

Minutes of the Mineral County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting-Draft Minutes

Date & Time: Monday March 15, 2021 at 6:04 PM

Location : EOC Building 205 South 'A' St, Hawthorne, Nv - Training Room

Present: Glenn Bunch, Chairman,

Members Present: Billie Williams Jr., Wayne Larson, Johnny Peterson

Marlene Bunch – Adm Assist.

Zoom Attendance - None

Absent: Darren Hamrey

Public Present: None

The meeting was brought to order by Glenn Bunch, Chairman at 6:03 PM

- 1* **Commission Regulation 21-13, 2021, 2022 Season Bag Limits and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds.** The Board will consider recommendations to the Commission as they will consider recommendations for season, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2021-2022 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Mourning & White-Winged Dove

Open Statewide

September 1, 2021 – October 30, 2021

Daily Bag limit 15 Possession 45

½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Limits for mourning dove and white-winged dove are singly or in the aggregate.

Board Concurs with Recommendation

American Crow

Open Statewide

Fall Season September 1 – November 17, 2021

Spring Season March 1 – April 15, 2022

Daily bag limit 10

Shooting Sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations – May be hunted by archery, shotguns and falconry.

All crows must be retrieved and removed from the field.

Season Closed on Ravens

The Board liked the change to using any legal weapon this year.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT

Open Areas:

Northeast Zone
September 11 & 12, 2021
Northwest Zone
September 25, 2021 & February 12, 2022
South Zone (to include the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management area)
February 12 & 13, 2022
Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area
October 23, 2021

Daily bag limit is the same as that for the general season for ducks, mergansers, geese, coots, and moorhens.

Limits singly or in the aggregate for Canada geese and Brant.

Limits singly or in the aggregate for Snow and Ross' geese.

Snow and Ross' geese are closed in Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties.

Shooting Hours- ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to hunters 17 years of age or younger.

Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal duck stamp.

Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old.

Adults are not allowed to hunt during this season.

Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021– January 16, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 5, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021 – January 30, 2022

Limits:

General Duck Limits: 7/21

Pintail: 1/3

Mallard (total/female): 2 hen mallards daily and 6 in possessions.

Redhead: 2/6

Canvasback: 2/6

Scaup 2/6 (within Scaup season)

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresident.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SCAUP (Lesser and Greater)

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – December 28, 2021

Northwest Zone

October 28, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

November 6, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

November 6, 2021– January 30, 2022

Limits – 2/6 (Included within general duck limit, not in addition to)

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

COOTS AND COMMON MOORHENS (Common Gallinules)

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – January 16, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021 – January 30, 2022

Limits – 25 / 75

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SNIPE

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – January 16, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021– January 30, 2022

Limits – 8 / 24

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

CANADA GEESE AND BRANT

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – January 16, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022-January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 17, 2021 – October 25, 2021

October 28, 2021 – January 31, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021 – January 30, 2022

Limits – 4/12

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021 – October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – January 30, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2022– January 30, 2022

Limits – 10/30

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE

Northeast Zone.

October 23, 2021 – January 16, 2022

February 19, 2022 – March 9, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 29, 2021– January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

February 19, 2022 – March 9, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021 – January 30, 2022
Limits – 20/60
Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.
CLOSED: Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties
CLOSED: Kirch WMA, Mason Valley WMA, Fernley, Alkali Lake Humboldt, Steptoe and Scripps WMA/ Washoe State Park during February 19, 2022 – March 9, 2022 season.
Special Regulations: Restrictions on three shotshell capacity and recorded or amplified bird calls do not apply during the light goose seasons from February 19, 2022 until March 9, 2022

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

FALCONRY SEASON FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

Northeast Zone.

September 25, 2021– October 13, 2021

October 23, 2021 – January 16, 2022

Northwest Zone

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Clark and Lincoln County (except the Moapa Valley)

October 16, 2021 – October 24, 2021

October 27, 2021 – January 30, 2022

South Zone – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers

October 30, 2021 – January 30, 2022

Limits – 3/9

Shooting hours: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

Special Regulations: Open to Nonresidents.

Migratory birds allowed for take include: geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, common moorhens and common snipe. Limits for all permitted migratory birds are singly or in the aggregate.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

SWAN

OPEN AREAS: Churchill, Lyon and Pershing counties

October 9, 2021 – January 2, 2022

January 12, 2022 – January 30, 2022

Limits: One swan per swan hunt permit,

Maximum two swan hunt permits per season

One swan per day.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

SPECIAL REGULATIONS APPLY AS NOTED BY THE DEPT.

The Board concurs with Dept recommendation

- 2* **Commission General Regulation 498, NAC 503,147 Ms. Cathy Smith – Petition Bear Hounds.** The board will submit recommendation to the Commission in regards to Ms. Smith who has submitted a petition to charge language in NAC 503.147 to withdraw dogs from bear hunts. The Commission accepted the petition during the November 6, 2020 Commission meeting.

Member Billie Williams gave an update of a Commission Meeting in Las Vegas. Chairman Bunch gave an update of a Legislative Bill that is still in Committee. Chairman Bunch updated the Board of correspondence from Rex Flowers. Discussion ensued of issues that have come out of California, and Utah.

Member Billie Williams stated that he sees nothing wrong with it. The dogs will run them up a tree. And they bear can't leave. It gives the hunter time to determine the sex, the size, and whether they want to take the bear or call the dogs off and let the bear go.

Chairman Bunch read another letter from Sportsman Alliance out of Tennessee to the Commission as follows:

"The Union Sportsmen's Alliance supports sound wildlife management based on peer-reviewed scientific data and sustainable harvest models. We also strongly support maintaining hunting and angling opportunity and access at the highest level appropriate for population sustainability. It is our opinion that wildlife and fisheries population management, hunting seasons, and sustainable harvest limits are best left to state wildlife and fisheries departments who understand the science and access issues. For this reason, we urge the commission to dismiss any unscientific and emotionally driven recommendations to reduce hunting seasons and harvest for wildlife where science and population dynamics do not reflect such need. Any time spent on an emotionally driven argument regarding hunting seasons and population management is both frivolous and unnecessary.

We specifically denounce the idea that a moratorium on bear hunting in Nevada is necessary. The bear population in Nevada and in adjoining states is growing and has not been negatively impacted by the recommended annual harvest.

Respectfully in Conservation

//Scott Vance

CEO

Union Sportsman Alliance"

Discussion ensued relative to the information presented to the Board both of the pros and cons and what benefit it is for the bears to use dogs. It's a safe method in bear hunting. It's an ethical harvest. If it's a small bear and the hunter doesn't want it, or if it a sow bear and the hunter doesn't want it. Time is given to make a ethical decision. The hunter can call the dogs off and go on your way.

After review and consideration, It was moved by Billie Williams, seconded by Johnny Peterson that the Mineral County Advisory Board supports the use of dogs in bear hunts. Motion Carried. 4 Ayes, 1 Absent.

- 3*. **Wildlife Killing Contests.** The Board will discuss the following item: The Commission will receive and update provided on the Wildlife Killing Contests in the State and recent action taken by the Clark County Commission specific to Wildlife Killing contests. The Commission may provide direction to the Department to draft regulation language prohibiting Wildlife Killing Contests for consideration by the Commission at the future meeting.

Chairman Bunch explained that this has been brought up time and time again. He gave the Board a brief history of the issue. The people were having the contest and pictures in the paper of all these coyotes.

Member Billie Williams brought up the fact that the trappers came in and took the hides. They weren't thrown away. But the problem with the agenda item is that it states "Wildlife Killing Contests".

Chairman Bunch stated that you could construe all killing of wildlife. For instance, the Gun and Tackle used to have a Big Buck Contests. That could fall under the same title as a Wildlife Killing Contest. Who got the biggest horns.

Member Wayne Larson asked how many of these contests are there really in a year. The number that they kill don't even make a dent in them.

A wildlife killing contest could be birds, fishing contest could be killing wildlife.

A motion was made by Billie Williams seconded by Wayne Larson that we do not agree with the agenda title of Wildlife Killing Contests. Motion Carried 4 Ayes, 1 Absent

4. **The Board May Review remaining items of the March 19-20, 2021 Commission Agenda.**
The Board may review and discuss the remaining items of the March 19-20, 2021 Commission Agenda and make recommendations to the Commission accordingly. (Public Comment)

No further items were brought before the board for discussion

8. **Public Comment:**

Chairman Bunch reported to the Board the we did get the Archery hunt and sheep hunt that was requested at the last meeting. The Board was happy to have the hunts approved. One of the things brought up was that the hunter knows that they can't hunt in the town of Walker Lake.

Since the last meeting Chairman Bunch contacted Mineral County Commissioner Curtis Schlepp and explained the issue with the Town of Walker Lake sign is not in the right position. It was between the turn offs to the Big Horn Crossing. The Walker Lake Town Boundary is actually further around the corner. As a result, Commission Schlepp contacted NDOT district foreman and the sign has now been moved and it makes a clearer definition of where the town boundary is and will help to prevent an issue that happened in a prior hunt.

With no further business, it was moved by Wayne Larson, seconded by Johnny Peterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. 4 Ayes, 1 Absent

A recording of the meeting may be made available to those requesting a copy by contacting Marlene Bunch, Administrative Assistant at 775-945-0441