's done great things for the Department and she's done a great job at leading the Wildlife Diversity Division we wanted to just give our acknowledgement and appreciation of all the work that she's done through the years, efforts that she's made in leading that Division and all the contributions that she's done for Nevada's Wildlife which is often that segment of wildlife populations that are not talked about much in here. They're the other high percentage of the 900 species that we have in the State of Nevada. We appreciate her work and in that she's not far away we are very happy that we'll continue to lean on her. We wish her well and I just wanted to give a thank you.

Meeting adjourned 15:42 p.m.

\*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at [ndow.org/events/january-2024-commission-meeting/](https://ndow.org/events/january-2024-commission-meeting/) Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1597 or [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org). In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting [ndow.org/events/January-2024-commission-meeting/](https://ndow.org/events/January-2024-commission-meeting/).

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