

Minutes of the Mineral County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife Meeting-Draft Minutes
April 29, 2024 EOC Building, 205 South "A" St, Hawthorne, NV-Training Room

Present: Glenn Bunch, Chairman,

Members Present: Wayne Larson,
Darren Hamrey
John Lockwood

Also Present: Marlene Bunch – Adm Assist
Jason Salisbury – NDOW - Zoom.

Public Present: None

Absent: Johnny Peterson

Meeting Called to order by Chairman Glenn Bunch at 6:55 PM

- 1*** **Commission General Regulation 519** – Waiting Periods for Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat –The Board may make recommendations to the Commission as they will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.345 and 502.364 that would adjust the waiting periods for Nelson (Desert) bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, California bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat to once in a customer's lifetime.

Chairman Bunch read the proposed regulation whereas the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee proposed regulation change that would amend chapters 502.345 for Nelson, Rocky Mountain, and California bighorn sheep rams and 502.364 for mountain goat making the waiting periods for each species and subspecies applied to a customer extended to once in a person's lifetime.

The Board discussed the variety of species that is included in this recommendation. Darren Hamrey asked what happens to those that have points built up. Does that mean that they are not eligible to carry the points over?

Jason Salisbury-NDOW responded that as far as he knew he was grandfathered in. If you got a tag this year, you were still eligible for as far you have points. But if this is enacted, and you got your sheep you would not be eligible in future years.

Darren asked what about all the years that you sent money in to apply? Some people just buy points. They just want to build up points.

Darren said there will always be a weird transition period. There will be a lot of upset people that is sitting on points for the second one.

Jason stated that if they are sitting on points, they should be fine. It's the people that don't have any points and are in the waiting period. The people that are in the wait will no longer be able to draw a tag.

Glenn read the description that those that draw the tag it will apply to, but those that are sitting on points will still be eligible. But whenever you get a tag you are done.

Glenn further stated that this is a workshop and that he would be present at the meeting to follow this item through.

Darren stated that it doesn't make any sense with the Desert Sheep. Could they not include the Desert Sheep. There are a lot of question on the other species, but should not include the Desert Sheep.

Glenn stated that he would question about those the have points for the next tag where they have points

- 2*** **Commission General Regulation 522 – E-tag Regulation** –The Board may make recommendations to the Commission as they will review language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 that would update the process related to use of game tags in the field and allow the Department to offer game tags in an electronic format.

Chairman Bunch presented the Department's recommendation to offer the most convenience to its customers. This proposed regulation change is an effort to continue that convenience and keep up with the advancing use of technology in our society. The change amends regulations that would allow the Dept of offer a game tag in an electronic format while updating existing regulations related to use of a paper tag.

Glenn stated that he noticed when he renewed his tag for this year, there was the option to obtain the license electronically or by paper. So he checked paper as that is what he preferred.

Darren stated that he prefers the paper form.

The discussion continued that what if you lose your phone----- as a member of the community did this past deer season.

Darren stated that he likes to have the paper.

Further discussion and it stated that we could have the option to have it on the phone and print it as well. But to just have it on the phone, no that is not his preference. But it stated that you can't have them both.

Darren stated that some people are not tech savvy.

It was moved by Wayne Larson, seconded by John Lockwood to keep the paper format. Motion Carried.

- 3*** **Commission Regulation 24-11, 2024 Black Bear Quotas and Harvest Limits** –The Board may make recommendations to the Commission as they will consider adopting the 2024 hunting season quotas and harvest limits for black bear.
The recommendation of the Dept is to increase 2024 Resident Quota form 30 to 28 and Decrease 2024 Nonresident Quota from 7 to 4

**Resident and Nonresident Black Bear – Either Sex
Any Legal Weapon Hunt 6151 and 6251**

Glenn noted the Dept recommended no change in the black bear season.

Hunt Unit Groups 201, 202, 204 and 206
Sept 15 -Dec 1 Harvest Limit 12
Female Harvest Limit 4

Also an increase of 2024 Resident Quota from 30 to 28.
Decrease Nonresident Quota from 7 to 4

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

- 4* **Commission Regulation 24-12** – Big Game Quotas for the 2024-2025 Season –The Board may make recommendations to the Commission as they will consider and may take action to approve regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2024-2025 season.

Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears, Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2151

Unit 202, 204, 2024 Oct 15 – Oct 30 – Dept Rec. 8
Unit 205-208, 2024 Aug 22 – Sept 7 Dept Rec 15

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Non- Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears, Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2251

Unit 202, 204, 2024 Oct 15 – Oct 30 – Dept Rec. 1

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 1

Unit 205-208, 2024 Aug 22 – Sept 7 Dept Rec 2

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 2

Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears Muzzleloader Hunt 2171

Unit 202, 204, 2024 Aug 15 – Aug 21 – Dept Rec. 1

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 1

Unit 205-208, 2024 Sept 25 – Oct 4 Dept Rec 2

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 2

Non-Resident Antelope – Horns longer than ears – Muzzleloader Hunt 2271

No Hunt – No Recommendations

Resident Antelope – Horns Longer than ears Archery Hunt 2161

Unit 205-208, Aug 1 – Aug 21, Dept Rec 10

Wayne Larson stated that the amount of antelope out there they saw was a lot. Everywhere they looked there was antelope.

Darren asked what the success rate was?

Jason Salisbury stated that archery was 60% last year. He further stated that he did not have a problem with more tags. There are plenty of animals.

It was moved by Wayne Larson, seconded by Darren Hamrey to increase the Archery Hunt 2161, unit 205-208 be increased to 15. Motion Carried.

Non-Resident Antelope – Horns Longer than ears Archery Hunt 2261

Unit 205-208, Aug 1 – Aug 21, Dept Rec 1
The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 1

Resident Antelope – Horns Longer than ears Any Legal Weapon 2181

None

ELK SEASONS

For all the Elk seasons, since there are no known Elk in Mineral County YET, we have no recommendation for the elk Season

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4151

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlered, Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4251

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Muzzleloader Hunt 4156

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 4256

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlered – Archery Hunt 4161

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlered – Archery Hunt 4261

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Spike – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4651

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt – Wilderness Only. Hunt 4181

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Muzzleloader Hunt 4176

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Muzzleloader Hunt 4276

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless – Archery Hunt 4111

No Recommendation

Nonresident Elk – Antlerless – Archery Hunt 4211

No Recommendation

Resident Elk – Antlerless Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107

No Recommendation

BIGHORN SHEEP

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151

Unit 202, Oct 15 – Nov 15, Dept Rec 3

Unit 205, Nov 20 – Jan 1, Dept Rec 5 (*Reduced 1*)

Unit 207, Oct 15 – Nov 15, Dept Rec 3 (*Reduced to 2*)

Unit 206, 208 Nov 20 – Jan 1, Dept 4

Glenn asked Jason why the reduction in 205 and 207?

Jason responded that we had disease related deaths in September and early October.

A lot of sheep that came in from 205 that was coughing but pathogen tests came in negative. The reduction in tags is a result of finding sheep that died. If there was some type of disease that caused it they are not sure of yet. It's just being more cautious and conservative in 205 and 207.

Glenn stated that for now he would like to keep unit 207 remain at 3, same as last year. He felt there should be more data as to the issues that Jason had stated. It was not conclusive to make a reduction in numbers yet. We should see what another year bring.

It was moved by Glenn Bunch, seconded by Wayne Larson to keep unit 207 at 3. Motion Carried.

The Board disagrees with Dept Recommendation

Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3251

Unit 205 – Nov 20 – Jan 1, Quota Rec 1,

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Any Ram – Archery Hunt 3161

Unit 202 Sept 15 – Oct 14 Dept Rec – 1

Glenn asked Jason if he had done any counts in area 202?

Jason stated that he had driven around in the area. Besides the highway mortality and lion mortality. We could do better with lion removal.

Glenn reported that the fire chief had camped at the north side of the cliffs and he had a herd of 125 sheep come across the highway and down around his camp. That's why he was asking if there was any survey done.

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Unit 3171

No Recommendation

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Unit 3172

No Recommendation

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Unit 3181

No Recommendation

Non-Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Unit 3281

No Recommendation

Resident California Bighorn Sheep Unit 8151

No Recommendation

Non-Resident California Bighorn Sheep Unit 8251

No Recommendation

Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Unit 9151

No Recommendation

Resident Mountain Goat Unit 7151

No Recommendation

Non-Resident Mountain Goat Unit 7251

No Recommendation

DEER SEASON

Resident Junior Mule Deer- Primitive Antlered Only Archery, Muzzleloader, Hunt 1105

No Recommendation

Resident Junior Mule Deer Antlered Only Any legal Weapon Hunt 1106

No Recommendation

Resident Junior Mule Deer Antlered Only Archery, Muzzleloader, or Any legal Weapon Hunt 1107

Unit 202, 205-208, Dept Rec 20

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Resident Mule Deer Antlered – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1331

Unit 202, 205-208, Nov 5 – Nov 30, Dept Rec 40

Glenn stated that last year it was 45 and he feels it should be left at 45.

Glenn further reported that he was out in the area during that season. The deer had not migrated in yet. The hunters that were there was not shooting a 3 point and only wanted 4 or larger. But in the area he was at, there were several 3 point standing and they passed on them and went dry.

Jason stated that last year the success ratio was 60% total success and 49% 4 point. Which a long time ago it was a larger 4 point

Glenn stated that he felt it would be larger points if hunting was allowed on the big mountain (Mt. Grant). He went on to say he saw there was 8 guide tags and they all harvested 4 point or larger. He saw where they were camped on the back side of Powell and felt they were going on horseback up Powell Mountain or Baldwin Canyon.

Glenn stated that he took a large 3 point that was obvious had just moved in that day. There was more discussion of the deer that had been seen by John Lockwood and Glenn in the area of Hicks. The deer came in late this year. It was dry, but the water was flowing. Where he had seen tracks in the past, the they weren't there. When he went out that morning later in the season and the tracks were just getting started.

The Board reviewed the success ratio. Discussion of deer seen in the last season.

A motion was made by Glenn Bunch, seconded by John Lockwood to request an increase of 5 bringing the total from 40 to 45 Motion Carried.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 1371

Unit 202, 205-208, Dec 1 – Dec 15, Dept Rec 5

A motion was made by Glenn Bunch, seconded by John Lockwood to request an increase of 2 bringing the total from 5 to 7 for Muzzleloader. Motion Carried.

Resident Mule Deer Antlered Archery Hunt 1341

Unit 201, 202, 204-208 Early, Aug 10 – Sept 9, Dept Rec 8

Unit 202, 205-208 Late, Dec 16 – Jan 1, Dept Rec 10

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Any legal Weapon Hunt 1332

Unit 202, 205-208, Nov 5 – Nov 30, Dept Rec 4

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 4

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Muzzleloader Hunt 1372

Unit 202, 205-208, Dec 1 – Dec 15, Dept Rec 2

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation of 2

Nonresident Mule Deer Antlered Archery Hunt 1342

Unit 201, 202, 204-208 Early, Aug 10 – Sept 9, Dept Rec 1

Unit 202, 205-208 Late – Dec 16 – Jan 1, Dept Rec 1

The Board Concurs with Dept Recommendation

Resident Moose- - Antlered-Any Legal Weapon Hung 10151

No Recommendation;

- 8* **Review the remainder of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioner’s Meeting Agenda for May 3-4, 2024:** The Board may discuss the remainder of the Commission’s Agenda.

No agenda requests

6 Public Comment:

Darren Hamrey stated that there are states as well as Nevada that deer numbers are dropping. He would like to propose that a couple of units be closed for a couple of years, then open those units and close a couple other units and let the deer herds recover. We are waiting 4,5 or 6 years for a tag. Just close an area down.

Glenn stated that that what he has seen as when they close an area down, they don’t open them back up. So what is it doing to do for us.

One of the things we have to look at here is that we have a 30/70 split with California. We are not hunting near the numbers on our side as they are on their side. Same herd and their tags are up in the hundreds and our Dept wants to shut us down from 45 to 40. But you don't see any concession from California. If we shut off the hunting in Nevada side, it will just open up more in California.

In area 10 California had 250 tags. They surveyed Mineral County

Glenn also reported that Californian Fish and Game was flying our area this spring doing deer surveys for their season. He knew because they fueled their red helicopter at the Hawthorne Airport for 3 days. Glenn further noted that we were supposed to be a 30/70 split agreement with California. With Californian issuing several hundred tags in the neighboring hunt area, to hold us to even 40 is not allowing Nevada the proper split that was agreed on. They should be cutting their numbers down and that would allow for more deer to make the trip to Nevada.

What he's looking at is we have almost closed Mineral County and Washoe County is in the same boat.

Darren said we have never ever closed an area.

Jason said we can only account for deer in Mineral County. In his opinion we are only hunting resident deer and the 30/70 split doesn't really matter. It's not really worth his time to get up in a helicopter and surveying for 2 days. By working with the juniper reduction to get the resident deer.

Glenn stated that what he sees in Washoe County is that people look at this beautiful spot and build a house there. So where the deer used to winter, is no longer available.

Darren stated that the winter that we had last year will help build the deer population.

Glenn stated that the water trough at Summitt Springs was overflowing with water. We have equipment available to us that maybe we can start putting guzzlers more area and that will help bring the deer back.

General discussion continued of possible options to work with the Forest Service and BLM.

Glenn stated that he could help Darren with some contact information that may help with getting the projects approved.

No further business to take care of, the meeting was approve.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.