

Action Report

**CABMW recommendations for the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Meeting on:
March 8 -9, 2024**

Eureka _____ **County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife**

Submitted by Chairman: Jayme Halpin _____

To the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners: wildlifecommission@ndow.org, c/o Executive Assistant: Lynda Barr lbarr@ndow.org

CABMW Members Present: Jayme Halpin, Chairman; Trent Gordon; Vice-Chairman, Jim Evans
Others: Ridge Ricketts, NDOW Fisheries Biologist (virtually); Scott Roberts, NDOW Supervising Game Biologist; Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County Natural Resource Manager; Hallee Dechambeau, CAB Secretary

Commission Agenda Action Items:

1) NWBC agenda item 7, Reports: G, Draft Fiscal Year 2025 Predation Management Plan

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____ See comment below _____

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

2) NWBC agenda item 8, Wild Horse and Burro Letter

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition _____ See comment below _____

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

Members of the public signed in:

3) NWBC agenda item 9, Petition – Ms. Rebecca Goff

Recommendation

In Support _____ In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

Members of the public signed in:

Action Report

Mr. Halpin made a motion to not support this petition, and to send a previously written letter to NWBC regarding this matter written by then Chairman of this Board, Mr. Evans.
(See Attachment 1) The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon, and passed unanimously.

4) NWBC agenda item 18, Commission General Regulations - Workshop: A, Commission General Regulation 520 – Tag Deferral Extenuating Circumstances Revision

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

5) NWBC agenda item 18, Commission General Regulations - Workshop: B, Commission General Regulation 521 – Junior Tag Transfer

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

6) NWBC agenda item 19, General Regulation – Adoption: A, Commission General Regulation 500, Subdivision Map Review

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

Mr. Evans made a motion to continue to oppose, with recommendations as previously stated by this Board, that the regulations stay within the limits of state law and go through the county planning process rather than making developers submit information directly to NDOW and bypassing the counties planning commissions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon, and passed unanimously.

7) NWBC agenda item 19, General Regulation – Adoption: B, Commission General Regulation 511, Wildlife Management Area Designations

Recommendation

Action Report

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

- 8) ***NWBC agenda item 20, Commission Regulations: A, Commission Regulation 24-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands for the 2024-2025 Seasons***

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

Mr. Evans made a motion to support with the following recommendations:

- Scaup seasons in the Northeast zone be extended to match the ending of the general season for ducks and mergansers. The reason being that most sportsman are not hunting with decoys and blinds in this region, most are jump shooting, and it is difficult to differentiate between various types of ducks and scaup at the farther distance.
- Adding a late season hunt for snow geese in the Northeast zone.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Gordon, and passed unanimously.

- 9) ***NWBC agenda item 20, Commission Regulations: B, Commission Regulation 23-04 – Amendment 3, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons***

Recommendation

In Support In Opposition See comment below

Other comments, including a dissenting viewpoint (different than the majority) or issue brought up during discussion:

of public signed in/testified for this item:

Action Report

Attachment 1 Regarding Wildlife Hunting Contests:



EUREKA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
J.J. Goicoechea, Chairman + Mike Sharkozy, Vice Chair + Rich McKay, Member
PO Box 694, 10 South Main Street, Eureka, Nevada 89316
Phone: (775) 237-7211 + Fax: (775) 237-5614 + www.co.eureka.nv.us

March 19, 2021

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Via wildlifecommission@ndow.org

RE: Wildlife hunting contests

Dear Board of Wildlife Commissioners:

The Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB) submitted a letter to you, dated March 11, 2021, (enclosed) related to the renewed movement to ban wildlife hunting contests, primarily coyote contests. The Eureka County Board of Commissioners voted today to unanimously support the CAB's letter.

We join the CAB in asking that you deny any efforts and take no further action to ban coyote or other wildlife hunting contests in Nevada.

Thank you for taking our input and requests into consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.J. Goicoechea".

J.J. Goicoechea, DVM, Chairman
Eureka County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Eureka CAB
Eureka County NRAC

Enclosure – Eureka CAB letter

Action Report

Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

PO Box 682
Eureka, NV 89316

Phone 775-237-6010

March 11, 2021

Board of Wildlife Commissioners via email:

Tiffany East, Chair - tiffany@tiffanyeastpr.com

Tom Barnes, Vice Chair - barnestk5@outlook.com

Tommy Caviglia - tccaviglia1980@email.com

Jon Almberg - almbergnv@gmail.com

Shane Rogers - shanerogers9@yahoo.com

Kerstan Hubbs - khubbs@essentiallegalservices.com

Casey Kiel - ckiel@coeur.com

David McNinch - davidmcninch@att.net

Ron Pierini - pieriniron@gmail.com

Tony Wasley, Director of NDOW and Secretary to the Commission, twasley@ndow.org

RE: Wildlife hunting contests

Dear Chair East and Commission members:

On behalf of the Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (Eureka CAB), this letter addresses the renewed movement to ban wildlife hunting contests, primarily coyote contests.

We ask the Commission to deny any efforts and take no further action to ban wildlife and primarily coyote hunting contests in Nevada. We will focus our input here on coyote contests as anti-hunting interests want you to believe the current efforts are about coyote contests. The truth is, these groups simply oppose all hunting and all lethal predator management. Targeting of coyote contests by these anti-hunting entities is a strategic step toward fulfilling their ultimate agenda of prohibiting all hunting and lethal predator management. Evidence for this is the tone and language chosen- the terms "coyote *killing* contest" and "wildlife *killing* contest" are used by these entities. Even the Commission agenda for the March meeting use the term "killing contest." Use of these terms is meant to stir emotions. ALL harvest of wildlife, including fish, meets the definition of "killing." Are big buck contests, field trials, bass tournaments, and organized chukar hunts the next targets? What about other competitive "trophy" hunts sponsored by the State such as auction tags?

Also, these anti-hunting entities try to peg participants of contests as non-sportsmen, being full of blood-lust and killing just for the sake of killing. The large majority of hunters that participate in these contests are truly sportsmen and conservationists. Most of these hunters see the overall benefit of predator management and the role of predators and do not wish to eradicate coyotes. They want predators actively managed as other wildlife are.

Further, the anti-hunting entities argue that several of the tenets of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation are violated. We argue that contests are not opposed to these applicable tenets as outlined below.

Page 1 of 3

Action Report

Wildlife is Held in the Public Trust

NDOW and the Commission retains full authority to manage coyotes in the public trust to ensure current and future generations always have wildlife, including the coyotes and their prey. The State has the ability to address effects to overall coyote populations should it be found that coyotes are at risk of extirpation or have numbers too low to provide their proper ecologic role.

Prohibition on Commerce of Dead Wildlife

Coyote contests do not create any unregulated economic markets for wildlife because the State already classifies coyotes and retains full authority to provide additional regulation if it becomes necessary to ensure coyote sustainability.

Democratic Rule of Law

Inspired by Theodore Roosevelt, this tenet focuses on maintaining open access to hunting resulting in many benefits to society. This tenet includes continued access to firearms and the hunting industry, of which most funding for conservation comes. Coyote contests directly meet this tenet by promoting hunting and providing a mechanism to connect hunters and communities socially and economically.

Hunting Opportunity for All

Similar to the tenet, Democratic Rule of Law, coyote contests are not in contradiction to Hunting Opportunity for All. They provide additional opportunities to hunters.

Non-Frivolous Use

This tenet has also been described as “Wildlife Should Only be Killed for a Legitimate Purpose,” including for food and fur, self-defense and property protection (including livestock and wildlife). Coyote control contests serve a distinct and legitimate public benefit. Granting the petition or taking other actions to prohibit hunting contests will undermine wildlife management tools used to control the highly adaptable and growing coyote population. Organized coyote events do not threaten the health of the overall coyote population, but rather provide an avenue to help keep it in check, which provides a public safety benefit and reduces losses of other wildlife and livestock. Additionally, many of these contests are accomplished to raise funds for habitat or other wildlife enhancement, such as guzzler installation and removal of encroaching pinyon-juniper trees (e.g., Silver State Sportsmen’s Association).

Scientific Management

We acknowledge that there are studies that have suggested, as the support material for the petitioners highlight, that “random killing of coyotes can have undesirable consequences, including the production of more coyotes and problematic dispersal of juveniles into the surrounding areas.” However, many of these same studies have highlighted that integrated and maintained methods of predator control – lethal and non-lethal – are the most effective in resulting in the overall objective of protecting wildlife, livestock, and private property, while still sustaining a predator component in the ecosystem. It must be acknowledged that in those cases where it was concluded that random lethal coyote control, bounties, or contests were not successful in reducing predator impact, there were limited, if any, other targeted and integrated predator control methods taking place. Any type of predator work must be actively sustained and continued to be successful in meeting objectives. We agree that coyote contests are not the answer for predator control but are a piece of the integrated strategy.

Too many predator projects have been deemed “ineffective” or “unsuccessful” simply because they were not implemented in a sustained way to provide the necessary results. The debate that should be occurring with the Commission must focus on implementing, expanding, and continuing integrated

Action Report

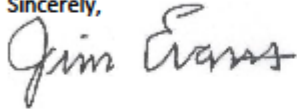
coyote control, as the science suggests, across the State that leverages coyote hunting contests effectiveness as a part of reducing predation on declining mule deer herds, sage grouse, and livestock operations.

Again, for the reasons we have identified above, we ask that you deny any efforts and take no further action to ban coyote or other wildlife hunting contests in Nevada.

Conclusion

Thank you for taking our input and requests into consideration. We look forward to working with the Commission and Department to bring favorable resolution to this issue.

Sincerely,



Jim Evans, Chairman
Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

cc: Jack Robb, NDOW Deputy Director, jrobb@ndow.org, via email
Eureka County Commissioners
Eureka County Natural Resources Advisory Commission