

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location

Washoe County Chambers
1001 E. Ninth Street, Building A
Reno, NV 89512

The meeting will be broadcast live at the NDOW Commission YouTube page:

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

If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Friday, May 6, 2022.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88581645956?pwd=QytkMjdHdnIPYINmWCtVTk53S0RuZz09>
Passcode: 288776

If you wish to make public comment, please use this link Saturday, May 7, 2022.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748138847?pwd=TFdkcFVSS81SmRjclGS0ZzQWpnZz09>
Passcode: 310270

Meeting materials are available at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Commission discussion and before any action is taken. **Persons attending virtually wishing to comment are invited to raise their virtual hands in the virtual meeting forum during the appropriate time; each person offering public comment during this period will be limited to not more than 3 minutes.** The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at wildlifecommission@ndow.org or attend in person or virtually 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 meeting:

Chairwoman Tiffany East	Vice Chair Tommy Caviglia
Commissioner Jon Almborg	Commissioner Ron Pierini
Commissioner David McNinch	Commissioner Casey Kiel
Commissioner Tom Barnes	Commissioner Shane Rogers
Secretary Tony Wasley	
Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett	
Deputy Attorney General Todd Weiss	

Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance:

Deputy Director Jack Robb	Deputy Director Bonnie Long
Management Analyst Kailey Musso	Executive Assistant Missy Stanford
Administrative Assistant Meghan Beyer	Management Analyst Megan Manfredi
Game Division Administrator Mike Scott	Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne

Chief Game Warden Mike Maynard
Diversity Division Administrator Jen Newmark
ASO 3 Jordan Goshert
ASO 2 Nancy Camarena
Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder
Game Biologist Joe Bennett
Game Biologist Cooper Munson

Program Officer Alejandra Medina
Administrative Assistant Chrissie Rose
Budget Analyst Zeida Albert
Staff Specialist Cody McKee
Staff Specialist Pat Jackson
Game Biologist Jon Ewanyk
Administrative Assistant Laura Feliz

Public In Attendance:

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW
Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW
Gene Green, Carson CABMW
Matt Melarkey, Washoe CABMW
Jeanette Hughes, self
Bill McDowell, self
Robert Pope, self
Steven Kellers, self
Michael Teghe, self
Rex Flowers, self
Gerald Lent, self
Jeff Makants, self

Tom Casinelli, Humboldt CABMW
Kevin Kjer, Douglas CABMW
Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW
Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW
Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW
Jeff Rogers, self
Chad Plattsmier, self
Brad Pillsbury, self
Larry Johnson, self
Chris Cefalu, self
Sean Shea, self
Cathy Smith, self
Liz O'brien, self

Public in Attendance via Zoom:

David Talaga, Clark CABMW
Tony Gildone, Humboldt CABMW
Fred Voltz, self
Tina Nappe, self
Joel Blakeslee, self
Jonathan Lesperance, self
Jeff McCallis, self
Genelle Richards, self
Keely Hopkins, self
Carl Erquiaga, self

Ray Sawyer, White Pine CABMW
Dan Gilbert, Clark CABMW
Jana Wright, self
Judi Caron, self
Stephanie Myers, self
Joseph Terry, self
Elain Carrick, self
Jess Harvey, self
Tony Diebold, self

Friday, May 6, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88581645956?pwd=QytkMjdHdnIPYINmWCtVTk53S0RuZz09>

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

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Commissioner Barnes led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford called the roll of the Commission. Chairwoman East made note of the CABMW members in attendance.

2. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East explained that agenda items #10 and #9 will be heard before agenda item #8 and that that the Commission will no longer take a fieldtrip/tour of the Lennar Pond.

- 3.* **Approval of Minutes – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action**
Commission minutes from the March 25 and 26, 2022 may be approved.

Commissioner Barnes abstained from voting on minutes as he was absent during the March meeting.

Commissioner McNinch noted minor changes.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 25 AND 26, 2022 MEETING MINUTES WITH THE NOTED CHANGES. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 7-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT, COMMISSIONER BARNES ABSTAINED.

- 4. **Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East stated that she had two letters that she would read into the record during the Saturday portion of the meeting. She thanked Mr. Bunch and the Mineral County Search & Rescue organization for their assistance in finding the couple that disappeared at Silver Peak.

- 5. **County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational**
CABMW members may present emergent items by raising their hand in the virtual forum. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW, he stated the Lander CABMW is writing to you with a concern, their first concern is that for more than five years their board has been trying to request that a youth antelope hunt be added to their areas. He stated that this hunt would be beneficial because it is an easier hunt, and they feel that with success it will entice the youth to continue to hunt. He stated that they feel that they have the antelope population to support this hunt. He stated they have emailed asking about such a hunt, they have attended different meetings and have asked for it to be considered during public comment. However, they have not had any luck, yet this past season the Commissioner added a muzzleloader hunt. He stated that the Lander CABMW is asking once again for the Commission to consider adding a youth antelope hunt in the areas 151-156, 141 & 143.

- 6. **Reports – Informational**
 - A. **Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley and Division Administrators**
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT
NBWC MAY 6 & 7, 2022**

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Staff from the Governor's Finance Office and LCB Fiscal Analysis Division joined our leadership team meeting on Monday April 25th to better understand the agency and the specific programs each division is responsible for.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso presented to the Nevada Indian Commission on Monday April 25th after they requested to hear more about what the Department does and requested more information on the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

As most of you are aware, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act has now passed through the Environment and Natural Resource Committees in the House and Senate. We are hopeful that the bill will be brought forward to floor votes in both houses in the coming months.

Tony and Kailey just returned from Washington DC where we met with Nevada's congressional delegates and staff from Department of Interior to raise awareness to conservation challenges in Nevada including the sagebrush biome, wild horses and burros, and the opportunities Recovering America's Wildlife Act would bring.

GAME DIVISION

The Game Division was recently involved in a west-wide published report by the USGS titled "**Ungulate Migrations of the Western United States: Volume 2**" that includes maps and summaries of 65 big-game migration routes in Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Washington, the Wind River Indian Reservation and Wyoming. Nevada has collaborated with California to map 3 new interstate mule deer herds: the Carson River Interstate; Truckee-Verdi Interstate; and Loyalton-Truckee sub-herd as well as an interstate pronghorn herd, the Sheldon-Hart Mountain pronghorn migration is highlighted in the report.

Game Division staff contributed a significant amount of time to the development of the "Sagebrush Conservation Strategy Part II: Strategies for Sagebrush Conservation". This 233-page document is out for review and will be published this year. The strategies address a comprehensive set of threats to the sagebrush ecosystem throughout its range and will be published by the USGS.

Game Division Staff recently completed federally required reporting of swan harvest data from recent season and submitted the recently approved 2022 – 2023 waterfowl seasons to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for federal approval.

The wildlife health program continues to monitor the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza situation across North America and remains vigilant for reports of wild bird die-offs.

Along those lines, staff worked with USDA-APHIS-Wildlife Service and jointly decided that to make certain we do not spread any unknown pool of HPAI to abandon the Canada Goose roundups in the Truckee Meadows for 2022.

Bighorn and Mountain Goat Staff Specialist attended the biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council Symposium hosted by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in early April. The bigger challenges and opportunities that many agencies are facing throughout the west including Canada are continued domestic sheep and wild sheep interaction, more Test and Remove projects initiated to clear herds of pneumonia, growing impact of high elevation outdoor recreation especially on mountain goats, realized impacts of climate change on mountain goat and thin-horn sheep herds with parallels to the impacts we see on bighorn sheep in the Mojave Desert and Great Basin of erratic/inconsistent temperature swings and moisture patterns, and increased use of technology and genetics in monitoring mountain ungulates, their pathogens, and their habitat use.

Working closely with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to conduct early summer Muddy Mountain desert bighorn capture for Utah's newly established nursery site for use as translocation stock in Utah.

In March, Game Division staff received notification that the Department was selected to receive a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award at the 2022 Esri User Conference for recent implementation of the Wildlife Survey App (WSA) for data collection during big game surveys. The Department was selected from more than 100,000 other organizations from all around the world in recognition of outstanding work with GIS technology. The WSA has received considerable attention and promotion from Esri including blog posts, publication in Esri's Government newsletter, and a video project currently in production. The success of the WSA would not have been possible without helpful collaboration from Game Division biologists including ideas, feedback, and a willingness to try something new. Primary funding for development and maintenance of the WSA was provided by the Wildlife Heritage Trust Account (Project #20-09).

Southern Region: Southern region staff conducted spring mule deer and sage-grouse lek surveys in Management Areas (MA) 16 and 17 during the week of March 28. Surveys yielded a sample size of 191 deer in MA 16 with a ratio of 19 fawns:100 adults and 519 deer in MA 17 with a ratio of 27 fawns:100 adults. Unprecedented drought conditions experienced in 2020 and 2021 and concurrent poor habitat conditions are two reasons that explain the depressed fawn recruitment observed while on survey. These data are indicating population level contractions which will affect quota recommendations. Sage-grouse lek surveys conducted in central Nevada (MA's 16 and 17) yielded attendance rates well below the 10-year average. However, the numbers are a slight uptick from last year's counts.

Eastern Region: Eastern Region personnel wrapped up winter elk and spring deer surveys recently. Survey results varied widely across the eastern region with some areas, particularly in the northern and central portions of the region, showing promising trends in recruitment and overall health of mule deer and elk populations. Unfortunately, populations in the southeastern portion of the region are struggling with impacts of ongoing, severe drought conditions.

A combined total of over 19,000 deer were classified during spring deer surveys in the eastern region, with an average observed fawn to adult ratio of 32 fawns:100 adults.

Elk surveys yielded a combined total of over 7,500 elk classified as an observed ratio of 42 bulls:100 cows and 38 calves:100 cows.

Sage grouse lek surveys are continuing in the eastern region, but preliminary data shows some areas of increased attendance over the rates observed last year, but numbers remain well below longer term averages overall.

Western Region: Western Region personnel have finalized aerial surveys for Sage-grouse, Deer, and Elk. A total of 242 leks have been surveyed from the air while ground based surveys will continue throughout the spring to monitor lek attendance.

Black bears have begun to emerge from dens across the western portions of the state, beginning their search for sustenance. Conflict calls and incidents have been slowly increasing over the past 2 months and are anticipated to continue at moderate levels throughout summer.

NDOW staff has coordinated with NDSP and TNC to minimize impacts by beavers within the western region. Beaver dams have been manipulated to increase waterflows and reduce property damage while maintaining habitat conditions for aquatic species.

Staff has been coordinating with private landowners, BIA, and livestock operators to reduce or remove conflicts between domestic livestock and wild sheep throughout the region.

Game Division has assisted Habitat Division and NBU with guzzler builds, in Mineral, Churchill, Humboldt and Pershing counties. Two of the five units have been completed with additional construction slated throughout the coming months.

HABITAT DIVISION

Water Development Program: The southern region crew has largely completed their volunteer build season with the construction of a supplemental water source in Valley of Fire State Park. The Valley of Fire Project will provide supplemental water to Desert bighorn sheep in the Muddy Mountains during periods of extreme drought. This unit is plumbed into the State Park's water system and already had approximately 3,000 gallons available for sheep within two days of completion. Annual maintenance flights inspected approximately 70 units and resulted in a mixed bag of water supply going into the summer. Many units are already less than 50 percent of capacity and will require supplemental water. NDOW is currently coordinating on priority needs and will likely be conducting water hauls in the next one to two months. The Woody and Falcon will be completed in May, depending on upcoming supplemental water hauls.

The northern crew is midway through their volunteer build season and has completed two big game builds. Four additional new big game units will be constructed between now and June.

Habitat Conservation Framework – Project Portal: NDOW has implemented a new website and database for managing projects, including those funded by Special Reserve Accounts such as Heritage Trust Account, Duck Stamp, Upland Game Bird Stamp, Habitat Conservation Fee, and the Industrial Development Fund. Applications for FY2023 funding will be submitted using the new system and NDOW has plans to continue developing this new project management tool through the year.

Tech Review: The Technical Review Program activities include on-going development of the US Fish and Wildlife greater sage-grouse Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances and providing on-going administration of the Energy Planning and Conservation Fund and the Fund for the Recovery of Costs (AB 307). During the last 16 months, 53 AB 307 applications were submitted for the following energy development projects in Nevada: five (5) transmission lines, one (1) wind project, 13 solar facilities, and eight (8) "other" types of projects such as energy storage facilities. This is the largest number of energy development applications the program has received in a reporting period since the program was created.

One of the major developments occurring in Nevada regarding energy development is the conglomeration of multiple projects into a single "complex." We see this occurring right now with seven (7) solar projects outside of Tonopah, NV. These projects are being analyzed under one single EIS covering all projects. Project planning and coordination is occurring simultaneously and taking considerable time and resources from our staff who are participating in the NEPA planning efforts. We anticipate this approach to occur more frequently with the Greenlink West and Greenlink North transmission lines coming online and have already been seeing increased numbers of interested developers reach out to coordinate with NDOW.

Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team: The SETT recently met with the Science Workgroup to further discuss and examine a strategic approach to developing an effective method to analyze and mitigate for debit projects that are anticipated to cause lek extirpation from direct and indirect impacts of proponent operation. The SETT is considering integrating sage-grouse population data into the HQT process to prioritize habitat uplift sites that could benefit sage-grouse source populations in real time.

The SETT has recently run the HQT for an alternative route for the Greenlink North project that runs across I80 instead of HWY 50. The I80 alternative route accrued 4.5x the debit amount than did the initial proposed HWY 50 route.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DIVISION

Classroom Programming: Teachers continue to submit projects for the Wildlife Badges pilot. We had our first classrooms qualify for the Reptiles Badge in April. This program is aligned to K-12 standards and offers three different badges that classrooms can earn: flora, reptiles, and the adventure badge. Teachers are required to attend training for the program and then facilitate it in their classrooms at their own pace.

We're ramping up excitement for our annual Free Fishing Day Poster Contest. The contest is open to all 4th and 5th grade students in Nevada and allows the Department to connect directly with the younger generations of outdoor enthusiasts. The winner of the contest will have their artwork printed on posters that will be hung in schools and government offices across the state reminding the public of this year's free fishing day on Saturday, June 11.

Conservation Educators in Reno facilitated its first Project WET and WILD workshop in partnership with NDEP's Project WET state coordinator. The workshop was for Americorps serving at different sites throughout the Reno and Carson City area. Twenty-nine people attended the two-day workshop on April 12th and 13th. They are now certified to teach both Project WILD (NDOW affiliated program) and Project WET (NDEP affiliated program) curricula.

Events: Preparation is ongoing for the Volunteer Academy in May.

Clark County Fair took place on April 6 – 10th and was a great success this year. Conservation Educators as well as support from Game, Habitat, Diversity, and Law Enforcement were there to support many educational tables and outdoor activities. More than 109,000 visitors took the opportunity to fish, shoot archery, and meet some native reptiles of the Mojave. Many volunteers supported this effort as well and many hours and miles were collected to be used for grant match.

Conservation Educators were present at the local Earth Day events April 22 – 24th. In the western region, educators were at the Animal Ark throughout the weekend for their Earth Day event. Southern region educators were spread out on the 23rd helping with Earth Day bioblitzes in Valley of Fire and Springs Preserve as well as helping Lake Mead with their Junior Ranger Day.

Outreach: Conservation Education staff continues to promote the big game application period through emails and social media posts. As the application deadline gets closer, about two emails will be going out per week, along with countdown emails on the final five days to customers who have not applied.

Conservation Education staff produced outreach for the Department's new shed hunting class and certification. Staff created a social media post, website content, and took part in a radio segment with KOH News to spread the word. Total number of class participation and completions since launch is 1,737 and of those 64 percent are residents and 36 percent nonresidents as of. Utah is 24 percent; Idaho is 7 percent and California is two percent.

Media Highlights: Volunteer Appreciation Month social media posts and podcasts have been rolling out this month with lots of great reception. We're highlighting some of our rockstar volunteers and posting to recruit new volunteers for projects and as instructors.

NDOW staff has worked on various press releases including an announcement that the bipartisan bill, Recovering America's Wildlife has passed another key step and biologists work to monitor a fish die-off at Wildhorse Reservoir. Public Information Officers also resumed an educational monthly Wildlife

Wednesday segment at KOLO 8 News covering different wildlife-related topics. This month they talked about spring bear activity, NDOW's involvement in the nationwide BearWise campaign to standardize bear awareness messaging across the country, and tips to live responsibly in bear country.

According to the service staff uses to track mentions in the news, in February, the Department has reached an audience of 21,783 on TV, 264,188 on radio, and 6,127,146 in online and print news this month. In March, the Department has had a TV audience of 167,594, a radio audience of 533,130 and an online and print audience of close to 6,871,558.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

Pika: Wildlife Diversity biologists recently finalized the Nevada Pika Atlas – a compilation of all known data for the species within the state through 2019. The American pika is a Nevada Species of Greatest Conservation Need as well as a Nevada BLM Sensitive Species and is of concern given its sensitivity to climate change and evidence of recent range retractions, particularly in the Great Basin. A total of 79 mountain ranges had available pika information, with 22 of these ranges being considered currently occupied by pikas. Another range was considered possibly occupied while nine ranges had pika populations that were presumed to be recently extirpated. Furthermore, 44 ranges had areas that were surveyed but with no evidence of pikas detected, and these ranges are presumed to have been unoccupied by pikas in recent decades. The Nevada Pika Atlas is expected to inform management and research regarding the known distribution and status of pikas in Nevada and is considered a living document, with a revision scheduled every five years.

Renewable Energy Projects in Central Nevada: Wildlife Diversity is working with the Habitat Division on several renewable energy projects in proximity to the Greenlink West and North transmission lines consisting of PhotoVoltaic solar plants, geothermal plants, and lithium exploration and mining. Most of these projects are in valley bottoms in desert scrub and sagebrush habitats with potential impacts to pale and dark kangaroo mouse (Nevada state listed Threatened Species), desert horned lizard and others, foraging habitat for various raptors including golden eagles, and migratory birds, and other species.

ESA Listing Activities: The western pond turtle is currently under review for ESA listing, with an expected decision by September 2022. Wildlife Diversity biologists have spent the past 7 years collecting data on this species in western Nevada, which was provided to USFWS earlier this year to assist their listing decision. NDOW has also been closely engaged with the USFWS listing team and multiple state and federal partner agencies in a proactive effort to model suitable habitat, identify threats and conservation needs, and develop a management strategy for western pond turtles across their range.

The California spotted owl will be undergoing a second review for ESA listing. The “not warranted” decision from November 2019 was challenged in court, and the USFWS is now required to re-evaluate the species and issue a new listing decision by February 2023. NDOW will be providing new data to assist the effort, including additional survey data and a first-of-its-kind habitat model for spotted owls in the Carson Range that was recently developed in collaboration with UNR.

And finally, the Department was recently notified by Defenders of Wildlife that they intend to petition the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the pinyon jay as endangered or threatened. This species is included within the state wildlife action plan and staff are conducting preliminary surveys in central Nevada.

Fisheries Division Activity Report

As the temperatures get warmer, Fisheries Division personnel are wrapping up their report writing and budgeting responsibilities and transitioning into the 2022 field season. All summertime seasonal Conservation Aide employees have been hired and field work will begin in earnest in mid-May. A number of Fisheries headquarters staff recently attended a Basic Grants Management Course hosted by the Fish and Wildlife Service that will undoubtedly assist in the management of various Fisheries programs. For

the first time in over six months, Fisheries headquarters and regions are mostly fully staffed. Some hatchery vacancies still exist which we are hoping to fill soon.

Aquatic Invasive Species Program: AIS inspection stations are near full staff for the upcoming busy boating season. The AIS station at Rye Patch will not be operational in 2022 due to water levels. Similarly, boat ramps at Calville Bay on Lake Mead were recently closed. Heavy boat traffic and long wait times are expected at the only remaining ramps at Hemenway Harbor (Lake Mead) and Cottonwood Cove (Lake Mohave).

Fish Hatcheries: The busy spring stocking season is upon us. Hatchery personnel throughout the state are currently stocking catchable trout throughout most of the state. Catfish stocking in the urban ponds in Clark County has been initiated.

Native Aquatic Species Program: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced an emergency endangered listing for Dixie Valley Toads in early-April, citing threats from a planned geothermal power plant nearby. NDOW staff will be assisting the FWS with a Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the species. In addition, NDOW staff is currently assisting FWS in preparation of a SSA for Western Ridged Mussels, which were recently petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Western Ridged Mussels are native to rivers lakes throughout the western U.S. and can be found in northeastern Nevada.

Water Conditions: Ongoing drought conditions persist throughout most of the state. Many lakes reservoirs are coming out of winter at unprecedented levels for this time of year. Some current reservoir capacity data includes Wildhorse Reservoir – 54 percent, Lahontan Reservoir – 44 percent, Rye Patch – 5 percent, and Lake Mead – 35 percent, an all-time low. A number of fish salvage projects are anticipated in the next 4-5 months, and some have already been initiated.

Eastern Region Fisheries: A substantial fish kill was experienced at Wildhorse Reservoir immediately following ice off on April 5th after the reservoir went from almost completely ice-covered to ice-free in two days. The reservoir had stratified under the ice causing a layer of water with low oxygen content to form in the deeper water areas. The low oxygen content in the water was exacerbated by the large biomass of Yellow Perch, low water levels during winter, and aquatic vegetation decomposing and using available dissolved oxygen. The fish kill was comprised of over 99 percent Yellow Perch which was estimated to be over 500,000 fish. Thankfully, nearly no Trout, Bass, Catfish, or Wipers were affected. It is anticipated that a reduction of biomass in Yellow Perch will benefit the reservoir in the long run reducing the biomass, especially during the current drought. Weekly monitoring by Fisheries Biologists have found that the fish kill has subsided and since ice-off the fishing for Trout has been very good. Approximately, 1000 Wipers are planned to be stocked in mid-May to provide future biological controls to regulate Yellow Perch populations.

In eight shocking events (five nights and three mornings) NDOW staff have removed 13 Northern Pike from Comins Lake. A combination of poor spring weather conditions and timing of ice off resulted in NDOW personnel missing the peak spawning period this year which is why Northern Pike numbers are significantly less than the 2021 effort of 103 Northern Pike.

Southern Region Fisheries: Southern Region Fisheries biologists recently assisted Conservation Education staff in a number of displays and activities at the Clark County Fair. NDOW staff assisted with springtime dive counts at Devils Hole in early-April which were significant for two reasons 1) This marked the 50th anniversary of conducting dive counts at Devils Hole when they were initiated in 1972 and 2) Counts this spring were the highest spring counts in 22 years. The final count is expected to be 175 fish or more. Recent Virgin River fish surveys resulted in the capture of numerous Flannelmouth Suckers which are native to the river.

Regional staff reviewed the 30 percent design plans for restoration of large portion of Sunnyside Creek on Kirch Wildlife Management Area. Sunnyside Creek is native habitat to endangered White River Spinedace, and the only remaining habitat following the loss of populations at other historic habitats due to modifications related to water delivery. This restoration effort will restore a portion of the Sunnyside Creek to its relic meandering stream channel rather than its current ditch, which it was diverted to years ago.

Western Region Fisheries: The Winnemucca sportfish biologist will be delivering the western regions electrofishing boat to Midwest Lakes Electrofishers in Missouri for repairs. The boat has been nonfunctional for over a year and the repairs have long been needed in order for regional staff to monitor and augment their fisheries.

Regional staff are also beginning to work with commercial collectors to capture and transport various sportfish species (White Crappie, Channel Catfish, White Bass) from Rye Patch Reservoir to the recently repaired Little Washoe Lake. These efforts are expected to continue for several weeks.

The annual Third Creek and Incline Creek project has commenced at Incline Village. This project studies the effectiveness of lake-resident trout in spawning in these two tributary streams while simultaneously collecting and fertilizing eggs from these fish to be hatched and reared at our Mason Valley Hatchery. Rainbow Trout are currently used as a surrogate species to determine the possibility of LCT using these streams in the future. A number of very large Rainbow Trout have already been contacted and hand spawned.

DATA AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

2022 Big Game Applications: The Data and Technology Services Licensing & Hunt staff are in the final week of the 2022 Big Game Application.

So far, the application numbers have been down from last year. After week five, there were over 125,000 applications submitted, which is an 8 percent decline from the same time in 2021. The overall number of calls into the call center are also down 20 percent compared to last year.

There has been an increase in the number of applications marked alternate, as well as the average number of applicants per person this year.

By the end of week five, there had been someone apply from 49 states, we have acquired over 676 new customers and had 2,835 customers reactivate, which means they applied in 2020 but not 2021. These numbers are roughly half of what they were this same time last year.

The cut off for apply for tags is Tuesday, May 11th at 11pm. The draw will be conducted on Wednesday, May 18th with results being emailed to clients by 9pm on Friday, May 20th.

2023 Heritage Tag Proposals: The Department received proposals from 11 vendors for the 2023 Heritage Tags that will be presented at the May 5th Heritage Committee meeting.

Geographic Information System: The Geographic Information System staff has been busy and completed three posters for the Nevada GIS conference on bighorn sheep, the SCAT tool build for habitat, and the remote sensing vegetation work. They completed a map of new Argenta Wildlife Management Area, the first draft of SWAP species distribution map, updates to the vegetation health assessment, sage grouse lek count, and toad survey forms. Along with update of raptor nest data for internal use and to be shared with federal partners. Finally, they documented the external data request process.

Information Technology: Finally, the Information Technology staff finished the new server upgrades at both the Las Vegas and Head Quarter locations. They also have set up nine new employees and 6 new computers and closed 152 helpdesk tickets.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Wildlife Investigations: Eastern Region wardens completed several investigations including closed season shed antler gathering resulting in a citation being issued in each case, a suspected mountain lion kill of two calves, and the unlawful tampering and destruction of a hawk nest.

Western Region wardens continued work on a guide related investigation, a mountain lion depredation event involving a mountain lion entering a chicken coop and killing chickens, a record size fish caught in closed waters, and an arrest on an animal cruelty warrant.

Southern Region wardens seized four illegally possessed venomous snakes from an individual in Las Vegas, including one Moroccan puff adder for which there is no known antivenin in the region. The reptiles were humanely euthanized.

Boating Safety Patrol: Southern Region wardens rescued three individuals from Bureau of Reclamation on Lake Mohave whose vessel was taking on water and could not make it back to the marina.

Public Safety Response: Eastern Region wardens responded to assist Elko County Sheriff's Office with a shots fired/barricaded subject call in a home in Spring Creek. The suspect was taken into custody by Elko County.

Other public safety responses included an Eastern Region warden that assisted Elko County Fire with a tractor trailer fire, Western Region wardens assisting Lyon County deputies with locating a UTV accident with three severe head trauma patients near Fernley, and Southern Region wardens assisted National Park Service Rangers with a fatal motorcycle accident at Lake Mead.

HQ: Boating education staff worked the Clark County Fair, the Reno Boat Show, and participated in an interdivisional Readiness Working Group within the Department.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge two wardens that have left the employ of NDOW since the last commission meeting, Game Warden Investigator Scott Giles, last based in Ely has retired, and Game Warden John Anderson, who was based in Panaca, has accepted a position with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Thank you to Scott and John for your many years of commendable service to the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the citizens of the State of Nevada.

B. Wildlife Heritage Committee Report – Heritage Committee Chairman Tom Barnes - Informational

A report will be provided on the recent Heritage Committee Meeting.

Heritage Committee Chairman Tom Barnes provided a report on the May 5, 2022 Committee meeting.

C. Litigation Report – Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett – Informational

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

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett provided a report and update on the Nevada Department of Wildlife's litigation. [A copy of the litigation report can be found on the NDOW website.]

7. Appeal – Mr. James Collard – Sub-Guide Denial - Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett – For Possible Action

This item is a continuation of the prior March hearing regarding this appeal. The Commission will consider adopting and issuing oral findings of fact and conclusion of law, based on the evidence heard and considered at the March 2022 hearing.

Chairwoman East read the findings of fact from the James Collard sub-guide denial appeal into the record.

Commissioner McNinch stepped away.

Agenda item #10 and #9 heard before #8.

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

A report will be provided on the recent APRP Committee meeting.

Lunch 11:00am – 12:30pm

Committee Chairman David McNinch provided a report from the April 27, 2022 APRP Committee meeting.

A.* Commission Policy 3 – Appeals – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 3, Appeals, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso explained that the only thing added to the policy was in paragraph one under Procedure,” Upon the receipt of an appeal, the Department will inform the appellant of the Commission’s authorities for providing relief to include the Commission’s lack of authority to overturn any pleadings or convictions from the court of competent jurisdiction.”

Commissioner Kiel stated that paragraph three states “Commissioners will not engage in discussion with the appellant, or about the appeal with anyone” he suggested adding the word “including” before “Department personnel”.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 3, APPEALS, TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

B.* Commission Policy 4 – Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 4, Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso explained that the word “bags” or “bag limits” were changed to the word “quota” throughout the policy. She explained that the contact address was updated to reflect the location of NDOW headquarters as well as the contact email address. She explained that the Staff Responsibilities paragraph was revised to state, “In the event the Department determines that the Commission does not have statutory authority needed to adopt, file, amend, or repeal a permanent regulation, the Department will notify the petitioner in an effort to let the petitioner retract or revise the petition.”

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 4, PETITION PROCESS AND ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

C.* Commission Policy 21 – Game and Furbearer Management Plans – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 21, Game and Furbearer Management, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso explained that updates were made for clarity. She explained that the main change was on page 2 in the last paragraph, the word “regularly” was removed and “on a 10-year schedule” was added to read, “Management plans will be reviewed on a 10-year schedule by the Commission and departmental personal will apprise the Commission of successes, shortcoming, and changes in direction.” She explained that one of the CABMWs wanted to add the term “as needed” in that paragraph.

Commissioner Kiel also agreed with adding “as needed”.

Commissioner Barnes suggested that it read “regularly or as needed” rather than “on a 10-year schedule”.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained that the 10-year is mostly to hold the Department accountable to a timeline, but he is not opposed to adding “as needed”.

No public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 21, GAME AND FURBEARER MANAGEMENT PLANS TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

D.* Commission Policy 22 – Introduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 22, Introduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso explained that changes were made to clarify language and removed repetitive language. She explained that “Reintroduction” was added to the policy title to read “Introduction, Reintroduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife”. She explained that she saw CABMW comments, but they were unclear and hoped that the CABMW would clarify during the public comment.

Chairwoman East stated she received a call from Rex Flowers asking the Commission to consider changing the word “may” to “shall” in page 3 in the second paragraph.

Secretary Wasley stated that if it’s changed to “shall” from “may” it would be incumbent that there is some scientific data or evidence that that would be beneficial and that we don’t paint ourselves into a corner of requiring that in every instance that we are going to potentially transplant big game animals.

Vice Chairman Caviglia agreed with Director Wasley, and he thinks that there are instances where there is not a need for predator control, so if language needs to be added that prior to the transplant, the Department can decide.

Commissioner McNinch stated that he had draft some language that incorporates what Director Wasley mentioned. He stated his thoughts were that there some be some language like, “to give transplanted game animals a better chance of establishment the Department must evaluate if predators pose a risk to the success of the transplant. If determined that predators do pose a risk to the success of the transplant predator control must.....”

Game Division Administrator Scott stated that he would add that we do consider that in the big game release plan that is addressed in the big game release plan, so it is there is a predator control effort suggested. He explained that there is some language that addresses that in the actual plan, and we consider that at the very beginning so if its not necessary, that would be clear which is why it initially said “may”.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Jackson stated he thinks it’s a better idea to have a conversation on whether we should or should not based on biology as well as limiting factors.

Commissioner AlMBERG stated that he agreed with Commissioner McNinch’s verbiage.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he likes Commissioner McNinch’s verbiage but stated he believes the word “may” already covers the expectation.

Public Comment

Fauna Tomlinson, self, stated she agreed with usage of “may” over “shall” because it gives the Department the ability to be flexible if they needed. She explained that the use of “shall” is too restrictive. She explained that she also liked what Commissioner McNinch stated.

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, stated they had some discussion at their CABMW meeting on this, and like Mike Scott said, the “may” was put in there since bird transplantations it would be illogical or unfeasible to remove the predators for those. That is mostly for big game so that’s why we proposed to give transplanted big game animals a better chance of establishment. Predator control shall be accomplished and before an after big game transplants occur. I do like commissioner McNinch’s addition to the scientific so that there is a survey done to see the validity of it, but we wanted the big game at the beginning and the end and the “shall”.

Commissioner Barnes suggested not limiting it to big game species in the case that birds need to be transplanted as well.

Secretary Wasley said that for consideration that historically the department has removed predators to ensure the success of turkey releases for example. He explained that there could potentially be situations where predator control would be warranted to ensure the success of a bird release. He continued that there are instances where there are animals classified as big game that are sometimes transplanted like

bears and so again, having some clarifying language would be helpful. Clearly, there wouldn't be any reason to necessarily do predator control for the transplantation of a bear and we don't try to do that often but that's where that "shall", and "big game" can create some unnecessary consequences.

Commissioner McNinch read his suggested language; "to give transplanted game animals a better chance of establishment, the Department must evaluate if predator pose a risk to the success of the transplant. If determined that predators do pose a risk to the success of the transplant, predator control must be accomplished by Wildlife Services or another appropriate entity before and after a transplant occurs."

Game Division Administrator Scott stated that he did not have any concerns with Commissioner McNinch's language.

Secretary Wasley stated at first blush he was good with Commissioner McNinch's suggested language, but he thinks there is a benefit in contemplating all scenarios.

Chairwoman East suggested that Commissioner McNinch work with Management Analyst Musso on the language and bring back to another Commission meeting for review and discussion

NO ACTION TAKEN.

E.* Commission Policy 25 – Wildlife Damage Management – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 25, Wildlife Damage Management, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Kailey Musso explained the Department updated the policy to remove redundant language. She explained that a lot of this policy is covered in the Management Plans and in Commission Policy 23, which the Commission will see at a later time.

Commissioner Barnes stated that in the procedures section he would like to see that when it gets to some of the permitting language for private landowners that are having issues, he would like to see that left in the there in case there is a landowner having issues with some kind of take of livestock or property where they can still get a permit to take care of what they need to.

Management Analyst Musso stated that she spoke to Wildlife Staff Specialist Jackson, and he suggested making number seven that's crossed out, to bring that up to eight and make it a new "C" so that it would be under "8B."

Commissioner Barnes stated that he would have to look at it closer and clean up and thinks it is something to bring back.

Commissioner Kiel asked why section 8 underneath procedure is prescriptive to lions, ravens, black bear, and bob cats and if other species were covered in another policy.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered that that language can be changed to add other species.

Commissioner Kiel explained that that language should be added so it's not limited.

Mel Belding, self, stated that he would like to see the projects that are denied and why they were denied added to the policy.

Management Analyst Musso stated she believes she has language that will address Commissioner Barnes' concerns as well as the other species causing issues.

Commissioner Barnes suggested reviewing Commission Policy 23 in conjunction with Commission Policy 25 to ensure there are not redundancies.

NO VOTE OR ACTION TAKEN. WILL BE TAKEN BACK FOR REVIEW AND REVISION.

F.* Commission Policy 26 – Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Population– First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 26, Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Populations, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the Department did not have any changes to the policy, but the APRP Committee did suggest adding the term “re-introduction” at the top of page two, so that this policy would match Commission Policy 22.

Mel Belding, self, stated that he would like to see sub plans be reviewed every 5 years. He believes that the department should actively engage in the expansion of elk herds where they can. He stated that some of the policies that have sub plan haven't been reviewed since 1999 and he thinks they need to be reviewed and he thinks there is room out there for more elk. He believes this is the policy that it should be in.

Chairwoman East asked Game Division Administrator Scott about his thoughts on the public comment to review sub plans every five years.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained that his intentions are to update the state bighorn sheep and elk species management plans first and then review and update the sub plans as needed.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 26, MANAGING ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK POPULATION, TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MCNINCH. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

G.* Commission Policy 27 – Protection of Wildlife – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 27, Protection of Wildlife, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the Department had small changes to the policy. She explained that “as amended” was added to number five to match Commission Policy 67, number 9 was updated as there has been more sighting of wolves in Nevada to read, “The Commission recognizes wolf sightings will continue in Nevada. Like other predators, the Commission supports management of wolves if they are determined to be negatively impacting other wildlife species.”

Public Comment

Mel Belding, self, stated that he would like to see the Department give an annual report of feral horses on public lands in Nevada and the possible adverse effects. He urged Commission to leave language in the policy referring to not tolerating a wolf population in Nevada. He stated that Nevada could not afford another apex predator.

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, stated that at their CABMW meeting they recommended leaving in the first sentence. He stated he understood that Nevada could not support a wolf population. He stated that they recommend keeping the opposition of the establishment of a population of wolves in the policy and state that if there are wolves, the is management if they are determined to be negatively impacting other wildlife species.

Commissioner Barnes stated that he thinks its important to oppose wolves in Nevada and would like to leave that language in the policy.

Commissioner Kiel stated that he would be supportive of stronger language in that paragraph.

Commissioner Rogers concurred with Commissioners Barnes and Kiel on leaving in the language that was originally listed there with the opposition of a population of wolves.

Vice Chairman Caviglia stated that he would also like to keep the stronger language in the policy.

NO ACTION/VOTE TAKEN. WILL BE REVIEWED AND REVISED AND BROUGHT FORWARD.

H.* Commission Policy 28 – Transparency on Quota Setting – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 28, Transparency on Quota Setting, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the Department and the APRP Committee spent some time updating this policy. She explained that they'd like to change the policy from 26A to 28 as it has no relation to policy 26. We changed the title to "Transparency on Quota Setting" because it used to just say Transparency, but we wanted to be clear on what this policy was addressing. She explained the first sentence of the procedure was changes to read "The Department will make available to the public, including but not limited to: posting on the website, sending via mail, or providing in another electronic format". She continued stating that Procedure E was updating to say that the annual Big Game Status book will be available electronically prior to the May commission meeting.

Public Comment

Mel Belding, self, stated that the new NDOW website was difficult to navigate. He stated that he believes the Commission needed an opportunity to review the Big Game Status Book to make sure they are aware of any changes before its finalized.

Chairwoman East asked Game Division Administrator Scott if the Commission has seen final drafts of the Big Game Status book before.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered that the Commission has not seen final drafts before.

Commissioners Rogers, Almborg, and Kiel stated that they like the Big Game Status Book, but the recommendations spreadsheets are just as useful and easier to review.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 28, TRANSPARENCY ON QUOTA SETTING TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

I.* Commission Policy 29 – Elk Arbitration – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 29, Elk Arbitration, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the Department had no changes to this policy and recommends moving it forward to a second reading.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO MOVED COMMISSION POLICY 29, ELK ARBITRATION TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

J.* Commission Policy 40 – Statewide Boating Safety – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 40, Statewide Boating Safety, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the policy was updated to include paddle crafts, the word “boat” was replaced with “watercraft”, and the Committee added number 9 that reads “The Commission continues to support the Department’s efforts to provide education on the importance of life vests/jackets as a life-saving measure for all boating and paddle craft users”. She stated that the Department recommends that this policy as approved as this is the second reading.

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION POLICY 40, STATEWIDE BOATING SAFETY AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

K.* Commission Policy 51 – Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 51, Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

Management Analyst Musso explained that the Department made changes to reflect a mechanism for keeping previous nominations as a historical record and the at the last committee meeting, the committee requested the in number 5, the words “or other appointed family member” be added after Marlene Kirch to keep that going throughout time. She stated that she has not heard back yet from Marlene Kirch on the wording yet.

No public comment.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MADE A MOTION TO MOVE COMMISSION POLICY 51, WAYNE E. KIRCH CONSERVATION AWARD, TO A SECOND READING. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

L.* Commission Policy 63 – Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds – Third Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a third reading of Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

Management Analyst Musso explained that at during the second reading the Commission requested adding number 6 under the policies that reads “An annual report will be provided to the Commission on wildlife mortality.”

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION POLICY 63, PROTECTING WILDLIFE FROM TOXIC PONDS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

9. Final Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the final draft of the Fiscal Year 2023 Draft Predation Management Plan with the Department. The Commission may take action to modify or endorse the plan.

Heard after agenda item #10, before agenda item #8.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson shared a presentation noting updates to the Predation Management Plan. *[A copy of the plan can be found on the NDOW website.]*

No public comment.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL FISCAL YEAR 2023 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 7-0, COMMISSIONERS WISE AND MCNINCH ABSENT.

10. 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.

Heard before agenda item #8 and #9.

Wildlife Diversity Division Administrator Jennifer Newmark provided an update on the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan and Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA). *[A copy of the presentation can be found on the NDOW website].*

11. 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 futered commission agenda.

Mel Belding, self, stated that he was confused as what he asked was for the Commission to be able to review the final draft of the Big Game Status Book to ensure they were of any additional changes.

Meeting recessed at 2:05pm to reconvene at 9:00am on May 7, 2022.

Friday, May 6, 2022 – Tour will begin at the close of Agenda Item #11

~~The Commission will tour Lonnar Pond. An informational presentation will be made, but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate and will be required to provide their own transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location.~~

Saturday, May 7, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

If you wish to make public comment, please use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86748138847?pwd=TFdkcFVSS81SmRjclldGS0ZzQWpnZz09>

12. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East

Chairwoman East called the meeting to order at 9:01am. Washoe CABMW member Steve Robinson led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Missy Stanford called the roll of the Commission.

13. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – 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.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 8-0, COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

14. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – 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.

Chairwoman East stated the Commission received a letter from Tina Nappe, thanking them for their work on Commission Policy 51.

15. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items by raising their hand in the virtual forum. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Matt Melarkey, Washoe CABMW, explained that he has served on the Washoe CABMW for eight months and admits to being green. He stated that he missed the CABMWs March meeting, in which he was appointed the new chair. He explained that their CABMW meeting was well attending by sportsmen and NDOW staff. He stated that as he was speaking with some of the sportsmen after the meeting, he heard a common sentiment that bothered him. He stated that they were supportive of the decisions made regarding quotas but were concerned that CABMW recommendations fall on deaf ears from the Commission. He stated that someone who is volunteering his time and energy to try to make a difference

in the hunting, fishing, and conservation arena, he was unsettled by the comments he heard. He explained that he asked himself, “does the Commission take the opinions of the CABMWs into account or do they take NDOWs recommendations lock, stock, and barrel. He stated that the Department provides a wide swath of data about quotas, and he believes that their data is well-intended and takes a massive amount of work, however, it is subject bias and there are a few places in the scientific community where an entity creates data and then mathematically interprets that data to drive policy decisions that financially benefit that entity. He stated that sportsmen have their own data, but its all anecdotal and it is driven by many people in the field and a community of conversation that has been amplified in recent years by the internet and social medial. It is not scientific, but it does have validity, however, it has weaknesses as well, primarily egocentrics, exaggeration, and conspiracy. He stated that he believes it is safe to say that sportsmen are not always right and safe to say that NDOW is not always right. He explained that it is the CABMWs responsibility and by extension, the Commission’s responsibility to sus out discrepancies. He stated that all the game species in northern Washoe County are being drastically impacted by predation, wild horse numbers exceeding AML, drought, and fire. He stated that the California Bighorn Sheep populations are in decline and that the Department did a good job assessing that and making tag recommendations that his CABMW agrees with. He stated that regarding antelope, his CABMW is in general agreement with NDOWs recommendations. His CABMW is asking for a slight increase in ALW tags and a slight increase in primitive weapon tags to maintain opportunity. He stated that several mule deer Washoe County hunt units are in real peril, but the quota recommendations for those units do not seem to agree. He stated that in the units that are most impacted, his CABMW recommends drastically reducing tags and for the Commission to support their recommendation. He stated that they are also asking that the junior hunt tags be reduced on a percentage basis to match the reductions in any legal weapon tags recommended by NDOW.

David Talaga, Clark County CABMW, stated that he wanted to give hearty head nod to the Washoe County CABMWs comments that preceded him.

16. Commission General Regulations – Workshop/Public Comment Allowed

A.* Commission General Regulation 501, NAC 502.385, Tag Transfer – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – For Possible Action

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.385 that would allow the transfer of a game tag to a non-profit organization and determine the status of the tag if the Department is notified of the tag holder’s death. This regulation was created after the passage of Assembly Bill 89 of the 81st Legislative Session.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi stated that Assembly Bill 89 allowed for the Commission to “establish a program allowing a successful tag holder the ability to transfer their tag to a qualifying organization who would then facilitate that tag being awarded to a person with a life-threatening medical condition or a youth, 16 years or younger, whose household income is at the desired levels signifying poverty.” Additionally, this bill “allowed for a Big Game tag to be transferred to another individual if a death to the tagholder occurred.” She relayed that multiple meetings conducted by the Tag Allocation Application Hunt Committee resulted in the language presented. Draft language was sent to LCB, noted in red and blue, as well as small changes by the Department, noted in orange and green.

Commissioner McNinch noted a subsection referenced in the language was missing a number. Megan Manfredi acknowledged the discrepancy on behalf of the LCB and stated that there should be a number.

Larry Johnson, self, who is one of the founding directors of Nevada Outdoorsmen Wheelchairs, explained that his organization takes handicapped individuals into the outdoors, has been established for 14 years and will be taking four antelope hunters, one elk hunter, two deer hunters, and pheasant hunters in the

winter for the coming hunt season. His organization sought and obtained a sponsor for Assembly Bill 89 and expressed high praise for the passage of the bill and urged the passing of the resulting regulation.

Rex Flowers, self, urged the passage of this regulation and explained that he attended most of the committee's meetings discussing this and added that it was "very well thought out" and "a solid piece of legislation."

Management Analyst Manfredi corrected the discrepancy mentioned previously by Commissioner McNinch, pointing out that under Section two, number two, the second sentence should read "Upon the death of the holder of the tag; if the designated beneficiary provides a death certificate to the Department, the designated beneficiary will be treated as if he or she were awarded the tag pursuant to subsection 6."

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO FORWARD THE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 501, NAC 502.385, TAG TRANSFER FOR FUTURE READING WITH THE NOTED CHANGE ON SECTION TWO, NUMBER TWO, ADDING THE NUMBER SIX AFTER THE WORD SUBSECTION. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

B.* Commission General Regulation 505, NAC 502.4215, First Come First Served Prevention of Unfair Advantages – Management Analyst Megan Manfredi – For Possible Action

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending NAC 502.4215 that would allow for the suspension of a person from the First Come First Served program for attempting to create an unfair advantage to obtain a big game tag.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi suggested that the language in the regulation under discussion would look similar to the language in Commission Regulation 22-02, Tag Application and Eligibility, approved in the January 2022 Commission meeting. She pointed out that the department wanted to change the word shall to may in the first section due to the fact that "situations do arise of where it would be disingenuous of the Department to reissue a tag in the First Come First Serve program." She provided an example, stating that the Department noticed little to no rams in several units during helicopter operations last year, resulting in the issuance of letters to tag holders explaining the situation and providing the option of returning the tag. Additionally, this led to the withholding of the tag, prohibiting it to be re-issued into the First Come First Serve Program. This was an instance where the Department technically went against its own regulation. Management Analyst Manfredi went on to say that there were two additions to the language relating to suspicious activity, including the definition of and the outlining of suspensions for suspicious activity. There were also two instances where the Department changed the word may to shall in the original LCB drafted language, noted in orange and green, based off the same changes of the above-mentioned Commission Regulation in the January Commission meeting.

Vice Chairman Caviglia stated he agreed with the Department in adding language to penalize individuals, especially section five, while admitting to not being a strong supporter of the program in general. He took the opportunity to opine on the Department's actions from the previous year, in regard to presenting season setting for the First Come First Serve program at a Commission meeting. He expressed his frustration at only having a few minutes to digest the information before voting on it. He requested that in the future, information be made available ahead of time, prior to the meeting.

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi asked if he was "referring to the summary of the First come First Serve Program where tags were sold or are you referring to the suspensions?" He answered that it was the summary, but that it was a complaint geared toward the whole process rather than a specific piece of the regulation.

Management Analyst Manfredi acknowledged his request but stated that it would be difficult due to the fact that in the meeting before January's Commission Meeting the seasons are still open and the program is still running at that point.

Vice Chairman Caviglia reiterated that information could be made available at the same time as the agenda when all other Commission information is provided to the public, about two weeks prior to the Commission Meeting.

Management Analyst Manfredi agreed.

Vice Chairman Caviglia added that the public had also expressed frustration with the same issue and he agreed that it had been a very quick process and that he didn't feel as if he'd been given ample time to digest all the information adequately before voting on it.

Management Analyst Manfredi agreed that in the future the Department could provide that information with the support materials.

Chairwoman East also voiced her support and mentioned it applied to all departments, not just Management Analyst Manfredi's department.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO FORWARD THE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 505, NAC 502.4215 AS WRITTEN FOR FUTURE READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8-0.

C.* Commission General Regulation 507, LCB File No. R045-22 - Petition Process – Management Analyst Kailey Musso – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider adopting changes to NAC 501.195 recommended by the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee. The regulation was approved by the Committee at their March meeting and will be considered by the Commission for the first workshop.

Management Analyst Musso stated that the Commission General Regulation 507 came out of the revision of Commission Policy four by the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee. She explained that the version the Commission was looking at was the LCB version and not the draft version provided within the support materials. She further explained that this regulation provided the public more clarity on the petition process. She then pointed out that within number three of the regulation, language was added to read "considering the statutory authority of the Commission." She noted that LCB language stated something different, which read "taking into consideration the legal authority of the Commission." She indicated that there was also language added under section four, at the end of the first sentence to read "or as soon as the petition can be scheduled on an upcoming agenda." LCB language added the word practically, to read "or as soon as the petition can be practically scheduled."

Commissioner McNinch agreed that he questioned those same areas and that what LCB proposed provided clarity. Additionally, he suggested to add the language LCB proposed in number three to the end of the sentence in number two.

Management Analyst Musso agreed but requested Attorney General Craig Burkett to provide his guidance considering he approved this regulation previously.

Deputy Attorney General Burkett agreed that it was “great language” and that it clarified and helped the petition process.

No public comment.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO FORWARD THE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 507, NAC 501.195 PETITION PROCESS AS WRITTEN WITH THE NOTED CHANGES BY LCB IN SECTION THREE AND FOUR AND LCB LANGUAGE ADDED UNDER SECTION TWO FOR FUTURE READING. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

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

A.* Commission Regulation 22-11, Big Game Quotas for the 2022-2023 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialists Mike Cox, Cody Schroeder, and Cody McKee – For Possible Action

The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2022 - 2023 seasons.

Secretary Wasley delivered a statement of the whole process including the decision makers and what their role is. He challenged the idea that was implied earlier, pitting the Department against sportsmen. He pointed out that many NDOW employees are also sportsmen and that they have just as much of a vested interest in providing the most sound recommendations that they can, utilizing the tools that they have available. He stressed that the Department’s employees would never put any species in jeopardy simply because of economic benefits through tag quotas.

Game Division Administrator Mike Scott reiterated that the state of Nevada is facing many challenges to Big Game habitat. He stated that he believes “habitat is the foundation of our wildlife.” He explained that the Mule Deer Enhancement Program provided direction for Mule deer sub-committees to focus on habitat stability and enhancement. He acknowledged that Mule deer and reducing their “limiting factors” should be addressed, but he requested that Habitat Division Administrator Alan Jenne provide context on the dire habitat conditions that Nevada’s wildlife species are facing.

Habitat Division Administrator Jenne presented a power point presentation on the current state of Nevada’s habitat conditions as they relate to Big Game species. Go to the website link below to view this presentation. This presentation begins at 55:30.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ilZ7V3NAQo>

Commissioner Rogers inquired about mule deer carrying capacity and if there is any way of knowing what it is.

Habitat Division Administrator Jenne answered that these maps will be provided to Mule Deer Enhancement Teams which will help to portray the conditions in each hunt unit.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained that carrying capacity is very fluid and hard to retrieve exact numbers at any given moment. He explained that it can be seasonal, fluctuating from winter to summer. To demonstrate his point, he provided the example that in northern Washoe County, the Department found zero body fat on Mule deer, which exemplified low nutrition, indicating to him that the population was either “approaching or over carrying capacity.” Mike Scott assured the board and the public that he would “never circumvent the CABMW process” and that he believes they should be heard. He continued that NDOW would never “increase the numbers of tags as a means of increasing revenue.”

Division Administrator Scott went on to summarize the three management objectives for Mule deer that were presented at the January Commission meeting including standard hunt units (managed for 30 bucks per 100 does), alternative hunt units (managed for 35 bucks per 100 does), and non-standard units (managed by success rates). He noted that quota recommendations were pulled from those management objectives. He pointed out there were several large areas of the state, specifically areas 6,7, and 10, that have high buck ratios, which NDOW is trying to trend down to the levels they committed to managing for. Division Administrator Scott requested the Commission begin with Mule deer and that Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder would present the recommendations.

Chairwoman East recommended starting with junior tags, however, Commissioner Barnes pointed out that they would be a percentage of total tags and suggested that it might be better to save those until the end.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder confirmed Commissioner Barnes' point and explained how junior tags were managed within the process and that they typically represent about 25 percent of the demand and that there are multiple aspects that will factor into where those quotas will reflect those tags. He reiterated historical drought conditions and the current state of drought in Nevada and that it is reflected in some quotas recommended. He noted that quota numbers will reflect drastic reductions, specifically in Nye, White Pine, and Lincoln counties, but they will also show an increase in quota numbers in, for example, Elko County, because those areas received more precipitation. He continued with his presentation and pointed out that the recommendations of the Department are "following what the trends and the deer herds are doing."

Commissioner Rogers inquired about hunter success, acknowledging the contributing factors mentioned, but asked if the low hunter success was "also a factor of the significant increase in tags that we saw in 2012 with a dwindling deer herd over the last decade?"

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder responded in that he didn't believe this to be the case and that the numbers reflect the "conditions that are out there on the landscape."

Commissioner Rogers clarified that it was "a question of a large number of tags for fewer numbers of deer as populations have gone down," less deer harvested, "lending itself to a lower success rate."

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder reiterated they've reduced quotas as deer numbers have declined, and "success rates have stayed the same."

Secretary Wasley explained that the result of decisions made by the Commission in 2011 to cut Department recommended quotas by 25 percent that year, which increased buck ratios in the following years, resulted in tag increases seen in 2012 and subsequent years.

The Commission decided to discuss quota numbers by hunts.

Vice Chairman Caviglia pointed out that he along with CABs, requested reduced numbers in southeast Nevada, for several years and that this year drastic cuts in quota numbers were made and inquired why the sudden drops in quotas if there had been no serious event or natural disaster to cause this.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder acknowledged that the Department may have had too high quotas through those years and that they were possibly making overcorrections and added that there are numerous factors that can influence the decisions made including low recruitment rates, lower buck ratios, and missed opportunities to fly and survey, but that they make the most sound decisions with what they have.

Vice Chairman Caviglia reiterated that he thought the estimates were wrong and pointed out areas like area ten, where he believed quotas were too high, especially those with low harvest rates in recent years.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder acknowledged that he understood Vice Chairman Caviglia's concern, but that they use a three-year average in determining quotas and that in regard to area ten, the buck to doe ratios were high and that is why higher quotas were recommended. He added that the low success rate from previous years was also factored in.

Secretary Wasley explained that the Department used Commission policy along with data when making their decisions, and that the Demand-Success formula in particular, which is demand by weapon class and hunter success, along with the buck ratio, are key in recommending quota numbers.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder stated that "we have conservatism all around."

Vice Chairman Caviglia added that multiple CABs had asked about these same issues and reiterated his concerns noting that the Department had a model of buck ratios due to not being able to fly and survey in the fall.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder explained that they were able to perform one in the spring and that they took into account, specifically with area ten, that there was also high recruitment of young bucks into the herd, exemplified by the lower age structure.

Chairwoman East opened discussion of Mule deer. All CABMW recommendations can be found under support materials at the following website. <https://www.ndow.org/events/may-2022-commission-meeting/>

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, expressed concern about the status of Mule deer. He acknowledged not providing recommendations for seasons in the January meeting but stated that they would "have recommended closing 014 for Mule deer hunting, in total." He stated that his recommendations were based on "decreased deer herds and the Department's lack of willingness to take action to improve the situation." He pointed out, what he believed were discrepancies between the Mule deer quotas spreadsheet provided to the CAB's and the Big Game Status Book and questioned whether CABMW's could make recommendations without having accurate numbers.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, pointed out that unit 041 and 042 are "not modeled or surveyed" and due to the 15 percent success rate, they believed that "those deer on that site just aren't really there." All recommendations provided were lower quotas than what the Department had recommended.

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW, stated that he would like to 'echo those concerns,' brought forward by the other CAB's, "especially the ones that Commissioner Caviglia was just talking about." He suggested that multiple units had not been surveyed and that the Department should prioritize the flight surveys due to the size of deer herds, especially areas six, seven, and ten, which are very important. He also stated that sportsmen have expressed concerns and requested a reduction in tags in 081 themselves.

Gene Green, Carson City CABMW, explained that after some discussion on past success rates with Big Game biologist Carl Lackey, their two recommendations were to raise the Department's recommended quotas back to the same levels from the previous year.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, expressed disappointment with the severe reductions in units 16, 17, 21, 25 by the Department and said that they had been asking them to reduce tags for years. She noted that in those areas that aren't surveyed, they relied on hunters to provide feedback. She finished her comment reiterating that they weren't "happy that it happened like this" and that they've "been asking for a reduction

for a long time, the deer just aren't out there, the drought, the predators, umm it's unfortunate but we've got to start somewhere so, this is where we want to start, thank you."

Steve Marquez, White Pine CABMW, requested to drop tags in 111-113 early and 111-113 late and to "adjust accordingly" in Hunt 1332 and Hunt 1107.

Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW, explained that at their CAB meeting, they questioned the biologist as to why they had reductions if the success rate was high. The biologist pointed out that within the success rate, most animals taken were three points. In response to that point, Mr. Bunch explained that his county has a migrating herd and that most hunters "taking animals, take the first one and then call it good." In light of this, Mr. Bunch recommended to raise what the Department recommended back to last year's quotas.

Craig Burnside, Douglas County CABMW, stated that "across all species, all sexes, all hunts, we uh voted to support Scott's recommendations for all hunts."

Worth Nelson, Lander County CABMW, agreed with the biologist in Battle Mountain, that their deer herd was "doing pretty well" this year and that due to the management over the last couple of years, "the herd looks good and everything else is going well." In light of this, they would like to recommend that most quotas stay the same as last years. He finished stating that they would like to "stay consistent and see what that does for our herd out there."

Dave Talaga, Clark County CABMW, stated that his CAB accepted all recommendations but that there was discussion on area ten and he didn't have his notes. He added that the "data that has been presented here by the uh, by NDOW is very interesting, and uh, I know that our CAB would appreciate having that data in hand before we discuss the things at our meetings." He continued that he appreciated the awareness of other CAB members of what's going on in their hunt units but that "Clarke County, there's just not a lot of that, so we don't have the anecdotal data, so the official data from NDOW would be a great help, thank you."

Chairwoman East asked if there was any representation from Humboldt, that they provided recommendations, and determined there was none.

Mel Belding, self, expressed the same deep concern that Steve Robinson raised previously about 011, 012, 013 and 014, that deer numbers drastically decreased. He stated that he believed it was "unethical for the Commission to take action on these numbers in Washoe County." He continued "we just want transparency, we want honesty." He questioned the agency's ability to change and stated, "We need some answers."

Sean Shea, self, praised Habitat Division Administrator Jenne's presentation on the state of Nevada's habitat and requested he add horse population numbers from 1986 to present and determine whether they had any influence on the habitat conditions. He expressed disagreement with what Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder defined earlier in his presentation, that four point or better represents a mature buck, and suggested that taking a mass measurement and a beam length would provide a more accurate representation of maturity.

Larry Johnson, self, stated that he is a member of the Mule Deer Enhancement Committee and expressed disappointment in the last year he spent on it. He explained that they submitted multiple suggestions for projects, praised the Department for their work on the habitat, but expressed dissatisfaction with how they manage predators. He pointed out that the Department changed what was presented by the committee considerably and passed a final plan that did not reflect what they had submitted.

Joseph Bolt, self, stated he is a member of the Washoe County Mule Deer Committee and is dissatisfied with the Department's response to Mule deer numbers. He made the point that sportsmen want to reduce tags and that is evidence that there is a big problem, and that the Department has been slow to respond.

Todd Jackson, self, stated he agreed with everything that has been said and reiterated the belief that Mule deer populations are dwindling, being drastically reduced with help from predators like mountain lions and coyotes, that northern Washoe County is not subject to all of the conditions and issues that other counties face and that something needs to be done about it. He recommended to either "shut the seasons down completely or leave it to where there's just a handful of tags in each unit." He suggested that surveying shouldn't be the only way quotas are determined that they should "count on the sportsmen."

Chad Plattsmier, self, agreed with Vice Chairman Caviglia's previous concerns and comments and suggested that the public questions what the Department has decided.

Rex Flowers, self, asked the Commission to "go with Washoe County's recommendations," that they align with his thoughts. He reiterated the drop in total numbers of deer, unlike the previous year. He remarked that numbers were high, and conditions last year seemed to indicate that things were going well. He agreed that habitat is important and recollected on the time when Director Wasley was the Mule Deer Specialist and stressed how important one was to the other. He reiterated the urgent nature of the situation and that something should be done soon.

Ash Caselli, self, began by reminding the Commission what NRS 501.181 states is the Wildlife Board of Commissioners duty and implored the Commission to "please listen to the CAB's, they are the voice of sportsmen, they are your most accurate survey."

Joel Blakeslee, speaking for the Coalitions for Nevada's Wildlife, stated that he's "been requested to say that we would like to see a legislative audit of the predator management program, uh specifically on the lethal amount of, uh, management that's been done, so thank you."

Ryan Brown, self, agreed with what had already been pointed out, that the Commission has a responsibility to "accurately judge the wildlife" and in regards to the Mule deer herds across the state, he said "seeing the drastic changes means that there's been a longer problem that's now being addressed, to see those earlier would be helpful."

Chairwoman East read an email received from Tom Green, private citizen from Sparks, NV.

As a Nevada resident since the late 1970s, avid sportsman and outdoor explorer, I have spent significant time in the wilds of Northern Washoe and Humboldt County as well as the Eureka area. I have seen droughts, floods, fires, loss of habitat due to building, grazing and horses. I have seen wet years and many dry ones. I have hunted deer in Elko County, Eureka County, Washoe and Humboldt counties. I have been on antelope and elk hunts with others. I have trapped in Washoe County and I have dialogued with biologists and wardens.

We have a problem. There is a serious loss of deer in Nevada and the time has come for NDOW to return to their core mission. It seems NDOW has lost their way, beholden to big budgets and special interests. Protecting and promoting healthy herds should be the number one priority. Of course, that is done in a variety of ways and the complexities of managing Nevada's game animals and those who hunt them is not easy.

My last deer hunt in 2019, unit 034, was dismal. I saw one "mature buck" and he was not something I was interested in harvesting. I saw tons of wild horses. Sadly, even the areas within the 2,000-acre exclusion zone of the Cutthroat Trout Natural Area seemed devoid of deer.

I trapped in unit 022 last season. The only deer I saw, in my trapping season, were three does with a buck and they were on private land in 021. The previous year, I never saw one deer on the Winnemucca Ranch after trapping there. I saw plenty of lion tracks and even accidentally trapped a big tom lion.

When I have suggested that NDOW is not doing enough to remove lions from the range, I was told by a warden they aren't the problem. Then what is? Why am I seeing lion tracks more than deer tracks? We know California isn't regulating lions, so is it a stretch to think we are getting some of their residual?

Why is the department wasting time and resources messing with coyote calling contests? Why can't I take a lion like I can a coyote? The department has wasted man hours going after sportsman who didn't use the right caliber on a lion, are you kidding me? Why did it take Oregon's decline in sheep to remove lions from the Hart? What hasn't the Sheldon followed suit?

NDOW should never cooperate with any of the horse advocacy groups. The horses are not native, they are not a game animal, and we know they damage habitat, especially water sources. NDOW should be working to remove horses whenever and however they can; spend time on that versus trying to pander to the anti's and the horse advocates.

Given the steep declines in deer populations, I would support a ban on hunting in units most decimated. Give it two years, with heavy predator and horse removal and let's see if we cannot bring some of these units back! This continual sale of tags, absent animals to harvest is a money grab. Close the hunt for two years, let the deer make a come-back.

*Tom Green
Sparks, Nevada*

Matt Malarkey, Washoe County CABMW, stated that as a CAB member, if they had had Mel Belding's data that he provided in his public comment earlier, they would have "drastically reduced" the numbers they provided in their recommendations for all Washoe County units for Mule deer. He requested that the Commission inquire about why deer numbers have declined by such a large amount and that they would like to hear why.

Worth Nelson, Lander County CABMW, offered to the Commission that area six is very close to his county and that he agrees that there is less deer than in previous years and expressed his concern after he totaled up the number of deer tags for all hunts at 2,867.

Chairwoman East read an email from John M. Edwards, self,

To whom it may concern,

I am a lifelong resident of Nevada and have been hunting here since I was old enough to keep up with my father who showed me the ropes. In the early years, my dad bought his tag at the local sporting goods shop, and we could hunt wherever we wanted in the state. Of course, that changed way back, and we've been applying by unit since. I have hunted deer all over the state from the Spring Mountain Range all the way to the units bordering Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.

I've also hunted antelope, elk, sheep, and every variety of upland game and migratory birds here in Nevada and been fortunate enough to harvest two bull elk, a Desert Ram and a California Bighorn Ram.

My best Nevada mule deer buck earned me a listing in the Boone and Crockett All Time Records of North American Big Game.

I list these facts to only to illustrate my experience and historical hunting endeavors in our state. I have seen things change over the course of half a century of hunting experience. I remember days back in the 70's when it was difficult to find any buck in the Ruby Mountains. I also remember days in the 80's when I counted 100 bucks in Central Nevada.

These past 20 years or so my deer hunting has been primarily in Northern and Northwestern Nevada. Specifically, I have hunted the Sheldon (Unit 033) several times in the past 15 years. In 2006 I hunted there, and I remember seeing dozens mature bucks each day including some pushing the 30" mark. I hunted it again in 2006 and things had deteriorated drastically. I had trail cameras spread out over a wide portion of the unit for a month and captured only one photo of a mature mule deer buck. I also captured photos of 5 different mountain lions, several bobcats, and countless coyotes. My hunting partner and I never filled our tags that year. And only saw two mature bucks in 10 days of rigorous hunting.

In 2019 I drew an antelope tag for Unit 022. I scouted 16 full days and covered the entire unit, which is historically known for big muley bucks. I saw only 2 after covering hundreds of square miles with boots and my binoculars. To add insult to injury, although I was able to harvest a fine pronghorn buck, it was not the largest one I saw during my days in the field. The largest one had been killed earlier the morning I found its carcass covered in gravel and grass by the mountain lion that killed it. I placed a trail camera on the kill and captured photos of a female lion and two yearling cubs feeding on the kill later that evening. (See attached photos). I later talked to a lion hunter who told me he treed a dozen lions within 5 miles of that kill site over the past year. A DOZEN!

It goes without saying that when a hunter sees more lions on his trail cameras than he does mature deer, something is drastically wrong. Finding the biggest antelope in the unit freshly killed by a cat is also indicative of a problem. If there are a dozen lions treed on one mountain in a season, the predator/prey ratio is FUBAR.

For the sake of all the young up and coming hunters in our beautiful state I hope the Commission will take the necessary steps to turn the pendulum back and help our deer herds recover. The situation today and the future is bleak without such action.

*Sincerely,
John M. Edwards*

Steven Kellers, self, reiterated what Larry Johnson and another citizen mentioned earlier, that something should be done about predators. He added that he believed what Mel Belding mentioned earlier about "two sets of numbers," was troubling.

Brad Pillsbury, self, expressed concern about the "discrepancies in those numbers" mentioned previously by Mel Belding and that he'd "like to second the Washoe County CAB's decisions to lower the tag numbers for Washoe County."

Jeff Makantz, self, began to discuss what he believed to be a discrepancy between archery tags and rifle tags in antelope and elk, however Chairwoman East stopped him and asked if he would mind making his comment when that particular species was discussed. He agreed.

Fred Voltz, self, stated that "The proposed reduction in total killing tags statewide is insufficient and does a disservice to the struggling statewide mule deer population. We have no presented information

indicating that habitat or drought conditions will be improving in the coming hunting season. Let's also acknowledge that the population numbers are, at best, educated guesstimates, not precise numbers. Those hunters, CABMWs and Commissioners whose primary concern is hunter convenience, opportunity, success, and hunt quality, to the detriment of your responsibility to preserve our struggling wildlife species for future generations, run the risk of having nothing to kill long range if current conditions last for years into the future. It is worth adding that CABs, dominated by hunters, have no unbiased and precise knowledge of wildlife numbers in their counties. They also lack scientific expertise and analytical capabilities since they have no staff. All CABs can rely on are their subjective opinions, not science. Their zest to demonize and kill all predators and wild horses is irresponsible and biologically untenable. Underlying all of this is hunter desire to have more deer to kill, not preservation or balance. These comments apply to each of the big game species quotas that will be set today, including mule deer.

Joseph Terry, self, expressed concern for all Mule deer quotas, but was especially concerned about the numbers of antlerless tags proposed. He understood that the Department followed science using buck to doe ratios, but because they are producing, he recommended keeping the quotas for antlerless tags at the same levels as last year.

Chairwoman East questioned Game Division Administrator Mike Scott on the discrepancies discussed between what was provided to the CABs and the Big Game Status Book and if the book was a federal document.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained that the book is included as part of the Department's federal aid package to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder then provided an explanation addressing the discrepancies with numbers. In reference to 011-013, in 2019-2020 the population estimate read 1200 and in the book it was 1400. He responded that "we model that with the Sheldon herd, 033, so we included the population estimate in the book" and "would have included 033."

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder explained that the Department combined these populations about ten years ago, and that they model it as one population. Specialist Schroeder remarked that he did not have a Status book on hand and Washoe County CAB representative Steve Robinson then provided his Big Game Status Book to Specialist Schroeder.

Secretary Wasley interjected and explained that there is a confidence interval around population estimates and what strengthens the model for the current year is utilizing previous years estimates and running those through the model, providing more accuracy to the current year and sometimes even adjustments to past years results. This process is enabled because population estimates are continuous, sometimes consisting of 20-30 years worth of data. He then provided context to what appeared to be discrepancies, specifically to Northwest Nevada's population models and quota setting, explaining that it had been a complicated process, existing historically as a single unit but progressing to multiple units at the Washoe CAB's behest, to better manage harvest rates in specific areas. As units were divided into smaller pieces, the herd was still large and the "population was modeled contiguous as it existed in time and space, but quotas were distributed, allocated and managed based on hunt units to ensure the quality of experience so that not all the hunters would go to one unit that maybe had all the big bucks."

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder addressed the question from Chairwoman East, admitting that it was listed separately in the book, but the population estimate is modeled with the Sheldon herd included. He explained that the Department will "constantly change the models to reflect, to better reflect hopefully, when we see changes on the landscape." The broader point being that those numbers provided in the Big Game Status Book will continue to change, the Department will continue to update those numbers when change is reflected in recruitment, harvest, and population. He pointed out that in the book, it noted that the estimates provided have a confidence level of plus or minus 20 percent, which is not exact, "but the best they can do."

Chairwoman East asked him if he was “confident that in 014, the population estimate as of September, was 250, for this year, for us to determine the quota?”

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder answered in the affirmative.

Commissioner Alberg commented that he agreed with a suggestion made to have the “carcasses inspected for condition of the animals,” for the purposes of monitoring Chronic Wasting Disease and that he encouraged hunters to participate and at least report body conditions of deer harvested.

Vice Chairman Caviglia made a point he’s consistently made in previous years pertaining to the antlerless hunt quota in area six. He noted that there was a 125 percent increase in doe tags and that the rationale for it by the Department is a possible return of wildfire and poor winter conditions. He pointed out that those conditions may not present themselves and some does may live but that once a doe is shot and killed its permanent regardless of surrounding conditions.

Commissioner East offered to address quotas hunt by hunt under Antlered, then address Antlerless, and then end with Junior tags.

Commissioner Pierini commended the employees who work in the Department and acknowledged that they work hard and would like to see others working with them.

Commissioner Kiel wanted to follow-up on the point Vice Chairman Caviglia made on the Antlerless hunt quota in area six, asking for clarification on what the Elko CAB recommended on the Antlerless tags, whether increasing those tags would increase the buck to doe ratio.

Chairman East asked Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder to address this.

Staff Specialist Schroeder responded that he would stand firm on the quotas for area six, that the Department was “targeting a population there” and that he does “know it sounds like we’re betting on something bad that might happen, but it’s not just anticipating a heavy winter that might happen,” that due to the loss of does on winter range during in 2018 and 2019 during a heavy winter, “we are trying to keep that population as lean and mean as we can given it’s on compromised winter land.” He continued that it “could only support a certain amount of deer” and that “we’re really trying to keep that population between eight and nine thousand to prevent a population crash but also to keep the herd healthy to have healthy does that will hopefully have fawns that are healthy, higher twins, it will improve horn quality, antler quality because we know from research that fawns born to does in good condition produce superior antlers down the road so that, those quotas are basically designed to yes limit growth in the area six deer herd and we want to keep those at 270.” He further explained that after their biologist discussed this with the Elko CAB at their meeting and that they accepted the Department’s recommendations.

Commissioner Barnes offered support for the Department’s recommendations after having listened to sportsmen at the Elko CAB meeting discuss these quotas and ultimately accept them.

Commissioner McNinch asked Wildlife Staff Specialist if accepting the Elko CAB’s recommendations for making changes to area seven, nine, and ten on the Antlerless will cause problems.

Staff Specialist answered yes, then explained that they needed to lower the number of Junior tags in area ten, acknowledged they most likely wouldn’t sell the amount recommended, and in so doing will reduce the number of harvested does since junior tags holders can take does and bucks. He agreed with the Elko CAB to reduce from 100 down to 50. He said that he will reduce the junior tags from 800 to about 600.

Commissioner McNinch followed up asking if Staff Specialist Schroeder believed “there’s a balance that can be struck there?”

Staff Specialist Schroeder responded, “for does, yes.”

Commissioner McNinch continued offering support for Commissioner Barnes remark made earlier which in summary was that healthy does were more important than a higher number of reproducing does, and to prove his point Commissioner McNinch provided an example of comparison from the previous year where predator control was applied to an area where sage grouse were struggling to reproduce. Once that was done, it was found that while the number of eggs in each nest increased, they were still unhealthy eggs, but instead of two unhealthy eggs, there were ten. He pointed out that predator control, while necessary wasn’t the issue, it was hen health and hen health is what needed to be addressed. He reiterated his support for the Department’s Antlerless hunts.

COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERLESS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1181 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 051 QUOTA OF 25, UNIT 071-079, 091 QUOTA OF 105, UNIT 101,102,109 QUOTA OF 50. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Chairwoman East asked if there were any questions on hunts 1331 and 1332.

Vice Chairman Caviglia inquired about the quota of two for the non-resident hunt, noting that some are included in party hunts, whether there was a requirement for that.

Staff Specialist Schroeder appreciated it being brought up and that the Department received quite a bit of public comment from CABMWs and through phone calls. He pointed out that Policy 24 “objectives state that we should have a minimum of two.” Schroeder noted that in the past, two tags were offered to cater to parties that could apply, to assure at least two tags to a party even if there were more than two in the party. The Department wanted to stay consistent with what they had done for the past 20 years. He then directed their attention to the 90-10 split and why it was so hard to get to those exact percentages due to the two tag rule. He noted that it wouldn’t be illegal, just that it would go against Policy 24. Schroeder suggested that it might be an option to eliminate or lower the non-resident tags to address the issue with the 90-10 split in the future.

Vice Chairman Caviglia thanked Staff Specialist Schroeder for answering that question, noting that people had asked him about it also.

Commissioner Kiel asked Staff Specialist Schroeder to put in all the recommendations made by CABs just to see what the numbers would look like. Commissioner Kiel acknowledged what Commissioner Barnes said earlier, that reducing buck tags probably wouldn’t result in “more deer on the landscape” and that there had been a lot of discussion on Washoe County unit 014. He ended agreeing that some quotas in that area could be decreased but allowed that those requested might be too drastic.

Vice Chairman Caviglia said “I kinda like all the CAB stuff myself” but noted that the recommendation in area six was a “massive cut from the Department’s recommendation” and was skeptical that the quota should be cut as low as was suggested by the CAB since that herd was doing well. Chairwoman East asked if Vice Chairman Caviglia had a recommendation and he responded that he would go with the Department’s recommendation.

Commissioner McNinch clarified that Staff Specialist Schroeder's main concern was area six and then referenced a Mule deer bulletin that had been distributed by NDOW several years ago. That bulletin showed a large group of Mule deer (roughly 40 or 50) who had died, with a full stomach of food, which they foraged from poor habitat in area six, that lacked nutrients needed to live. He then stated that he would agree with Vice Chairman Caviglia and what he said about the area.

Commissioner Barnes pointed out that there were conflicting recommendations by Elko and Humboldt CAB's and that Humboldt wanted to cut quotas and Elko agreed with the Department's recommendations. He acknowledged the Washoe CAB's concerns lamenting that "we're not going to build numbers with bucks" but that "obviously we want to leave something there on the landscape."

Commissioner Alberg asked if there were any biological concerns with reducing numbers.

Staff Specialist Schroeder answered that there was no biological concern and that he was "okay with most of the proposed changes in Washoe county, honestly, the one that I would probably stand the firmest on is 014, and again this is based on our guidelines and what we saw." He stated that the Department has already cut tags and has cut tags in the past and that Washoe County has consistently asked for lower quotas consistently in past years. He explained that he believed two tags was a "minimum" and that the Department could "look at eliminating the season, next January, we could have that discussion, but we're going to change drastically what we do there in terms of collecting data, surveying, predator management, everything if we talk about getting rid of a unit."

Commissioner Alberg stated that he was fine with reducing nonresident from two to one, based on the party and that there was a lot of discussion about the resident and nonresident, and "some of those are very premium areas and they were almost the same."

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder pointed out that the Washoe CAB was "adding tags to some of the primitive weapons classes, not all of them, not for 014, but they are trying to shift some of the demand away, "and continued stating "I'm okay with those, again I'm pretty firm on 014."

Commissioner Rogers mentioned that he noticed a "significant increase in tags in area ten" and asked if there was any CAB recommendation for reductions in area ten.

Chairwoman East answered that they supported it.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder stated that there were recommendations for the Antlerless and an increase from 20-30 in 101-109 late for Archery.

Chairwoman East asked Specialist Schroeder for his feedback on the recommended changes on Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331.

Staff Specialist Schroeder said "We can definitely live with some of these, um from the CABMWs" and "I think we're overprescribing for the juniors in all honesty, so I think we should be reducing down somewhere around 600 for juniors and that would probably give all the juniors the opportunity that wanted to go hunt anyway....those tags would probably go to the second draw and maybe even First Come First Serve, but we would not be getting our harvest objectives there if we reduce those at least on our projections, so that's why I was okay with the doe. I would ask that we look to add the tags somewhere else, either the Any Legal Weapon Hunt or perhaps the Muzzleloader would probably make the most sense. Maybe 100 tags to the Muzzleloader season, that's for area ten.

Staff Specialist Schroeder addressed each of the following CAB recommendations:

Lander CABMW - they recommended to “go with last years don’t make sense to me um, from a management perspective” and they will “put us well over our objective...this is a standard unit and we’re shooting’ for 30, and that’s going to put us I think over 40 in our projected buck ratio.”

Pershing CABMW – they recommended a substantial cut, about half, which will put the Department over objective. Their rationale was due to population decline from a decade ago while the Department manages year to year. He suggested a middle ground.

Elko CABMW – the recommendations for area eight were fine, fairly minimal, technically meeting the metrics, poor success rate last year, “cutting is not going to make a biological difference in this case. It’s an interstate herd and already conservatively managed.”

White Pine CABMW – he was okay with 011-013.

Chairwoman East asked Staff Specialist Schroeder for a recommendation for Lander County, offering 180 or 200 in 151 early. Schroeder pointed out that it was way over objective, but that he would accept 200. He then stated that he felt like he “was trading horses at this point.” He accepted 20 on the late.

Nye CABMW – he was fine with recommendations since they really just shifted tags.

Chairwoman East offered five for 014, Schroeder offered ten and eight was settled upon.

Commissioner McNinch commented that there was a lot going on, that all parties were concerned about wildlife and expressed disappointment in the distrust shown for the Department and offered support for them. He made the point that they were being asked to “come off of where you’re comfortable to make things better and I’m wondering where the give and take is in that whole conversation in general.” He pointed out that Staff Specialist Schroeder was being asked to move away from his own recommendations to address the social issues aspect of this conversation and that it wasn’t fair and gave his appreciation for his willingness to discuss.

Staff Specialist Schroeder continued addressing the other CAB recommendations.

Carson City CAB – they recommended to increase Muzzleloader unit 191 from seven to ten.

Mineral CAB – the Department’s objectives are on the low end and we have a small herd there. They recommended to keep most at the Department’s recommendations.

Chairwoman East agreed with Commissioner McNinch expressing her gratitude for the Department but added that these numbers have always been negotiated and that if Staff Specialist Schroeder is really uncomfortable, please tell the board.

Secretary Wasley interjected to provide his perspective. He made the point that the significance of a few tags here or there is minimal and tag numbers do not correlate to deer populations. He reiterated that the Departments quotas are a result of harvest data collected for years. Historically, CAB’s who have been a part of the process for years have consistently asked for reductions. CABs point to survey data, or lack there of in some units, however, there has been consistent surveying done in many other units and quotas recommended are still challenged. He continued to say there is an issue when people are attacking the decisions made for deer, but then turn around and say the science for bears is great. He then pointed out the request by the coalition to call for an audit on the predator program and explained the unprecedented numbers of audits this agency has had thirty audits since 2006, including five currently, twenty-seven since 2013, an avgerage of three audits a year, several years ago, seven simultaneous lawsuits. He provided an example of Idaho’s growth in the number of employees over time to the very

low growth in the number of employees at NDOW. “The work continues to grow, but our staff doesn’t, we need help, um, not in the form of more audits and more undermining of the agencies credibility, it hurts us all and it hurts our ability to conserve wildlife. If we disagree on the quotas, lets disagree on the quotas, but to undermine the science and the credibility and the responsiveness of the agency and call for audits hurts us all.”

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder asked the Commission to “provide us direction for the next year and the years past on how you want us to manage these deer herds. I’m hearing from a lot of sportsmen at this meeting and others that we want more bucks, they don’t want our numbers, they want more numbers, better quality, we heard four point or better isn’t a good metric. Well that’s what we have, we could certainly collect main beam length, we could collect mass, Boone and Crockett score, we have done that we have collected age data in the past and it actually correlates pretty well with four point or better. Yes, you can have a two-year-old that’s a four point, on law of large averages it plays out that those are mature deer, not trophy quality record book deer. If you guys want us to manage for that, or want us to manage for a higher buck to doe ratio or change the units that we’re managing for, standard versus alternative, we can certainly do that and come to you with different quota recommendations for next year.”

Commissioner AlMBERG commented that the Department is “significantly underfunded and understaffed, they do a great job but supporting cuts in some of this is a social issue for me and has nothing to do with the representative or the biology or lack of confidence, that’s not the case.” He made the point that he will make decisions based on both the biological and social aspects of the issue.

Chairwoman East addressed the Commission and asked how they wanted to proceed.

Vice Chairman Caviglia suggested tackling the resident first then nonresident and Specialist Schroeder agreed and noted he would need time to perform those operations on his computer.

Commissioner McNinch agreed with Commissioner AlMBERG that his decisions were also made considering both the biological and social aspects.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1331 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011-013 QUOTA OF 50, UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 8, UNIT 015 QUOTA OF 15, UNIT 035 QUOTA OF 30, UNIT 041,042 QUOTA OF 8, UNIT 043-046 EARLY QUOTA OF 80, UNIT 043-046 LATE QUOTA OF 35, UNIT 081 QUOTA OF 40, UNIT 111-113 EARLY QUOTA OF 200, UNIT 111-113 LATE QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 141-145 EARLY QUOTA OF 270, UNIT 151-156 EARLY QUOTA OF 200, UNIT 151-156 LATE QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 161-164 EARLY QUOTA OF 110, UNIT 202,205-208 QUOTA OF 40, UNIT 211-213 QUOTA OF 25. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Chairwoman East directed attention to Hunt 1332. Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder asked for clarification on changing two quotas to one for nonresidents. Vice Chairman Caviglia agreed with Commissioner AlMBERG to drop them down to one where it allows the even 90-10 split.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1332 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011-013 QUOTA OF 3, UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 041,042 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 043-046 EARLY QUOTA OF 6, UNIT 043-046 LATE QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 081 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 111-113 EARLY QUOTA OF 13, UNIT 141-145 EARLY QUOTA OF 23, UNIT 151-156 EARLY QUOTA OF 15, 151-156 LATE

QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 211-213 QUOTA OF 3. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Commissioner Barnes asked for clarification on why it was recommended to increase quotas from 110 to 220 in unit 101-109.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder answered that it was his recommendation as a compromise for cutting the junior tags so drastically. He asked if it was necessary to increase that much considering there may not be as many applicants in the junior's hunt.

Deputy Director Jack Robb explained in response to Commissioner Barnes inquiry, that he wouldn't look at applications, that "we're fully subscribed at the end of the year on all junior hunts."

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1371 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 015 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 021 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 022 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 033 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 081 QUOTA OF 15, UNIT 101-109 QUOTA OF 220, UNIT 151-156 QUOTA OF 9, UNIT 161-164 QUOTA OF 15, UNIT 192 QUOTA OF 10, UNIT 194,196 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 195 QUOTA OF 5. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Vice Chairman Caviglia recommended to stay consistent with reducing quotas from two to one in Hunt 1372.

CHAIRWOMAN EAST MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 1372 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 015 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 101-109 QUOTA OF 16, UNIT 151-156 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 161-164 QUOTA OF 3, UNIT 192 QUOTA OF 3, UNIT 194,196 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 195 QUOTA OF 1. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, ARCHERY HUNT 1341 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 035 QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 101-109 LATE QUOTA OF 30, UNIT 141-145 QUOTA 220, UNIT 151-156 QUOTA OF 60, UNIT 161-164 QUOTA OF 50, UNIT 192 LATE QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 201,202,204-208 EARLY QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 201,204 LATE QUOTA OF 5, 202,205-208 LATE QUOTA OF 5. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

VICE CHAIR CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT MULE DEER ANTLERED, ARCHERY HUNT 1342 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 1, UNIT 035 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 101-109 LATE QUOTA OF 3, UNIT 141-145 QUOTA OF 23, UNIT 151-156 QUOTA OF 7, UNIT 161-164 QUOTA OF 6, UNIT 192 LATE QUOTA OF 3. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Commissioner Rogers inquired if there was a recommendation by Lincoln CAB to reduce Unit 221-223 junior tags. It was determined that there were no recommendations from Lincoln County CAB.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT JUNIOR MULE DEER ANTLERED OR ANTLERLESS, ARCHERY, MUZZLELOADER, OR ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 1107 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011-013 QUOTA OF 30, UNIT 014 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 015 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 043-046 QUOTA OF 70, UNIT 081 QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 101-109 QUOTA OF 600, UNIT 111-113 QUOTA OF 90, UNIT 141-145 QUOTA OF 190, UNIT OF 195 QUOTA OF 10. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW, provided justification for recommending a decrease of 450 in unit 101-109. This was due to a three day overlap of seasons with the Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1332 which caused concern to some who feared there would be too many juniors hunting at the same time.

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, provided justification for recommending a decrease of five tags in unit 011-013, a decrease of four tags in 014, and a decrease of 5 tags in unit 194,196 which aligned with the decrease percentage in the same unit in the Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331 recommended by the Department.

Sean Shea, a private citizen, further explained Washoe CAB rationale for recommendations.

Joseph Terry, private citizen expressed support for youth hunts and asked to have tags raised in units 261-268 to the levels of the previous year.

Chairwoman East directed the discussion to antelope.

Staff Specialist Schroeder presented a short presentation on antelope. He pointed out that they, like other species in the state, are facing the same drought conditions and that their fawn recruitment numbers have dropped drastically.

Vice Chairman Caviglia inquired as to why the Department decreased the Any Legal Weapon hunt by a much smaller percentage than both the Muzzleloader and Archery hunts.

Staff Specialist Schroeder explained that the Department used the same demand- success formula that is used for other species.

Jim Cooney, Elko County CABMW, explained their recommendation was based on the presence of wild horses and the range condition.

Worth Nelson, Lander County CABMW, noted that antelope in his area are doing well, but that they've recommended lower numbers. As a result of good fawn recruitment several years ago, there is a high number of two-year-old buck antelope present with horns at ear length. These are better suited for the youth hunt.

Steve Robinson, Washoe County CABMW, recommended to basically keep tags at last year's levels.

Chrissy Pope, Nye County CABMW, acknowledged that antelope in their units are doing well and recommended to disperse some tags to offer more opportunity to people.

Tony Gildone, Humboldt County CABMW, stated that they support all recommendations from the Department for all antelope quotas.

Jeffrey Makantz, a private citizen from Washoe County, explained that he is an archery enthusiast and expressed his concern not only for the decrease in archery tags when compared to other hunts, but also for the disparity between the percentage decrease in nonresident versus resident archery tags.

Chairwoman East asked Staff Specialist Schroeder to comment on CAB recommendations, particularly hunt 2181, Horns Shorter Than Ears.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Schroeder stated that most CAB recommendations were acceptable but that because the herd has been growing "tremendously" and he would like to maintain at least 500.

Chairwoman East inquired about the comment on archery. Staff Specialist Schroeder pointed out the recommendations he had been given from the CABs. He reiterated that the Department followed their demand-success formula. In his opinion, when the muzzleloader hunts were added, it changed the demand for archery. He added that the Department had previously asked the Commission to consider under Policy 24, for deer, going to "fixed demand and shift more tags into primitive weapons like archery, muzzleloader and was not met with open arms."

Secretary Wasley explained the concept of demand-success as applied to the archery discussion. To summarize, he explained that demand is based on the first choice tags and once a muzzleloader hunt was added there was a loss of opportunity for archers and a shift of demand. Success is based on the way "the harvest is allocated to those weapon classes." He pointed out that the tags per hunter are actually greater for archery considering the typical lower success rate. He ended his comment by reminding the Commission that the Department is "following Commission policy on distributing those tags by weapon class and looking at historic success and historic demand for each and every weapon class, by species, by unit."

Commissioner McNinch acknowledged that the discussion can sometimes be hard to follow for those individuals that don't "live it" every day and stated that he believed Mr. Makantz deserved a response to the issue he raised.

Staff Specialist Schroeder stated that the Department "did change the way we round the quotas, but we're trying to be consistent with what we have in Policy 24, so I don't think we're rounding up for the primitive weapons like we used to...for some that can have a five tag difference."

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2151 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 021,022 QUOTA OF 35, UNIT 078,105-107,121 QUOTA OF 25, UNIT 141,143,151-156 QUOTA OF 210, UNIT 251 QUOTA OF 15. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2251 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 141,143,151-156 QUOTA OF 25. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 2171 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 011 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 012-014 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 015 QUOTA OF 10, UNIT 021-022 QUOTA OF

2, UNIT 141,143,151-156 QUOTA OF 7, UNIT 251 QUOTA OF 2. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 2271 AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ARCHERY HUNT 2161 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 021,022 QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 033 QUOTA OF 4, UNIT 141,143,151-156 QUOTA OF 60, UNIT 205-208 QUOTA OF 10, UNIT 251 QUOTA OF 5. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALMBERG. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED NONRESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS LONGER THAN EARS, ARCHERY HUNT 2261 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 012-014 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 141,143,151-156 QUOTA OF 7. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER ROGERS MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT ANTELOPE HORNS SHORTER THAN EARS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 2181 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 141,143,152,154,155 QUOTA OF 300, UNIT 151,153,156 QUOTA OF 200 . SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PIERINI. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

COMMISSIONER MCNINCH MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 SECTION TITLED RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT MULE DEER AND ANTELOPE LANDOWNER COMPENSATION TAGS PERCENTAGE AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee introduced a video created by NDOW as a result of a recognized need to improve data processes during aerial surveys. He then continued to present information on the status of elk in Nevada.

The following CAB representatives presented their recommendations:

Jim Cooney, Elko County
Steve Marquez, White Pine County
Chrissy Pope, Nye County
Dan Gilbert, Clarke County

Steve Marquez, White Pine County CABMW, requested the Commission “revisit the definition of a spike.”

Jeff Makantz, private citizen, explained his passion for elk hunting, especially archery hunts. He reiterated his previous question about the decrease in archery hunt tags and why Nevada is increasing nonresident tags for archery. He provided his own recommendation in unit 161-164 quota from five to eight.

Worth Nelson, Lander County CABMW, provided context on the definition of a spike. He explained that many “spike elk have a tiny split on the end of that spike, very difficult to see from any rifle distance...before you get there and that may be how you ended up with two above the ears.”

Staff Specialist Cody McKee addressed the spike definition and pointed out that the previous definition was a “true spike” and that a hunter raised the issue previously. He explained that the conversations were had that addressed this several years ago. He expressed his agreement and a need to create clarity.

Staff Specialist McKee addressed the recommendation to increase unit 251 from seven to ten tags. He supported this hunt; however, he was hesitant in the Antlerless Depredation hunt due to no success. He asked NDOW biologist, Joe Bennett to answer the question of why that hunt is not successful and he answered that he did not know. There are cows there but there is no explanation. He then explained the earlier issue raised about archery tags. He explained that as demand has decreased and success has increased, the number of tags is reduced. An additional action they took was to increase nonresident tags for antlerless elk in party hunts.

Staff Specialist McKee explained in his own words his Nevada experience. He reiterated that their decisions are data driven, not just those from the Department but from hunters as well. While the recommendations are minor, he was not convinced that they are necessary to the status of the elk population.

Commissioner Kiel thanked Staff Specialist McKee for his thoughtful assessment and stated he'd be willing to side with the Department's recommendations.

Commissioner Almborg asked what the numbers would look like.

Staff Specialist McKee explained how they would move those around.

Chairwoman East agreed with Commissioner Kiel's comment to Staff Specialist McKee.

Commissioner McNinch agreed with Commissioner Kiel's comment to Staff Specialist McKee. He pointed out that reductions equal loss of opportunity.

Staff Specialist McKee provided several recommendations that he would be agreeable to.

COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4102 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 251 QUOTA OF 10.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 104,108,121 EARLY QUOTA OF 40, UNIT 104,108,121 LATE QUOTA OF 40, UNIT 111-115 LATE QUOTA OF 80, UNIT 221-223 LATE QUOTA OF 65.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4251 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 104,108,121 EARLY QUOTA OF 5, UNIT 111-115 LATE QUOTA OF 9, UNIT 221-223 LATE QUOTA OF 8.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4156 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 104,108,121 QUOTA OF 18, UNIT 111-115 QUOTA OF 20, UNIT 221-223 QUOTA OF 16.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4256 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 104,108,121 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 111-115 QUOTA OF 2, UNIT 221-223 QUOTA OF 2.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AS PRESENTED.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ARCHERY HUNT 4261 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ELK SPIKE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4651 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, WILDERNESS ONLY, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4181 AS PRESENTED.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4281 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4176 AS PRESENTED.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, MUZZLELOADER HUNT 4276 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, ARCHERY HUNT 4111 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: UNIT 161-164 QUOTA OF 8.

NONRESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, ARCHERY HUNT 4211.

RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS, ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4107.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox gave a short presentation on the Desert bighorn sheep, California bighorn sheep, and Mountain goats and their habitat conditions. He explained that there would be some sheep going to Utah and provided some statistics on wild horses.

The following CABMW representatives provided their rationale for their recommendations:

Steve Marquez, White Pine County
Worth Nelson, Lander County
Tony Gildone, Humboldt County
Dan Gilbert, Clarke County

No public comment

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox addressed the Mountain goat question by explaining that last year's hunters were unsuccessful and as a result of a well-done survey, they felt they could increase quotas. He then addressed the question made about unit 114 and sheep mentioning that there are challenges to finding sheep there and that was what they were comfortable recommending. He then addressed a concern about the California Bighorn sheep, explaining that a new program that will accommodate the specialty tags will be put in place in 2023 which will help to limit the number of harvests in each unit.

Vice Chairman Caviglia questioned the increase of tags in the archery hunt for Bighorn sheep considering they are a very small portion of applications submitted compared to any legal weapon hunt. He asked to pull the two tags from the archery hunt and put them into the any legal weapon hunt.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3151 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 182,044 QUOTA OF 18.

NONRESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3251 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM, ARCHERY HUNT 3161 AS PRESENTED WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGE: UNIT 182,044 QUOTA OF 2.

RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT RAM ONE HORN, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3171 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3181 AS PRESENTED.

NONRESIDENT NELSON (DESERT) BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3281 AS PRESENTED.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-11 BIG GAME QUOTAS 2022-2023 FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS:

RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY EWE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8151 AS PRESENTED.

NONRESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 8251 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP ANY RAM, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 9151 AS PRESENTED.

RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT ANY GOAT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7151 AS PRESENTED.

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROGERS. MOTION PASSED 8-0. COMMISSIONER WISE WAS ABSENT.

Commissioner Almberg relayed to the Commission that he spoke with someone in the domestic sheep industry who was very appreciative to Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox and the work he has done with bighorn and domestic sheep.

- B.* Commission Regulation 22-09, Amendment #1, 2022 Black Bear Quotas and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson – For Possible Action**

The Commission will consider adopting the 2022 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, quotas, harvest limits, special regulations, animal sex, legal requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Division Administrator Scott provided an overview of black bear quotas and harvest limits.

Commissioner Kiel asked what the population estimates were.

Game Division Administrator Scott explained the three population estimates including the Department's population model, a UNR population estimate, and an integrative population model based off Project 45, all of which indicate a healthy bear population.

Chairwoman East inquired about the number of bears killed by vehicles last year.

Game Division Administrator Scott answered about 46 bears.

Vice Chairman Caviglia asked if the fires on the border last year affected our population numbers.

Game Division Administrator Scott agreed that fires, coupled with searching for food was a major factor.

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, were in agreement with the Departments bear hunt and would potentially recommend more tags the following year. He explained that they would like to see a change to the NRS, to be allowed to use all edible meat from the bears.

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, stated that they support the Department's bear hunt and would like it to continue.

Chairwoman East read a letter from Stephanie Myers, private citizen:

Many people oppose the Black Bear hunt for several reasons:

1. There is no stated wildlife management objective. We don't hear the Nevada Department of Wildlife saying the hunt is for "the health of the herd," instead it is always that "the population can sustain these losses." No one is confident of how many black bears we have in Nevada; how can quotas be established?
2. Wildfires have damaged bear habitat; bears are already under pressure just to survive. A new wildfire season is about to begin.
3. The use of hounds is destructive and against any semblance of fair chase. Even in exercising the dogs, they harass wildlife. Fair chase? The hounds wear GPS collars, so the hunter simply follows the collar location to the bear, now probably in a tree, and perhaps it is a female who has hidden her cubs, who then become orphans and often die.

Problem bears can be dealt with separately by moving them away from civilization and also educating residents that bears will follow the scent of food to trash cans that are not secure in wildlife-proof garbage containers – these should be mandatory in bear country.

The 2018 Nevada Wildlife Values Report presents the fact that only 13 percent of Nevadans support the bear hunt. What better reason to discontinue this hunt? The public is showing an increasing and vocal

interest in wildlife and animal welfare, which could make the Commission appear archaic and unresponsive.

Please limit the take to one male or discontinue this hunt altogether.

Thank you,
Stephanie Myers

Chrissy Pope, Nye CABMW, asked if the Department would start collaring bears to understand them better.

Cathy Smith, self, expressed her disagreement with the bear hunt for multiple reasons. She explained that she was disappointed with the killing of bears and the use of dogs to do this. She would like the quota to be lowered to one.

Sean Shea, self, gave his full support for this hunt and pointed out that the bear-vehicle collision should be investigated.

Fred Voltz, self, stated “From the sketchy documentation available to the public for this very controversial, unpopular, and unnecessary bear hunt, we continue to see no management plan for this species. The wildly fluctuating and guesstimated population numbers over the years give no assurance that the total number of bears killed by NDOW, hunters and car collisions are not leading the Nevada bear population toward extinction. We have no certain knowledge fire-affected bears didn’t go elsewhere in California, not Nevada. Another dimension that sound biology would ordinarily include is the number of bears who die in the wilderness, either from the botched killing efforts of hunters who do not immediately kill them, only injuring them to the point of eventual death, or those who die off naturally or unnaturally in the wilderness due to disease, attacks, age, wildfires or lack of forage. Yet we see no overall guesstimated population numbers in the documentation to justify this hunt, especially juxtaposed against other mortality factors and the 10 percent decline threshold biologists supposedly use as a benchmark for sustaining a species. What we are left with is a feel-good, trophy bear hunt geared toward placating killer licensees and their well-paid guides; they must have ample chances to kill, regardless of the impact on this species, right? It is another example of subjective decision making completely unrelated to ‘science’ that regularly governs most of this Commission’s decisions and ignoring what most Nevadans have clearly expressed as to how they want their bears treated. To the point of excessive bear-vehicle collisions, it is long past time for government bodies to act and mandate wildlife-proof trash containment for all areas with bears. That might mean state legislative action, it might mean NDOW, its California equivalent and the two governors going to bodies such as the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and insisting that this multi-decade problem be solved once and for all by showing some leadership, not continuing to ignore the effect uncontained trash has on drawing bears and other wildlife out of the wilderness for free food.

Jonathan Lesperance, on behalf of Nevada Sporting Dog Alliance, expressed their full support of the bear hunt. He then commented as a private citizen, expressing agreement with Sean Shaye about bear-vehicle collisions. He spoke to the popularity of the hunt, and people’s values being seen in their actions towards the bears.

Jana Wright, self, expressed disapproval with the bear hunt and would like it to be cancelled, and if not would like to see females removed from the hunt.

Joseph Terry, self, expressed support for the bear hunt but would also like to see more research done on the bears.

Dan Gilbert, self, expressed his support for the bear hunt.

Genelle Richards, self, stated that she wanted to speak for the bears and that many people were against this bear hunt. She would like to see it abolished or reduce the quota to one.

Commissioner McNinch expressed his disapproval of the bear hunt. He asked Administrator Scott about the population numbers from the models mentioned previously. Administrator Scott stated that the population was about 435.

Deputy Director Robb interjected confirming that the population was at least 400 or more and explained that the Department already collars bears and that there are more bears collared than any other species, in excess of 25 collars showing emigration between Nevada and California.

Commissioner McNinch asked about the population of California's bears and Game Division Administrator Scott estimated it to be between 30,000 and 40,000. He provided reasons why he is not convinced that bears should be hunted due to its unpopularity with the public, that it's not science driven, that it is a social issue.

Game Division Administrator Scott assured the Commission that the Department would not increase quotas next year in their recommendations and stated that he would suggest lowering quotas if the metrics proved that the bear population was in decline. He reiterated that bear numbers are increasing and that they are being seen in areas they have never been seen in before.

Commissioner Pierini provided examples of what had to be done with bears when he was in law enforcement. He expressed his support for the bear hunt.

COMMISSIONER KIEL VOTED TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 22-09 AMENDMENT #1 2022 BLACK BEAR AND HARVEST LIMITS AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY VICE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA. MOTION PASSED 7-1 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH DISSENTED. COMMISSIONER WISE ABSENT.

18. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 24 and 25, 2022. 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 chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

- Tour the newly acquired Licking Ranch, BBQ event, 3pm Lander County Commission Chambers June 23rd.
- Next meeting is June 24th and 25th in Elko.
- Wildlife Heritage Committee & Report
- Finance Committee & Report
- Commissioner Appreciation
- CABMW Budget Requests
- Duck Stamp & Upland Game Stamp Projects
- Upland Game & Furbearer Seasons and Limits (set in even-numbered years and amend in odd-numbered years)
- Wildlife Heritage Tag Vendors/Organizations (amend annually)

- Heritage Proposals/Extensions/ Reallocations
- Upland Game Release Plan (set in odd-numbered years and amend in even-numbered years)
- Wayne E. Kirch Award
- CGR 501, 505 and 507 will move forward
- Possible CGR 502 for Junior Hunt
- CR 22-05 – Heritage Tag Vendors

19. 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.

Gerald Lent, self, stated that transparency is the best form of democracy. He stated that he was appalled when he heard criticism of the Coalition Joel Blakeslee for requesting an audit of the predator fee account. He stated that auditors are only there to improve the functioning of an agency. He stated the NDOW does not have a good history with audits. He stated that the tag draw system was corrupt and as a result, when he wrote the bill to privatize the NDOW Big Game release system, it was the biggest scandal of any state agency. He stated that the Director at the time stated that audits were too time consuming, and he was wrong. He explained that a separate audit showed that NDOW lost thousands of sportsmen’s dollars due to a lack of internal controls. He stated that he is denied every year to witness the tag draw process in Texas, transparency does not work there..... **3-minute mark.**

Adjourned 6:zxz

*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/. 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 http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/.

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