

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting **DRAFT Minutes**

Meeting Location:

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Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 E 9th Street, Building A
Reno, Nevada 89512

Video streaming and Teleconferencing available at:

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Southern Region Office
4747 Vegas Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

and

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Eastern Region Office
60 Youth Center Road
Elko, NV 89801

Public comment will be taken on every action item and regulation workshop item after discussion but before action on each item, and at the end of each day's meeting. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person. The chairman, in his discretion, 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 or attend and make comment during the meeting and are asked to complete a speaker card and present it to the Recording Secretary. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments in order to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

Forum restrictions and orderly business: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks that antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners ("Commission") with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format.

NOTE: Public comment allowed on each action item and at the end of the meeting.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the two-day meeting:

Chairman Brad Johnston	Vice Chairman Paul E. Valentine
Commissioner Jon Almberg	Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Commissioner Casey Kiel	Commissioner Tiffany East
Commissioner Tommy Caviglia	Commissioner David McNinch

Commissioner Tom Barnes (not present May 3, 2019)

Secretary Tony Wasley	Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton
Recording Secretary Brandy Arroyo	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance for the two-day meeting:

Deputy Director Liz O'Brien	Management Analyst III Kailey Taylor
Deputy Director Jack Robb	Administrative Assistant III Lynn Walker

Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling
Chief Game Warden Tyler Turnipseed
Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
Conservation Education Division Administrator Chris Vasey
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox
Habitat Staff Biologist Brad Hardenbrook
Habitat Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber
Wildlife Staff Biologist Ed Partee
Wildlife Staff Biologist Kyle Neill
Management Analyst Maureen Hullinger
Administrative Assistant IV Kathleen Teligades
Game Management Biologist Steve Kimble

Fisheries Division Administrator Jon Sjöberg
Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne
Administrative Assistant III Brandi Martinez
Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham
Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Administrative Services Officer Tim Doucette
Wildlife Staff Biologist Mike Scott
Administrative Assistant IV Natalie Pannunzio

Public in Attendance in Reno for the two-day meeting:

Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW
Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt CABMW
Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW
Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW
Billie Williams, Mineral CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Mitch McVicars, White Pine CABMW

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW
Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW
Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW
Mel Belding, Washoe CABMW

Chris Cefalu, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Gerald Lent, Nevada Hunter's Association
Jonathan Lesperance, Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance
Tina Nappe, self
Jeannette Hughes, self

Lydia Peri, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
Linda Linton, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Joe Crawford, Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance
Sonja Almberg, self
Bill Miller, self

Public in Attendance in Las Vegas for the two-day meeting:

Jana Wright, self
Stephanie Myers, self

Joseph Terry, self

Public in Attendance in Elko for the two-day meeting:

Bert Gurr, Elko CABMW

Jim Evans, Elko CABMW

Friday, May 3, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.

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

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Vice Chairman Valentine, Commissioners Almberg, Caviglia, East, Hubbs, Kiel, and McNinch. Commissioner Barnes was absent on Friday, May 3, 2019.

CABMW members present: Robert Jacobson, Lyon CABMW; Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW; Tom Cassinelli, Humboldt CABMW; Cory Lytle, Lincoln CABMW; Mitch McVicars, White Pine CABMW; Craig Burnside, Douglas CABMW; Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW; Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW; Ted McElvain, Lander CABMW; Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW; Gene Green, Carson CABMW; and Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired whether she needed to abstain from voting if she was not present at the last meeting in March 2019.

Chairman Johnston stated that he does not believe if you miss a meeting in its entirety you do not need to abstain from voting on the minutes; you still have the opportunity to review and comment.

Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Bryan Stockton stated that the Chairman was correct.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Elko.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

3. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston – Informational
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 Wasley may also be discussed.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she received correspondence from the public who were concerned about the bear hunt and many of them are in opposition to it. The correspondence will be forwarded to the Department. She further stated that the correspondence will be discussed tomorrow during the quota agenda item.

Commissioner Kiel thanked the Department and Wildlife Staff Biologist Pat Jackson for allowing him the opportunity to attend a field trip to the Delamar Mountains regarding Project 44. He stated that it was insightful seeing the collaboration between the horse specialist from the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the mule deer and lion specialists from Utah State University, and the Department. This project showcased the benefit not only to wildlife and predator management, but also to the range land conditions and the overall health of the wild horse herd on the Delamar Mountains.

Secretary Wasley stated that he has received correspondence on behalf of the Department which was also received by the Commission; there was one piece of correspondence that some of the Commissioners did not receive directly so it was subsequently forwarded to the Commission.

Secretary Wasley stated that Public Service Recognition week is May 6-10, 2019, and the Department has made efforts to highlight the tenure of our employees. The Department will be

hosting a series of public recognition events at our offices throughout the state. He presented the 2019 Tenure Awards for the following people in the western region for 25 years of service: Fisheries Supervisor Kim Tisdale, Western Region; Game Warden John Swisher, Fallon; and Game Biologist Carl Lackey, Reno. He also presented the 2019 Tenure Awards for the following people for 30 years of service: Habitat Supervisor Brad Hardenbrook, Las Vegas; Fisheries Supervisor John Elliott, Elko; and Game Supervisor Mike Scott, Western Region. Secretary Wasley presented a plaque to Maureen Hullinger for her 30-year service and provided her background with the Department.

Chairman Johnston complimented Maureen's knowledge of the tag application system and stated that her service has been tremendous and very much appreciated on behalf of the Commission.

4. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational

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.

CABMW comment in Reno:

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, referenced a news article in the Review-Journal on Monday, April 29, 2019, which was provided to the Recording Secretary for the exhibit file. The article is regarding helium-filled mylar balloons and their negative impact on the environment and how they threaten wildlife. A Clark CABMW member has collected over 280 mylar balloons while hiking at high elevation the last two years. Other states have laws against mass balloon ascensions and others have current legislation about this problem. He provided statistics about the issue of the helium-filled mylar balloons in the environment and asked if the Commission has thought about the impacts on wildlife.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Glenn Bunch, representing Mineral CABMW, provided plans for the June Commission meeting which will be held at the El Capitan Travel Lodge and Casino in Hawthorne, Nevada. He stated that they have scheduled a trip to Mount Grant to see the sheep habitat as well as a tour of Sportsman's Beach to see the lake level decline. For those intending on hiking Mount Grant, a form will be required to be completed prior to the event to obtain military clearance. The form will be forwarded to Deputy Director Jack Robb so that the paperwork can be completed prior to participating in the hike. They will also have forms available the morning of Friday, June 20, 2019, so that the process can be completed prior to the hike. The Mineral County Sportsman's Club is hosting and paying for the dinner at the El Capitan on Friday, June 20, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Bunch thanked Maureen Hullinger for the work that she has done for the Department.

Robert Jacobson, representing Lyon CABMW, thanked the Department for the hard work that was done on the Big Game Status Book and expressed his gratitude to the hard work that goes into the data collection and the work that is put into the project.

Tom Cassinelli, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that he is concerned about the availability of the Big Game Status Book this year as it was late getting out to the CABMW's. He had a chance to have his mailed, but it would not have made it to him in time for their CABMW meeting. This is the first year it did not get to him before the quota meetings and this is one of his major tools the CABMW have to set their quotas.

- 5.* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
Commission minutes may be approved from the January 25 and 26, 2019, meeting and the March 15 and 16, 2019, meeting.

Secretary Wasley stated that the Department recognized that the header on the Draft March Minutes should read March 15 and 16, 2019 instead of March 3 and 4, 2019.

Vice Chairman Valentine stated that the March 2019 minutes reflect that John Hiatt was identified with the wrong CABMW and that he should be associated with the Clark CABMW instead.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Elko.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE BOTH OF THE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 25 AND 26, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING AND THE MARCH 15 AND 16, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED, BUT WITH THE FOLLOWING CORRECTIONS: IN THE HEADER OF THE MARCH 2019 MINUTES, THE DATE SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO MARCH 15 AND 16, 2019, AND THE MINUTES SHOULD REFLECT THAT JOHN HIATT SHOULD BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLARK CABMW. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

- 6.* Presentation of Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft) – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2020 Draft Predation Management Plan with the Department. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented a PowerPoint on the Fiscal Year 2020 Predation Management Plan. http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner East inquired about how this year's budget compared to last year's budget. She also asked if he would provide information regarding the feral horses.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that the budgets were similar. He also stated that he would provide the information she requested.

Discussion ensued between Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson and Commissioner McNinch regarding the history of the Heritage account, how the money is spent, and the Heritage Projects.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Jana Wright, private citizen, thanked the Department for improving the Predation Management Plan every year even though she does not agree with all of the projects. She suggested that in the final report every year, the Commission give direction to staff to have a box that has a running total for the projects. Since each project seems to continue each year, this would be beneficial to her without having to go back to review the previous year's report to see what was spent.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Elko.

COMMISSIONER ALMBERG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 DRAFT PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

7. Committee Reports

A.* Legislative Committee Report – Commissioner and Committee Chairman East–
For Possible Action

A report will be presented on the committee’s recent meetings. The Commission may review bills of interest, consider legislative committee recommendations and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills or discuss specific language as well as anything else regarding the current Legislative Session. (Support material is as of the Legislative Committee meeting held on March 16, 2019. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Bills/List>)

Commissioner East thanked the Legislative Committee, Chairman Johnston and Vice Chairman Valentine for their assistance and time. She stated that the first house passage was on April 23, 2019, and the second house passage will be on May 17, 2019. The following Legislative updates were provided to the Commission:

Assembly Bill (A.B.) 83 is the Department clean-up bill.

Larry Johnson brought A.B. 474 and it has two parts. The first part is regarding the Heritage piece and spending down anything above \$5 million; and the second part is regarding the tag transfer to disabled hunters. She provided that the Heritage portion went into A.B. 83 and will be a work session this week.

Senate Bill (S.B.) 275 started out as a bill to develop a board for guides which was opposed by the Committee. Now, the concept is that it would be an advisory board under the Department and if they had concerns or wanted to suggest an appeal or a revocation of a license, then they would report to the Commission; however, the amendment has not been seen. The Committee supported the concept of this bill this morning.

Assembly Bill 404 would allow the Commission to adopt regulations to establish conditions or events which are extenuating circumstances for a tag transfer. The Commission would establish the regulation to determine whether that person had an extenuating circumstance and would allow for a deference of the tag to the next applicable season or return the tag to the Department for restoration of any bonus points. What we lost is the ability to have the tag donated to an organization. The Committee voiced concerns about it this morning but believe it is a good step in the right direction.

Commissioner East provided that there were other bills such as the coyote contest bill and the trapping bill, that the Committee has not seen yet, but they could return so we continue to track all of the bills on the Committee's tracking list.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Committee voted on two bills to make recommendations to the Commission which was the guides bill to support the concept of the advisory board and secondly, to support what is now A.B. 404 which allows for the transfer of tags when a tag holder experiences what will be defined by the Commission as extenuating circumstances.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Elko.

Chairman Johnston expressed his disappointment with A.B. 404 with the removal of certain circumstances in which tags can be transferred to children or to charitable organizations. He is still prepared to support the legislation as it is drafted.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MOVED TO APPROVE AND SUPPORT THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE BILLS. COMMISSIONER ALBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 8-0. COMMISSIONER BARNES WAS ABSENT.

Chairman Johnston thanked Kailey and Commissioner East for their work during this legislative session. The Committee meetings have gone very smoothly because of the work that has been done prior to the Committee meeting which results in smoother Commission meetings.

- B.* Wildlife Heritage Committee Report – Vice Chairman and Committee Chairman Valentine
A report will be provided on the recent Heritage Committee.

Vice Chairman Valentine provided a report on the Wildlife Heritage Committee. At the meeting that was held last night, the focus was to select the vendors for the Heritage tags and to review the proposals for the projects for Fiscal Year 2020. He provided that they had thirteen vendors vying for fourteen tags. The Committee agreed to select the following vendors: Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN) - one mule deer tag; Mule Deer Foundation - one mule deer tag; Pershing County Chukars Unlimited - one antelope tag; Nevada Waterfowl Association - one antelope tag; Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited - one elk tag; Northern Nevada Chapter of Safari Club International - one elk tag; Wild Sheep Foundation - Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn - one desert bighorn sheep; Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - one desert bighorn sheep; Carson Valley Chukar Club - one turkey tag; Las Vegas Woods and Waters - one turkey tag; Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited - one turkey tag; WHIN - one turkey tag; and Northern Nevada Chapter of Safari Club International - one turkey tag.

Vice Chairman Valentine provided that with the project proposals, they had requested \$1,065,545 of heritage funds of which they had \$979,702.65 available, which left a deficit of \$85,842.35. The Committee was able to fund all of the projects, with the following reductions: Project 20-01 requested \$110,000 and was awarded \$100,000; Project 20-06 requested \$65,000 and was awarded \$60,150; Project 20-09 requested \$75,000 and was awarded \$70,000; Project 20-10 requested \$75,000 and was awarded \$70,000; Project 20-12 requested \$100,000 and was

awarded \$75,000; Project 20-15 requested \$61,000 and was awarded \$50,000; and, it was determined that Project 20-17 was not eligible for any heritage funding; therefore was not awarded any money.

Commissioner Alberg inquired whether Project 20-18 was funded.

Chairman Johnston responded by saying that Project 20-18 and others not mentioned were funded in full; that the small reductions made were based on the confidence that other funding sources would be available through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) to fully fund the projects; or some of the project presenters indicated that they could take a small cut to make up the difference between what was available to spend and what was being requested. Every project other than the shooting complex would get the funds it needed to be completed.

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 10:45 a.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

8. Reports – Informational

- A. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

Secretary Wasley read from the Department Activity Report:

GAME DIVISION

Last summer, the Nevada Department of Wildlife hosted the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sanctioned 28th Biennial Western States and Provinces Pronghorn Workshop in Reno. Almost 100 biologists representing 29 states and provinces, universities, and conservation organizations attended. The proceedings from the conference have just been published and are being distributed to the attendees. South Dakota will host the next conference in 2020.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife recently hosted another WAFWA sanctioned workshop in Mesquite, Nevada during April 17–19, 2019. The Desert Bighorn Council meetings were attended by 111 individuals representing 7 states, 7 federal agencies, 12 universities, and 14 conservation organizations participated in 2 days of meetings before touring portions of the Muddy Mountains. Nevada Bighorns Unlimited provided a substantial sponsorship, and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society provided funding as well. Texas will host the next meeting in 2021.

Game Division staff attended the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah during the week of February 14–17, 2019. Public attendance of this show is growing each year and floor space has become scarce. Nevada shared a booth with several other agencies. The WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group meets in association with this Expo, and staff represented Nevada at the meeting of this working group as well.

Game Division staff attended a safety coordination meeting with the Nevada Department of Transportation. Several important topics were discussed including wildlife-vehicle collisions hotspots, funding opportunities to mitigate problem areas, and a potential summit to follow-up in the future. NDOT and Department staff continue to plan an appropriate gathering to build on existing relationships and information sharing opportunities.

Game Division biologists and staff specialists have focused on wrapping up surveys and developing quota recommendations. A substantial amount of effort is invested annually in

analyzing harvest and survey data. Division staff met during April 10–11, 2019 to finalize recommendations. Quotas presented at this Commission meeting are the product of surveys conducted throughout the fall and winter, data analysis throughout the winter, and peer review before final submission. The Big Game Status Book was completed and posted to the Department's web site by April 23, 2019. In response to some of the comments from the Humboldt CABMW we will ensure that they have a hard copy in hand well in advance of their future meetings.

FISHERIES DIVISION

With the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe basins and much of eastern Nevada still at over 200 percent of average snowpack levels on April 29th, we are seeing 2019 to be a very good water year for maintaining fisheries particularly in northern and western Nevada. We anticipate a better than average ability to maintain fisheries this year but continuing high spring runoff will delay trout stocking for some western Nevada waters. Some fish stocking in the Walker basin has started but the Truckee River is flowing steadily at or above 4000 cubic feet per second as of this week.

Because of the high snowpack and runoff conditions, the treatment to remove nonnative trout in Arc Dome and the Reese River basin will be postponed until next summer. Treatments to benefit Lahontan cutthroat trout in the North Fork Little Humboldt River basin are still scheduled and will be conducted in late summer this year. Southern Region staff will also be conducting a treatment project in June at Cold Creek Pond in the Spring Mountains to remove illegally introduced goldfish, which have dominated the pond and impacted trout fishing at this popular urban pond location.

The Fisheries Division has completed a project with the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Elko County to improve the refuge's Collection Ditch which will enhance management for fisheries on the refuge and assist with management of the dike units for waterfowl production. NDOW contributed funding from the Department's Habitat Conservation Fund for dredging in combination with Federal resources.

Western Region has recently acquired and stocked approximately 25,000 tiger muskie fingerling for Chimney Reservoir as well as approximately 2.5 million walleye fry for Lahontan, Rye Patch and Chimney. Additional warm water fish deliveries are expected soon including Wipers for Lahontan and Rye Patch, white bass for Rye Patch and Washoe Lake, and channel catfish for multiple urban ponds and Rye Patch Reservoir.

Regarding walleye, spring surveys at Chimney Reservoir collected adult walleye up to 12.5 pounds and numerous very nice wipers. Angler success has been slow due to turbid conditions in the reservoir.

Staff are working with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and the Division of Public Health (DPH) on planning to address Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) which are likely to continue and increase as an issue in reservoirs across Nevada. HAB's in northern Nevada required the posting or closure of two fisheries in 2018. This is primarily a public health issue but severe HAB's can impact shoreline fishing and access for boat ramps and fishing piers.

The first 2019 surveys at Comins Lake in early April to remove northern pike collected three pike all in the range of 10 to 18 inches. We still have not found any evidence of pike reproduction and good numbers of trout and spawning age largemouth bass were sampled. This was a major effort using two electrofishing boats and 14+ hours of fishing time. Removal efforts will continue on a regular basis.

Eastern Region staff were concerned about Jiggs Reservoir because of an aerator failure over the winter but recent surveys found adult bass and bluegill to be much more abundant than expected. Stocking to augment both species will be done in the next few weeks along with trout stocking.

Fisheries staff are also working with the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on plans to improve fishing conditions at several of the ponds, initially focusing on North, Bass and Crappie ponds for carp removal and habitat improvement. This work is still in the planning stages and will be done over the winter of 2019-2020.

Division staff in March completed a five-year project to remove nonnative fishes and restore native fish habitat in the Muddy River in Clark County. Over 20 miles of the Upper Muddy River and tributaries are now free of nonnative fish which will contribute significantly to recovery of the endangered Moapa dace and help prevent future Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of other Muddy River native fishes.

A second treatment project to remove nonnative fishes from Crystal Spring in Pahranaagat Valley was completed in mid-April and appears to have been successful. This project was to benefit the endangered Hiko White River springfish and had some unique challenges to avoid impacting an endemic springsnail species that occurs only in this spring and one other location.

The spring population count for the endangered Devils Hole Pupfish was 136 adult fish, the highest spring count in over 15 years. The pupfish occurs only in Devils Hole in Nye County and is one of the rarest vertebrate species in the world. The population has declined since the 1990s with less than 40 adult fish observed in 2006 and 2007.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Three Dayton men (Elisio Rubio Jr., Elisio Rubio Sr., and Daniel Rubio) were sentenced April 16th for their roles in the illegal killing of a large male black bear in the Pine Nut Mountains two years earlier. This was the result of a very in-depth and detailed investigation that uncovered a mountain of physical and digital evidence proving that the three men planned and premeditated the killing of the bear for 11 months subsequent to locating his den in February of 2016. Each of the three men was convicted of a category D felony and fined \$5,000 in civil penalties. The sentence drew significant public criticism that the punishment was too lenient. This is still often the case in wildlife crime when the Department recommends much harsher penalties, but some courts still don't recognize the importance of wildlife crime. That being said, the three defendants will now be convicted felons who can no longer legally possess firearms. Their license privileges will be revoked, but this is likely moot as they've never even obtained or previously owned hunting or fishing licenses, much less a big game tag.

Several game wardens responded to the drowning of an 18-year-old male at Silver Lake, north of Reno on March 16th. Wardens spent in excess of 200 hours searching for the missing boy with sonar units to no avail. The body was ultimately recovered on April 13th when he floated to the surface and drifted to shore. It appears the victim had kayaked from his home and was not wearing a life jacket.

The western region saw another kayak drowning fatality on April 20th when a Reno man lost his life in the Truckee River near Verdi. This brings the total to four boating fatalities due to paddle craft drownings in the western region in 2019, all before the month of May. Despite our continued media statements regarding cold water shock and the importance of wearing life jackets, three of the four fatalities this year have had no life jackets. Also worth noting, is that non-motorized

watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards are not registered in Nevada; and therefore, do not provide a source of revenue for some of these investigations. This creates a situation in which game wardens are tasked with a great deal of work on paddle craft enforcement, search and rescue, accident investigation, and body recovery for which there is no funding source.

Three southern region game wardens assisted a special agent from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with an undercover buy of a mounted Redtail hawk that had been advertised for sale online. The charges are pending.

On April 9th, the Elko County District Attorney's Office filed 27 counts of illegal big game charges against two Idaho men, Wade and Blake Asher, for their roles in the illegal killing of two mature mule deer bucks in area 081 last fall. The charges ranged from felonies to misdemeanors including possession of big game outside of open season, waste of game, hunting without a license, hunting without a tag, unlawful killing of big game, concealing or destroying evidence of a felony, and 8 counts of conspiracy to commit various wildlife crimes.

The Lincoln County Game Warden received the third and final judgment on his antelope case from the past hunting season. This judgement was for the shooter, who plead to a gross misdemeanor for possession of big game with a sentence of 1 year in jail, suspended for 3 years of active probation. Probation includes an in-depth search clause, no alcohol, no drugs, no access to weapons, \$2500 civil penalties, no hunting or trapping for the length of the probation, and a \$350 fine to Lincoln County. The subject also forfeited his rifle to NDOW. The other two defendants in the case reached earlier gross misdemeanor plea agreements for their involvement, with a one-year jail sentence suspended for 18 months of probation to include a search clause and no alcohol or drug use for the extent of their probation. They also received a \$1,000 civil penalty and \$650 in fines for the court and the loss of hunting/fishing privileges for the extent of their probation. This brings the totals to over \$6,000 in fines and penalties for the illegally killed antelope.

A California man, Justin Atkins, was sentenced in March for a deer he killed before the season in August of 2016. The sentencing had been delayed for some time as the defendant was serving time in California on unrelated charges. In our case, Atkins was sentenced to an additional eight days in jail, and \$3500 in fines and penalties.

The Lincoln County Game Warden issued another citation to a Utah man on April 13th for collecting shed antlers during the closed season. A large pair of fresh brown elk antlers were seized. Several antler season patrols have been conducted in Eastern Nevada.

HABITAT DIVISION

The Habitat Division, in cooperation with fifteen other conservation partners pooled funds amounting to approximately \$2.9 million dollars to rehabilitate approximately 65,000 acres of fire impacted lands. The funds were spent on seeds, seed application (aerial and drill), herbicides and herbicide application across more than fifteen of the 2018 wildfires.

Habitat staff received eighteen Wildlife Heritage project proposals for the upcoming fiscal year. The authors of these proposals are seeking a total of \$1,065,545. Copies of the proposals were sent to each of the Wildlife Commissioners and CABMW Chairmen and posted on the Heritage web page. They will be one of the major agenda items at the May 2nd Wildlife Heritage Committee meeting. The Wildlife Heritage program has a record amount of funds available for new projects in FY 2020: \$979,702.65.

Habitat staff are also receiving many Upland Game Bird Stamp (UGBS) and Duck Stamp (DS) proposals for FY 2020. You will recall that through our license simplification we did away with those stamp requirements and you may be wondering how we still do that. As part of that simplification effort, the Department looked at a seven-year average in terms of percentage of total revenue that had gone into those various restricted reserve accounts, so that money still exists in those accounts and must still be used for purposes described in statute. These proposals will be sent to the Wildlife Commissioners and CABMW Chairmen in time to review before the June Commission meeting. The Commission has awarded an average of \$116,632 a year for the Upland program and \$280,965 per year from the Duck stamp account. Such projects are important sources of funding and match for habitat, research and monitoring projects that benefit sage grouse, other upland bird species, and many types of waterfowl. When we say they are important for match, leveraged in most instances at a minimum 3:1 and can often be higher, but that is a key source of match that is required for Pittman-Robertson.

The Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development's (NPCD) habitat project effectiveness monitoring efforts have begun for 2019 with four four-person crews working at project sites across northern Nevada. In addition to the vegetation data, there is one three-person crew collecting soil data that will help NPCD and others put more effective and efficient treatments on the ground. 2019 will be year three for work in Great Basin National Park on monitoring plots in the Strawberry Fire from fall 2016.

Habitat staff have recently implemented an interim water management strategy at Carson Lake to shunt incoming flows away from washed out dikes created in the 2017 flood event. These dike breaches and unprecedented water levels resulted in Carson Lake becoming a single 25,000-acre waterbody, with no management infrastructure and increased susceptibility to avian botulism, as experienced in 2018. It is our hope that we will be able to repair the multiple washouts and restore our previous water management strategy.

The Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team have drafted the Temporary Regulation language to formalize former Governor Sandoval's Executive Order (2018-32) requiring compensatory mitigation for new and expanding anthropogenic disturbances on State and Federal lands in Nevada. The regulation was heard at the March 19th Sagebrush Ecosystem Council meeting and final adoption is expected to occur at the next Council meeting on April 29, 2019. That will remain a temporary regulation. The Governor's Executive Order was to stand until regulation was adopted, but because that was passed during the temporary regulation period it will supplant the authorities expressed in the Executive Order and will be a temporary regulation that would expire in November. The sage brush ecosystem technical team plans to revisit and establish that as a permanent regulation after the legislature ends.

Senior DAG Brian Stockton stated that was the final adoption by the Commission but under the temporary regulation statute, you have wait thirty-five days to file it with the Secretary of State, so it will not be effective for thirty-five days after the adoption.

Secretary Wasley stated that it is much like our regulations, it is still subject to final approve of Legislative Commission which meets in May, but typically they just select the Chairman and Vice Chairman, so it will likely be at the June meeting where that regulation is ultimately approved and then it will be filed with the Secretary of State's office. The authorities of the Governor's Executive Order will still stand until the temporary regulation is approved and that will stand until it is replaced by a permanent regulation or expires in November. This requires mitigation for anthropogenic disturbances to sage grouse habitat on state and federal lands. Should there be a project on

federal lands that impacts sage grouse habitat, this regulation requires that those impacts be offset elsewhere through mitigation.

The Silver State Trail project is currently in the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) comment period and will be closing on June 4, 2019. This project is scheduled to be discussed at Commission's Public Land Committee and is a topic on the Commission's Saturday meeting agenda.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

Wildlife Diversity is conducting Ferruginous Hawks surveys statewide this spring as part of a two-year project. Data from various area biologists are still being compiled, but of the 18 territories reported so far, approximately 67 percent are occupied. Most territories are currently incubating eggs, so additional surveys will verify presence and success of nestlings later in the breeding season. Ferruginous Hawks are Species of Conservation Priority in the state's wildlife action plan as well as BLM "Sensitive" species, so this project is intended to provide a general update on their breeding status across Nevada.

In addition to statewide surveys, Wildlife Diversity continues to track two Ferruginous hawks with satellite transmitters as they return from their Idaho and California wintering grounds to valleys in central Nevada. Both of these birds traveled back to Nevada, only to leave again – one to Idaho and one to Barstow, CA. Ferruginous hawks have the highest first year mortalities of any large raptor in the US – greater than 70 percent mortality within the first several months. These are the last two birds of eight original birds that are continuing to provide information; four of the eight have died of various causes, and two other transmitters have stopped transmitting for unknown reasons.

In the southern region, we are conducting annual surveys for secretive marsh birds. This project is focused on detecting the federally endangered Yuma Ridgway's rail, but uses broadcast surveys to also detect other species of marsh birds. Ridgway's rail, Virginia rail, sora, and least bitterns have all been detected at Overton Wildlife Management Area. In addition to detecting sensitive marsh birds, this project is intended to evaluate the effects of management activities on bird populations and to identify appropriate conservation actions to enhance marsh bird habitat in southern Nevada.

Wildlife Diversity flew two days of aerial surveys to gather a second year of baseline raptor/corvid nesting data for a BLM-NDOW project looking at the effects of common raven nesting on electrical transmission line towers. We documented 206 nests of which 103 were empty. There were 35 occupied raven nests and 66 nests used by red-tailed hawks. A contractor has deployed a satellite transmitter on one adult female raven nesting near Searchlight, NV and we expect up to eight transmitters to be deployed in total. This is a project in collaboration with BLM to study how ravens use powerlines to nest and forage in Desert Tortoise Critical Habitat in Clark County, NV. Besides quantifying numbers of nests and tracking ravens to estimate territory size and habitat use, an element of this project will also count prey remains under nests to focus on tortoise hatchlings.

Our golden eagle tracking project in Dry Lake Valley in Lincoln County, and Hycroft Mine in northwest NV is ongoing. This spring we have assessed breeding status at ten territories, of which seven were confirmed to have laid eggs and three are unknown. We continue to track five eagles with satellite transmitters; two territory-holding adults and three non-territorial individuals of various ages. Notably, one immature eagle died in NW Arizona in March.

Since our last report, Wildlife Diversity has had a few staff changes. Joe Barnes, who was our previous southern region supervisor has been promoted to Staff Specialist in Headquarters. Joe will be relocating in June and we will be hiring a new southern region supervisor in the next month.

Long-time Wildlife Diversity Biologist Teri Slatauski, stationed in Tonopah, retired in early February. We recently hired Michael West into this position. Michael has many years of wildlife experience, most recently with the US Forest Service stationed out of Tonopah. He is very familiar with the rich resources of this part of Nevada and is already in the field conducting surveys.

Finally, we have a summer seasonal, Emily Brown, who will be assisting herpetologist Jason Jones in the southern region. Amongst other duties, her primary focus will be to track Gila monsters and desert tortoises on our long-term study sites within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION

Wildlife Education staff is putting the finishing touches on their next statewide pilot program called Know Your Nevada. Know Your Nevada is a fourth-grade classroom program that uses Nevada's living state symbols to explore their habitats, adaptations and the conservation work being done to protect them. Educators are currently recruiting fourth grade teachers to commit to the pilot for the fall of 2019. We currently have over 20 classrooms committed for this fall with waiting lists for some of the regions.

A Free Fishing Day Poster contest was distributed statewide throughout the school districts to create artwork promoting our free fishing day held annually. The winner of the Free Fishing Day Poster for 2019 was Molly Raymond, a fourth grader from Jessie Beck Elementary School. Nevada's Free Fishing Day will be on June 8, 2019.

The Conservation Education Trout in the Classroom program has been a great success this year. Angler and Wildlife Education staff supplied classrooms across the state with fish tanks and thousands of trout eggs. Once the trout grow large enough to be released, staff schedules trout release field trips at local waterways throughout the state. Thousands of students across multiple school districts have participated in the Trout in The Classroom program this year.

ConEd staff spent the week of April 8-14 setting up and staffing the NDOW exhibit at the Clark County Fair in Logandale. The exhibit included a catch-and-release fish tank, an archery range, the Operation Game Thief and Boat Education trailers and multiple interior displays. Among them were Urban Wildlife, Wildlife Education, Go Hunt and Go Fish, Fisheries and Habitat. The Divisions of State Parks and Forestry, and the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program were also present. On Thursday, the herpetologist and a volunteer provided three live-reptile seminars that were very popular. Staffing for the event included 40 agency employees and nearly 50 volunteers whose donated time will equate to approximately \$63,000 in federal match.

Public Information Officers conducted interviews with Channel 4 in Reno, KKO radio, Carson Now and the Nevada Appeal about bobcat sightings in neighborhoods. Conservation Education staff planned a campaign to promote the Big Game Application period. Conservation Education Staff have also posted numerous social media posts, recorded a podcast and have sent out two press releases to the media for the campaign. More than five emails and two messages sent via text have gone out to hunters encouraging them to renew their hunting licenses to get ready for the application period. Multiple local news stations aired ads featuring the big game application period. Conservation Education staff have been working on the Big Game application deadlines, answering phones, questions, holding hunter education classes and helping clients with their information and account profiles.

The Southern Region ConEd staff fielded media inquiries about coyotes, dead catfish at Sunset Park and rattlesnake safety for people and pets. The Las Vegas Review-Journal produced a Public Service Announcement about rattlesnake safety and KSNV TV 3 and KTNV 13 both produced general safety-awareness stories.

Conservation Education staff was interviewed live on KRNV four different times during the morning newscast and once during the noon newscast about the big game application period and other fishing, hunting and wildlife news.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE AND DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION

The Director's Office has been busy tracking bills, attending hearings and providing information for Legislator Requests from the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Two of our Department bills, A.B. 83 and S.B. 55, have made it through the past two deadlines. Assembly Bill 83 is largely a cleanup bill. It improves current department processes, discusses the definition of "harassment" of game mammals and game birds, the placement of traps, residency requirements, as well as resource enhancement stamps. Senate Bill 55 matches language that currently exists in Nevada Administrative Code to the Nevada Revised Statutes, clarifying the definition of a muzzle loading rifle or musket. The next Legislative deadline is the Second House Committee Passage on May 17.

The Department had a proposed agenda item on the May 2 Interim Finance Committee (IFC) agenda which occurred yesterday. That item was for the potential purchase of a new building in Las Vegas. The Department has been diligently working with the Legislative Counsel Bureau, the Governor's Finance Office, and Legislators to ensure all questions are answered. This is an agenda item tomorrow, so we will be discussing this more at this Commission meeting.

The Department is currently looking to fill the position of the Data and Technology Services Division Administrator after the recent departure of Chet Van Dellen. Mr. Van Dellen gave his two-week notice in early April, so we are sad to lose the variety of skills that Chet brought to the Department, but we are hopeful for the future of the DATS Division. The job announcement is open, and we are currently taking applications.

Many staff from various divisions of the Department and our licensing vendor, Kalkomey, helped with the big game application period. The Department received 317,787 applications which was over 8.5 percent more than the previous year with over 4,000 new customers to bring the total to 73,974 applicants in 2019. We will have a presentation later today on the close of the application period and the preliminary numbers will be provided.

B.* Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General Bryan Stockton

Senior Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Bryan Stockton provided that the Memorandum regarding the Litigation Update is in the support material for the meeting. He provided an update to the Walker-River case. Mineral County got an extension to file its brief until June 26, 2019, and that this case is still ongoing. He noted that due to the importance of this case, it has generated 10 briefs by other parties that are not a part of the litigation.

C. Conservation Partner Spotlight – Secretary Wasley – Informational An overview of a key conservation partner program will be shared with the Commission.

Secretary Wasley introduced the Nevada Bighorn Sheep Unlimited (NBU) organization and provided information as to the long-time relationship with the Department and the importance of their relationship to the Department. NBU has been invaluable in the past in securing funds and helicopters that can only strengthen our data and our process which created more opportunity and knowledge for our biologists. It cannot be overstated the significance of the partnership and relationship of the NBU and the Department. Secretary Wasley thanked Commissioner East for opening the door to allow us to provide well-deserved acknowledgement to our conservation partners. Secretary Wasley introduced Chris Cefalu of the NBU. Chris Cefalu provided a PowerPoint presentation on their organization.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner East thanked Mr. Cefalu and the NBU for inviting herself and her husband out to the trap and transplant event. She wanted to highlight the care and respect the animals get; and the comradery between the volunteers, the NGO's and the Department. She also asked that Chris provide an update to the purchase price of the two Nelson Bighorn tags.

Mr. Cefalu thanked the Commission for awarding the Nelson Bighorn tag and the California Bighorn tag to the NBU. He stated that the Nelson Bighorn tag went for \$137,000; and the California Bighorn tag went for \$117,000. The previous record for the California Bighorn tag was \$72,000. All of this money went into the Heritage fund.

Chairman Johnston thanked Mr. Cefalu for talking to the Commission and provided that he is proud to say that he is a former Director of NBU and life member. He also provided information to regarding the great work that the NBU does for the community.

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 1:25 p.m.

9. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational
The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide additional detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Activity Report and are intended to educate the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Secretary Wasley stated that on Monday, April 29, 2019, the big game tag application period ended at 11:00 p.m. and that today is a timely and appropriate meeting to provide an update on the results and the process. Secretary Wasley introduced Deputy Director Jack Robb.

Deputy Director Jack Robb provided an update on the 2019 tag application and the statistics using the Kalkomey dashboard. The new Kalkomey system allows us to make decisions in real-time and communicate with customers in real-time. This year, the Department wanted to make sure that our customer's expectations were met or exceeded. To do that during the big game application period, from day one, we had someone in the building from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. every day, Saturdays and Sundays included; then, during the last week of the tag application period, the staff transitioned from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and the last weekend the Department was open until 11:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Deputy Director Robb provided information as to the type of calls that were received and that the staff mostly coached people

through the application process. He also provided statistics as to how many calls were taken and how many support tickets were addressed for the big game tag application period. He stated that the Department does not have the staff to do this, but they figured it out and made it work. The Department has great employees in all divisions, and they have spent time getting to know the system to be able to answer the questions. During the last four days of the tag application period, Kalkomey staff were in the building to answer tough real-time questions.

Deputy Director Robb showed a video that captured the staff working in the office on the last night of the tag application period.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Deputy Director Robb presented the Kalkomey dashboard with more statistics of how much money was brought in, how many customers applied, and provided comparisons to other states for the tag application period. He stated that our outreach program includes reaching customers through podcasts, Instagram, Facebook, and mailers, along with contacting customers through GoHunt.com, EpicOutdoors.com and other agencies that broker tags. The recruitment is paying off because the younger age group, those between 30-40 years old, are applying more and that is not a nationwide trend. Regarding the question that asked whether a third-party vendor could advertise to the customer, the results were that 9,517 (9.37 percent) people opted in and 92,057 (90.63 percent) people opted out. This encompasses all customers of the Department, not just big game tag applicants. For the question that is asked of the people who put in for the big game draw whether they want their information to be posted online if successful, 35,857 (53.85 percent) chose to be included on the list and 46.15 percent elected to not have their results posted.

Commissioner East asked about what strategies or surveys the Department might send out to reach the almost 10,000 people that did not apply this year but did apply last year.

Deputy Director Robb stated that we will first let the bonus point period pass since we still have people trickling through that process. Then we will look at the different demographics to figure it out. The Department will reach out to those that did not apply this year and inquire as to why so that we can try to address their concerns.

Commissioner East asked how successful were the reminders that were sent out to the customers.

Deputy Director Robb stated that it was hard to measure the success of the different reminders. He provided statistics of how many text messages went out and how many people opted out of receiving those messages. Text messages seem to be our best method, but we know that we can wear it out. For future tag application periods, we invite any CABMW or Commission member to stop by the office on the last weekend of the application period to see what is going on with the staff. He stated that we will continue using our staff to manage the calls because this is a great rate of return for the Department.

10. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

No Public comment in Las Vegas.

No Public comment in Elko.

No Public comment in Reno.

Chairman Johnston announced that the Public Lands Committee will meet today at May 3, 2019, at the close of the Commission meeting, in the Washoe County Commission Chambers followed by the Landowner Compensation Tag Committee which will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters, Main Conference Room, 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Reno, Nevada.

Chairman Johnston recessed the meeting at 1:56 p.m. and stated that we will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

Saturday, May 4, 2019 – 8:30 a.m.

11. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Johnston

Chairman Johnston called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Roll call was conducted, and the Commissioners present were: Chairman Johnston, Vice Chairman Valentine, Commissioners Almberg, Barnes, Caviglia, East, Hubbs, Kiel, and McNinch.

CABMW members present: Gene Green, Carson; Ted McElvain, Lander; Giovanni Giordano, Humboldt; Billie Williams, Mineral; Joe Crim, Pershing; Steve Robinson, Washoe; Mitch McVicars, White Pine; Cory Lytle, Lincoln; Paul Dixon, Clark; Worth Nelson, Lander; Bert Gurr, Elko; and Jim Evans, Elko.

12. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No Public comment in Elko.

**COMMISSIONER EAST MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.
COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.**

13. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Johnston and Secretary Wasley – Informational
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 Wasley may also be discussed.

Secretary Wasley presented the 30-year tenure award to Western Region Game Supervisor Mike Scott and provided his background with the Department.

Senior DAG Stockton stated that he received correspondence from opposing counsel inquiring about the case, Nevada Wildlife Alliance v. Nevada Department of Wildlife. He provided an update to the case and stated that the motion to dismiss was denied and that we will move forward with the litigation.

Chairman Johnston clarified the procedural status as the Complaint having been filed, the Motion to Dismiss was filed but denied, and there was no grant of any type of relief to the plaintiffs at this point.

Senior DAG Stockton concurred and stated that the Attorney General is going to file an Answer where they will either admit or deny the allegations in the Complaint and then will move forward from there. He also stated that they are challenging it on a constitutional basis because the plaintiffs who like to view wildlife say that the predator program kills wildlife which discriminates against them unjustifiably. He stated he argued that this is a budgetary issue, but the court did not analyze that argument in its decision.

14. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
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.

No CABMW comment in Elko.

CABMW comment in Reno:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW stated that they have been approached by sportsmen who are looking at some modification to the shed hunting seasons and that they are currently working through the language and will be presenting it to the Commission in the future. He believes the appropriate approach is to go through the petition process. He stated that they were asked to put the shed antler program on their agenda for discussion; they did and had a large group in attendance at the CABMW meeting. From that, they established a subcommittee to look at it. They came up with some recommendations and their CABMW is investigating it and are in contact with other CABMW's.

Mitch McVicars, representing White Pine CABMW, stated that they had the shed season on their agenda and had a long discussion about it. There are a lot of different opinions, but it is something they all want to work on.

No CABMW comment in Las Vegas.

15. Additional Committee Reports

- A.* Landowner Compensation Tag Committee Report
A report will be provided on the Committee's recent meeting held on May 3, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Johnston provided an update to the Landowner Compensation Tag Committee who met last night. He stated that they looked at some items that were delegated from the Tag

Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) and those items were moved to the closed topic list and no further action would be taken. The one issue that came from the TAAHC that had a more substantiated discussion was making the holder of a landowner tag select their season and weapon class. After discussion, the Committee felt that the status quo should remain. They have learned that there has been an increase in landowner participation and more issuance of tags with respect to antelope over deer. The other issue discussed was a method by which they could address the landowner tags when the statutory cap was met. Right now, a landowner tag is issued for every 50 animals. At their next meeting, the Committee will determine the correct math to calculate the number of tags and will bring a recommendation to the Department at a future meeting. Chairman Johnston encouraged all CABMW's and members of the public that are interested in this program to take note of the next Committee agenda and the support material, so they can get as much public input as possible at the next Committee meeting.

B.* Public Lands Committee Report

A report will be provided on the Committee's recent meeting held on May 3, 2019 after the Commission meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Barnes presented an update to the Public Lands Committee which met yesterday. Regarding the fuels reduction and grazing flexibility, there will be a BLM Environmental Assessment (EA) presented on using grazing for fuel reduction and targeted grazing in the fire prone areas. Regarding the Wild Horse and Burro Program, there is a plan that is being proposed to reduce some of the horse numbers, about 15,000 to 20,000 horses a year for five years, and the horses will be moved from the ranges into long-term holding. There are a variety of groups that have come together on this plan. At the Committee meeting, the Department gave a presentation on the Silver State Trail update and there was a lot of comment on this subject. The Commission will talk about this topic on another agenda item today.

16. Commission Regulations – For Possible Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

A.* Commission General Regulation 19-14, Big Game Quotas for the 2019-2020 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Pat Jackson – for Possible Action

The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, black bear, and mountain goats for the 2019 - 2020 seasons.

Chairman Johnston requested that we start with the deer tag discussion today since it is a longer discussion than elk and antelope.

Wildlife Game Division Administrator Brian Wakeling stated that the regulations that the Commission will be acting on today deal specifically with the quotas for the next year. He provided information on their process for analyzing the survey data, the management objectives and how they come to their numbers. He stated that they have become more conservative over the years, but that has led to a more quality hunt in Nevada. The biologists have conservative objectives and they are biologically responsible in the formulations that they are making, but they are trying to optimize the situations so that we can provide people with an opportunity to get in the field and connect them with our resource here in Nevada.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Mule Deer Status in Nevada: 2019 Quota Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the Department is recommending just over 3100 tags for the Resident Junior, Mule Deer, Antlered or Antlerless, Archery, Muzzleloader, or Any Legal Weapon hunt, and he is available for questions.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that a hunt unit map can be found on the last page of the Big Game Status Book for reference while reviewing the recommendations.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, stated that there changes to the recommendations for the junior hunt are as follows: Unit 014, they recommend a decrease from 20 tags to 15 tags; Unit 022, they recommend an increase to 20 tags from 10 tags. He stated that there will be compensatory reductions in other hunts to offset this change.

Joe Crim, representing Pershing CABMW, stated that in Unit 043-046, the Department was recommending the junior hunt go from 110 tags to 70 tags. Their CABMW would prefer to keep it at 110 tags and would recommend offsetting the 40 tags with the adults.

Gene Green, representing Carson CABMW, stated that in Unit 192, the Department dropped the tags from 20 tags to 10 tags; they would recommend that the junior hunt be kept at 20 tags as they are trying to get the kids out into the field and hunting. He thanked Mike Scott for coming to their CABMW meeting and stated that Mr. Scott reported that there was no biological reason not to keep it at 20 tags.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated that there was misinformation within their CABMW because the Big Game Status Book came out so late; they were trying to correct what people believed and heard versus actual facts. He stated that they wanted to do a ten percent cut across the board in mule deer because they feel the herd populations are declining. Based upon this, they believe the best way to manage the herd is to put out less tags.

Craig Burnside, representing Douglas CABMW, stated they recommend that the Commission approve the quota recommendations as presented by the Department for all species.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about what the goal is for the buck to doe ratios for the state this year; and if they are managing for a higher ratio, what is their intent so that she can understand the biology behind it.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided information about the management of buck to doe ratios and that their goal is to provide more quality buck opportunities for hunters.

Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Kiel inquired about the reduction of junior tags and the success ratio for the junior hunt in relation to the overall success ratio of any legal weapon type of hunt.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder responded that the reduction of tags was likely driven by the demand success formula that is used by the Department; and that there are some things that go into the junior quota, so the success rate of does in the harvest can fluctuate in the regular hunts. He stated that he has no problem shifting tags from the adults to the juniors which lines up with the Washoe CABMW recommendation.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that overall, the junior hunt success rate is 64 percent. The three-year average statewide for any legal weapon is approximately 50 percent success rate; muzzleloader hunts are approximately 44 percent; and archery hunts are approximately 21 percent.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder regarding the number of junior tag applications for this year being higher than last year; that they concurred with increasing the junior tag numbers for the junior hunts.

Discussion ensued between Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder and Chairman Johnston regarding increasing the junior tags to allow for more sustained interest in hunting by the youth of Nevada.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS - ARCHERY, MUZZLELODER, OR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED, WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 022 – INCREASE FROM 10 TO 20 TAGS, UNIT 043-046 – INCREASE FROM 70 TO 110 TAGS, UNIT 192 – INCREASE FROM 10 TO 20 TAGS; VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the Department is recommending just over 1,000 tags, distributed among the hunt units, for Resident Mule Deer, Antlerless - Any Legal Weapon Hunt and that there is a high demand for these particular tags since you can apply for both a buck and doe in the draw.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated they agreed to decrease the quota to 200 tags in Unit 071-079, 091; in Units 101, 102, 109, they agree to a reduction to 125 tags; in Area 6, they agree with the biologist recommendations.

Chairman Johnston stated that there is a big jump in Areas 7 and 10 from 125 tags to 275 tags in each unit and he noticed increased numbers in the Any Legal Weapon Hunt in Area 7.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that in terms of numbers those areas are some of the largest deer herds and there could be negative impact from density dependence. The Department feels strongly to have these quotas raised to minimize the competition between bucks, does and fawns. If the tags are reduced it is taking opportunity away and could contribute to poor body condition and reduce buck quality the following years. One of the other largest deer herd is in Area 6. The Department has been very aggressive on doe harvest in that area which has been a big challenge because a lot of the winter range has burned; having the aggressive

doe harvest has staved off an all age class die off. The Commission has approved emergency deer hunts which have been successful at helping the Department manage the deer herds to appropriate levels.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he is going to agree with what the Elko CABMW recommended in Unit 101, 102, 109 due to the lower numbers of deer and the area could handle more deer. He stated that he has noticed a significant decline in deer numbers in that area. In Area 10, they came off of a really dry year and had poor growth in the brush; this year they have had a lot of moisture and the brush will respond since it has been stressed; and he believes they will have a lot more summer and winter forage which could justify leaving a few more does in the area.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that in the Big Game Status Book, the areas are broken down on the maps which is helpful as it explains what is happening in those areas. She is reading that there are some environmental issues and that the carrying capacity appears to be past its threshold. What she is hearing is that having excess does is raising competition in a population that is potentially already in an over carrying capacity, so they want to reign in the does. This would make sense to her to have the higher harvest numbers as represented by the Department. She asked, when they harvest does, are they seeing them subpar in weight, and if so it would make sense to harvest more and go with the Department's recommendation.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder concurred with Commissioner Hubbs observation. He stated that they do not have the environmental issues everywhere, but it is a concern. They have seen indicators of poor body condition in Areas 7 and 10 so they have been collaring the mule deer there and obtain the carcasses; they are seeing signs of starvation and malnutrition but there are weight issues, especially in the Area 7 deer herd due to the harsh winter this year. The overall fawn ratio is showing that the population is at or beyond carrying capacity. The recommendations made on the doe hunts is not intended to significantly reduce the populations; this is maintenance for next year, to provide hunter opportunity and to help keep the animals in a good condition so they can provision their offspring.

Commissioner Kiel stated that in Area 7 there is a lot of fuel, and he is cautious that if we have another large fire, we could have an emergency. The preference would be to handle the doe population in this realm as opposed to having a discussion of an emergency season later.

Chairman Johnston stated that after what he has heard, he is inclined to go along with the recommendations of the Department and that we need to trust the biologists on this situation.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he is in the middle of the road on this one. We rely on the Department to keep us within the biological boundaries. He wants to stay within the biological boundaries and is inclined to go with the CABMW recommendations, particularly in area 10.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he is inclined to go with the Department's recommendations; he appreciates the comments but is also looking at what happened in Unit 071-079, 091. The Department tried to get us to go with a higher number of tags last year and now this year we have to go with an even higher number of tags; he is concerned that could happen in Area 10.

Chairman Johnston asked why there is a dramatic reduction in the number of doe and buck tags in Area 10 in the Any Legal Weapon hunt.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham stated that the buck quotas are based on a targeted post season buck ratio objective. Those are being reduced based on a lowered recruitment in area 10

so there are fewer yearling bucks and we can move towards that buck ratio objective with a lower quota. He is concerned that opportunity is being reduced for no reason and there is no positive affect that will come from that.

Chairman Johnston stated that Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham summarized it well, that by reducing the number of doe tags, you are reducing the opportunity with no impact to wildlife. He further stated that he appreciates the comments presented by the Elko CABMW and the report from the Department.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 101, 102, 109, FROM 225 TO 125 TAGS; COMMISSIONER ALMBERG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION FAILED 2-7 WITH COMMISSIONERS ALMBERG AND BARNES VOTING YES AND REST OF THE COMMISSION DISSENTING.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-2 WITH COMMISSIONERS ALMBERG AND BARNES DISSENTING.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that there are not many recommended changes for the Resident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, the Muzzleloader Hunt and the Archery Hunt. Most of them are based on the Department’s management objectives.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Jim Evans, representing Eureka CABMW, stated that the CABMW requests that the Archery Hunt in Units 141-145 be set at 200 tags instead of 225 tags to reduce congestion of hunters in the area and maintain the quality of the hunt within private agricultural lands.

Public comment in Reno:

Worth Nelson, representing Lander CABMW, but is commenting from his personal viewpoint. He stated that regarding the mule deer, it upsets him that the only number that seems to matter is our buck to doe ratio. As a matter of concern, when we talk about mule deer in general, the buck to doe ratio is a good tool to use, but if it is the only thing we use, then it may not mean much.

Gene Green, representing Carson CABMW, referenced their Action Report and provided there is a minor mistake on it. He stated that in Unit 192, they would like to see the following changes: Any legal Weapon Hunt to go back to 35 tags like last year instead of a reduction to 30 tags; Muzzleloader Hunt to have 15 tags like last year instead of 7 tags; Archery Early Hunt to have 25 tags; Archery Late Hunt to have 20 tags; Archery Hunt in Unit 194, 196 Early to have 15 tags; and the Archery Hunt in Unit 194, 196 Late to have 15 tags.

Joe Crim, representing Pershing CABMW, provided a justification for raising the number of Junior tags and made the following recommendations: Any Legal Weapon, Unit 043-046 Early reduction to 100 from 120 tags; Unit 043-046 Late, reduction from 50 to 40 tags; Muzzleloader Hunt in Unit 043-046, reduction from 25 to 20 tags; Archery Hunt in Unit 043-046, reduction from 75 to 70 tags. This is a 40-tag reduction overall and they would gain those back in the junior hunts.

Jim Cooney, representing Elko CABMW, stated that their CABMW requests to reduce the Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Archery Hunt, and Muzzleloader Hunt in Area 8 back to the 2018 quota. Due to the quality of that hunt they did not feel the need to increase the tags and they would like to keep it as a trophy hunt in that area.

Billie Williams, representing Mineral CABMW, stated that regarding the Resident Mule Deer Antlered - Any Legal Weapon Hunt in Unit 202, 205-208, they request an increase from 50 to 55 tags; and for the Muzzleloader Hunt in Unit 202, 205-208, they request an increase from 10 to 15 tags because this is an interstate herd.

Giovanni Giordano, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that he has been on the Humboldt CABMW since 2000 and he was born and raised in Humboldt County, north of Winnemucca, Nevada. Daily on the farm and ranch, he sees deer and antelope herds. Over the years, he has seen the herds come and go, along with the problems they face such as environmental, hunting and weather. The Humboldt CABMW feels like they need more research and more status to be better educated when making their recommendations. He stated that the deer herd in Unit 035 can not justify the quota that has been suggested over the last several years. He asked for a different way to calculate quotas in Unit 035 and thinks that the demand/success ratio is the worst process for that unit. The Humboldt CABMW is recommending 70 tags for Unit 035, in the Any Legal Weapon Hunt; and in the Muzzleloader and Archery Hunts they are recommending that the numbers coincide with the 2018 approved quota. In all other areas, they have accepted the Departments recommendation.

Jonathan Lesperance, representing Washoe CABMW, but is speaking on behalf of himself but asked that the Commission consider the recommendations of the Washoe CABMW. Since 2011, in Unit 011-013, there has been a 54 percent loss of the deer herd; Unit 014, it was a similar loss at 54 percent; and in Unit 033 there was a loss of 57 percent of the resource. He has the utmost regard to the department biologists, but the memo says that the mule deer herds are stable but provided statistics as to why that is not correct. On a personal note, he stated that he appreciated the discussion on opportunity; this is a personal issue because as a young person, it changed his life. Mature does are incredible resources because they teach their young how to use the resources throughout the year.

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, mentioned that at the last Commission meeting there was discussion about changing the Washoe County seasons from a split season to a single, one-month season like the other units with similar tag numbers, and due to this, they would need reduce their tag numbers. They do support the Department's reduction in tag numbers due to over 50 percent decline in population of the mule deer herd. For Resident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Unit 014 they recommend a reduction from 30 to 20 tags; Unit 022, to compensate for more Junior tags, they recommend a reduction from 35 to 30 tags. For Resident Mule Deer Antlered – Archery Hunt, Unit 033 they recommend a reduction from 10 to 5 tags. For Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Unit 022 they recommend a reduction from 3 to 2 tags.

Commissioner McNinch asked for a better understanding of the 4-point or better being an indicator of health, which to him supports the contention that we might need to remove more deer.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided an explanation of the 4-point or better and that the Department uses this as a guideline to measure the amount of older age class of animals that would be available for harvest, and it helps to determine hunter experience and quality. When

talking about 4-point or better, it is more about competition and the number of bucks on the landscape. The Department looks at demand, success, recruitment and many other issues.

Commissioner Caviglia inquired if Mr. Schroeder knows why there was such a large jump from last year in the recommended tags for the Archery Hunt of Unit 035.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that was primarily based on the success rate. This is based on the low success rate in archery that the Department observed the last three years.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that the map in the Big Game Status Book was helpful. She inquired as to why the northern end of Washoe County mule deer herd seems to be struggling. She also inquired what would happen if that area was left alone, meaning no hunting, since we do not know what is going on in that area.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided there have been fires that changed the habitat in the north and now the Department is concerned about moisture, drought, horses, and predators. He stated that the Department initiated a collaring study in that region to see what was going on with the mule deer herd, but it is currently too early to know. The Department has not been able to narrow it down to a specific cause at this point. In response to that, the Department has lowered the population estimates in most of Washoe County. He stated they have never taken the approach of not hunting an area. You can still have harvest opportunity in a declining herd because here are animals on the landscape that are available for harvest. The issue is to bring the numbers down, it just needs to be decided how far.

Commissioner East stated that she is concerned with the low success rate in Unit 014; the Commission approved 45 tags and only 9 deer were harvested. This year we are offsetting some of that success in Unit 014 by reducing to 30 tags, or in his opinion, would the recommended 20 tags be more significant.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that dropping it to 20 tags is not that significant. The success rate is a concern. With a low success rate, you can have more people in the field. This is an alternative unit and they are at the top end of their objective in this Unit.

Commissioner McNinch asked Mr. Schroeder to help him out with the Humboldt CABMW recommendations and inquired if there are any concerns with Carson CABMW recommendations.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the Humboldt CABMW are looking to cut 138 tags in Unit 035. The Department has been asking for more tags in this area and have been getting fewer every year. He presented argument in support of the room for compromise and does not think that a drastic cut is necessary. The Carson CABMW recommended an increase in Unit 192 which is a standard hunt unit. The concern in this unit is the fawn ratio and that there are fewer bucks being recruited into the population. The Archery Hunt in Unit 194 has a quota that is warranted to come up because of the low success rate last year.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she is hearing that the reduction in the northern Washoe County areas is a good idea; that there should be a reduction in Humboldt County, Unit 035, until we can discern from the northern areas; and there should be an increase in the Carson area.

Commissioner AlMBERG inquired if the biological health was better in a standard unit or an alternative unit.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated there is no way that they can quantify that unless the Department is doing a comprehensive study. It is based on an upper threshold on the alternative units. We get concerned when we see buck ratios above 50 per 100 does. The ratio the Department has set is based on hunter opportunity and a quality experience. It would be hard to observe a standard population and an alternative population and see the health issues between the two.

Chairman Johnston stated that some quota recommendations are based upon low success rate which means we will increase the number of tags in that area to give people opportunity. The question is, are we giving them a good opportunity. He also that a lot of the CABMW recommendations were modest reductions and the significant ones are coming from Humboldt County in Unit 035. He inquired, from Mr. Schroeder's perspective, is reducing those tag numbers going to have an impact on the herds and, what would that impact be.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that he has alluded to that several times and the formula that the Department uses is what is written in Commission policy. Discussion ensued regarding the impact on the herds and that there could be a higher buck to doe ratio.

Commissioner McNinch inquired about the areas where the success rates are low and is there an indication of whether hunter preference is an issue.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated this is occurring in some of the more trophy-oriented units. People will wait years to get the tags, if they do not see the size they want they will likely go home empty handed. That is another reason that success is not a perfect measure of what is going on with the deer herd. A hunter makes their own selections, but the Department can only base the numbers on the success rates.

Commissioner East proposed that we take Unit 035 back to last year's approved recommendation which was 90 tags instead of 70 tags for the Any Legal Weapon Hunt; and reduce the Muzzleloader Hunt from 20 tags to 10 tags; and the Archery Hunt, would go to 35 tags from 100 tags.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he is hearing from the Department that the animals are there; that low success rate is impacting those numbers; that they have management goals; and they have been trying to get there in Unit 035 but are having a harder time in this unit. We are dealing with what the public is seeing versus what the Department is surveying. His inclination is to stay with the Departments recommendation or as close as possible.

Commissioner Kiel stated that he generally agrees with that on Unit 035 except for the Archery Hunt. He stated that jumping to 100 tags is hard for him.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated he shares the concerns in the Archery Hunt but does not feel it is necessary to come all the way down to 35 tags. He is sympathetic to the ranchers and farmers that have people camped on their property, but there are other places to hunt in that unit. He would support coming down to last year's quota in the Any Legal Weapon Hunt, but to go down to last year's quota without significant rationale warrants further research.

Chairman Johnston asked DAG Stockton if public comment can be reopened due to the current discussion.

Senior DAG Stockton provided that public comment could be reopened.

Giovanni Giordano, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that regarding to the biological study and that there is an age class that warrants the Department's quotas, can Mr. Schroeder explain how the Department came up with the buck to doe ratio. He further inquired about what is classified as a buck when they are counted in the field.

Senior DAG Stockton stated that it is not appropriate to have cross-examination and debate. The public needs to address the Commission.

Giovanni Giordano, representing Humboldt CABMW, stated that when you classify a buck and a fawn, 50 percent is taken. Those bucks are not there, and they are not justified; the young bucks cannot cover the does; and the fawns do not have great success of making it through the bad winters.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No Public comment in Elko.

Additional public comment in Reno:

Mel Belding, representing Washoe CABMW, indicated that to gauge our mature mule deer by point class is not acceptable because some 4-points have baby teeth. There is more that sportsmen can do to help support the research for the biologists, such taking a photograph of the deer teeth upon harvesting the animal.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder asked the resident biologist to speak on this issue. Mr. Giordano's comments are not correct regarding having enough bucks to cover does; we have the data to show that there are enough bucks to cover does in terms of pregnancy rates. Our pregnancy rates are generally 95; it is more about the age quality and the age of the animals.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Ed Partee provided that when the Department surveys, they are not looking at fawns because they cannot determine a fawn buck from a fawn doe. He is looking at anything from a spike to a buck which is what they base their numbers on. In Unit 035, the survey shows that the population is increasing. The deer that have been surveyed the last few years is above the 5-year average along with the spring surveys; now the model buck ratio has steadily increased the last 4 years. The Departments guideline is to target 30 bucks per 100 does. The demand, success is not perfect, but that is the tool they have as biologists. He appreciates Mr. Giordano's perspective, but Unit 035 has another mountain range that the Department looks at that he may not see.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER – ANTLERLED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 043-046 EARLY, FROM 120 TO 100 TAGS; UNIT 043-046 LATE, FROM 50 TO 40 TAGS; UNIT 192, FROM 30 TO 35 TAGS; AND UNIT 202, 205-208, FROM 50 TO 55 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 043-046, FROM 25 TO 20 TAGS; UNIT 192, FROM 7 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 202, 205-208, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 043-046, FROM 75 TO 70 TAGS; UNIT 192 EARLY, FROM 10 TO 25 TAGS; UNIT 192 LATE, FROM 15 TO 20 TAGS; UNIT 194, 196 EARLY, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 194, 196 LATE, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS.

Commissioner McNinch inquired with Chairman Johnston whether he should also include the non-resident quota.

Chairman Johnston suggested that we should only do the resident quota first and separate from the non-resident quota.

COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner East asked that the Motion include Unit 014 and that the tags be reduced from 30 to 20 tags, and that we take Unit 035 down from 130 to 100 tags.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she would support that as well.

Commissioner Almberg asked Mr. Schroeder to recommend a compromise that he is comfortable with to address Unit 035 for all hunts, to support opportunity and quality.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the Any Legal Weapon Hunt will have the most significant impact on the actual number of deer. He is comfortable with reducing the Archery Hunt quota to 40 tags and reducing the Muzzleloader Hunt quota to 15 tags.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED HUNT – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT: UNIT 014, FROM 30 TO 20 TAGS; UNIT 035, FROM 130 TO 100 TAGS; UNIT 043-046 EARLY, FROM 120 TO 100 TAGS; UNIT 043-046 LATE, FROM 50 TO 40 TAGS; UNIT 192, FROM 30 TO 35 TAGS; AND UNIT 202, 205-208, FROM 50 TO 55 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 035, FROM 20 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 043-046, FROM 25 TO 20 TAGS; UNIT 192, FROM 7 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 202, 205-208, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 035, FROM 100 TO 40 TAGS; UNIT 043-046, FROM 75 TO 70 TAGS; UNIT 192 EARLY, FROM 10 TO 25 TAGS; UNIT 192 LATE, FROM 15 TO 20 TAGS; UNIT 194, 196 EARLY, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS; UNIT 194, 196 LATE, FROM 10 TO 15 TAGS. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION.

Chairman Johnston stated that he will support the motion but would have gone further on Unit 035. He stated that there seems to be different rationales for the different recommendations on the substantial increases in the doe hunts in certain units.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she would be willing to reduce the Washoe County numbers for the Muzzleloader or Archery hunts if necessary.

THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 11:05 a.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 11:25 a.m.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that regarding the Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered hunts, he has calculated the quotas appropriate to the 90/10 split for the nonresident tags.

Chairman Johnston asked that Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder to read the calculated quotas by unit.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided the following changes to the recommended quotas for the Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon: Unit 035, from 10 to 8 tags; Unit 043-046 Early, from 10 to 8 tags; Unit 043-046 Late, from 4 to 3 tags; Unit 192, from 3 to 4 tags; and Unit 202, 205-208, there would be no change. He provided the following changes to the recommended quotas for the Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt: Unit 035, there would be no change; Unit 192, from 2 to 4 tags; and Unit 202, 205-208, from 4 to 6 tags. He provided the following changes to the recommended quotas for the Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered – Archery Hunt: Unit 035, from 10 to 4 tags; Unit 043-046, from 8 to 7 tags; Unit 192 Early, from 2 to 5 tags; Unit 192 Late, from 2 to 3 tags; and Unit 194, 196 Early from 2 to 3 tags; and Unit 194, 196 Late from 2 to 3 tags.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 035, FROM 10 TO 8 TAGS; UNIT 043-046 EARLY, FROM 10 TO 8 TAGS; UNIT 043-046 LATE, FROM 4 TO 3 TAGS; AND UNIT 192, FROM 3 TO 4 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED - MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 192, FROM 2 TO 4 TAGS; AND UNIT 202, 205-208, FROM 4 TO 6 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT MULE DEER - ANTLERED – ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 035, FROM 10 TO 4 TAGS; UNIT 043-046, FROM 8 TO 7 TAGS; UNIT 192 EARLY, FROM 2 TO 5 TAGS; UNIT 192 LATE, FROM 2 TO 3 TAGS; AND UNIT 194, 196 EARLY, FROM 2 TO 3 TAGS; AND UNIT 194, 196 LATE, FROM 2 TO 3 TAGS. COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee presented a PowerPoint regarding Elk Status in Nevada: 2019 Quota Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated there is a change by the Department for the Resident Elk Antlerless - Management combo tag Muzzleloader Hunt in Unit 101-103*; the Department incorrectly made the recommendation of 30 tags which should be changed to 9 tags.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Public comment in Elko:

Jim Evans, representing Eureka CABMW, stated the CABMW requests that Unit 108^B, 131, 132 be maintained and managed as an alternative management unit which would keep tag numbers for this unit group the same as last year. This would promote transition for an older age class bull within the units and reduce congestion of hunters in the area, would promote a better hunting

experience. The reason that Area 13 is one of the best management areas today is because the CABMW has historically recommended the lower quota limits for that area.

Public comment in Reno:

Mitch McVicars, representing White Pine CABMW, stated the CABMW recommends the following: Resident Elk Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Unit 111-115 Early, a reduction from 110 to 95 tags; Unit 111-115 Late, a reduction from 95 to 85 tags. The CABMW additionally recommends for Resident Elk Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt, Unit 111-115, an increase from 25 to 35 tags; for Resident Elk Antlered – Archery Hunt, Unit 111-115, that it remain the same as the 2018 quota of 35 tags.

Steven Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, is speaking on behalf of Rex Flowers who could not be present. The concern is for Resident Elk Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt in Unit 062, 064, 066-068 Early and Late, and Resident Elk Antlerless – Archery Hunt in Unit 062, 064, 066-068 and the corresponding management hunts; the hunts were reduced but the management hunts were not. If those tags are reduced, then those tags should be taken from the management hunt in those units.

Commissioner McNinch asked Jim Evans if they support the Nonresident Elk Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Unit 108^B, 131, 132 or are they suggesting no tags in that area.

Jim Evans, representing Eureka CABMW, stated they supported all hunts and had no concern with the antlerless.

Discussion ensued regarding Unit 062, 064, 066-068, in the Resident Elk Antlerless Management combo tags and that a reduction was requested.

Commissioner Barnes inquired about the success rates on the management hunts.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that in a few select areas, the management combo hunters have been successful; in general, success rates are at 10-20 percent.

Chairman Johnston inquired if there was any issue with Eureka CABMW's request for reductions.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that Eureka CABMW had modest reductions which will get the Department down to the standard range that they have identified for antler length.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee regarding this being an alternative unit and if standard hunts become alternative hunts, then sportsmen are going to want something more special which means we may have to bump the antler length metric up more.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that the area of concern for Unit 111-115, is the reduction of the archery tags, but it will still have an overall tag increase of 10 tags from last years approved quota. The opportunity is there because it is a big area to hunt and it has a three-week hunt season.

Chairman Johnston stated that we could keep the archery quota at 45 tags without reducing it and make the other White Pine CABMW requested changes.

Commissioner AlMBERG, agreed it is a special hunt, the demand goes up and everybody wants to be a part of it.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired about the Global Positioning system (GPS) tracking of movement, and since the Department is working with other states, is the Department attempting to put pressure on the animals at different times to move them certain places, or put the same pressure at the same times so that there is no place to go.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated they try to work with the other states so they can line their hunt seasons up at the same time, especially for the antlerless hunts, because elk are good at evading hunter pressure.

Commissioner Hubbs inquired as to what the concept is of the depredation hunt versus the management hunt and, are they used differently.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that the depredation hunts are designed to focus hunting pressure in areas where we have issues with depredation concerns on private lands. In certain areas, when there is depredation and damage to private property the Department will focus on hunts in these areas to alleviate the pressure. There are other areas that the Department has identified as elk free zones through the Elk Management subplans as places where Elk are not allowed. The Department is creating a scenario where it easier to draw tags knowing that success is going to be lower and the harvest metrics are going to be very poor and they are doing what they can to lower the elk density within those areas.

Chairman Johnston inquired if there was a motion and suggested that it be limited to the Resident Elk tags, then move to the Nonresident Elk tags.

Commissioner McNinch thanked the Department for including the 2018 approved and recommended quotas as it helps when we are having these discussions.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee stated that he understands the concerns with the 10 archery tags in White Pine County in Units 111, 112, 113, 114 and 115. The congestion can be a challenge, but he would recommend moving those 10 tags into an Any Legal Weapon Hunt, so opportunity is there rather than cutting them all together.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPRADATION HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK - ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPRADATION HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 108^B, 131, 132, FROM 60 TO 55 TAGS; UNIT 111-115 EARLY, FROM 110 TO 100 TAGS; UNIT 111-115 LATE, FROM 95 TO 90 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: 108^B, 131, 132, FROM 8 TO 6 TAGS; UNIT 111-115, FROM 10 TO 35 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 111-115, FROM 45 TO 35 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – SPIKE – ANY LEGAL WEAPON, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 108^B, 131, 132, FROM 50 TO 45 TAGS.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee interjected and stated that it was not clear to him that in Unit 108^B, 131, 132, the recommendations were for the antlerless hunts; they were for antlered only.

Chairman Johnston concurred.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT – WILDERNESS ONLY, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT OPTION FOR MULE DEER – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS – MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ELK MANAGEMENT MUZZLELOADER HUNT OPTION FOR MULE DEER – MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 101-103*, FROM 30 TO 9 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS – ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ELK MANAGEMENT ARCHERY HUNT OPTION FOR MULE DEER ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT JUNIOR ELK – ANTLERLESS - ELK MANAGEMENT HUNT OPTION FOR RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER HUNT, AS PRESENTED; COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnston inquired if Mr. McKee needed some time to make changes.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee provided the following changes: Unit 108^B, 131, 132 Nonresident hunts will not be affected by the change; Unit 111-115 Early - Any Legal Weapon Hunt, decrease from 11 to 10 tags; Unit 111-115 Late, decrease from 10 to 9 tags; Nonresident Muzzleloader Hunt, Unit 111-115, increase from 2 to 4 tags; and Nonresident Antlered Elk Archery Hunt in Unit 111-115, decrease from 5 to 4 tags.

No public comment in Reno.

No public comment in Las Vegas

No public comment in Elko.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 111-115 EARLY, FROM 11 TO 10 TAGS; UNIT 111-115 LATE, FROM 10 TAGS TO 9 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 111-115, WITH AN INCREASE FROM 2 TAGS TO 4 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK – ANTLERED – ARCHERY HUNT 4261, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 111-115, FROM 5 TAGS TO 4 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK – ANTLERLESS ELK MANAGEMENT ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT OPTION FOR MULE DEER HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK - ANTERLESS MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT ELK ANTERLESS ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Cody McKee inquired with the Chairman which section would we start on after the break.

Chairman Johnston stated that we would begin with the antelope.

Chairman Johnston called for a recess at 12:17 p.m.

Chairman Johnston called the meeting back to order at 1:33 p.m.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder presented a PowerPoint regarding the Antelope Status in Nevada: 2019 Quota Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder suggested that the alternative recommendations are reviewed and then to have public comment.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, stated for Resident Antelope – Horns Shorter Than Ears – Any Legal Weapon Hunt in Unit 041, 042, their CABMW recommends a reduction from 55 to 40 tags, to see some more growth than the current quota will allow.

Billie Williams, Mineral CABMW, stated that for Resident Antelope – Horns Longer Than Ears - Any Legal Weapon in Unit 205 - 08, their CABMW recommends the same quota of 25 tags that was approved in 2018.

Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW, stated that they are trying to get the Junior Antelope Hunt going in Lander County. For the Resident Antelope – Horns Shorter Than Ears in Unit 151, 153, 156, their CABMW would recommend an increase of the quota from 190 to 240 tags.

Chairman Johnston inquired with Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder about the CABMW recommendations for the antelope hunts.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the CABMW recommendations are fine biologically. The Department is on the low end of the management guidelines and the recommendations are based on the management guidelines. In terms of the Pershing CABMW recommendation, that is second largest antelope herd in the state, and it could stand to have a little higher harvest. The Lander County antelope herd is the largest in the state the herd can sustain their recommendation.

COMMISSIONER VALENTINE MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 205-208, FROM 20 TO 25 TAGS; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS - MUZZLELOADER HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS - ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS SHORTER THAN EARS - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 041, 042, FROM 55 TO 40 TAGS; UNIT 151, 153, 156, FROM 190 TO 240 TAGS; COMMISSIONER HUBBS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnston inquired of Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder and whether he had any changes to the Nonresident Antelope Hunt.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated the only recommendation would be to increase the tags from 2 to 3.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14, NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 205 – 208, FROM 2 to 3 TAGS; CR 19-14, NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE – HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ARCHERY HUNT, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson presented a PowerPoint on the Black Bear Harvest Limit and Quota Recommendations for CR 19-14. He stated that there will be no recommended changes from last year.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner McNinch stated that he appreciates the female harvest information and the limitations to be proactive in managing the bears. He stated that under Project 45 of the Predator Plan, there are still statements about expanding numerically and geographically. He inquired whether the static bears are growing.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that there has been some growth, but they think that it is starting to stall out.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that she received correspondence regarding the bear hunt with an overarching request to lower the quota numbers to the minimum. Some of the concerns were the lack of belief in true population estimates; the methodology for hunting; and an overarching feeling by a large portion of the public that this is more of a trophy hunt. Since bear numbers are static, hunting is typically not used as a management tool. Based on these reasons, she will not support any increases in numbers, and will support lower quota settings.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston and Commissioner Hubbs regarding the correspondence received and how they interpreted it differently.

Public comment in Las Vegas:

Jana Wright, private citizen, stated that she adamantly opposes the bear hunts for all the reasons that Commissioner Hubbs indicated. She asked that the resident and nonresident black bear quotas be reduced by at least one so that they do not qualify for the dream tag.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen, stated that there is no wildlife management goal objective for the black bear hunt; and it is nothing but a trophy hunt. The use of hounds is problematic because when you exercise the dogs, they harass wildlife. The black bear hunt is unacceptable. She

stated that every time she gives comments on the black bear hunt, there is no change and she feels like she is speaking to a brick wall.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Johnathan Lesperance, representing Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance, stated that he prepared some written comments and hoped the Commission received them; if not he can resend the comments. Regarding dispersal, the study area for which the program mark was run is much smaller than the overall bear area. It represents about 40-45 percent of the entire bear hunt area. A huge portion of the Nevada/California border is the boundary, through which animals do migrate over, and a large component of our bear population is connected to a larger meta-population.

Johnathan Lesperance, private citizen, stated that his personal opinion is there is a good reason that the harvest metrics of the light harvest is dependent on the use of the hounds and select of harvest.

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, stated that the bear population is an extension of the greater California black bear population. According to the California Department of Wildlife's website, in the last 25 years the California bear population has increased from 10,000 bears to 40,000 bears with a 95 percent confidence. The Nevada bear population is showing signs of growth and can sustain a conservative harvest. At the Washoe CABMW, we had 100 percent support of all the citizens present at the meeting and they voted unanimously to support the Departments recommendations.

Commissioner Hubbs stated she wanted to hear from the Department whether hunting is necessary to manage black bear population levels. She asked, if we did not harvest black bear, would their population shoot out of control or is there something else that checks that species.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that in a meeting with Jim Sedinger, he said it is hard to argue that harvest is driving the population and he interprets that as it not having an impact, positive or negative. He provided that yes, hunting is necessary to manage black bear population levels.

Commissioner Almborg stated this hunt is conservative and if the black bear were over-populated, we could use this hunt to reduce the bear population.

Commissioner East asked why sportsmen only harvested 14 out of the 45 tags and was it because of the female harvest. She also inquired if it was selectivity or opportunity, or any idea as to why.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson stated that the 2017 season was the first year that we had the unique harvest limits and female harvest limits. In the 2017 season, we did reach an overall harvest limit for one area but that was not the female harvest limit. Once we reached that, Pat personally called every sportsman that had a tag, and many did not have the chance to go hunting yet. Outside of that, the Department has not surveyed bear hunters. In the 2018 season, an overall harvest limit or a female harvest limit was not reached.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he believes the Commission has more information now because of the bear hunt. He appreciates the modifications to the hunts that have occurred. He has not been a fan of raising the quotas so that there was a dream tag. Despite the gain of

information and continued adjustments, he is still not conformable with the immigration of 35,000 bears in California, but we are static in Nevada. He is also not convinced that the Commission would be able to recognize a drop in the female population.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that according to the biology, it takes several years for a bear to begin to reproduce; and they may not even reproduce every year. They can live 13 to 18 years, but they are not like typical game animals, so any sensitivity they may have to over harvesting is more severe than a game animal that reproduces quickly every year and at a very young age.

COMMISSIONER JOHNSTON MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14, THE RESIDENT QUOTA BLACK BEAR – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, THE NONRESIDENT QUOTA BLACK BEAR – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT, AND THE BLACK BEAR HARVEST LIMIT - COMBINED RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNT AS PRESENTED; COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-2 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND HUBBS DISSENTING.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee presented a PowerPoint on the Bighorn and Goat Status in Nevada: 2019 Quota Recommendations.

http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Archive/2019_Archive/

Commissioner Kiel asked if predation was playing a part into the low kid to ewe ratios on the Desert Bighorn Sheep.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham stated it could have something to do with predation in a few localized areas but predominately that would be due to habitat conditions and density dependent issues.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated the Nye CABMW recommendation for the Nelson Bighorn Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt, Unit 173 N, was to increase from 3 to 4 tags and Unit 173 S, decrease from 2 to 1 tag.

Chairman Johnston stated that Mineral CABMW recommendation for Unit 202, is the same as last year which is 6 tags.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Ted McElvain, representing Lander CABMW, stated that their recommendation is to reduce the ewe tags. For the Nelson Bighorn Sheep - Any Legal Weapon, they would rather see them relocated and reintroduced somewhere else before they are harvested. For Unit 213, they recommend a reduction to 25 tags; for Unit 268 they recommend reduction to 30 tags. For the Nonresident quotas for Unit 213, they recommend a reduction to 2 tags, and in Unit 268, they recommend 3 tags.

Chairman Johnston stated that Mineral CABMW requested to have the same the number of tags in Unit 202.

Mel Belding, private citizen and representing the resource, stated that he recommends the same quota as last year in Unit 207. He spent some time in Unit 207 during the season last year and it was very difficult locating older age class of rams. He suggests going with the Departments recommendation. Regarding the ewes in Unit 268, last year it was increased 10 tags and this year it will be increased another 10 tags. He was told at the CABMW meeting that the trap and transplant going into Utah was off, then it was back on. He suggests that the Department take a portion of the animals out of Unit 268, collar and track them to see if there is a problem with relocating Desert Bighorn Sheep to higher elevations.

Paul Dixon, representing Clark CABMW, stated their CABMW voted to accept the Nelson Desert Bighorn Sheep as presented by the Department.

Paul Dixon, private citizen, stated that he agrees with Mel Belding's comments. He stated that there is a group that we know are not diseased and the Department should try to trap and transplant them somewhere else rather euthanizing them through the hunting process.

Billie Williams, representing Mineral CABMW, stated their CAMBW recommends for Unit 202 to have 6 tags, which is the same as 2018.

Chris Cefalu, representing Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, stated suggested the trap and transplant program for the ewe hunt in Unit 268 because there are Non-Government Organization's (NGO's) that are willing to support and fund the program.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that the Department has many factors to consider when making recommendations. Because the management objectives were met or other known issues, the Department eliminated the ewe hunts in in Units 212 and 253. Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee presented argument in support of the ewe herds being a management tool and that they are important to maintain, particularly within specific areas.

The Commissioners inquired about the following issues...

Vice Chairman Valentine and Commissioner Kiel inquired as to how many sheep were planned to be moved to Utah, and what happened to the ones that were supposed to be transplanted.

Game Management Staff Biologist Steve Kimble stated the sheep that were to be moved from a high altitude in Nevada to Utah were sampled, and they tested M. Ovi positive, so the decision was made in conjunction with Utah, to not move the sheep. He stated that a plan was not established on how many to move per year, but often they make that decision based on the conditions at the time. The Commission did approve movement of up to 150 sheep, but that could have taken place over a several year period. Game Management Staff Biologist Steve Kimble presented argument in support of the hardships to move the sheep.

Discussion ensued between Commissioners East, AlMBERG and Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee, Vice Chairman Valentine regarding the trap and transplant program; that it is an opportunity to involve the public in what the Department does; and that it is preferred that the sheep are transplanted before they are hunted and many Commissioners presented concerns surrounding the ewe hunt.

The Commissioners expressed much concern over the ewe hunt; whether the problem was being addressed; and was the hunt benefiting the situation.

Game Division Administrator Wakeling stated that Utah is a legitimate place to move these animals, but the challenge is that Utah must accept them. The Department is still looking at this as an option, but there are many factors to consider. Game Division Administrator Wakeling presented argument in support of the transplant process, and that there are times of the year that are better than others for the animals. Another challenge is the abundance of hunters to put in the field, the diminishing returns and the public perception associated with that. The Department is attempting to mitigate the population growth. This will not do any harm it will just benefit the situation.

Commissioner McNinch stated that Game Division Administrator Wakeling hit on something, we have tended to be conservative with our numbers with a couple of exceptions Mr. McKee mentioned earlier. We are trying to move from a conservative number to a non-conservative number to drive the numbers down. We are realizing that zone is thicker than we thought to drive the numbers down.

Discussion ensued between Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee and Commissioners Hubbs, Caviglia and Almborg, regarding the healthy sheep versus infected sheep; that the Department has a policy that they would not move healthy sheep to a mountain range with ongoing disease concerns; the Commissioners requested to have a back-up plan for the future management of the sheep herd.

Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations made by the CABMW members and that those recommendations are acceptable by the Department.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY RAM - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 173 N, FROM 3 TO 4 TAGS; UNIT 173 S, FROM 2 TO 1 TAG; AND UNIT 202, FROM 5 TO 6 TAGS; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY RAM - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY EWE - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY EWE - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER HUBBS. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-2 WITH CHAIRMAN JOHNSTON AND COMMISSIONER EAST DISSENTING.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated the Departments recommendation is for 50 total tags for the California Bighorn Sheep; in 2018, the approved quota was for 53 tags and there is no change to the nonresident quota.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Mel Belding, private citizen and representing the resource, stated that he has been fighting for the healthy ewe hunt for some time. He stated that the Muddy Mountain herd and the Black Mountain herd are not the only sheep that are not infected; there are others in Unit 181, Unit 182 and Unit 045. Specifically, to Unit 068, in the past three years, this has been nothing more than an opportunity hunt; presented argument in support of the opportunity hunt and that there are other units to put the sheep that are not infected.

Ted McElvain, representing Lander CABMW, stated that their CABMW's recommendation is for 1 ewe tag. With the knowledge that was provided at the last CABMW meeting, there has been speculation that 5 ewes moved across the river into an allotment where sheep are not hunted.

Steve Robinson, representing Washoe CABMW, stated that their recommendation is to reduce the ewe quota from 5 to 1 tag. For the Desert Bighorn Sheep, he finds it hard to believe that the Department has not identified a place to transplant the ewes.

Commissioner Kiel commented information was provided on the management objectives for the herd in Unit 268 and inquired if the same could do be done for Unit 068 for the California Bighorn Sheep.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Tom Donham stated that the management objective in Unit 068 is to maintain that herd around 140 adult animals; and currently it is around 170 animals and provided information in support of how that number was obtained. Further, he explained the logic behind the quota recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding whether 5 ewe tags are enough and what is needed to do to fix it.

Wildlife Staff Biologist Mike Scott stated that he is planning to move California Bighorn Sheep into two different areas to provide another option so there is no need to have 15 or 20 tags.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated people do not put the premium on female tags that they do for male tags across the board for all animals. Discussion ensued regarding whether the ewe hunt or any female hunt was a good tool to use.

Discussion ensued regarding success rates for sheep hunts and when there are diseased herds, there is nowhere to put them and no way to manage the ewes.

Commissioner Almborg stated that he would support a reduced quota on this one even though it is an opportunity hunt and not a biological issue.

COMMISSIONER ALMBERG MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY RAM - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 NONRESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY RAM - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; CR 19-14 RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY EWE – ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 068, FROM 5 TO 1 TAG. VICE CHAIRMAN VALENTINE SECONDED THE MOTION.

Commissioner Hubbs provided an explanation as to why she would be against the motion.

Commissioners Kiel, Barnes, and McNinch agreed with keeping the 5 tags and supports the Department's recommendation.

Commissioner East stated that she will support the motion as presented and will hold Mike Scott to his trap and transplant program.

Vice Chairman Valentine and Commissioner Caviglia stated that they will support the motion and would rather move the sheep instead of hunting them.

THE MOTION CARRIED 5-4 WITH COMMISSIONERS KIEL, MCNINCH, BARNES AND HUBBS DISSENTING.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee stated that for the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, the Department is recommending two additional tags to coincide with the two new hunts for the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and that there is no change to the Mountain Goat hunts.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP – ANY RAM - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED; AND CR 19-14 RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT – ANY GOAT - ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnson recessed the meeting at 3:42 p.m.

Chairman Johnston reconvened the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that the Resident and Nonresident Mule Deer and Antelope Landowner Compensation Tags is a percentage the Commission has agreed to going forward to allow for the maximum number of landowner compensation tags for deer and antelope. It is contingent on the number that was approved for both deer and antelope. The maximum going forward for next year would be 535 tags.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

Public comment in Reno:

Craig Burnside, representing Douglas CABMW, asked why the Department used this year's tag numbers instead of last years.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder stated that is what we approved for next year.

Chairman Johnston clarified that we use this year's numbers for next year's landowner tags.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE CR 19-14 RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

Chairman Johnston thanked everyone for their hard work today on the quota settings.

17. Silver State Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) Trail Update – Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne – For Possible Action

The Commission will receive an update on the Silver State Trail in White Pine County, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and the associated planning timeline.

Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne introduced Habitat Division Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber. Jasmine Kleiber presented a PowerPoint regarding the Silver State OHV Trail.

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Commissioner East inquired if Habitat Division Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber could speak to the fact that along with a designation may come promotion and how that may attract more people than if there was not a designation, and inquire if Ms. Kleiber has spoken to the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Commission.

Habitat Division Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber spoke to the promotion of the designation of the project and that increased use will happen if they promote a newly designated route in White Pine County. It may be beneficial if the public come to the area and spend money which would be an economic benefit to the county, but we do not have any statistics on this yet.

Ms. Kleiber stated that she has not yet spoken to the OHV Commission, but the project lead has been talking with them. They are concerned about having access out of Ely so that they would not have to trailer their off-road vehicles.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that from the Committee meeting, she had asked what ramifications did the designation have in Lincoln County. The responses were that there did appear to be increased activity near or around some hubs but not in other areas. And, there is no monitoring right now, so no one really knows.

Chairman Johnston stated that is a possible action item and asked what type of action is the Department asking the Commission to take or is there a recommendation from the Public Lands Committee.

Commissioner Barnes stated that the Committee wanted to bring the topic to the Commission for any comments and discussion. With the fact that there are comments, what direction does the Commission want the comments to go.

Habitat Division Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber stated that the Departments big concern is that there is a very short period of time that the BLM plans to move forward with the Environmental Assessment (EA) and a possible designation. The Department's perspective is that this is a short coming in moving forward with something that requires congressional action that cannot easily be undone.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that it was helpful in the Committee meeting to know about the history of the project. During the initial EA, the Wildlife Commission did send a letter to the BLM addressing some concerns. She asked that Ms. Kleiber speak to the history of this project.

Habitat Division Staff Specialist Jasmine Kleiber stated that this project initiated out of the Lincoln County Act in 2004. In 2006, the BLM was moving forward with their version, the White Pine Act. They were not being directed to designate trail, they were directed to analyze routes at that time to conduct a study. A few years later in 2011, the board of county commissioners requested the BLM investigate and pursue designation and they conducted an EA. That EA did move forward and there was a finding of no significant impact. Within two months, that same board of county

commissioners requested a special meeting to discuss the EA and the decision record. They requested BLM to put the project on hold, which they temporarily did; and after the meeting occurred, the BLM formally rescinded the decision. There has been a long history of the county commissioners being in favor of, then questioning whether to move forward with the project. The political climate has been mixed throughout the process.

Commissioner East stated that she recently met with Karen Boeger of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and she has asked that the Commissioners write a letter to ask for additional time.

Commissioners Hubbs and McNinch concurred and it was noted that the deadline for the letter is June 4, 2019.

Commissioner AlMBERG reiterated his comments from the Committee meeting and provided that the assessment by the Department is that the proposed trails are not adequate for OHV use.

Commissioner Barnes stated he would like to see the Commission comment on the project and support Alternative D, but in the comments, we need to state that we support the multiple use.

Commissioner Hubbs stated that looking at the maps you can see how closely the roads go through sage grouse habitats which we have the responsibility of protecting and concurred that there needs to be comments made on this project.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Jim Evans, representing Eureka CABMW, stated that the Natural Resources Director in Eureka County for the Commissioners provided the following direct quote to John Miller, Project Manager, BLM Ely District office: "My office did not receive any formal notice of the scoping period of the proposed White Pine County Silver State Trail. Please ensure that my office is on the distribution list for all activities within the BLM Bristlecone field office. Please consider the following input as BLM with White Pine County Silver State Trail (SST) EA. Eureka CABMW met on January 17, 2019 and discussed the SST proposal. They expressed concerns regarding Alternative B and the potential impacts to resources, wildlife and access adjacent to Eureka County including the potential for encroachment into Eureka County by users of the SST. The CABMW does not want to see the current Alternative B carried forward. There are specific issues tied to the SST EA that could impact the county resources and its people. We ask BLM to engage Eureka County in the EA process as a cooperating agency to ensure close coordination, especially if the current Alternative B is carried forward. Please consider the Eureka County's master plans specifically the natural resources and state and federal land use element to the plan and Title 9 of the Eureka County Code as Eureka County's primary input in the project. These outlined policies, plans, guidance and controls for the use of lands and resources in or effecting Eureka County. Eureka County will not and cannot support any management option inconsistent with these. We expect BLM to fully comply with the intent of the FLIPMA and NEPA initiative by properly coordinating with Eureka County and incorporating the land use plans, policies and controls of Eureka County into the EA and resolving any inconsistencies that arise. Thank you for taking into account our comments. We look forward to working with the BLM on the White Pine County Silver State Trail EA".

Public comment in Reno:

Mitch McVicars, representing White Pine CABMW, stated that they voted for Alternative D.

Bill Miller, private citizen, stated that he has been involved in the White Pine County Lands Bill through its development. He stated that he is not against OHV's or their use. This was a direction from Congress which mandated that Lincoln County shall develop a Silver State Trail, and in the White Pine County's portion of the lands bill, it said they may develop a Silver State Trail. This is why it keeps coming back. Once the county roads are designated as trails, they are Congressionally designated, and the oversight will be through the Secretary of the Interior and the county will have very little say in maintenance, opening, closing and re-routing. The County Commissioners and other groups looked at the Silver State Trail routes along with other trail systems, and they did not feel comfortable with a Silver State Trail going through White Pine County as being a designated trail. The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to complete the study of routes. The lands bill states, "The Silver State Trail would only be designated if the BLM determined that there would be no adverse significant impacts to wildlife, natural and cultural resources, or traditional uses such as hunting and fishing". It also mentions that the route would go north and south and connect with the Lincoln County trail which none of these do. The White Pine County declined the last Silver State Trail prior to any issues they have already experienced with the proposed listing of the Greater Sage-grouse. Mr. Miller provided examples of two mining companies who were close to multiple sage grouse leks and both companies had to re-route their roads or power lines to mitigate the impact on the sage grouse leks. There is a lot of winter range that the trails will cross along with conservation easements that landowners have put in place. There is a lack of funding and manpower to fund monitoring. A driving factor for this project is to increase revenue for the city of Ely and White Pine County. The concern is for the ranchers and farmers because they will be impacted more than the businesses in downtown Ely. Safety is another issue due to a lack of cell service.

Linda Linton, representing Coalition of Nevada's Wildlife as the Director, stated that she has hunted in White Pine County since 2004 and has seen the effects of the OHV on habitat, especially the springs. The Coalition is choosing Alternative D for no action on the BLM proposal. They would also like to see additional monitoring and enforcement if possible, even on the Alternative D option. She referenced the Coalitions letter and quoted, "We object to the segmented process of the SST extension, two proposals that effectively negates the ability to consider the cumulative effects analysis to wildlife and habitat in the multi-county segments." She asked if the Commission could look on the internet for the White Pine County Public Lands Policy Plan of 2018, on at pages 40 and 41, which states that side bars must be in place before motorized recreation can be expanded. She asked that the pressure on the animals and the habitat to be taken into consideration for this project.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MOVED TO PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) COMMENT LETTER TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) REGARDING THE SILVER STATE TRAIL PROPOSED FOR WHITE PINE COUNTY; THE LETTER WOULD RECOGNIZE THE COMMISSION'S SUPPORT OF MULTIPLE USE ON PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA AND SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE D, CITING THE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS PRESENTED BY HABITAT DIVISION STAFF SPECIALIST, JASMINE KLEIBER AS WELL AS STATING AND SUPPORTING THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOVING FORWARD. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION.

Discussion ensued between Chairman Johnston, Commissioner McNinch and Division Administrator Jenne regarding who would write the letter.

Chairman Johnston stated that he will draft the letter with the help of the Department. He stated he believed that the letter could not be circulated between the Commissioners due to open meeting laws.

Senior DAG Stockton stated that was correct.

THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

18. The Potential Acquisition of a New Department Office in the Las Vegas Valley – Deputy Director Jack Robb – For Possible Action
A report will be provided by Deputy Director Jack Robb on the potential acquisition of a new Department office building in the Las Vegas Valley. Cost analysis, unique office needs, and potential location will be discussed.

Deputy Director Jack Robb stated that the Department has outgrown the Las Vegas office and provided information regarding the process of how a new building was found and the details on the proposed acquisition of the new building in Las Vegas. Based on the current lease rate versus the purchase price, it made more sense to try to purchase the building. The Department has worked with State Lands, the Governor's office of Finance, the Treasurer's office, and the Legislative Commission and got an affirmative this week to move forward with the purchase of the building. The Department will go before the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) the end of June 2019 to get the remainder of the monies because the Department will close escrow in the next fiscal year. After anticipated costs, signage, public outreach, moving costs and Information Technology costs, the total move in cost is \$4.1 million and this will be offset for the sale of the building at 4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Commission meeting that is set in September 2019 is near the possible move in time frame and the Department would consider swapping the timing of the next Commission meeting held in Las Vegas. For the move in, Commissioners, Legislators and others would be invited for an open house. The new building will enhance the staff's ability to be functional due to the centralized location and convenience of having all of the staff in one building, and it will also enhance the Department's ability to serve the customers.

Commissioner East thanked the staff for their hard work to get the information and binders ready for the IFC meeting.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs, Vice Chairman Valentine and Deputy Director Robb regarding the location and the accessibility of the property from major highways; and that it is a great option for the Department and southern Nevada.

Deputy Director Robb stated that the Department is looking for support from the Commission today so that we have the support moving forward.

Chairman Johnston stated he wanted to make sure the Department is confident in the acquisition costs of ownership, tenant improvements and move-in expenses versus cost to lease.

Deputy Director Robb stated that yes, there is a lot of back up that shows this is the right option for the Department.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

COMMISSIONER HUBBS MOVED TO APPROVE THE POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF THE NEW DEPARTMENT OFFICE IN THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY AND THAT THE COMMISSION IS ON BOARD WITH THE ACQUISITION OF THE BUILDING LONG TERM, AND THE LOCATION OF THE BUILDING. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER EAST. THE MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

19. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairman Johnston – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 21 and 22, 2019 in Hawthorne; the Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the 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 meeting that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Secretary Wasley stated that the next Commission meeting held on June 21 and 22, 2019 will be held at the El Capitan Travel Lodge and Casino in Hawthorne, Nevada. There currently are no plans to video stream or teleconference that meeting since it will be held in a rural location. The agenda items per our schedule is to set and revise Upland Game and Furbearer seasons and limits; CABMW budget requests; Duck Stamp and Upland Game Stamp Project proposals; Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendors and Organizations will be selected; Heritage Proposals, Extensions and Reallocations; Upland Game Release Plan will be set; Committee Reports from committee meetings that occur in advance of the Commission meeting which may include the Wildlife Heritage Committee, Legislative update on the bills we have been tracking, and the Finance Committee Report; an Appeal to be heard that was filed by Kyle Thissell regarding the denial of his 2019 subguide license; there was an expressed desire from the Fallon Range and Testing Complex (FRTC) to give a presentation on the proposed expansion associated with the Fallon Naval Air Station and we were also contacted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Complex, biologist Kevin DesRoberts, from the Desert Wildlife Refuge to provide an update on the process and timeline from the Department of Interior perspective. We will reach out to conservation partners to present under the Conservation Partner Spotlight on the agenda.

Vice Chairman Valentine stated that there has been some discussion that the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) meeting may occur.

Chairman Johnston stated that the Finance Committee usually meets telephonically in advance of the Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Hubbs and Secretary Wasley regarding Silver State Trail letter, that it is due by June 4, 2019, which will be before the next Commission meeting; but the Department can provide an update and share the correspondence of what was submitted.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

No public comment in Elko.

No public comment in Reno.

20. Public Comment Period

Persons wishing to speak are requested to complete a speaker's card and present it to the recording secretary. 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.

No public comment in Las Vegas.

Public comment in Elko:

Bert Gurr, representing Elko CABMW, stated he appreciates being able to watch the Commission and having the ability for input. He requested to have the ability to watch what the Commission meeting and hear it concurrently because it was very confusing watching the slides today.

No public comment in Reno.

Chairman Johnston adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Note: The meeting has been videotaped and is available for viewing at www.ndow.org. The minutes are only a summary of the meeting. A complete record of the meeting can be obtained at the Nevada Department of Wildlife Headquarters Office in Reno.