

DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE
Minutes of the March 7, 2023 Meeting

The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting was scheduled for 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, in the Douglas County Community Center, Carson Valley Medical Center Room, 1329 Waterloo Lane, Gardnerville, Nevada.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Craig Burnside, Chairman
Paul Howell, Vice Chairman
Mike Porter
Kevin Kjer
JT Chevallier

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Burnside called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm and determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions were needed but all members of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No public comment.

MOTION by Chevallier/Kjer to approve the agenda as presented; carried unanimously.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **January 24, 2023**

No public comment.

MOTION by Kjer/Howell to approve the agenda as presented; carried with Chevallier abstaining.

1. **DISCUSSION ON THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2022 AND THE JANUARY 27 & 28, 2023 NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS.**

Chairman Burnside recapped the actions taken at the November 5, 2023 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting as:

- CR 23-02, Taking of Raptors – no goshawks can be taken in Elko County north of 1-80.
- CGR 508, Antler points, spike defined – spike has been defined as no more than two points on either side. The brow tine will be counted as a point.
- Some changes to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting dates were proposed.

Chairman Burnside continued and recapped the actions taken at the January 27, 2023 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting as:

- Neither Mr. Wasley nor Mr. Robb were present as one has retired and the other was promoted.
- The game division reported the collaring of mule deer in western Nevada to aid in the predation management plan study. They anticipate collaring moose in northeast Nevada; currently there are about 50 moose in Nevada.
- A concern was raised about a Sagehen contracting avian flu.
- The sharp-tail grouse will be augmented in Bull Run Basin. We will receive 20 additional sharp-tail grouse from Colorado.
- The habitat division is seeding in burn areas.
- The diversity division is participating in projects involving reptiles and birds with the National Park Service in Great Basin National Park.
- The Restore America's Wildlife Act did not pass both houses. Funding this remains an issue.
- The data technology division announced that the Kalkomey company is for sale.
- The law enforcement division is undergoing changes because of retiring employees. Also, the game wardens will be transitioning to body worn cameras.
- A presentation on the habitat conservation framework program was held. It will include the Sagebrush Habitat Plan and the Wildlife Connectivity Plan. The goals are to conserve habitat, identify threats, and maintain connectivity.

Vice Chairman Howell continued and recapped the actions taken at the January 28, 2023 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting as:

- Bear hunting and hunting areas/seasons/opportunities was the major topic of discussion. Most of the County Advisory Boards and public comment at the Commission meeting took the same position the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife had on the proposed changes. The Wildlife Commission voted to make no changes.
- There will be a reduction in sheep tags because of the issues sheep are facing with drought, disease, and lion predation.
- There was a lot of discussion on removing antlerless tags from everyone but the youth. The Commission voted to reduce the number of youth tags also due to declining deer numbers.

The members voiced concerns about regulating the hunter's ability to harvest a predator while at the same time spending tax dollars paying a state employee to manage them.

2. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS OF THE MULE DEER ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE.

The group has not met and the next meeting date is to be determined.

3. The following items, 3a through 3e, are items that will be heard before the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners at the next meetings, March 10 and 11, 2023 at the Clark County Government Center, 500 S Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may take the following action, or a variation thereof, on each item: support the item, not support the item, or not take a position on the item. Public Comment will be allowed on each item.

3a–3e. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING WHETHER THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD SHOULD TAKE A POSITION ON:

3a. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT FISCAL YEAR 2024 PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN. The draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for review. A report from the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) Meeting, held on February 2nd will be shared with the Commission. All comments from the Commission, PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested publics will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at the March 2023 meeting. One new proposed Mule Deer Enhancement Program Project 47 will be considered for inclusion in the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 6E*)

Member Chevallier would like to see a greater focus on predation management in Douglas County, particularly mountain lions. The predation management projects are either statewide or not within Douglas County. He noticed many of the predation management projects do not get funding from Pittman-Robertson.

Chairman Burnside stated that the type of project determines how it can be funded. The \$3 predator fee is used for the projects that do not qualify for Pittman-Robertson funding. While there is no specific project for Douglas County, any statewide project that has an identifiable problem within Douglas County can be brought to the Department's attention for possible funding.

No public comment.

MOTION by Porter/Chevallier to recommend the Commission support the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan; carried unanimously.

3b. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND POLICY COMMITTEE'S THIRD READING OF COMMISSION POLICY 23 – PREDATION MANAGEMENT. The Commission will review Commission Policy 23 and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise, or adopt the policy. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 7A*)

The members felt they had reviewed the policy numerous times and expressed support for its adoption.

No public comment.

MOTION by Chevallier/Porter to recommend the Commission support the third reading of Commission Policy 23 – Predation Management as presented; carried unanimously.

3c. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 506, POSSESSION OF GOLDEN EAGLES UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES. The Commission will hold a second workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 to allow for possession of a golden eagle under certain circumstances. *(This item is agendized as a workshop of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda) (Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 8A)*

The Board members expressed support for the changes being proposed.

No public comment.

MOTION by Howell/Kjer to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles under Certain Circumstances as proposed; carried unanimously.

3d. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 23-13, MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS. The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands. *(Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16A)*

Member Chevallier questioned the snow geese recommendations and wondered if it is consistent with the previous year.

Chairman Burnside pointed out the season usually starts on a Saturday and ends on a Sunday and the season stays within the federal framework. It appears that another season has been added for the snow geese and the limit is 20; they must be becoming a nuisance in the pacific flyway. He noticed the breakdown of the geese is different now.

Member Kjer questioned the swan permits and wondered if Douglas County was included last year because he noticed it is not this year. Douglas County has had swans and he would like to see us added for permit eligibility, if appropriate.

Chairman Burnside said swans do fly over but for hunting purposes, they do not concentrate in any one place in Douglas County.

Vice Chairman Howell expressed dissatisfaction with the waterfowl season days in Mason Valley wildlife area. He believes having only one weekday limits hunter access.

Chairman Burnside thinks that the birds are so concentrated on the water that limiting the number of weekdays serves to get the birds a break.

No public comment.

MOTION by Howell/Chevallier to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 23-13, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands; carried unanimously.

3e. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION. DISCUSSION ON COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 23-04 AMENDMENT 1, 2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 BIG GAME SEASONS. The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quota. (*Wildlife Commission Agenda Item 16B*)

Member Chevallier pointed out the only addition is the emergency big game hunt.

Member Kjer noticed the tag quota is not to exceed 2,000 tags statewide per species and thinks that is a large cushion.

The members discussed the effects of this unusual winter and colder temperatures on wildlife.

No public comment.

MOTION by Chevallier/Howell to recommend the Commission support Commission General Regulation 23-04 Amendment #1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons; carried unanimously.

4. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. CORRESPONDENCE OR COMMUNICATIONS BOARD MEMBERS HAVE RECEIVED.

Member Chevallier advised he must conduct an economic analysis of angling in Alpine County. He was approached by the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission to hold a joint meeting with the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife to discuss the management of the East and West Forks of the Carson River.

Because this Board is advisory to the Commission, Chairman Burnside stated he would like to get feedback from the Department and the Douglas County District Attorney before holding such a meeting.

5. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO ATTEND UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS AND TO REPRESENT THE FINDINGS OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD. ONE MEMBER WILL BE DESIGNATED AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD.

Chairman Burnside will be present on Zoom. The other members indicated they may do the same.

No one will attend in person.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. DISCUSSION TO SCHEDULE THE NEXT DOUGLAS COUNTY WILDLIFE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING. The next Commission meeting will be held virtually and is scheduled for April 11th, 2023. 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 Commission will review and approve the Commission Meeting schedule for 2024-2025. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments

and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

The next Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- Joint meeting with the Alpine County Fish & Game Commission

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was no closing public comment.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business to come before the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm.

The minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting of the Douglas County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are so approved this 2nd day of May 2023.

Respectfully submitted:

Craig Burnside, Chairman