

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Meeting Location

June 23 and 24, 2023

Bristlecone Convention Center
150 W 6th Street
Ely, NV 89301

The meeting will NOT be broadcast live or have virtual participation. A recording of the meeting will be posted to the NDOW Commission YouTube page later:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrFHgHLM0MZA2Hx7og8pFcQ>

Meeting materials are available at: <https://www.ndow.org/events/june-2023-commission-meeting/>

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at wildlifecommission@ndow.org or attend and make comment during the meeting. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. All persons present are asked to sign-in, whether speaking or not.

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 which antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the 2-day meeting:

Chairman Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Eddie Booth
Commissioner Mario Walther
Commissioner Thomas Barnes

Vice Chairman Shane Rogers
Commissioner Tiffany East
Commissioner David McNinch
Secretary Alan Jenne

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

*Commissioners Alana Wise and Casey Kiel were absent both days.

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Administrative Assistant Cameron Tull
Management Analyst Megan Manfredi
Biologist 4 Matt Flores
Biologist 3 Michael West
Wildlife Staff Specialist Jonathan Young
Conservation Educator Julie Gabrielson
Espinosa
Management Analyst Kailey Musso
Habitat Division Administrator Mark Freese
Wildlife Area Supervisor Adam Henriod
Biologist 4 Cody Byrne

Administrative Assistant Natalie Pannunzio
Biologist 4 Caleb McAdoo
Deputy Director Mike Scott
Deputy Director Jordan Goshert
Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Davis
Game Division Administrator Shawn

Biologist 4 Tom Donham
Biologist 4 Joe Bennett
Wildlife Area Technician Kenny Mull
Professional Engineer Rodd Lighthouse

Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark
Chief of Law Enforcement Kristy Knight
Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Kim Munoz

Biologist 3 Matt Jeffress

Public in Attendance:

Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW
Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Mitch McVicars, White Pine CABMW
Maureen Hullinger, private citizen
Jack Robb, private citizen
Laurie Carson, White Pine County Commission Vice Chairwoman

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW
Michael Porter, Douglas CABMW
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Ray Swayer, White Pine CABMW
WM Miller, private citizen
Steve Bowman, private citizen

Friday, June 23, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called and all members were present except for Commissioner Wise and Kiel were absent.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Caviglia – 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.

There were no questions or comments from the Commission.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JUNE 23, 2023, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

3.* Approval of Minutes – Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action

Commission minutes may be approved from the May 5 and 6, 2023 meeting.

Commissioner East noted on page 5 the phrase “want/waste” should be corrected to “wanton waste”. Also, on page 5 the word “statue” should be corrected to “statute”.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 5 AND 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES. VICE CHARIMAN ROGERS

SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 6-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT, AND COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSTAINED.

- 4. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Caviglia – 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 Jenne may also be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia brought up a letter he received from Pershing County Chukars Unlimited regarding the heritage tag vendors. He also noted two letters received regarding opposition to meeting in rural Nevada, a letter regarding designating tags to older hunters, and a letter regarding chukar season dates. Next, he acknowledged the passing of Rex Flowers and the impact he had on the Commission and Washoe CABMW.

Chairman Caviglia read a letter written by Commissioner Kiel regarding Rex Flowers.

“I was always appreciative of Rex’s dedication to Nevada’s wildlife and his commitment to the process in which it is managed. I’m uncertain of how to quantify the effort it took for Rex to stay as engaged as much as he was, or how many years he spent as a member of the CABMW or personally representing himself or the coalition at meetings, but it had to be considerable. His knowledge of NAC’s, NRS’s, Commission Regulations, and Commission Policies was pretty remarkable and certainly impressive. He held a high standard and was at times critical of the Department, the Commission, and of myself and that criticism should be welcomed and surely was by me. With his vast experience he knew the potential this State has for its wildlife resources and strove to maximize that value. I viewed our conversations as coaching opportunities, and I respect his mentorship.”

Commissioner Tiffany East mentioned a memorial service for Rex Flowers. She then invited everyone in attendance to join a dinner to celebrate her time with the Commission.

Secretary Alan Jenne presented a tenure award to Game Division Biologist 4, Tom Donham, who is slated to retire after 30 years of service to the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

Deputy Director Mike Scott commemorated Tom Donham’s career with the Department.

- 5. 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.

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, noted that a live video of the Commission meetings is a benefit, but not required. He moved on to state he will be conducting a discussion on why we don’t allow blood tracking dogs at the next CABMW meeting.

Mitch McVicars representing White Pine CABMW, stated the community is very excited about the progress at Cave Lake. Next, he stated he wants to see the boat ramp at Comins Lake extended and that he still needs to install some conduit so they will have power by the lake. He mentioned that he and the community want to see the camp sites on Success Loop remain open. He pointed

out there is not enough law enforcement for shed season. Lastly, he brought up specialty tags and suggested not allowing harvest from the same unit each year for all species.

6. Reports

A. **Department Activity Report – Secretary Jenne and Division Administrators – Informational**

A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Secretary Jenne presented the Director's Office Division Activity Report.

The Director's Office has been busy wrapping up the legislative session after meeting with legislators and testifying during hearings. The Department's biennial budget was approved with minor changes from the last budget cycle and the bills signed were mostly beneficial for the agency. I am appreciative of the collective effort of our employees and the Commission put forward in this session. A report on other pertinent bills will be given later at this meeting.

Governor Lombardo signed a bill which significantly increases state employee compensation. This raise is well deserved and overdue. We are grateful for all our employees' hard work and commitment during the tough times, and we look forward to the improvement in their standard of living as well as being more competitive with recruitment opportunities.

The Department celebrated Public Service Recognition Week with employee appreciation events scheduled throughout the state during the beginning of May. These events were a small token of appreciation and acknowledgement that our personnel are what separate us from other agencies and make us all so proud to be NDOW.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso completed her second National Conservation Leadership Institute (NCLI) Residency, joining four other Department staff as an alumnus.

The USGS Cooperative Research Unit at the University of Nevada, Reno is now officially up and running. We are excited to be working with Jeff Falke on a number of conservation priorities.

Meghan Beyer's last day was June 2. Please work with Cameron Tull until the Executive Assistant position has been filled.

GAME DIVISION

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa presented the Game Division Activity Report.

MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE: Staff have been collaborating with the USGS Corridor Mapping Team and cartographers from University of Oregon to produce detailed maps of wildlife vehicle collision (WVC's) hotspots for big game species across the state. These maps will be part of a statewide wildlife habitat and corridor plan that will be a part of the Nevada Sagebrush Habitat and Connectivity Plan.

In the Southern Region, the Clark County MDEP Subcommittee met on May 10 to finalize the Spring Mountains Camera Project and distribute camera equipment. Twenty locations in the Spring Mountains west of Las Vegas will have remote trail cameras deployed on water sources and game trails throughout the summer. The focus of this project is to collect information on the

population of mule deer and document the use of important resources by mule deer and elk as well as equids and predators. Cameras and lock boxes were procured and donated through Wildlife and Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN), and they are the bulk of our volunteer workforce for deploying and checking cameras. This equates to over \$15,000 in 3:1 federal aid match with lots of volunteer groundwork in the future. To date, all the cameras have been deployed by volunteers.

Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats: Coordination with Game Division Regions and Department of Defense for June bighorn captures focused primarily on Test and Remove on the Nevada Test and Training Range, monitoring herd recovery from recent disease events, and helping understand bighorn movement within metapopulation areas that includes California.

Staff participated in Idaho, Oregon and Nevada (ION) bighorn group meeting to collaborate with Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and further understand bighorn sheep habitat use on and across the refuge boundary in concert with assessing lion predation rates.

Elk and Moose: Staff attended the Deer & Elk Workshop in Flagstaff, AZ during the week of May 15th. Partnered with Brendan Oates, an ungulate specialist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to co-present an overview of the Aerial Survey App. Also attended the Mule Deer Working Group Meeting and provided an overview of winter conditions and effects to big game herds in Nevada.

On May 23rd, Department personnel received a mortality notification from a radio-collared moose near Tennessee Mountain in western Elko County. A subsequent investigation by Area Biologist Travis Allen determined this moose likely died from the consumption of leaves and new growth of chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), which are toxic in the spring and summer. This mortality is noteworthy because it is the first recorded mortality of a radio-collared moose in Nevada since the first moose captures in 2020, a monitoring period that included 13 adult moose and a combined total of 306 months.

Waterfowl and Furbearers: Two new seasonal duck banding technicians have been hired to help the waterfowl program reach the assigned mallard banding goals.

Upland Game: Staff participated in several meetings regarding the Greater Sage-grouse Resource Management Plan amendment with Cooperating Agencies. Early efforts have focused on revising the sage-grouse habitat management areas (HMAs) and the various alternatives.

Southern region staff are coordinating with Matthew Brown and the Southern Nevada Chapter of Quail Forever to continue surveys for chukar and quail. This years' effort will be expanded beyond the 18-25 remote cameras deployed last year on springs and small game guzzlers to document adult and chick presence throughout June and July. Areas of focus will be Davis Dam, Highland Range, South Spring Mountains, Bullfrog Hills, Lida, Mormon Mountains and three areas adjacent to Hiko. The Department has placed an emphasis on capturing all hours from the Quail Forever volunteer work.

Wildlife Health: Nate LaHue attended the 4th International Chronic Wasting Disease Conference in Denver.

HABITAT DIVISION

Habitat Division Administrator Mark Freese presented the Habitat Division Activity Report.

June Meeting: The June meeting is always a positive meeting with Heritage, Upland Game Bird Stamp, and Duck Stamp funding awards made. These revenue sources provide valuable funding for wildlife and habitat conservation efforts across the state. This year's total funding awards as recommended by the Department is \$1,870,915.58. Once the federal grant match of 3 to 1 is calculated these funds will provide a total of \$7,483,662.32 in Nevada wildlife and habitat conservation value.

Governor Lombardo's "Get S#!t Done" Award: On May 11, 2023, our Eastern Region Habitat Biologist, were presented a "Get S#!t Done" award by Governor Lombardo for their exemplary efforts in wildlife habitat restoration. This team is led by Caleb McAdoo, Eastern Region Habitat Supervisor and includes habitat biologists Matt Glenn, Brittany Trimble Allen, Moira Kolada, Madi Stout Ellingwood, Lindsey Lesmeister, and Jeremy Lutz.

Technical Review Program:

The Technical Review Program has been providing guidance on several large projects including: BLM Sage-Grouse plan revision, BLM's Proposed Rule on Conservation and Land Health, Truckee Meadows Lands Bill, Greenlink North and West Transmission line projects, Cross-Tie Transmission Line, Western Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, BLM and FS Herbicide plans, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bi-State Sage-Grouse proposed listing rule, Stagecoach Wind, and Libra Solar projects.

Wildlife Management Areas:

Flooding continues at the Argenta, Carson Lake, and Mason Valley WMA's. The Argenta WMA has experienced flooding conditions since late March (2023) peaking over 3,100 cfs on June 1st, which is the highest flow documented to date. Daily flows continue holding around 3,000 cfs with the majority of the WMA having been or currently is under inches-to-feet of water. Initial inspections show road damage along all three entrances to the WMA. The extent of the damage will be assessed once the water recedes. Biologist have observed thousands of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds daily on the Argenta WMA along their annual spring migration. Spring turkey hunters adapted to the changing water conditions by using chest waders to access. Flows along the Carson River peaked on June 8th but are expected to remain high through most of July. Much of the Carson Lake WMA is submerged with water levels about 9 inches higher than experienced in 2017 and the area remains closed to vehicles with walk-in access permitted. The emergency spillway below Lahontan Reservoir has been reduced to approximately 100 cfs and water levels are slowly receding. Flows along the Walker River have been high for the last month with peak flows not expected until mid-to-late-June. Numerous roads, fields and ponds have received damage and the Department evacuated non-essential employees and all family members at both WMA and Hatchery locations on June 13th. This decision came after all ingress/egress roads to NDOW staff were compromised and Lyon County Emergency Services could no longer access the site. NDOW has been working with the Division of Emergency Management for support and the area has been closed until further notice. Damage will be assessed when floodwaters recede, but flows are expected to remain high through most of July.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY DIVISION

Wildlife Diversity Biologist 3 Michael West presented the Wildlife Diversity Division Activity Report.

Shorebird Monitoring: At the May 2023 Commission meeting, it was reported that Wildlife Diversity biologists were participating in the multi-partner Intermountain West Shorebird Survey effort. Diversity biologists have now completed surveys at 15 of the 49 sites in Nevada with the remainder being surveyed by other partners. All data have been entered into the Point Blue Conservation Science database per the data sharing agreement with NDOW. Completed

analysis and report are expected this fall. Additionally, NDOW, working with local partners completed the Lahontan Valley shorebird surveys. These surveys incorporated the Intermountain West Shorebird Survey methods into the regular protocols thus supporting both Intermountain West Shorebird Survey and our long-established surveys. The total bird count for Lahontan Valley was very low at just 2,264 birds on the northward spring migration. However, the heavy spring melt has flooded many traditional use areas forcing birds to disperse to alternate areas.

BioBlitz: Wildlife Diversity biologists did participate in two small BioBlitz efforts at 7J Ranch outside of Beatty sponsored by The Nature Conservancy and at the Basin and Range National Monument sponsored by BLM-Caliente. For 7J Ranch one Wildlife Diversity biologist lead the small mammal surveys, May 19-21, 2023. Over two nights, a total of 200 traps were set for a total of 400 trap nights. Trap success was very high at approximately 30%. Merriam's kangaroo rat was the most common species comprising nearly 70% of all captures. Other species captured included desert kangaroo rat, chisel tooth kangaroo rat, southern grasshopper mouse, cactus mouse, and little pocket mouse. Three Wildlife Diversity biologists lead the bat trapping effort at Basin and Range National Monument on the night of June 2, 2023. Despite unfavorable survey conditions with a full moon and lots of available water sources allowing bats to disperse, several western small-footed myotis were captured. Equally important, the two Diversity biologists covering the Monument were able to meet the new BLM-Caliente biologist, establishing a positive working relationship.

Mine closure/hibernacula protection: One Southern Region Wildlife Diversity biologist working with BLM, Nevada Division of Minerals, and Environmental Protection Services were able to install bat and desert tortoise compatible closures in May 2023 at a large complex abandoned gypsum mine near Moapa, Nevada. This mine complex had been previously surveyed by a NDOW Wildlife Diversity biologist and Dr. Rick Sherwin and determined to be hibernacula for various species of Myotis and Townsend's big-eared bats. A gate was incorporated into the design allowing NDOW biologists access to the site. This site will be incorporated into future White Nose Syndrome monitoring efforts starting winter 2023-2024.

Dark kangaroo mouse (DKM) surveys: Three Wildlife Diversity biologists, with assistance from Habitat Division biologists and the co-managed BLM/NDOW-Elko small mammal crew conducted small mammal surveys targeting dark kangaroo mouse at Massacre Lake in northern Washoe County the week of May 22-26th. Two historic dark kangaroo mouse sites and a third new site were surveyed with 50 traps each for three nights for a total of 450 trap nights. Dark kangaroo mice were captured at the historic sites confirming continued occupancy since June 2004. Tissue samples were taken from each kangaroo mouse to further support a genetic connectivity study with UNR. The third new site was in nearby sandy habitat but with a higher gravel component, thus of lower quality habitat. While DKM was not trapped at this site, this effort helps us better understand the subtle ecological limitations of dark kangaroo mouse habitat requirements. Additional species caught included Ord's kangaroo rat, Great Basin pocket mouse, and deer mouse, for 27 total captures.

North American Bat Monitoring: Wildlife Diversity Biologists across the state are currently deploying acoustic bat detectors this month (June 2023) as part of the larger multi-partner North American Bat Monitoring program. This is the third year of this monitoring effort.

Staffing changes: Jason Jones, our statewide Herpetologist, has departed NDOW for a position with a nationwide environmental consulting firm. Jason made many significant contributions during his time at NDOW including changes in commercial collection of reptiles and recruiting a large volunteer base for road cruising surveys for nocturnal herps. His last day was June 1, 2023. We appreciate Jason's efforts on behalf of NDOW and wish him the best of luck with the next

chapter in his career. The Wildlife Diversity division is currently evaluating how best to recruit a quality candidate.

FISHERIES DIVISION

Eastern Region Fisheries Supervisor Cody Byrne presented the Fisheries Division Activity Report.

Nevada waters are currently experiencing peak runoff from the memorable winter of 2022/2023. Most lakes and reservoirs are at capacity while streams and rivers are exhibiting record flows. The Fisheries, Habitat, and Wildlife Diversity Divisions are pleased to welcome Jeff Wyatt as our new Administrative Assistant III at Reno Headquarters. Jeff is a Marine Corp. veteran and comes to us from DMV which assures a certain level of expertise in customer service. The busy field season is in full swing with a slate of summertime seasonals now assisting our fisheries biologists statewide.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program: A concerted Australian redclaw crayfish trapping effort at the Clark County Wetlands Park was completed on June 14 – 15 with staff from SNWA, Clark County, NDOW, DRI and the FWS all participating. The results of this trapping effort will inform future eDNA work and eradication strategies. TRPA intercepted two zebra mussel fouled boats at the Spooner Lake AIS station in late May. Both vessels had recently been purchased and transported from Indiana.

Fish Hatcheries: Substantial flooding on the East Fork of the Walker River has left our Mason Valley Hatchery in a precarious position. By early June, the facility was essentially an island with no appreciable means to get fish off station. In preparation for Free Fishing Day activities throughout northern Nevada, fisheries supervisors and headquarters staff devised a plan to transport a substantial number of fish from Gallagher Hatchery in Ruby Valley and from our Spring Creek Rearing Station near Baker to Western Region waters to meet anticipated needs in the week prior to Free Fishing Day. When floodwaters recede, Mason Valley fish will subsequently be stocked into Eastern Region waters. All staff who participated in this momentous effort should be commended!

Native Aquatic Species: Fisheries and Wildlife Diversity personnel participated in an extensive survey effort for Railroad Valley Toads at Lockes Ranch in early June. Survey results will delineate current abundance and distribution of the species at the property and hopefully inform future decisions relating to a recent petition to list the species under the Endangered Species Act.

Sportfish Program: Northern Nevada waters received their annual allotment of warmwater fish species in early June. A total of 48,400 Channel Catfish and 4,000 Wipers were purchased from an out of state vendor and delivered to a number of northern Nevada recreational fisheries. Many thanks go to the Heritage Committee and Commission for funding this effort with the FY 23 award.

Eastern Region Fisheries: A fish die off occurred at Wildhorse Reservoir in May after ice off. Most of the observed dead fish were Yellow Perch which displayed similar signs to the fish kill observed in 2022 attributed to Motile A. septicemia. Since ice-off in early May, Fisheries, Steptoe WMA, and volunteers have been electrofishing to target and remove invasive Northern Pike from Comins Lake. Electrofishing capture rates have been lower this spring likely due to the variable weather and poor water clarity this spring. Construction on the Cave Lake dam rehabilitation project began on May 1st. Progress has been steady, and crews will be beginning on the coffer dam to begin the outlet structure replacement.

Southern Region Fisheries: After our previous vendor went MIA, Channel Catfish were finally delivered to our Southern Region urban ponds by a new vendor from Arkansas in early June. Snorkel surveys were conducted for Pahranaagat Roundtail Chub in the upper section of the Pahranaagat River in early June. Only carp and Green Sunfish were found in a section of river that has traditionally been a stronghold for the chub. NDOW will be working with FWS soon to develop strategies for salvaging any remaining chub and transporting them to the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center in New Mexico to preserve the remaining wild genetics.

Western Region Fisheries: A volunteer habitat improvement project was held at Rye Patch Reservoir in late May. Vegetation wads from cut willow and tamarisk were built and anchored to provide juvenile fish habitat when the bays become inundated as water levels rise. Heavy snow load will likely prevent Department personnel from conducting our annual fish spawning activities at Marlette Lake this year. Fisheries staff conducted two nights of electrofishing at Redhawk Golf Course to collect pre-spawn Largemouth Bass for Battle Born Pond (Lennar Pond / Kiley Ranch). Approximately 50 LMB ranging from 1-5 pounds were captured and transferred. Additional capture efforts are planned utilizing seins and gill nets later in the summer.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the spawning activities at Marlette Lake.

Biologist 4 Cody Byrne stated the eggs are used for trout stocking throughout the Eastern and Western Regions. They plan to address those shortfalls and the Department will be sourcing from the National Fish Hatchery System and private hatcheries.

Commissioner East mention that she attended the free fishing day and commended Fisheries and Conservation Education staff for a job well done.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked about the two vessels that were contaminated with mussels.

Biologist 4 Cody Byrne stated that the two vessels were decontaminated before going in the water.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES DIVISION (DATS)

Administrative Assistant IV Natalie Pannunzio presented the DATS Division Activity Report.

Licensing and Hunt Units: The Data and Technology Services Licensing & Hunt staff completed another year of record-breaking main draw application period. We ended with a 6% increase in the total number of applications over 2022.

2023 Main Draw Highlights:

Total # of applications = 432,261 up from 408,337 in 2022
Average app per customer = 5.06 up from 4.84 in 2022
Total customers = 85,362
New customers = 4,821
Reactivated customers that didn't apply in 2022 = 8,236

Staff have been working with ConEd staff and Gordan Darby to implement the free youth license though the AMS system in time for Free Fishing Day.

The regional counter staff have seen a big increase in the number of vessel registrations thanks to the extra water this year. Las Vegas counter staff processed \$79,000 of transaction in the month of May.

Second Draw – The second draw opened on June 5th with 10 tags available. The draw is scheduled to be conducted on June 21st with results released as soon as validation is completed by the Department.

Information Technology: Finally, the Information Technology are busy getting the new Fallon office wired for network and telecommunications, as well as, getting a new video conference system set up in the conference room at Valley Road.

Commissioner Eddie Booth asked about the number of tags received by individuals.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed the number was 18,265.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION (ConEd)

Eastern Region Conservation Education Supervisor Julie Gabrielson presented the Conservation Education Division Activity Report.

Events:

On June 3rd, the western region conducted the annual Carp Derby at Lahontan Reservoir with over 100 kids participating.

The western region angler education program participated in free fishing day at the Sparks Marina. Roughly 1000 kids registered and received free rods, bait, and tackle from the Rotary Club. Most importantly, nearly all the kids caught fish. Our overall goal was 1000 kids catching 10% percent of the fish stocked, and we beat that!

Eastern region Conservation Education staff hosted two Free Fishing Day events this year. One at Carlin Chinese Gardens and the second at Comins Lake in Ely. 110 fishing poles were given away between the two locations (50 in Ely and 60 in Carlin) along with casting tutorials, bait and tackle assistance and information about the new free youth fishing licenses.

With over 200 people in attendance, the Southern Region Free Fishing Day event was once again a success. From Blacks in Nature to the Boulder City Bass Club, a wealth of different outdoor-centric organizations attended the event. The bite was a little sluggish, but one angler went home with a 12-pound catfish in his cooler.

Volunteer:

Over 60 NDOW volunteers and staff built the last of 3 big game guzzlers in the Butte Mountains over Father's Day weekend. The Butte Mountain East guzzler adds 10,000 gallons of storage, with a 600-gallon drinker. The completion of this third installment marks 30,000 gallons of water storage in hunt unit 104, benefiting elk, pronghorn antelope, mule deer and non-game species. We thank Elko Bighorns Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for donations making meals possible throughout the weekend.

Outreach:

From May through June, Conservation Education Staff sent more than 20 emails promoting NDOW's big game application period, big game draw and second draw. Promotional emails were sent to hunters, anglers, and boaters reminding them of the big game application period deadline.

Other emails included countdown emails, emails to people at risk of losing bonus points, emails reminding tag holders to update their payment information and more. Staff also sent multiple text messages to hunters reminding them of the deadlines.

Conservation Education staff is currently working on various emails and social media posts to promote the Nevada Dream Tags raffle, and highlighting the funding the Dream Tags program puts toward habitat restoration work. So far staff has sent two emails and published various social media posts. More promotions are planned in the coming weeks.

Conservation Education staff worked on various Free Fishing Day promotions. They published social media posts, recorded a podcast, sent a press release, and were featured in interviews with local news stations.

In conjunction with Free Fishing Day, Conservation Education staff worked to promote the Nevada Youth License Fund and the availability of youth combination licenses for kids 12-17 years old at no cost to them. Emails and promotional materials were sent to youth-centric organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Clubs, public libraries, and many others. Flyers were handed out at Free Fishing Day events, and at some locations, staff helped sign kids up and print their licenses off for them. Over the Free Fishing Day weekend, over 200 youth combination licenses were issued to kids ages 12-17 through this new program. Out of those distributed, two out of three of the kids had never owned a license previously. Additionally, Free Fishing Day interviews with local media channels interviewed staff on the new Kids Fishing Fund in addition to promoting and recapping the event and future events. As of June 20, 2023, 1,590 junior combo licenses have been issued since the soft launch. Seven out of ten of those kids have never had a Nevada license before.

Media Highlight:

Conservation Education Staff was recently recognized at the Public Relations Society of America - Sierra Nevada Chapter's Silver Spike Awards. The awards recognize work by public relations professionals from Northern Nevada, Lake Tahoe, and the surrounding areas. The Nevada Wild podcast received an Award of Excellence, and NDOW's Women's Month social media campaign received the Silver Spike Award.

Over the last 30 days, NDOW has been mentioned about 500 times, with an average of 12 mentions per day in the newspaper and broadcast news stories. Examples of topics highlighted over the past month include boating safety, fishing, hunting and NDOW's habitat restoration work.

Commissioner Tiffany East thanked the Conservation Education division for their work on the free fishing day event.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

The Chief of Law Enforcement Kristy Knight presented the Law Enforcement Division Activity Report.

Law Enforcement completed their annual in-service meeting/training in Eureka.

Our newest warden graduated from the POST academy in Carson City and is now completing internal training and field training. Once he successfully completes field training, he will be stationed in Minden/Gardnerville.

We are still in the process of backgrounds for 2 new hires. Their anticipated start dates will be the end of June/beginning of July. The positions that would be filled with successful completion will be Eureka and Las Vegas.

A collaboration between Con Ed, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement allowed for a successful outcome for spear fishing for razor back sucker fish in Lake Mohave. Con Ed received a complaint on this subject through our info request. Con Ed was able to save the video and picture of the subject before it was deleted, which it was soon after deleted. Fisheries confirmed what the fish was and the severity of taking even one fish from the wild. The taking of one female razorback sucker fish causes a loss of 100,000 to 200,000 eggs a year. Law Enforcement received the information and worked with fisheries directly. The game warden did his investigation and then talked to the subject. The subject admitted to taking the razorback sucker fish. The subject thought it was a Carp and ate the razor back sucker fish, stating it was disgusting. He was cited for taking an endangered species and spearfishing in a closed/prohibited area within ½ mile of a marina.

Game Wardens investigated juveniles shooting at bighorn sheep near Walker Lake, someone shooting at a bear in Carson City, deadhead pick-ups, unlawful mt. lion kills, someone shooting fully auto AR style air soft rifle at birds, illegal guiding activity, shooting a crow out of season, collecting shed antlers without a certificate (turned himself in), dead collared doe antelope (no foul play suspected), and 2 stolen jet ski's that came in to be registered.

Water levels are high, leading to a busy time on the water. We are having to move buoys constantly at Lahontan. We have investigated the following on the water already: a boat accident on Lahontan when the operator hit a submerged object and was ejected from his vessel breaking his leg, an Operating under the influence arrest on Lahontan, a kayak accident on South Fork, a boat capsized and then sunk accident on Mohave, and 3 personal watercraft accidents on the Colorado River, one with substantial injury. The Laughlin game wardens provided river security for the AVI fireworks for Memorial Day. The Lake Mead Wardens assisted the National Park Service on multiple medical calls. The Lake Mohave Lt. assisted National Park Service with a search and rescue and disorderly conduct at Cottonwood Cove.

Staff Game Wardens investigated multiple threats that came into DATS staff. One for a disgruntled hunter that missed putting in for tags and one for not drawing tags.

Four game wardens attended Wildlife human attack response team (WHART) training, four wardens attended wildlife forensics training, and Southern Region wardens attended wildlife immobilization training.

A Game Warden was first on scene of a 2-vehicle accident on a busy section of I-80. She assisted with getting medical there and directing traffic.

A game warden responded to numerous mt. lion calls in Genoa and Gardnerville. One, the homeowner had shot a lion that attacked his dog. The lion took cover under his deck. The lion was tranquilized and removed.

The WSBA (Western States Boating Administrators Association) held their annual conference at Lake Tahoe. A Staff Game Warden and our Boating Education Coordinator organized the conference. Multiple field wardens assisted at the conference.

Commissioner McNinch thanked the Law Enforcement division for everything they do and asked to clarify on the stolen jet skis.

Chief Knight stated the jet skis were stolen in Nevada, then sold in Arizona, then they were brought back to Nevada.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked how many Game Warden positions were vacant.

Chief Knight stated 13 positions were vacant.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked about the Pioche warden position.

Chief Knight stated that position was filled.

Commissioner McNinch stated there has been an increase in activities Game Wardens need to cover and asked if there has been an increase in allotted Game Warden positions.

Chief Knight stated one position has been added in nearly 19 years.

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

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett presented the Litigation Report. He stated that a settlement was reached on the Walker River Paiute Tribe case that began in 2015. Next, he stated the petition for judicial review of the Commission's decision to uphold revocation of the guide license for Mr. Collard was argued before the 8th Judicial District Court in Las Vegas two weeks ago. The judge promised a decision 30 days from the date the case was heard.

C.* Legislative Committee Report – Committee Chairwoman Tiffany East – Informational

A final report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings and the results of the 2023 Legislative Session. The Commission may still choose to review bills of interest and any associated amendments, 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. Bill and BDR language may be viewed online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023/Bills/List>.

Commissioner Tiffany East asked Management Analyst III Kailey Musso to go through the bill tracking list.

Management Analyst Musso started with Senate Bill (SB) 334 an energy related bill, which had no further action as of June. SB176, a ground water bill, failed to pass through a deadline. Assembly Bill (AB)102 a wildlife contest bill, failed to pass the first deadline. SB311, the tag transfer bill, passed and was approved by the Governor. SB269, an animal cruelty bill, passed and was approved by the Governor, but exceptions were put in place for hunting and training. SB141, AB387, AB221, all failed to pass through the Legislative Session. AB112, a wildlife crossing bill, passed and was approved by the Governor, it goes into effect July 1, 2023. SB88 was vetoed by the Governor. SB90 a wild horse bill failed a deadline. SB338 an off highway vehicle bill passed and was approved by the Governor. In the wildlife category SB312, SB421, AB349, SB224, SJR2 all failed to make it through the Legislative Session. In the law enforcement category SB294 passed and was approved by the Governor. SB367 passed and was approved by the Governor. AB355 was vetoed by the Governor. In the administration category SB87 and AB361 both passed and were approved by the Governor.

Commissioner East stated that the vetoed bills can and will come back next Legislative Session.

Commissioner McNinch stated his gratitude to Commissioner East for her leadership regarding the Legislative Session.

Commissioner East stated it was a team effort and the Department did a great job keeping her up to date.

Commissioner McNinch thanked Management Analyst Musso and Program Officer Medina for their involvement.

Commissioner East mentioned some of the vetoed and failed bills were a victim of time and she expressed hope they would come back next session, specifically AB349.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the Commission would go over language specific to AB70.

Secretary Jenne stated the Commission will review language specific to AB70 at the August Commission meeting.

Chairman Caviglia recessed at 10:25 a.m.

Chairman Caviglia reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

D.* Resident and Nonresident Landowner Wild Turkey Hunts – Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa – Informational

A report will be provided to the Commission describing the Resident and Nonresident Landowner Wild Turkey program, seasons, quotas, and success rates.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa presented information on the landowner wild turkey hunt specific to Paradise Valley. He stated it was a very successful hunt that falls within our guidelines where the Department will not make a change for next year.

Chairman Caviglia asked how the Department would adjust tags if the hunt metrics trended down and fell outside of the guidelines.

Administrator Espinosa stated the Department would limit opportunities if the problem persisted by lowering the number of tags issued to landowners.

7. Finance Committee – Committee Chairman Shane Rogers

A. Finance Committee Report – Committee Chairman Shane Rogers and Deputy Director Jordan Goshert – Informational

The Commission will hear a report on the Committee's recent meeting.

Commissioner Rogers delivered a report on the most recent Finance Committee meeting which took place on May 23, 2023. He stated the fiscal year 2024 recommended budget was \$36,526. After reviewing the budget request the Department preliminary recommended \$35,465, he stated the remaining balance is \$1,061 for 2024.

Chairman Caviglia thanked Gil Yanuck for his years of service to the Committee.

Commissioner Rogers echoed Chairman Caviglia's acknowledgement of Gil Yanuck and all of his hard work that benefited the Committee.

B.* Fiscal Year 2024 County Advisory Board Budget Requests – Committee Chairman Shane Rogers – For Possible Action

The Commission may approve an estimated amount of \$36,526 to be added to the reported cash balance on hand for County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, as requested, for Fiscal Year 2024.

Vice Chairman Rogers stated the Committee recommends \$36,526 to be added to the cash balance for the County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife.

Commissioner East asked if the reported cash balance is due to the Coronavirus Disease of 2019 (COVID-19) when travel was not allowed.

Deputy Director Goshert confirmed the large cash balances are from COVID-9 as well as some of the CABMW members not travelling to meetings.

Commissioner East asked what happens to that money if it's not used.

Deputy Director Goshert stated the fiscal year 2024 budget request was CABMW's using the calculation spreadsheet that the Department sends out to calculate how much travel they are projecting throughout the fiscal year. She continued to explain that the reported cash balance is subtracted from the county and that's how the preliminary numbers are populated.

Commissioner East stated the Commission sees the same few CABMW members every meeting and wondered if the Commission should drop their budget, not as punishment, but so the money can be used elsewhere.

Deputy Director Goshert clarified that the recommended amount to transfer is \$35,465.

CABMW comment:

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, thanked Gil Yanuck for his time on the Committee. He moved on to state that the CABMW budget should not be lowered so that CABMW members can participate if they choose to.

Gene Green representing Carson City CABMW, stated CABMW's change a lot and one member might not be able to travel much, but the next member might have a lot of free time to travel and need the budget.

Worth Nelson representing Lander CABMW, stated he doesn't know why Lander county's balance is so high, but mentioned they will be using budget to purchase a proper recording system for their meetings.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMOUNT OF \$35,465 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET REQUEST AS PRESENTED. VICE CHARIMAN ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

8.* Wildlife Heritage Committee – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes

A. Wildlife Heritage Committee Report – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – Informational

A report will be provided on the recent Wildlife Heritage Committee meeting.

Commissioner Barnes delivered a report on the most recent Wildlife Heritage Committee meeting that took place on June 23, 2023.

B.* Heritage Project Extension Requests – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will review recommendations and may approve extension requests from projects approved in previous fiscal years.

Commissioner Barnes stated the Wildlife Heritage Committee agreed on all the project extensions and recommended adopting the project extensions as presented.

Chairman Caviglia asked if the Commission would like to discuss further.

Commissioner East asked if H22-03 was just for insurance.

Administrator Mark Freese stated unless there are some monsoons this summer then H22-03 would be used as an insurance policy.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE WILDLIFE HERITAGE PROJECT EXTENSION REQUESTS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

C.* Heritage Funding Reallocation – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will review Committee recommendations and may approve reallocation of any unused Heritage funds from previously approved projects to other previously approved projects from the same fiscal year.

Commissioner Barnes stated that any money reallocated must be reallocated in the same year the money was spent. He stated that \$25,545 was available to reallocate for fiscal year 2021, and the committee agreed to allocate to project 21-14.

Chairman Caviglia stated the support material doesn't match with the numbers Commissioner Barnes just announced and clarified that is due to the Cave Valley Collaboration project having excess funding.

Commissioner Barnes moved on to fiscal year 2022. The committee agreed to reallocate \$710.86 to project 22-13.

Commissioner Barnes moved on to fiscal year 2023. The committee agreed to reallocate \$129.46 to project 23-02.

No CABMW comment

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE HERITAGE FUNDING REALLOCATION AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

D.* Fiscal Year 2024 Heritage Project Proposals – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – For Possible Action

The Commission will hear recommendations from the Committee and may take action to approve up to \$1,540,135.58 for projects submitted for FY 2024 funding from the committee are listed below and may be approved by the Commission.

- FY24 Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Restoration and Management (\$110,000)
- FY24 Wildfire-Related Restoration and Seed Purchase (\$150,000)
- Parrado Partners Community Park and Ponds Land Acquisition (\$100,000)
- Gilbert Creek Fencing and Habitat Restoration (\$50,000)
- Waking Spring Habitat Restoration (\$65,000)
- FY24 Nevada Spring Protection Project (\$100,000)
- Bald Mountain PJ Thinning (\$100,000)
- FY24 Corta Fire Habitat Improvement Phase II (\$60,000)
- FY24 Wildcat Fire Mule Deer Migration Corridor Bitterbrush Planting (\$82,000)
- FY24 Lake Tahoe Fish Management Structure Phase 1 (\$80,000)
- FY24 Nevada Water Developments (\$50,000)
- Bruneau WMA Habitat Improvement (\$31,000)
- Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area Water Enhancements (\$117,277.58)
- FY24 Izzenhood Mountains Habitat Improvement (\$64,000)
- FY24 Area 6 Toe Jam Mountain Mule Deer Corridor Fence Modification (\$70,000)
- Pole Canyon Fence (\$100,000)
- Success Ward Habitat Improvements (\$50,000)
- FY24 MA13 Mule Deer Collaring (30,000)
- FY24 Warmwater Fisheries Enhancement (\$130,858)

Commissioner Barnes stated that the committee liked all the projects as presented and recommended approving all projects as presented.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2024 HERITAGE PROJECT PROPOSALS AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

9. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Jenne – 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 Jenne spoke about the field trip and stated that the first stop will be at the recently acquired Blue Diamond property. Secretary Jenne continued to explain the next location will be the top of Success Loop, then Cave Lake Dam, and finally Comins Lake.

10. Public Comment Period

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 agenda at the close of the final agenda item.

Vice Chairwoman Laurie Carson, representing White Pine County Commission, thanked the Department for their contributions to the projects in White Pine County.

Meeting recessed at 11:16 a.m.

Friday, June 23, 2023 – Tour will begin at the close of agenda item #10

Field Trip – Tour of Ely Area Projects

The Commission will tour various NDOW projects in the Ely area including Cave Lake Dam reconstruction, newly acquired portions of the Steptoe Wildlife Management Area and Comins Lake boat ramp improvements. Informational presentations may be made at several sites, but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their own transportation. The group will depart from 2018 Pioche Hwy, Ely, NV 89301 at about 1:00pm.

Saturday, June 24, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.

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

The meeting was reconvened at 9:00 a.m. The roll was called and all members were present except for Commissioner Wise and Kiel were absent.

12. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Caviglia – 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.

There were no questions or comments from the Commission.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JUNE 24, 2023, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONER WISE AND COMMISSIONER KIEL WERE ABSENT.

- 13. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairman Caviglia – 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 Jenne may also be discussed.

Secretary Jenne presented an award to Commissioner East to celebrate her time on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

Chairman Caviglia reminisced about Commissioner East's time on the Commission.

Vice Chairman Rogers thanked Commissioner East for the mentorship and guidance she provided as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Barnes thanked Commissioner East for all she has done for the Commission. He noted the excellent job she did to lead the Commission through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Walther noted that Commissioner East always made the other Commissioners feel welcome.

Commissioner Booth thanked Commissioner East for her compassion and patience on the Commission.

Commissioner McNinch reminisced about Commissioner East's time on the Commission. He noted how much Commissioner East helped everyone during the COVID-19 pandemic as Chairwoman.

Commissioner East shared her experience being appointed to the Commission and thanked the Department and the Commission.

Chairman Caviglia recessed at 9:23 a.m.

Chairman Caviglia reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

- 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.

Paul Dixon representing Clark County CABMW, thanked Commissioner East for her time on the Commission.

Jim Cooney representing Elko CABMW, thanked Commissioner East for her time on the Commission. He commented on the Winecup Gamble land acquisition. He stated Elko CABMW's interest in seeing the land transfer go through. He requested that all the CABMW's stay in contact so they can tackle any problems that arise together.

Gene Green representing Carson City CABMW, thanked Commissioner East for her time on the Commission.

Mitch McVicars representing White Pine County CABMW, thanked Commissioner East and also thanked the Commission for having the meeting in a rural county.

15. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia – Informational

A report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.

Chairman Caviglia delivered a report on the most recent Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) meeting that took place on June 24, 2023. He stated the committee discussed a “once in a lifetime tag” for mountain goat, bighorn sheep, and moose. The committee discussed a change to the demand/success formula to look at all application choices, not just the first choice. He stated the Department will put together a presentation for the next Commission meeting regarding Commission Policy 24.

16.* Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 – Eastern Region Game Division Biologist Matt Jeffress – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department’s proposed biennial upland game release plan for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Biologist 3 Matt Jeffress delivered a report on the Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025.

Biologist 3 Jeffress stated there was a major omission. He stated there was a storm that shutdown a release planned for Colombian sharp-tailed grouse. That release was deferred until Spring 2024.

Chairman Caviglia asked DAG Burkett if the Colombia sharp-tailed grouse release can be added to the motion.

DAG Burkett confirmed it could be added.

CABMW comment:

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, stated their only concern is about releasing turkeys onto private land. He questioned how that would be done and asked what the process of issuing tags to landowners would look like and asked how people will know what their opportunities are.

No public comment.

Commissioner McNinch asked when the Colombia sharp-tailed grouse release plan was initially brought before the Commission.

Biologist 3 Jeffress confirmed it was in fiscal year 2023 and stated the Department wants to add 20 females to expand their breeding potential.

Commissioner McNinch stated some anecdotal evidence for the success of the program.

Biologist 3 Jeffress agreed and stated there have been many sightings of the Colombian sharp-tailed grouse.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE BIENNIAL SMALL GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND 2025 AS PRESENTED WITH THE ADDITION

OF THE COLOMBIAN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE PLAN FROM FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND 2024. VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

17.* Duck Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Davis – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$100,000 for projects submitted for FY 2024 funding from the Duck Stamp Account.

- Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Support (\$35,000)
- Carson Valley Conservation District-Carson River Bank Stabilization (\$20,000)
- Fernley WMA Dam Repair and Wetland Habitat Design Plan (\$35,000)
- Mason Valley WMA Wildlife Seed (\$10,000)

Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Davis delivered a report on the Duck Stamp Request.

CABMW comment:

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, stated that the Clark CABMW is in agreement with the funds being spent, but asked why the ranchers in the Carson Lake and Pasture area are not paying for fencing that will keep their cattle out of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

No public comment.

Chairman Caviglia asked Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis to address Clark CABMW Paul Dixon's question.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis stated the project is meant to address areas outside of the WMA.

Secretary Jenne continued to clarify that the Department has a grazing agreement where the ranchers are responsible for the perimeter fence and the management fence is on the interior.

Commissioner McNinch commented on the amount of funds and where they end up. He stated that some of the funds go to places like Canada because that's where the ducks are before they end up in Nevada.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed as part of the Pacific Flyway Council the Department has agreed to pay for support in Canada because most of the ducks that end up in Nevada are bred in Canada.

Commissioner McNinch clarified that Nevada is not the only state that sends money to Canada for duck support.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DUCK STAMP REQUEST AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER MCNINCH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

18.* Upland Game Bird Stamp Request – Wildlife Staff Specialist Lee Davis – For Possible Action

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$330,680 for projects submitted for FY 2024 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp Account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp projects that may be approved are listed below:

- Corta Fire Habitat Improvement North (\$17,250)
- Corta Fire Habitat Improvement South (\$25,000)
- Area 6 Toe Jam Mountain Mule Deer Corridor Fence Modification (\$25,000)
- Bruneau WMA Habitat Improvement (\$15,000)
- Argenta WMA Improvements (\$35,000)
- Eastern WMA Complex Weed Control (\$4,500)
- Greater Sage Grouse Monitoring (\$46,330)
- Bi-State Sage Grouse Coordinator (\$10,000)
- Bi-State Sage Grouse Monitoring (\$30,000)
- Mineral Development Effects on Greater Sage Grouse (\$30,000)
- Mason & Smith Valley CD Walker River Region Noxious Weed and PJ Restoration Treatments (\$20,000)
- Upland Game Translocation and Monitoring (\$62,600)
- Mosquito Valley Range Improvements (\$10,000)

Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis delivered a report on the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis stated there was one amendment to the report. Project ID: 896 incorrectly included staff funding so the final figures should reflect \$29,600 for the project. Commissioner McNinch asked Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis to repeat the amended numbers.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Davis confirmed the original Project 896 total ask of \$62,600 should be amended down to \$29,600 for a total combined project total of \$297,680.

CABMW comment:

Paul Dixon representing Clark CABMW, commended the Department for having the progress report upfront on both the Duck Stamp Request and the Upland Game Bird Stamp Request.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE UPLAND GAME BIRD STAMP REQUEST AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE TO THE UPLAND GAME TRANSLOCATION AND MONITORING FROM A DOLLAR AMOUNT OF \$62,600 TO \$29,600 BRINGING THE TOTAL REQUEST AMOUNT TO \$297,680. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

19. Commission Regulations – For Possible Action/Adoption – Public Comment Allowed

- A.* Commission Regulation 22-12 Amendment #1, 2022-2023 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits – Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa – For Possible Action**

The Commission will establish and may vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2023 season. This regulation may also include modifications to the spring wild turkey seasons for 2024.

Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa delivered a report on CR 22-12 Amendment #1, specific to Sage Grouse.

Commissioner Barnes asked if the Sage Grouse season should stay closed for one more year.

Game Division Administrator Espinosa invited Biologist 3 Jeffress to answer Commissioner Barnes' question.

Biologist 3 Jeffress explained that the Department realized with the elevated counts this year, it was more of an error to keep some units closed than it would be to open them this year.

Commissioner Barnes stated he saw more birds in those areas than ever before.

Biologist 3 Jeffress indicated that the harvest is small and the populations can sustain the harvest.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-12 AMENDMENT #1, SPECIFIC TO SAGE GROUSE, AS PRESENTED. CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 6-1. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT, COMMISSIONER BARNES VOTED NO.

Game Division Administrator Espinosa moved on to present on Wild Turkey. He pointed out the table above Junior Wild Turkey is incorrect. That portion was taken care of at the January Commission meeting and should be omitted.

Vice Chairman Rogers asked what the Departments reasoning was to split Unit 231.

Game Division Administrator Espinosa explained that they wanted to shift focus away from Units 241 and 242.

No CABMW comment.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-12 AMENDMENT #1, SPECIFIC TO WILD TURKEY, AS PRESENTED, WITH THE NOTED CHANGE TO ADD UNIT 233 WITH 231 IN LINCOLN COUNTY AND TO OMIT THE TABLE COVERED AT THE JANUARY COMMISSION MEETING. CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

Game Division Administrator Espinosa moved on to present on Furbearing Animals.

Commissioner East asked if the changes to season dates coincides with the times that the Department see the most customers.

Game Division Administrator Espinosa confirmed the change in dates and times gives people a more focused time window.

No CABMW comment.

Public comment:

Steve Bowman, a private citizen, stated his agreement with the Department's recommendations.

VICE CHAIRMAN ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-12 AMENDMENT #1, SPECIFIC TO FURBEARING ANIMALS, AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONER EAST SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

B.* Commission Regulation 23-10, Amendment #1, 2024 Heritage Tag Vendors – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes and Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals for 2024 and may take action on the proposals.

Commissioner Barnes delivered a report on CR 23-10 as presented in support material. He noted a comment received from the Pershing County Chukars Unlimited. He stated their request was considered; however, their recommendations have not changed from the support material.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi noted a change that added the requirement for sheep tag holders to provide the Department with field contact information so that the Department can notify holders of unit closures.

Vice Chairman Rogers stated he was unfamiliar with the Muley Fanatic Foundation.

Deputy Director Scott stated they are an organization in Reno, Nevada that provides a lot of support to Mule Deer efforts.

Chairman Caviglia added that the decision not to grant the Pershing County Chukars Unlimited an antelope tag was not personal, but the Commission wants to get the tag sold for the most amount of money.

Maureen Hullinger, a private citizen, stated that the Wild Sheep Foundation and Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn have raised \$3.4 million over 34 years for the Heritage Account. She asked the Commission to grant her organization a desert bighorn sheep tag and antelope tag.

Commissioner East asked what Nevada Bighorn Unlimited raised for the antelope tag and mule deer tag.

Management Analyst Manfredi asked for clarification on which species and which organization.

Commissioner East confirmed she was asking about pronghorn antelope.

Management Analyst Manfredi stated last year Pershing County Chukars Unlimited sold the antelope tag for \$9,500 and the Wild Sheep Foundation sold for \$25,000.

Commissioner East encouraged the Commission to consider moving an antelope tag from the Mule Deer Foundation to the Wild Sheep Foundation.

Chairman Caviglia stated he is okay with that change.

Vice Chairman Rogers agreed and stated they are great organizations.

Commissioner Barnes also agreed.

COMMISSIONER EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 23-10 AMENDMENT #1, AS PRESENTED, WITH THE NOTED CHANGE TO MOVE THE SECOND ANTELOPE TAG TO THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION. COMMISSIONER BARNES SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0. COMMISSIONERS WISE AND KIEL WERE ABSENT.

20. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Jenne and Chairman Caviglia – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for August 11 and 12, 2023 in Fallon, NV. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Chairman Caviglia confirmed there will be a Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) meeting before the next Commission meeting.

Secretary Jenne stated there are two pieces of legislation that passed that need to be discussed, as well as Commission Policy 23 and 24.

21. Public Comment Period

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.

Maureen Hullinger, a private citizen, thanked the Commission.

Secretary Jenne notified everyone of the Mule Deer Enhancement Summit August 17 through August 19, in Winnemucca, Nevada.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at <https://www.ndow.org/events/june-2023-commission-meeting/>. Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1599 or wildlifecommission@ndow.org. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at <https://www.ndow.org/events/june-2023-commission-meeting/>

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