

## Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Approved Minutes

### Meeting Location

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

***If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Friday, January 24, 2025:***  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87674850393?pwd=bkcZ150ajYlmf2dqF7EJ9p65O2rx.1> Passcode: 684532

***If you wish to make public comment, please use this link for Saturday, January 25, 2025:***  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81420130967?pwd=bzh9pbkTaaCk8DbJbAj40LmqfgFOtX.1> Passcode: 246826

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 three 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](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org) or attend and make comment during the meeting. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. All persons present are asked to sign-in, whether speaking or not.

In accordance with NRS 501.105 and Commission Policy 1, Adoption of Commission Policies, Resolutions, and Record Keeping: *"The Commission will have a minimum of two readings not on consecutive days of the revised or proposed policy in public meetings before the Commission takes action to adopt, amend, or repeal, or disapprove the policy. Exception: If the policy is declared an emergency the Commission may read, amend, and adopt the policy in two readings on two consecutive days."*

In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

### Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners present for the meeting

Chairman Shane Rogers

Commissioner Thomas Barnes

Commissioner Shane Boren

Commissioner Casey Kiel

Secretary Alan Jenne

Vice Chair Paul Young

Commissioner Eddie Booth

Commissioner Tommy Caviglia

Commissioner Mario Walther

Senior Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett

### Nevada Department of Wildlife personnel in attendance

Deputy Director Jordan Goshert

Deputy Director Mike Scott

Game Warden Jake Kreamer

Data and Technology Administrator Matt Maples

Management Analyst Alejandra Medina

Wildlife Staff Specialist Joe Bennett

Biologist Travis Hawks

Deputy Director Caleb McAdoo

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight

Management Analyst Megan Manfredi

Habitat Administrator Mark Freese

Executive Assistant Lynda Barr

Wildlife Staff Specialist Madi Ellingwood

Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Biologist David Catalano  
Fisheries Administrator Chris Crookshanks  
Program Officer Chrissie Rose  
Biologist Cody Byrne  
Accounting Assistance Lacey Walker  
Administrative Assistant Tara Wyatt  
Wildlife Health Specialist Nate LaHue  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox  
Game Warder Wes Coons  
Game Warder James Mortimore  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody McKee  
Biologist Scott Roberts  
Staff Conservation Educator Aaron Meier  
IT Technician Andrew Koszuth

Conservation Education Administrator Chris Vasey  
Administrative Services Officer Nancy Camarena  
Administrative Assistant Emily Hobbs  
Administrative Assistant Jennifer Miller  
Administrative Services Officer Kailey Musso  
Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder  
Game Administrator Shawn Espinosa  
IT Professional Eric Dugger  
Conservation Educator Logan Klonicke  
Accounting Assistance Delaney Friel  
Administrative Assistant Lexie Moore  
Biodiversity Administrator Jasmine Kleiber  
Public Information Officer Jamie Roice-Gomes  
Administrative Assistant Hollie Timmons

### **CAB Members present**

Darrel Skubinna, Lyon CABMW  
Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW  
Robert Boehmer, Carson City CABMW  
Glenn Bunch, Mineral CABMW  
Wyatt Mesna, Elko CABMW  
Ryan Browne, Washoe CABMW  
Tim Wilson, Carson CABMW  
Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW  
Neil Cheeney, Lincoln CABMW  
Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW  
Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW  
Jayme Halpin, Eureka CABMW  
Coby Rowe, Washoe CABMW  
Paul Howell, Douglas CABMW

### **Public in Attendance**

Jana Wright, private citizen  
Fred Voltz, private citizen  
Eloise, private citizen  
Jacquie Chandler, private citizen  
Randal Massaro, private citizen  
Joe Crawford, private citizen  
Ken Sullivan, private citizen  
Brent Lyles, Mountain Lion Foundation  
Bryce Screen, Nevada Trappers Assoc  
Will Stolzenburg, Nevada Wildlife Alliance  
Daryl Harwell, private citizen  
Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters & Guides Assoc  
Joe Crawford, private citizen  
Don McKechnie, private citizen  
George Forbush, Nevada Predator Hunting Assoc  
Lucy Bozzelli, private citizen  
Carter Niemeyer, private citizen  
Susan Dameron, private citizen  
Sean Shea, private citizen  
Lorraine Halloran, private citizen

Bryan H, private citizen  
Maureen Jefferson, private citizen  
Criag Downer, private citizen  
Kathryn Bricker, private citizen  
Craig Downer, private citizen  
Caron Tayloe, Nevada Wildlife Alliance  
Catherine Smith, private citizen  
Anthony Ramos, KRNV News 4  
Isabella Screen, Nevada Trappers Assoc  
Greg Smith, private citizen  
Joe Zweifel, private citizen  
Joel Blakeslee, Nevada Trappers Assoc  
Kathy Oakes, Nevada Wildlife Alliance  
Maria Denzler, private citizen  
Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Wildlife  
Mel Belding, private citizen  
Bourne Morris, private citizen  
John Dameron, private citizen  
Keyton Grant, private citizen  
Don Molde, Nevada Wildlife Alliance

Chris Smith, Wild Earth Guardians  
Marlene Hillard, private citizen  
Charles Shimla, private citizen  
Randy Simar, Bear League  
Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife  
Ira Hansen, private citizen  
Laura Kovary, private citizen  
Leo Comeau, private citizen  
Dan Peixato, private citizen  
Liz Munn, TNC  
Allen Moss, private citizen  
Steve Bowman, private citizen  
Ruben Rowe, Meadow Valley Wildlife  
Jaelyn Rowe, private citizen  
Janet Loadham, private citizen  
Bristol Rowe, private citizen  
Tommy Rowe, private citizen  
Myra Tibbetts, private citizen  
Jana Rowe, private citizen  
Mercedes Howard, private citizen  
Monica Rodriguez, private citizen  
Kathy Smith, private citizen  
Linda Tremmel, private citizen  
Marshall, private citizen  
Carl Erquiaga, private citizen  
D. Horowski, private citizen  
Catherine Ryals, private citizen  
Ramona, private citizen  
DJ Wilson, private citizen  
Ron Stoker, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada  
Kenzie Margiott, KRNV News 4  
Nancy Olds, private citizen  
Duaine Cowley, private citizen  
Tanner Bingham, private citizen  
Dallas Lewis, private citizen  
Jenny Lesiutre, Rangelands, Wildlife & Wild Horses  
Rebecca Goff, Humane Society of the United States

Dave Solano, private citizen  
Betty Savini, private citizen  
Greg Ackerman, Nevada Trappers Association  
Carol Freitas, private citizen  
Bob Quilitch, private citizen  
Alexis Hansen, private citizen  
Jed Rybuk, private citizen  
Lydia Teel, private citize  
Mike Olsen, Nevada Trappers Association  
Andrew Koszuth, private citizen  
Pat Kleames, private citizen  
Steve Rose, private citizen  
Aubrey Rowe, private citizen  
Connie Bowman, private citizen  
Austin Rowe, private citizen  
Craig Rowe, private citizen  
John Tibbetts, private citizen  
Randy Rowe, private citizen  
Jessie Howard, private citizen  
Brian Burris, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada,  
Lou Benetti, private citizen  
Steve Groff, Meadow Valley Wildlife  
Stephanie Myers, private citizen  
Ryan M, private citizen  
Jeremiah Dohl, private citizen  
Jason Schroeder, private citizen  
Tiffany East, private citizen  
Mark Ono, USDA APHIS  
Aaron Cheeney, private citizen  
Don Noorda, private citizen  
Larry Staley, private citizen  
Chad Stephens, private citizen  
Nick Gully, March Addiction NV  
Seth Montes, private citizen

**Friday, January 24, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.** (Meeting to adjourn at 4.30 p.m. without exception)

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

Chairman Rogers called the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting to order on Friday, January 24, 2025 and asked Commissioner Walther to lead the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call of the Commission members was taken by Executive Assistant Lynda Barr Chairman Rogers, Vice-Chairman Young, Commissioner Barnes, Commissioner Booth, Commissioner Boren, Commissioner Caviglia, Commissioner Walther were present. Commissioner Rogers informed meeting attendees that today's meeting had a hard stop at 4:30 p.m. as the room was booked for use by another party at that time and made note of CABMW members in attendance

**2. Public Comment Period** **INFORMATIONAL**  
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. Persons making comments are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Mel Belding, private citizen noted his desire for the start of a discussion pertaining to fees or petitions, indicating his belief that it is only fair that the Department be reimbursed those fees. Mr. Belding explained that having special meetings to hear petitions costs the sportsmen and the Department of Wildlife tens of thousands of dollars and indicated his belief that these costs should be borne by the petitioner. Mr. Belding indicated his desire for a discussion outlining the actual costs to the Department of Wildlife and the Sportsmen to do these things.

Joel Blakesley, private citizen discussed the wild horse relationship with the lions and mule deer, noting that the natural relationship between the mule deer and the lions has been impacted by the horses. Mr. Blakesley discussed the gross overpopulations of horses and lions, noting that the mule deer are getting ground in between. Mr. Blakesley concurred with Mel Belding's comments regarding costs, noting his unhappiness that Commissions around the west as well as in Nevada are being used for fundraising activities for various groups.

Jenny Lucia, representing Rangelands Wildlife Wild Horses, LLC, and herself, discussed Agenda Item 8, indicating that the latest effort is another attempt by the Donate Now organizations to present old arguments to the new faces on the Commission. As such, Ms. Lucia requested that the Commission deny this petition and redirect focus on the substantive issues such as ecosystem, fauna, rangelands, and range water.

George Forbush, Nevada Predator Hunting Association, indicated that the Trappers Association is against the petition that will be heard later today regarding coyotes. Mr. Forbush explained that the Association is not in favor of protecting coyotes but is in favor of protecting the activity. Mr. Forbush indicated that the CABs have also noted that they do not want to ban, and suggested a written document saying that there would be a season and a license requirement to keep this protected even when current Board members step down.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen noted her appreciation for the democratic process, thanked the Board for the work they've been doing with the Wildlife Killing Contest meetings, and requested that the discussions continue so as to engage all of the public.

Greg Smith, Great Basin Wildlife Conservancy, addressed Item 8, noting his belief that trapping is a tool for the wildlife people to use and if restrictions continue to be put on the trappers, soon they will stop trapping,

and that tool will be taken out of the toolbox. Mr. Smith explained the inability of trappers to be able to check traps every 24-hours, noting that this will financially devastate them as the daily drive would be more than could be done. As such, Mr. Smith urged the Board to reject any changes to the trapping initiative. Mr. Smith concluded his statement by raising concern regarding the sage grouse, noting that the population would tank should trappers be removed.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, noted the importance of September 21, 2012 in his life noting that this was the date that trapping died in Las Vegas because of the vote to change trapping visitation in the Las Vegas Valley from 96 to 48 hours. Mr. Reese explained that the message heard by the trappers as a result of this was to stay home or get out of Vegas, and they complied by going to places like Pahrump and Lincoln County. Mr. Reese indicated that two months later, 11 schools in Las Vegas were in lockdown due to coyotes on school properties, one of which was killed by a police officer. Mr. Reese cited this as a classic example of the value of trapping. Mr. Reese discussed pets being killed on leashes while walking, citing this as further evidence of the need for trapping. Mr. Reese indicated the existence of a flyer that says the ultimate goal is to kill trapping in the west United States, that asks for donation, and indicated that these groups are making money off of subcommittee meetings.

Darrel Harwell, private citizen, noted that gambling is one of Nevada's biggest revenues, and hunting is a sport. As such, Mr. Harwell indicated his belief that big game hunts are actually gambling. Mr. Harwell further noted that changing the regulation on trapping would require the need for more law enforcement and more game wardens and as such, is restricting everyone involved.

Born Morris, private citizen, indicated his opposition to trapping, equating mountain lions caught in traps to crucifixion, noting its cruelty and length of time to die. Mr. Morris noted that these animals are dying long, slow, agonizing deaths, and indicated his belief that this is regrettable and preventable. Mr. Morris concluded by noting that this is not good sport, not good business, not good science, and not good management, and asked the Board to fix this.

Monica Rodriguez, private citizen noted that mountain lions have been living in the wild for decades longer than humans, and discussed her belief that trapping is causing unnecessary injury and death to the animals. Ms. Rodriguez indicated her belief that mountain lions are a non-target, keystone species, and discussed their importance to ecosystems. As such, Ms. Rodriguez requested that the Board look into regulation trap times, reducing the amount of hours from 96 to 24, banning multiple sets of traps, imposing trapper education requirements, and regulating trap size. Ms. Rodriguez concluded by noting her lack of sympathy for people complaining that this would lead them to spend more money on gas as hunting is not a necessity.

Fred Voltz, private citizen, noted that there should be one CAB for each of the 18 counties, yet two have no CABs, which is in violation of state law, and of the other 15, only eight have been attending despite the requirement that they be at each and every Commission meeting. Mr. Voltz indicated that the Commission continues to fund all of these CABs and there needs to be a change as all measures thus far have had not impact. As such, Mr. Voltz requested that if the Commission's process is following law, they CABs should either be eliminated altogether or no longer funded.

Rebecca Goff representing the Humane Society of United States indicated her support of a full ban on wildlife contests in the state. Ms. Goff cited a 2024 poll that found that 71 percent of Nevadans support this full ban. Ms. Goff noted that the HSUS strongly oppose regulating wildlife contests as regulations will make seem like the sport is being legitimized while nothing is done to address its opposition. Ms. Goff informed the Board that in 2020 the wildlife commissions of both Washington and Colorado banned all killing contests outright and offered detailed information regarding this. Ms. Goff further indicated that there have been no reports of political blowback or enforcement issues from those wildlife agencies in any of the ten states that have abandoned killing contests thus far. Ms. Goff asked the Board to ban contests outright.

Lou Benetti, private citizen noted his disagreement with any type of change for trappers or bans on coyote calling contests, but did note his agreement with the two regulations on the calling contest.

Jason Schroeder, private citizen noted that he is on the side of the trappers and does not want a ban for calling contests.

Brian Burris, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada, discussed the problem of emotion of some of the attendees, noting that the statistics can say anything you want to them to say as long as you poll the right group of people. Mr. Burris further noted that those arguing against hunting and/or trapping do not know the science behind it or the facts of the cases. As such, Mr. Burris noted the importance of using the facts as they truly are. Mr. Burris indicated that coyotes are an unregulated species in the state because they are a persistent problem, and noted the overabundance of mountain lion sightings, which are a danger to communities. Mr. Burris concurred that a lot of that in the Las Vegas valley is the result of the 48-hour trapping requirement, which has deteriorated the ring of defense around the city. Mr. Burris discussed the importance of trapping in mesopredator control, noting that this control of predators helps in the management of wildlife. Mr. Burris requested that the Commission listen to the argument of science rather than emotional argument.

Darrel Skubbina, Lyon CAMBW, indicated his support for the members urging the Commission not to approve the petition either for trapping the wildlife calling contest. Mr. Skubbina referred to the opposing side as using cultural bigotry as they don't like or understand the issues and therefore react to them emotionally. Mr. Skubbina noted that there is one mountain lion incidentally killed every year through trapping in the state, and indicated that because the state has such an overabundance of mountain lions and a dwindling mule deer population, urged the Board not to approve the petition.

3. **Approval of Agenda – Chairman Rogers** **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**  
The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda for January 24, 2025. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No public comment.

**VICE CHAIRMAN YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR JANUARY 24, 2025 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. THE MOTION PASSED 8-0 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.**

- 4.\* **Approval of Minutes – Chairman Rogers** **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**  
Commission minutes may be approved from the November 15 and 16, 2024 meeting.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15 AND 16, 2024 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. THE MOTION PASSED 8-0 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.**

5. **Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence** **INFORMATIONAL**  
- **Chairman Rogers**  
Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file. (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Jenne may

also be discussed.

Director Jenne indicated that given the hard stop today at 4:30, the Department will abbreviate the Department activity report rather than read it in its entirety. Director Jenne further noted that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Executive leadership meeting update would be provided at the March meeting, and that anything not covered today might be shifted to tomorrow's agenda.

Vice Chair Young wished to briefly recognize Matt Glenn, CJ Ellingwood, Brittany and Travis Allen out in Elko, noting that he spent some time out in Elko, noting that he spent time in Elko County back in December looking at a lot of the habitat projects being done out there. The Vice Chair explained that the Area 6 winter range for mule deer and other species on the landscape has been for the last ten to 15 years and is receiving positive results, particularly in the Eisen Basin and Sheep Creek areas. The Vice Chair further thanked the Heritage Committee that has been funding a lot of these projects.

Commissioner Barnes read correspondence from Brad Johnston into the meeting: I write in response to the petition you'll hear tomorrow concerning trapping in Nevada. I unfortunately cannot be at the meeting tomorrow and offer these comments in advance. The petition status premises is to propose regulatory changes to address the incidental trapping of mountain lions. However, the proposed changes that the petition seeks go far beyond any issues related to the incidental trapping of lions. Instead, the petition seeks regulatory changes to effectively regulate trapping out of existence in Nevada. That is, to be clear, the true motive of the petition and for the reason alone, the petition should be denied. Indeed, the individuals who have filed this petition are opposed to trapping. Thus, it is disingenuous for them to claim they are only seeking to address the incidental trapping of lions through regulatory changes. This is not their aim. The petition's lack of candor and failure to identify its true motive further warrants its denial. Finally, the petition seeks to rehash what has been considered time and time again by the Commission, such as trap visitation. There is no need to do so. Please recognize this petition for what it is, a thinly veiled invitation to ban trapping through regulation. Decline that invitation and reject the petition. Thank you for your service as Commissioners and attention to this issue, Brad Johnston, Yerington.

Rob Boehmer, Chairman of the Operation Game Thief Citizens Board, explained that the Operation Game Thief Board is charged with providing rewards and support to citizens and/or agencies or divisions that support the OGT Mission, which is the Voice for Wildlife, Protection of Wildlife, and Protection of Wildlife Laws. Mr. Beamer invited Kristy Knight, and Jake Kreamer to present the 2023 Law Enforcement Professional of the Year Award to James Mortimer. Mr. Beamer indicated that in the past five years, OGT has provided over \$10,000 in rewards to people across the state and noted that the majority of recipients indicate that they do not need to be rewarded for doing the right thing.

Chair Rogers congratulated James Mortimer, Chief Knight, and all game warden staff for the wonderful work that they do.

Deputy Director Mike Scott explained that the Division Activities report will be foregone for this meeting, but that there will be a report from the Game Division on some of the issues that bighorns and wildlife are facing in Southern Nevada. Deputy Director Scott further noted that on January 29, NDOW Leadership will present a pre-session budget presentation to the legislature about the Commission's budget subcommittees.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight recognized Southern Region Tonopah Game Warden Connor Friel noting that on January 18, he was the warden that found the downed aircraft missing since January 2. Chief Knight

explained that Mr. Friel did this by hiking and knowing the area, and following the iPad ping to the location, noting that it was very hard to see and as such, understandable as to why it had not been found prior.

**6. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW)  
Member Items**

**INFORMATIONAL**

CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW, discussed items that were brought up by the public at Elko's last CABMW meeting, such as indoctrination classes required for guides, and tag holders for the bear hunt, noting that the issue at hand is that the time at which indoctrination takes place is problematic as several of the guides are unable to attend. As such, a request was made to have an online indoctrination rather than a Zoom presentation that is available as first come first serve. Mr. Cooney next addressed the updated Elk Management Plan, noting that Elko CAB would like to see that plan come out, and indicated that a discussion needs to be had regarding whether to do sub plans for each one of the areas.

Neil Cheeney, Lincoln CABMW, introduced himself as the newest CABMW member and, noted that the possibility of a bounty for coyotes was brought up by the public with no commentary either way from the CABMW.

**7. Reports**

**INFORMATIONAL**

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

Deputy Director Scott noted that the Division will forego reading the report in its entirety today and rather will provide it in a written document.

Shawn Espinosa, Game Division Administrator, informed the Board of the drought-like conditions in southern Nevada, which prompted water hauls to several different guzzlers in late December. Mr. Espinosa explained that approximately 37,000 gallons of water was moved to 10 different water developments in six different mountain ranges, and thanked the personnel whose Christmas break was cut short by this task. Mr. Espinosa noted that fall and winter of 2023 provided precipitation that brought about a decent lamb crop that is leading to expansion of some populations, but with onset of this drought, the herds have quickly exceeded their carrying capacity, especially in mountain ranges. As such, Mr. Espinosa explained that these water hauls may need to be done again somewhere between late February and mid-March. As such, all outlets are being considered so as to bring the herds within management capacity in a sustainable situation, which could involve movement of animals out of state to other mountain ranges, or possibly an emergency hunt situation so that sheep do not simply succumb to conditions on the landscape. Mr. Espinosa explained that vegetation is in poor shape throughout a lot of the southern Nevada mountain ranges, and that will soon be represented in the condition of the sheep.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Mike Cox, provided the Board with a presentation on the background of the drought in southern Nevada, beginning with 2019, when things were good. Mr. Cox explained that impacts began in summer of 2020 with more excessive drought conditions in the fall of 2020 due to lack of monsoonal rains. Mr. Cox noted that these conditions continued through 2021 and 2022, with drought conditions finally lifting in the fall of 2023, only to again return to drought conditions in summer of 2024 with lack of monsoonal rains in the south. Mr. Cox indicated that herd populations were recovering in a positive manner to the point where now herds are definitely over their caring capacity of habitat, food, and water. Mr. Cox added that in the last two decades, drought periods are more intense, more severe, there are longer days without rain, higher daytime and night time temps, and longer frequencies of drought periods. Mr. Cox explained that during these periods, bighorn sheep are restricted to a smaller amount of the habitat in each of the Mojave Desert ranges, and as

such, start using guzzlers typically earlier in the year and then continue to restrict themselves in proximity to water developments. Mr. Cox next discussed plant phenology, noting that the main precipitation pattern in the Mojave Desert is December through early March, and now, at the halfway point, there has been none and predictions forecast that there will not be any. As such, Mr. Cox explained, not only will there not be a main period of rainfall to recharge water developments, but there are no plants going that will provide food for the bighorn. Mr. Cox further indicated that what the bighorn are trying to digest is dead plant stems that have thick cell walls and almost no nutritional value, and to digest these, the bighorns need to drink even more water. Mr. Cox noted that there are potentially 20 bighorn herds, and although staff can support herds via water hauls, they are not able to generate forage without rain. Mr. Cox explained that hay is not an option as bighorn digestive systems cannot eat hay as it is too rich. Mr. Cox noted that the herds in dire situations are those in the Muddies, Arrow Canyon Range, the McCullough Range, and the southern portion of the Spotted Range. Mr. Cox explained that at the annual meeting of the Nevada Bighorn Working Group, formulation of plans began because if action is not taken, there will be hundreds of animals that will die. Mr. Cox warned that this will be a costly adventure with the need of a lot of assistance to support these actions.

Chair Rogers noted that he has seen this issue firsthand and about the timeline and criticality regarding when something needs to be put in place.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that if the plan is to move animals, this needs to wait until after the birth pulse in late January through February, and could be as late as June before there are opportunities to move the animals. Mr. Cox indicated that a more solidified plan will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

Chair Rogers questioned if food sources other than hay can be utilized.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that this area has not yet been explored.

Deputy Director Scott reiterated that the Department is currently working on plans with the Game Division and Habitat Division, which will involve some water hauls, might involve trapping and transplanting, might involve emergency hunts, and potentially other tools as they are discovered.

Vice Chair Young questioned what kind of numbers may need to be moved out of the four most dire locations.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated this would likely be around 150.

Commissioner Caviglia noted his preference for emergency hunt to be the absolute last resort.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox discussed a system being put together by the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, and credited Pat Cummings, the president, with ranch bot units, remote and real-time monitoring systems that measure the levels in the tanks that supply the drinker, providing real-time draw down. Mr. Cox explained that these units do help to keep track of things better and allow for faster reactions when needed.

Chair Rogers concurred with Commissioner Caviglia regarding emergency hunt being the absolute last resort.

Commissioner Booth questioned if the sheep would be transferred in-state or out of state, and if in-state, to what specific areas.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that both options are being considered, with the best out-of-state option being Utah, and a list of in-state locations under consideration with the intent of limiting any secondary effects that could occur from things like exposure to pathogens.

Deputy Director Scott urged Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight to inform her crew about shed hunters potentially going out early and taking advantage of the opportunity without being caught.

**B.\* Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett**

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

Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett noted that the last item on the litigation report is a temporary diversion to the South Fork Reservoir exercised last year by the State Water Engineer. DAG Burkett indicated that the diversion is no longer in place as Pershing County Water Conservation District challenged and as a result, a motion to dismiss that lawsuit has been filed.

**C. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Executive Leadership Meeting – Secretary Jenne**

This item was tabled until the March meeting.

**D.\* Emerging Technologies – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia**

A report will be provided on the recent Emerging Technologies Committee meeting.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated that the first meeting was the previous Tuesday, and that ironically, the Emerging Technologies Committee had technological difficulties to start. Commissioner Caviglia indicated that the plan going forward is to try to select some criteria that the Committee could look at, some guidelines or a checklist, to determine what warrants further discussion. Commissioner Caviglia noted that the Committee offered the public, the Department, and the CABMWs an opportunity to make recommendations regarding guidelines they would like to see in place, and these will be addressed at the next meeting, at which time they will be narrowed down with the plan of selecting the guidelines with which the Committee wishes to proceed.

**E.\* Wildlife Heritage Account Report – Habitat Division Administrator Mark Freese**

A report will be provided on the funds available (interest and principal) for expenditure from the heritage account in the upcoming year and an update on available principal balance.

Mark Freese, Habitat Division Administrator, indicated that at the close of Fiscal Year 24, the heritage account had a principal balance of \$12,043,491, and had accumulated \$471,923.44 in interest. Mr. Freese reminded the Board that Heritage Fund project funds are annually allocated, with the Habitat Division taking 75 percent of the revenue. Mr. Freese explained that a total of \$2,199,756.70 will be available to award for FY 26 projects. Mr. Freese further noted that anything in the principal balance above the \$5 million amount can be allocated up to 50 percent of principal projects in a given year. Mr. Freese noted that for FY 25, there is a little over 2.6 million that may be available for funding for the remainder of principal project requests, but noted that given the fluid situation in southern Nevada with the sheep, there may be a request coming for another principal project possibly as soon as the next meeting.

**8.\* Petition – Mr. Donald Molde, Mr. Christopher Smith, Ms. Caron Tayloe, Ms. Catherine Smith and Mr. Will Stolzenburg**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

Mses. Tayloe and Smith and Messrs. Molde, Smith and Stolzenburg are petitioning the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve several recommended changes to trapping regulations to reduce the effects of incidental trapping of mountain lions, require trapper education for new licensees, and improve collection of non-target trapping data.

Will Stolzenburg, Nevada Wildlife Alliance, argued against the trapping of mountain lions, noting that a significant number of mountain lions are being injured and killed in traps set for other creatures. Mr. Stolzenburg indicated that these concerns were presented to representatives of NDOW more than a year ago, and these representatives declined to consider corrective actions without proof that these casualties were having an adverse impact on Nevada's mountain lion population. Mr. Stolzenburg claimed that the failure to address these offenses against Nevada's wildlife ignores the suffering and collateral damages that occur from these casualties; ignores the abundant science of the lion's vital ecological role in balancing

Nevada's ecosystems; and fails to serve either Nevada's wildlife or the public trust to which Nevada's Department of Wildlife is beholden. Mr. Stolzenburg presented several studies to support his argument, and next discussed collateral damage as a result of trapping lions, noting that the data suggests that cougars that have been recently trapped are more likely to come into conflict with humans. Mr. Stolzenburg opined that the pervasive myth that mountain lions need to be managed by being hunted or killed needs to be dispelled. Mr. Stolzenburg next presented a study noting that hunting mountain lions actually increases the odds of complaints and livestock depredations. Mr. Stolzenburg next discussed the benefits of protecting mountain lions, indicating that mountain lions are keystone predators and actually improve the genetic health of herds by keeping deer and elk from congregating in one place too long, thus allowing flowers and forests to grow, and noted his belief that mountain lions save human lives by controlling the deer population that otherwise would kill people on US highways due to run-ins with deer. Mr. Stolzenburg offered recommendations to the Board including: shorten the trap visitation interval; limit trap size used for bobcat trapping; require anchors, not drags, and a shorter chain; provide trapper education programs; and monitor trapping.

Mr Stolzenburg presentation can be found using the following link : <https://www.ndow.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/8-Powerpoint-2-from-Petitioners.pdf>

Cathy Smith, Washoe County, presented a slide presentation of several different mountain lions injured and/or killed as a result of trapping and indicated that 100 percent of female lion mortality in Nevada was found to be human caused. Ms. Smith noted that 15 percent of Nevada's mountain lions were found to have injuries consistent with incidental trapping, but indicated that this data is incomplete, and opined that incidental trapping does not benefit any species and may increase contact between humans and wildlife. Ms. Smith suggested the following changes: 24-hour trap checks; trap size restrictions; anchors rather than drags; to fit neck snares with breakaway devices for larger animals, require trapper education; improve collection of non-trapping data. Ms. Smith next discussed the incidental trapping of birds, noting that these incidents often occur secondary to unintentional baiting with a non-target animal trapped in an adjacent trap.

Ms. Smith's presentation can be found at the following link: [Incidental Trapping](#)

Chair Rogers opened the discussion to public comment.

Kathy Oakes, private citizen indicated that she has encountered mountain lions herself, and requested that the Commission support and rule favorably on the petition.

Bella Screen, private citizen explained that it is extremely rare for a mountain lion to be caught in a trap, and noted that the population of mountain lions in Nevada has grown from 400-500 in 1965 to between 3,200 and 5,000 today. Ms. Screen requested an in-depth study on mountain lion population today, noting that the last study was done in 2015. Ms. Screen discussed the threat of mountain lions to bighorn sheep and indicated that the government is spending significant money to kill mountain lions themselves where instead they should give the rights back to the people and use that money toward more research about the accurate population of mountain lions so as to manage the population better.

Maria Denzler, private citizen indicated her support for the modifications as outlined in the current petition to further the protection of Nevada's mountain lion.

Charles Shimko, private citizen, discussed the importance of the conservation movement and indicated the importance of having data before making decisions. Mr. Shimko indicated that Nevada has a decreasing deer population, and opined that this shows that the mountain lion population is healthy. Mr. Shimko noted the importance of looking at what these potential trapping restrictions will have on the bobcat population. As such, Mr. Shimko encouraged the Commission to oppose the petition.

Bryce Screen, Nevada Trappers Association, opposed the petition in its entirety, noting that the science is

clear on this issue, and that the statistics show zero mountain lions dead in traps in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Mr. Screen indicated that the actual NDOW statistics show that this is not a pressing issue, and added that there has not been a single cause of chronic wasting disease, as argued in the petition, since 1990, with zero confirmed cases of chronic wasting disease ever. Mr. Screen concluded by stating that this is a classic case of cultural bigotry and advised the Commission to vote against it.

Henry Krenka, on behalf of the Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association, asked that the Commission deny the petition.

Jed Rybak, private citizen opined that the minority group putting forth the petition is not putting Nevada's wildlife first but rather cares only about their own agenda. Mr. Rybak indicated his belief that trappers and hunters are the true stewards of the land because they want all wildlife to thrive for years to come. Mr. Ryback explained that Utah has a successful program, which is implemented to allow trappers the opportunity to harvest lions and suggested that perhaps Nevada needs a program like this, as well.

Neil Cheeney, Nevada Trappers Association President, indicated his concern with the fact that the group that has brought this petition forward is looking for donations, and presented false points in the presentation. Mr. Chaney opined that the group is inflating numbers and misinterpreting things to make the situation look worse than it is. Mr. Chaney requested that the Commission ask NDOW for their data and an explanation of that data so that it can be interpreted accurately to allow the Commission to make an informed decision.

Chris Smith, Wild Earth Guardians Wildlife Program Director, indicated his belief that what the Commission is being asked to do is outside of its purview and authority and noted that the reforms recommended in the petition are common sense reforms that would bring trapping regulations in Nevada into better alignment with the best available science, best management practices, with other state regulations, and with public sentiment in the state. Mr. Smith asked that the Board take the responsibility seriously and continue to strive to do better.

Jim Cooney requested on behalf of Elko CABMW that the Commission deny the petition.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife President, expressed his tremendous respect for the lion, but noted that lions have killed horses and bucks near his home. Mr. Johnson discussed putting a greater emphasis on Nevada's declining species, such as sage grouse and mule deer, and the need to focus on wildfire restoration, water developments, and predator control.

Alexis Hansen, private citizen, shared her concerns regarding Wild Earth Guardians and organizations like them, noting a report in Americans for Prosperity called How one Green Group Games the System, and indicated that the report mentioned that this group stands out in its eagerness to use litigation as a tool of intimidation, influence, and policymaking. Ms. Hansen requested that the Commission always keep in mind what is best for the state, what Nevadans are saying, and protecting Nevadans from DC politics that make vast changes in the state.

Mel Belding, private citizen indicated his belief that nothing has changed since 1974 other than the Board members, noting that this argument about trapping has been taking place since the first Commission meeting he attended. Mr. Belding noted that the mountain lion population is increasing in this state and requested that the Board deny the petition.

Ryan Browne, representing the Washoe CABMW, requested on behalf of Washoe CABMW that the petition be denied.

Brent Lyles, Mountain Lion Foundation Executive Director, read a letter from a Verdi, Nevada resident who requested the increased protection of all wildlife by supporting this petition. Mr. Lyles indicated that this

petition is an opportunity for the Board to do a small thing that represents a reasonable and moderate compromise. Mr. Lyles thanked the Commission for their consideration of the petition, for hearing all sides of the issue, and for giving the petition due consideration.

Jenny Lesieutre, Rangelands, Wildlife and Wildhorses, described the mountain lions seen on her property and noted her fear to ride her horses in the Virginia Range. Ms. Lasierra requested that NDOW give the public some current information and clear understanding of what was being presented today.

George Forbush, Nevada Predators Hunting Association, noted his belief that the few animals that get accidentally trapped are minimal. Mr. Forbush indicated that the arguments in the presentation were not persuasive, and asked that it be denied.

Joel Blakesley, Nevada Trappers Association Policy Director, discussed the redundancy of this issue, noting that it has been heard many, many times, and indicated that Nevada Legislature in 2017 gave direction to the Wildlife Commission to address trap visitation, and blessed the 96-hour trap check. Mr. Blakesley noted that the CABs have overwhelmingly rejected the proposed changes time after time. Mr. Blakesley argued against the change in trap-check time and trap size, as well as the other items proposed in the petition.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen thanked those who have kept this issue about the petition and not the people and questioned why it is threatening to be better. Ms. Tayloe noted that this is not about ending trapping, but about placing reasonable restrictions on trapping. Ms. Tayloe requested that the facts and the data presented today be considered and that the Board make its decision based on the information presented by Dr. Smith and Mr. Stolzenburg.

Ira Hansen, private citizen noted that whenever seeing highly emotional things, it is important to look at the bigger picture. Mr. Hansen indicated that over 3,000 mountain lions in Nevada's population should be issue number 1, noting that the average lion eats 50 deer a year. Mr. Hansen also raised the issue of wild horses, noting that the high population is increasing the population of mountain lions. Mr. Hansen indicated that there is no appetite at the Nevada legislative level for animal rights type stuff, expressed his appreciation of Dr. Molde, and requested that the Board deny the petition without worry of it going to the legislature.

Donald Molde, private citizen indicated that there are many extraneous issues and diversions that come into this kind of discussion, and informed the Board that all the photos and numbers in the presentations come directly from NDOW. Dr. Molde expressed his disbelief at the Department's estimate of 3,000-plus mountain lions, noting that the number of mountain lions is reliant completely on the number of deer, and explained that deer numbers have declined. Dr. Molde requested that the Board concentrate on the information its been presented, which came directly from NDOW, and make decisions as to whether modifications should be done to protect the mountain lion.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife President, discussed the coyote and mountain lion populations and expressed the need for trapping. Mr. Reese requested that the Board deny this petition and suggested meetings for higher fawn recruitments so as to protect fawns.

Carter Niemeyer, private citizen described his background in wildlife services and as a trapper, noting that he headed up the wolf program in Idaho. Mr. Niemeyer noted that the traps he has seen in the pictures are wolf traps and too big for a bobcat, and suggested trappers policing themselves and setting smaller traps.

Paul Dixon, Clark County CABMW, indicated that Clark County CABMW voted against the petition in a 4-3 vote, primarily on a lack of scientific basis.

Jana Wright, private citizen, requested that the Board support the petition.

Brian Burris, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada, indicated that the presentation was based on emotion and not fact, and indicated that trapping works as an effective tool to support both wildlife and people in the state. The speaker noted that the sportsmen are the conservationist of Nevada and as such, they should have a right to figure out what is best management practice.

Dwayne Callie , private citizen indicated that he is a lifetime trapper and noted that he has personally seen four mountain lions in three different mountain ranges in the last 15 days, and further noted that in the past year, a mountain lion has killed two deer in the middle of his small town. Mr. Callie indicated his belief that the populations are grossly underreported and underrepresented and such, requested that the Board deny this petition, citing lack of actual scientific evidence. Mr. Callie concluded by stating that the petition is a direct assault on the rights, privileges, and freedoms of all Nevadans.

Fred Volz, private citizen requested that the following statement be added into the record verbatim: Intentionally inflicting, avoidable and unduly severe injuries onto any wildlife species is the antithesis of fair chase, the North American model's other precepts, and avoiding the imposition of unnecessary pain and protracted suffering on an immobilized creature. Hunting and trapping will not vanish by implementing the suggested remedies. Nor do they impose an unreasonable burden on trappers by hewing to the standard, widely adopted, 24-hour inspection interval, thereby heightening the survival prospects of a trapped and compromised animal. NDOW staffers, hunting advocacy groups, and a steady stream of State Wildlife Commissioners over the years have intently avoided even a cursory consideration of the benefits. Yes, benefits. Predator species contribute to Nevada's ecosystem, instead preferring to summarily demonize and obliterate their existence. Mountain lions eat ungulates such as deer, but they also eat coyotes, rabbits, birds, rodents, and porcupines. A published study in the journal, Landscape Ecology considered 172 ungulate kills in and around Yellowstone Park. Carcasses helped plants and the soil absorb more nitrogen and led to better nutrient distribution overall, creating more eating places for ungulates hunters want to kill amidst shrinking habitat and protracted drought. Mountain lions keep prey populations, diseased, elderly, and injured species in check and feed small carnivorous scavengers through left-behind kills. Insects benefit from deteriorating carcasses while birds eat the insects. This is the genius of the interspecies food chain when left to its own devices. A 2022 study published by Mammal Review documented that 485 species are positively impacted by mountain lions in some way. Thus, for NDOW to abdicate its duty to explore whether incidental trapping adversely affected the state's mountain lion population by expecting some other unidentified entity to do NDOW's work demonstrates a shocking lack of objective scientific research and hypothesis testing that these staff are paid from the public treasury to pursue. All the petitions' solutions deserve implementation and I would ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

Larry Staley, private citizen requested that the Commission oppose the petition.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen discussed a mountain lion caught in the trap that was shot and thrown in the brush, and not reported, noting that this is common activity that throws off data. The speaker indicated that the Commission continues to make decisions on false information and that the majority of Nevadans want change. The speaker requested that the Board give this petition and its recommendations the attention and weight they deserve.

Steve Crowley, private citizen, talked about how in the 1960s, while spotlighting, a lion was seldom seen whereas nowadays, anytime you go out you see lion tracks in Lincoln county. Mr. Row indicated that the deer population has plummeted and agreed with the comment about wild horse populations increasing the mountain lion population. As such, Mr. Row voiced his opinion against the regulations proposed in the petition.

DJ Wilson, private citizen, noted his opposition to the petition, noting that a vast number of trappers' licenses are sold to predator hunters, and the trappers questionnaire regards trapping and not hunting, hence the under or unreported numbers.

Ron Stoner, Wildlife Habitat and Improve of Nevada noted the organizations opposition to the petition.

Dallas Lewis, private citizen noted his opposition to the petition, reiterating Mr. Row's assertion that the number of lions is increasing and deer numbers are decreasing.

Nick Gully, Marsh Addiction NV, noted his opposition to this petition, indicating that this is a commodity in the state of Nevada and as such, brings money into the state. Mr. Gully requested that the Commission look at the studies from the opposition and talk with the people out in the field rather than rely on emotion.

No additional public comment.

Chair Rogers noted his interest in hearing directly from NDOW on some of the items discussed, specific to the incidental take of mountain lion.

Wildlife Staff Specialist, Russell Woolstenhulme, indicated that there are multiple data sets, the first being non-target trapping data, which consists of 17 years of data and continues to be collected annually. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that the response rate to the trapper questionnaire is 85 percent and each trapper is asked if they captured non-targets or not. Mr. Woolstenhulme reported that between 50 to 60 percent of respondents reported that they did not catch any non-targets. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that there are some missing years in the data from the early 2000s, but given the data that does exist, there have been a total of 337 lions reported trapped incidentally from non-target trapping, 281 of those released unharmed, 12 released with injuries, 26 reported died or euthanized, and 18 of unknown status. Mr. Woolstenhulme indicated that this data indicates a total of 3.3 lions trapped, either dead or injured, annually over the last 17 years. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that the second set of data is the Department's mountain lion database, which Mr. Woolstenhulme reviewed between the years of 1976 and 2003, and found that the final result came to an average of 3.2 lions injuries or deaths among lions per year.

Commissioner Boren asked what the estimated population of mountain lions is in the state of Nevada currently.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme indicated that the most recent population estimate was approximately 1,700 lions.

Chair Rogers asked if any data supports that there is less harm done within a 24-hour time period versus the 24-to-96-hour time period.

Staff Specialist Woolstenhulme indicated that the Department does not have any empirical data to answer that question either way because without the use of cameras, there is no way to know how long the animal spent in the trap. Mr. Woolstenhulme added that Montana has reported none of this lion damage, and has a zero trap-check time for most of the state.

Commissioner Boren questioned how many times management quota on mountain lions has been reached in the last 10 years.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme explained that the data runs from 2014 through 2023 and that over the last decade, the objective was reached during three of those years but has never been reached through just sport harvest alone.

Commissioner Boren asked for confirmation that there is a 0.1 percent chance of a lion getting killed in a trap every year, and the habitat objective has not been reached in 10 years.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme confirmed that this is correct, based off the two data sets used. Mr. Woolstenhulme added that data from the Lift Project, on which he does not have any information, does assess this to be slightly higher but still relatively low in relation to the total population.

Vice Chair Young asked if mountain lion harvest or incident trappings have increased, decreased, or stayed the same since 2016-17.

Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme noted that this is difficult to assess because most of the incidental take is based off of trapping effort, and that is how many trap nights are on the landscape. Mr. Woolstenhulme noted that there are 2,800 trap nights for one day per incident of incidental mountain lion take, and in comparison with other species, such as bobcats, the long-term average is around 220 trap nights per bobcat.

Commissioner Kiel indicated that he sees the petition as more of a direct ban toward trapping than the objective to decrease the incidental catch and noted his belief that none of the recommendations will have an appreciable benefit to reducing the amount of incidental catches over the year. Commissioner Kiel liked the idea of further education but questioned its practicality. Commissioner Kiel further noted his belief that the data needs to be cleaned up and indicated that these are the only two recommendations that he would be willing to discuss moving forward.

Cathy Smith requested the chance to respond.

Chair Rogers noted that he is comfortable with the information already provided.

Commissioner Caviglia noted that he had read the entire Andreasen document and pointed out that the report indicates that the size of the foothold trap may keep incidental take trapping lions down, noting that may was the key word. The Commissioner further noted that the report states that a recommendation specific to trap size cannot be made. As such, Commissioner Caviglia noted that he does not see the justification to modify the size of the trap. In addition, Commissioner Caviglia indicated that the document also does not make a recommendation on trap-check interval, and noted his agreement that to know when that damage occurs to a lion in a trap can only be speculated. The Commissioner further noted that the incidental take is very small percentage wise, and indicated that for all these reasons, he will not support the petition.

Chair Rogers concurred with the points made by Commissioner Caviglia and added the 47 years of data presented by Mr. Woolstenhulme was helpful to him in making the decision not to support this petition.

Commissioner Barnes indicated that he approached this in the same manner as Commissioner Caviglia and noted that he did not see anything different being presented here that has been presented previously. As such, Commissioner Barnes stated that he is not in favor of this petition.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO DENY THE PETION AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOREN. THE MOTION PASSED 8-0 WITH COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.**

**9.\* Legislation Committee Report – Committee Chairman Paul Young FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

A report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings. The Commission may review bills of interest, consider legislative committee recommendations, and may take official positions on those bills. The Commission may also choose to develop platforms on bills by supporting or opposing general concepts contained within bills rather than specific language. The Commission will consider and may approve a spokesperson(s) who will relay Commission positions and platforms to the Legislature.

Vice Chair Young presented a summary of the Legislative Committee, noting that the Committee went over the charter but did not change it. The Vice Chair noted that the Committee also went over the legislative process and the 120-day calendar for the Nevada Legislative Session, which will run from February 3 through June 2. Vice Chair Young noted that although he is the spokesperson, the entire Committee will likely be engaged in the legislative process. The Vice Chair further noted that there are a bunch of BDRs, but a limited amount of bills with actual language. The Vice Chair indicated that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 18 at 5:00 on Zoom, at which time the anticipation should be for more language and more review of bills.

No public comment.

**10. Requirements for Federal Land Permits**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

**Non-Resident Guided Deer Hunts - Captain Jake Kreamer**

This presentation will provide an overview of the necessary changes to regulations concerning land permits for non-resident guided deer hunts. Additionally, the presentation will cover master guide agreements and propose expanding the requirement for submitting land permits to the Department for all master guides applying for or renewing their license.

Game Warden Captain Jake Kreamer gave the following presentation: [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Jake Kreamer, Game Warden Captain, indicated that this was established in 1993 by the Nevada Legislature as a special kind of carve-out hunt specifically for guides. Mr. Kreamer indicated that the special hunt is restricted only to non-resident applicants, and the guide must accompany the client at all times during the hunt, and the tag holder may not hunt without the guide present. Mr. Kreamer explained that there are two ways to complete the application: self-application by the client, or filled out by the master guide on behalf of the client. Mr. Kreamer next described the process of applying without a master guide, and noted that the application process is similar to a normal online big game application with a few exceptions. Mr. Kreamer noted that this is captured data available to see who and how they are applying. Mr. Kreamer explained that if a master guide is applying on behalf of the client, the master guide must possess a valid special-use permit required by the Federal Land Management Agency that has jurisdiction in the area of application. Mr. Kreamer further noted that the requirement within NAC is that the special use permit needs to be in place at the time of application, not afterwards. Mr. Kreamer next discussed 2024, noting that 1,963 applications were submitted, but only 12 percent of those by the master guide on behalf of the clients. Mr. Kreamer indicated that NDOW sends out courtesy reminders to master guides reminding them to access their business accounts and verify the information entered by their clients prior to the end of the application period. Mr. Kreamer explained that the responsibility for correct application information rests with the master guide and not NDOW. Mr. Kreamer next indicated that the special use permits are federal and are issued by one of three appropriate land management agencies: US Fish and Wildlife, BLM, and US Forest Service, with the Forest Service permits being limited issue. Mr. Kreamer noted that the issues that might arise are as follows: master guides are only legally required to possess a special-use permit at the time of application but do not need to submit proof of this permit to NDOW; master guides are not legally required to attest to applications submitted by the client, only to those they submitted on behalf of their client; although business accounts have been established to provide more available information and authority to master guides, many do not utilize it and do not see application errors; and attestations required by master guides are not integrated into the online application process. Mr. Kreamer indicated that NDOW has taken the following steps to try and resolve these issues: create business accounts for master guides; began working closely with federal partners to share information, including special-use permits; regular and detailed communication with master guides; and known for violations for applicant submitted where a master guide doesn't possess a valid special-use permit by the end of the application period, which results in cancellation of the client's tag.

Commissioner Kiel asked about the length of validity of special-use permits and whether there are challenges

between the different agencies regarding things like overlapping expiration dates.

Captain Kreamer explained that the federal agencies operate independently and differently, so the process and licensed location for the hunts are different depending on the agency.

Commissioner Booth questioned if the non-resident guide hunt is for all big game hunts or exclusively deer.

Captain Kreamer noted that the only specific hunt outlined in NRS is the restricted non-resident guided deer hunt.

Commissioner Booth asked if the master guide has to be with the tag holder or if a sub guide can be with him.

Captain Kreamer noted that it can be the master guide or one of his designated sub guides.

Commissioner Booth asked if there is another NDOW law enforcement being trained in all that Mr. Kreamer does.

Captain Kreamer indicated that this is not yet in process.

Commissioner Booth asked if there are others below Mr. Kreamer that have an understanding of the process.

Captain Kreamer explained that there admins in the law enforcement headquarters office very familiar with this process.

Commissioner Booth questioned if guides apply for specific hunt units, what happens if there are multiple applicants for a hunt unit, and how it is determined which guide would be the recipient of that hunt unit.

Captain Kreamer indicated that it is a regular draw, and noted that if a client does not communicate with a master guide and simply uses the master guide's credentials, business ID number, and PIN number, the master guide may never know that he has a client that applied, and hence the need for the business account created by NDOW.

Vice Chair Young explained that this agenda item had come to his attention through a local outfitter on the Sheldon unit who had all the permits, but because the outfitter did not have the permits the individual drew, the tag went unused. The Vice Chair questioned how often Mr. Kreamer is seeing this type of situation occur.

Captain Kreamer indicated that he does not know how often this occurs, but noted that it has occurred in the past.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if it is within Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) that provides the leeway for the applicants and the master guides to apply or if that is a Department policy.

Captain Jake Kreamer explained that this is within NRS.

Commissioner Caviglia noted that the NRS component can not be modified by the Commission and would require legislative change.

DAG Craig Burkett noted that the requirement exists that the master guide should have that application in his possession at the time of the application, but the problem here is that there is no attestation required when fulfilling the Gordon Darby licensing requirements. DAG Burkett indicated his belief that there is an easy remedy to the situation, which is simply to require after the application is made by the individual hunter that the master guide would then have to go back and attest that the application is consistent with his ability to hunt, which includes a special-use permit in place.

Chair Rogers confirmed that adding this would be within the purview of the Commission.

DAG Burkett confirmed that it would.

Deputy Director Scott confirmed that the DAG is correct, but this would require some development by Gordon Darby to put this in, but they only have so much capacity to do development.

Chair Rogers opened the discussion to the public.

Shawn Shea, private citizen indicated his belief that all guides should have to put their own clients in and then that would solve the problem, adding that guides need to start putting some effort into this themselves rather than just having the clients do all the work.

Glen Bunch, Mineral County CAMBW, asked for a hard copy of the presentation.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association, indicated his belief that one of the bigger problems is the booking agents who go under master guide licenses, put in several hundred applicants each year, and then take a fee each time. Mr. Krenka added his belief that there are likely other regulations in the book that should be reviewed.

Captain Kreamer thanked the guides present, the Nevada Outfitters and Guide Association (NOGA) Board and the members of NOGA for their openness and willingness to work together on resolving problems that have arisen.

Vice Chair Young questioned if there have been discussions with the Outfitters regarding potential regulations that need to be brought to the Board's attention.

Captain Kreamer indicated that there have been discussions with the NOGA Board regarding working together to revise and update hunting guide regulations because hunting has changed since its initial writing back in 1993. Mr. Kreamer added that there is a scheduled working group with the Department and interested parties that will get together and revise these laws and regulations to then bring forward to the Commission.

Vice Chair Young offered to schedule this on the agenda of the TAC Committee to address additional issues and improvements.

Captain Kreamer added that anybody that applies through the non-resident guided hunt is ineligible for the regular non-resident deer hunt applications for the standard seasons.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated that the simplest solution would be to have separated to make the guides put in, but noted that this doesn't stand, and questioned whether or not the Commission wants to provide the Department direction today.

Deputy Director Scott suggested that the group get together, make recommendations, and bring it back to the Department so that the Department can provide some suggestions to move forward with possibly changing some regulations.

There were no additional comments.

11. \* **Contest Committee – Committee Chairman David McNinch** **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**  
A report will be presented on the committee's recent meetings. The Commission may decide to take

action or provide direction to the Department on the issue of Wildlife Contests in Nevada.

Commissioner Walther informed the Board that there were meetings held both in Las Vegas and in Reno which allows for public comment, and in Elko presentations were limited to 20 minutes. Commissioner Walther explained that the intent was to find middle ground or proposals that could make both parties happy, but indicated that that has not come out of this process. The Commissioner noted his belief that there is a division among sportsmen regarding regulating. The Commissioner indicated concerns regarding disposal and that in Elko a recommendation to consider license requirement pertaining to calling contests and the seven-month season proposed by Nevada Predator Hunters association was voted forward.

Commissioner Booth indicated his support of the fact that all divisions of the state had an opportunity to weigh in on this issue, and noted that the Humane Society chose not to attend the Elko meeting due to fear of harm. The Commissioner noted that he did not feel at all threatened at the meetings. Commissioner Booth summed up Commissioner Walther's explanation, noting that there were three choices: keep it the same, eliminate it, or have the license and seven-month long season.

Chair Rogers thanked Commissioners McNinch, Walther, and Booth for their willingness to serve on this committee and to host the three meetings. The Chair noted his belief that something different seemed to come out of each meeting, and concurred that both sides have deep-rooted thoughts and beliefs on the subject.

Vice Chair Young asked about the dates for the potential seven-month season.

Commissioner Booth clarified with Mr Forbush that it was September 1 through March 31.

George Forbush, Nevada Predator Hunt Association noted that this time period was suggested in order to minimize pushback from those pushing back about pups, and to be in line with when coyotes respond to calls.

Commissioner Barnes noted that he has not moved too far off of where he was last time, but did question the need to create undue regulation without need.

George Forbush, Nevada Predator Hunt Association noted that NRS 50.181 states that any regulation relating to the closure of a season must be based upon scientific data concerning the management of wildlife, and added that the request for a season comes from the fact that said season can not then just be shut down without scientific data.

Commissioner Booth added that this was an item that the Nevada Coalition of Wildlife had suggested during their meetings, as well.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated that he is not for the licensing component and expressed concerns regarding regulating and unregulated species, noting his worry that the Commission is potentially setting itself up for a big quagmire.

Vice Chair Young noted that he will be following the recommendation from the subcommittee and as such, is supportive of both the season and the license.

Chair Rogers clarified that this is not a license for the contest but rather a hunting license for every participant.

Commissioner Boren concurred with Commissioner Caviglia.

Chair Rogers opened the floor to public comment.

Jim Cooney, Elko CABMW, indicated that the cooperation all came from the hunters and was entirely one-sided, and concurred with Commissioner Caviglia's concerns regarding the regulations. Mr. Cooney explained that Elko CAB voted unanimously not make changes. Mr. Cooney expressed appreciation for the Commissioners' willingness to visit and schedule meetings, and thanked the Committee for its hard work on this subject.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife President, outlined the two recommended regulations, and noted the recommendation for a season for two reasons: the strong feeling that anybody participating and enjoying Nevada's wildlife should be licensed and paying into the season; and an extra level of protection to these contests through the establishment of a season. Mr. Johnson indicated his disapproval of the fact that a subcommittee was even formed, noting that a process is in place where people with issues are supposed to petition the Commission for changes.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides, noted the support for no changes.

Darrel Harwell, private citizen discussed that this item came to light due to social media and questioned if the Board was trying to please the sportsmen or the public, noting his belief that the Commission existed to support the sportsmen.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Wildlife President, noted that it is the sportsmen that are putting something on the table, and indicated his support for the Commission trying to find the middle road. Mr. Reese noted his frustration with cancel culture, stating that Nevada doesn't have room for it and that the Wildlife Commission should not allow it. Mr. Reese requested that the Commission go back to the initial discussion on this topic, noting that all Commissioners were ready to vote no prior to the three subcommittee meetings.

Worth Nelson, Lander CABMW, explained that the CABMW voted to draw up a letter to county Commissioners instructing them that they would like a resolution, and the letter says Lander County is in favor of and not opposed to any kind of daytime coyote calling contests.

George Forbush added that the licensing came into play, as well, to try and give some parity with the other chucker contest and fishing derbies, and noted that the hunting license came from other coyote hunters, who were frustrated that people from out of state could come to the contest for free whereas Nevadans would need to go to those states and pay.

Bryce Screen, private citizen noted his support for coyote calling competitions. Mr. Screen indicated that he is usually in complete opposition to any sort of regulation but does believe that a coyote calling contest season would be good for the state. Mr. Screen concluded by stating his belief that hunters and trappers deserve the opportunity to prove their ability to self-govern.

Rob Boehmer, Carson City CABMW, indicated that the CABMW came to the consensus unanimously that overregulating this is probably not the best course of action. Mr. Beamer further noted that the CAB could not determine how these contests are working in detriment with the predation plan and as such, is in favor of allowing for a coyote contest, but does not agree with the need for a license. Mr. Beamer discussed the importance of holding coyote contests responsibly and negated the need for regulations, noting that this was a unanimous decision within the Carson City CABMW.

Neil Cheeney, Lincoln County CABMW, indicated that the CABMW voted for no regulations at all.

Stephanie Myers, Clark County, indicated that the Clark County Commission and the City of Reno overwhelmingly passed resolutions to terminate such contests, and noted her belief that these contests should be abolished. Ms. Myers commended Commissioner McNinch and thanked him for conducting these

meetings.

Jana Wright, private citizen indicated her belief that Nevada does not want these contests and urged the Commission to ban them.

Paul Dixon, Clark CAMBW Chairman, noted that the Clark County CABW voted in the majority to retain coyote calling contests, with some dissension. Mr. Dixon noted that if Clark and Washoe do not want the contest, then they should be allowed not to have the contest, but that this should be decided on a county-by-county basis.

Brian Burris, Wildlife Habitat Improvement Nevada, noted that coyotes are an unregulated species for a reason, and questioned why they are trying to be regulated. Mr. Burris encouraged the Commission to sit on this item and take no action.

Darrel Skubbina, Lyon County CABW, noted that the CABW voted unanimously not to make any changes to the current regulations.

Rebecca Goff, Nevada State Director for the Humane Society of the United States, indicated her support for a full ban on wildlife killing contests in the state, noting that 71 percent of Nevadans want to see the Board of Wildlife Commissioners prohibit these contests. Ms. Goff noted that the HSUS strongly opposes regulating wildlife killing contests as regulations legitimize them.

Fred Volz, private citizen asked that the following comments be added to the record verbatim: For the record, Fred Volz. A core reason that a problem is repeatedly brought up can be traced back to those with the official and fiduciary responsibility for its remediation, yet who serially fail to take meaningful action. For 10 years, the subject of mass and indiscriminate killing of a target species via unregulated contests that offer prizes and money has not been corrected, nor have its negative impacts on the ecosystem been attended to by public employees, namely NDOW biologists, these individuals responsible for crafting equitable approaches to balancing the needs of all our wildlife, the landscape and hunters, not exclusively catering only to desires of human hunters. This legal obligation is clearly stated at the beginning of the pertinent NRS sections, controlling this Commission and the Department's activities, but is glossed over and generally ignored when it does not serve the interests of licensees. This state is not a private hunting preserve whose public property, meaning all wildlife species, is not to be managed for the exclusive benefit of those who seek to kill and convert public property to private property without the payment of severance fees to the public treasury. Let's clear up one other misnomer repeatedly cited by licensees and not so silently endorsed by NDOW employees: NDOW licensees do not pay all bills of these public agencies yet continue to insist on that fantasy. Carefully conducted and proportionately representative polls clearly indicate a substantial majority of Nevadans oppose the current approach to wildlife killing contests. Both the Clark County Commission and Reno City Council, representing over 78 percent of Nevadans, overwhelmingly and officially opposed wildlife killing contests as a public safety problem, the antithesis of ethical hunting, and destructive of the state's ecosystem without any science or management plans to back up these contests. Why are the perspectives of so many Nevadans repeatedly ignored? Buying a license and creating a season on the calendar does nothing to stop the widespread and random killing. The negative impacts on the local ecosystems means severe disruption and probable species obliteration. In no way can this approach describe responsible management of the public's wildlife. Wildlife killing is a privilege not a right and needs judicious allocation, not indiscriminate application. And I would ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

Ruben Rowe, Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited Vice President, urged the Commission not to regulate this and noted his desire to remind everyone that all wildlife should be managed by science and not emotion.

Chair Rogers asked for Commission comments.

Commissioner Booth clarified that this item pertains to the coyote contest only, and not all contests.

Chair Rogers asked about the process

DAG Burkett noted that the Commission would need to direct the Department to prepare a regulation for the Commission's review that would then be workshopped.

**COMMISSIONER BOOTH MADE A MOTION TO REGULATE COYOTE CONTESTS WITH A NEVADA HUNTING LICENSE OR TRAPPER'S LICENSE, AND THE COYOTE CONTEST SEASON RUN FROM SEPTEMBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YOUNG. THE MOTION PASSED 5-3 WITH CHAIR ROGERS, VICE CHAIR YOUNG, COMMISSIONERS BOOTH, WALTHER AND BARNES IN FAVOR AND COMMISSIONERS CAVIGLIA , KIEL AND BOREN AGAINST AND COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.**

**12. \* Draft Fiscal Year 2026 Predation Management Plan – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION  
Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa**

The draft fiscal year 2026 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for initial review. Following this review, the draft plan will be updated and shared with the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC). All comments from the PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW), and any other interested entity will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at their March 2025 meeting. The Commission will receive an update at the March 2025 meeting from the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and may provide additional direction at that time.

Shawn Espinosa, Game Division Administrator, informed the Board that support materials are included within their packets. Mr. Espinosa emphasized that this is a draft Predator Management plan for FY26, and includes some differences from the last Predator Plan, such as Policy 12, which dictates the non-lethal portion. Mr. Espinosa covered the six different projects highlighted on the budget spreadsheet, noting that those projects could be modified. Mr. Espinosa noted his preference, however, not to change the bottom line figure, citing the hope to develop a reserve so that in future years, predator projects can be run off of the reserve portion of the Predator Management fee rather than dive into new funding.

Commissioner Caviglia pointed out a typo on the cost of Project 47, and asked for clarification regarding the plan budget for 2025 of \$1,254,000 with expenditures of 656.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa confirmed that this was an update and could be spelled out further should the Commission wish.

Commissioner Caviglia noted that this would be helpful.

Commissioner Kiel noted the concerns from Eureka CAMBW about shifting from 14 into 13, and asked Mr. Espinosa to explain this for the Board.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa noted that due to herd performance in Management Area 14 and Hunt Unit 144, that it is now appropriate to start focusing on other herds that aren't doing as well. As such, there are some other habitat projects that have occurred in the White Pine Range to address the horse issue, and mule deer productivity needs to be afforded an extra level of help.

Commissioner Boren identified himself as an Area 13 guy and indicated his full support of the Area 13 project. The Commissioner further indicated his support of Area 14 and added that he would like to see a Project 40

and 41 so as to continue that maintenance in Area 14.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa noted that this carried over from the last predator plan, and the changes have already been made and the language fixed.

Commissioner Boren questioned whether 80,000 would be enough to start this project in 13, noting his belief that more money may be needed at the start.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa noted that he would need to discuss this with Mark Ono and Wildlife Services, but noted his concern that the maintenance project in 144 as well as in 13 might go over the proposed budget.

Chair Rogers opened the floor to public comment.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, noted his encouragement by NDOW's recent efforts to become more efficient at this program, and applauded the efforts to solicit private contracts rather than relying entirely on wildlife services. Mr. Johnson encouraged the Department to reach out to NGOs for the budget shortfall and indicated that he personally intends to contact and lobby Nevada Bighorns Unlimited for a significant donation in this respect.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen, thanked the 34 percent of sportsmen who are true conservationists and expressed her appreciation for the NDOW biologists for all they are doing to try and find out more from the Habit Division about upcoming projects that help some of the big game animals.

Mel Belding, private citizen indicated his concern regarding the funds spent on Project 21 last year and questioned why this could not be funded from the entirety out of the Upland Game Stamp, which will free up \$175,000 to put towards Project 37. Mr. Belding discussed projects that had gone over budget the previous year as well as the success of the project in Area 014. Mr. Belding suggested adding 80,000 to Project 40 to keep animals in Area 14 protected and Area 14 itself growing.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, indicated that Pershing CABMW supported the plan as presented, but would like to see some things, including reports about what's happening in Pershing, as well as more predator control in 041.

Jamie Halpin, Eureka CABMW, indicated Eureka's desire to see a maintenance program or fully funded for Project 40 given that it has helped the deer herd, and explained that Eureka CABMW voted to fund Project 40 and develop a new project for Area 13.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW noted that their CABMW supported the draft fiscal predation plan as presented, but requested more habitat studies be done in areas. The speaker noted concern that it was unclear how the non-lethal part would be spent and managed, and asked if there is any information that can be brought back to the CAB regarding this.

Chair Rogers asked Mr. Espinosa if he had any comments around some of the points made, specific to Project 21 and the Upland Game Stamp funding or any of the other comments.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa noted that the 175,000 for Project 21 still does not get the project where it needs to be in terms of trying to reach somewhere around 10 to 12,500 ravens, which is what is needed to move the needle on behalf of the sage grouse. Mr. Espinosa indicated that use of the Upland Game Stamp is under consideration, along with some non-governmental funding. Mr. Espinosa noted that for some of the other projects, the figure could come down, but that would have ramifications on Upland Game Stamp, as well as the Department's grant and as such, the goal is to be as prudent as possible. Mr. Espinosa indicated that

the plan is to develop a reserve of 750,000 over the next two fiscal years, which will be much more palatable or some of the projects, but will be meeting with Mark Ono and Carson Valley Checker Club the following week in hopes of obtaining some additional resources. Mr. Espinosa indicated that for Project 40, one other project may need to be eliminated, and the ramifications of this need to be considered. Mr. Espinosa requested the Board's input and direction on this, should they have any. Mr. Espinosa explained that funds are allocated with the 66 to 34 percent, the 34 percent managed by Policy 12B, which dictates that those funds go through the Wildlife Heritage Trust account process.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AS WRITTEN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. THE MOTION PASSED 7-1 WITH COMMISSION BOREN OPPOSED AND COMMISSIONER MCNINCH ABSENT.**

**13. Public Comment Period**

**INFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, briefly discussed the crisis water shortage in southern Nevada and the dry guzzlers, noting that they're often built in extremely remote locations, which are a problem to recharge if they get drunk dry. Mr. Johnson suggested the solution of common sense would be to put a series of stock tanks at the end of those cherry stem roads and fill them with water tankers at a fraction of the cost that would be spent in airlifting. Mr. Johnson proposed thinking outside the box and enlisting the help of the National Guard and Air Force for sheep range and desert range areas.

Caron Tayloe, private citizen, apologized to Commissioners Boren and Caviglia for likely overstepping her boundaries when questioning the decision making process regarding the petition put forward in an earlier agenda item. Ms. Tayloe abutted the argument made earlier, noting that most studies have the word may in them because there's always a small percentage that doesn't apply, and indicated that this is something she will pay more attention to in the future. Ms. Tayloe indicated the importance of saving small populations and requested the same care be given to predator populations.

Mel Belding, private citizen concurred with Larry Johnson that the water guzzler situation requires thinking outside the box and supported Mr. Johnson's suggestion of using the military to do so, noting that military was more than willing to haul water into southern Nevada. Mr. Belding suggested irrigating with guzzlers and helicopters, as well as transplanting animals to places where there is more water.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Wildlife, thanked the Commission for their time and asked if the petition is still on the table or if it has been pulled back, and noted his belief that according to Policy 4, there has to be a vote on that in order to enact the five-year ban on having a petition come back. Mr. Reese next addressed the ravens, noting his belief that the current permit is 12,500, and indicated that the ravens have become a wild horse of the sky issue and will continue to grow if more are not taken out than are recruited. Mr. Reese noted his desire to have the raven threshold studied and addressed so as not to waste money. Mr. Reese indicated that nothing has been done for sage grouse and questioned if the three to one match has been exhausted in just the predator program. Mr. Reese suggested more transparency of where the money is going.

The Friday, January 24, 2025, meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM

**Saturday, January 25, 2025 – 8:30 a.m.**

- 14. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairman Rogers** **INFORMATIONAL**

Chair Rogers called the Saturday, January 25, 2025 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting to order. Commissioner Boren led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Executive Assistant Lynda Barr called the roll with Chairman Rogers, Vice Chair Young, Commissioner Barnes, Booth, Boren Caviglia and Kiel present and Commissioners McNinch and Walther absent. Chairman Rogers made note of CABMW members present.

- 15. Public Comment Period** **INFORMATIONAL**  
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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, requested that NDOW inform people about the fund for youth to get free licenses into which people can donate, noting that not many people are aware of it. Mr. Reese further indicated his hope that the Board took into grasp Senator Ira Hansen's comments the previous day, and commended the Board for doing the right thing.

Alan Moss, private citizen, discussed that someone is shooting coyotes in Limbo and lining them up alongside the road, noting that it is sad to see prime hides out there like that. Mr. Moss discussed the fact that coyotes kill a lot of other animals such as rattlesnakes and rodents that carry diseases, and noted that eliminating one species out of the chain creates a problem.

Jana Wright, private citizen, addressed Agenda Item 20I, mountain lion season, indicating that the Department activity report, it was noted that eight mountain lions and mule deer were removed from foothold traps and requested that the Commission request more information on these incidents and more data on lions.

- 16. Approval of Agenda – Chairman Rogers** **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda for January 25, 2025. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

No public comment

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 16, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS IS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. THE MOTION PASSED. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Director Jenne asked that this item be reheard in order to shift item 20J in front of item 20I for more continuity and a simpler process for the Department.

No public comment.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF ITEMS NUMBER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YOUNG. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**17. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence - INFORMATIONAL  
Chairman Rogers**

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file. (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Jenne may also be discussed.

There were no announcements or correspondence.

**18. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) INFORMATIONAL  
Member Items**

CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

Paul Dixon, Clark County CAB discussed the public comment from the previous day regarding usefulness of CABMWs and noted that Clark County CAB represents roughly 70 percent of the population in the state and indicated that Clark CAB has attended 142 of the last 145 meetings. Mr. Dixon next discussed the feral cat issue in southern Nevada, noting that one of his Board members will be working with Keith Williams, the TNR lead for southern Nevada, to come up with ideas for studies and possibly funding. Mr. Dixon further noted that TNR funding in southern Nevada has been decreasing over the last five years, and as a result the feral cat population is increasing.

There were no additional CABMW comments.

**19. \* Commission General Regulation 524 – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION  
Bonus Points Associated with Junior Hunt Applications – Workshop Public Comment Allowed – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a temporary regulation amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502 that would simplify the issuance, use and administrative management of bonus points associated with junior hunt applications.

Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples gave a presentation in support of Agenda Item #19.

A copy can be found at the following link: [Nevada Department of Wildlife](#)

Administrator Matt Maples noted the current distinction between junior bonus points and general bonus points, and explained that this suggestion is to make those bonus points age agnostic so as not to need to go through a complicated conversion process once the youth becomes an adult as well as eliminate the need to track and create additional bonus point categories. Mr. Maples explained that next steps would be to review, modify as needed, and then hopefully prepare for adoption at the March 2025 Commission meeting, and if

adopted, those changes can be made in time for the 2025 main draw, and the Department and vendor Gordon Darby would complete a one-time action to reclassify and transfer junior points to general points.

There were no questions from the Commission.

Mike Reese, Southern Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, indicated his understanding that junior points would be converted to adult points, but questioned if applications still need to be made every two years to keep those points.

Administrator Matt Maples explained that this proposal would remove the junior point category from the system. A one-time transfer would be made of those points, and then no additional junior bonus points would be issued but rather would be issued just as general, age-agnostic bonus points.

Director Jenne added that bonus points will now be regulated by meeting the eligibility of the hunt versus the age of the hunter and will now stay with the hunter through time through the system.

There was no additional public comment.

Chair Rogers questioned if prior to this change, junior bonus points converted over to general bonus points or were lost.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that within the current Nevada Administrative Code, the Department was instructed to transfer that junior point to a mule deer antler bonus point that would then be used in that individual's draw for a general antler mule deer, that the transfer did not occur automatically and needed to be done manually.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO FORWARD COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 524, BONUS POINTS ASSOCIATED WITH JUNIOR HUNT APPLICATIONS, TO A SECOND READING AT THE NEXT COMMISSION MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOREN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**20. Commission Regulations – Public Comment Allowed**

**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

- A.\* Commission Regulation 25-01, 2025 Application Deadlines, Draw Results and 2026 Spring Turkey – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples** The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2025 big game tag application deadlines and related information.

Matt Maples, DAT Division Administrator, explained that the Department recommends no changes in format from the previous year.

No public comment or comment from the Commission.

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20A, COMMISSION REGULATION 25-01, FOR THE 2025 APPLICATION DEADLINES, DRAW RESULTS, AND 2026 SPRING TURKEY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

- B.\* Commission Regulation 25-02, 2025 Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will consider adopting regulation to set the 2025 game tag application eligibility and tag limits and related information.

Administrator Matt Maples explained that the Department recommends dropping the word big from the game tag terminology in the regulation as the removal of this term would extend the regulation to species that need to tag, but are not considered big game.

Commissioner Kiel asked why the word game is not being struck as well.

Administrator Matt Maples explained that since wild turkey would be a game animal, the word was left in.

Director Jenne questioned if on the third heading, big game, second draw eligibility, the word big should be struck for continuity.

Administrator Matt Maples concurred that it should be struck there, as well as in the text, third line down.

Commissioner Kiel indicated his belief that it would be clearer to strike both big and game in order to clearly describe the process with no relation to game size.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that he had no issue with striking both words throughout.

Vice Chair Young pointed out another instance of big game on the final page.

Matt Maples indicated that those words could be struck.

There was no public comment.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 25-02 AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT ALL BIG AND GAME NOTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE DOCUMENT WOULD BE STRUCK. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. THE MOTION PASSED 7 – 0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT**

**C.\* Commission Regulation 25-03, 2025 Dream Tag Seasons and Quotas – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2025 Dream Tag species, seasons, and quota.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that the Department recommends on changes to the previous year's dream tag species, seasons, or quotas.

Vice Chair Young noted that Unit 252 needs to be struck because it is not open.

Administrator Matt Maples concurred that for clarity, Unit 252 should be struck.

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20C, COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 25-03, DREAM TAGS, SEASONS, AND QUOTAS WITH THE AMENDMENT STRIKING UNIT 252 OUT OF FOUR LOCATIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**D.\* Commission Regulation 25-04, 2026 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quotas – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2026 Heritage Tag species,

seasons, and quota.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that the Department recommends no changes to the previous year's heritage tags, species, or quotas, but noted that Unit 252 does need to be struck.

There was no public or Commissioner comment.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 25-04, 2026 HERITAGE TAG SEASONS AND QUOTAS AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE REMOVING UNIT 252 FROM THE NOTES AT THE END OF THE REGULATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**E. \* Commission Regulation 25-05, 2025 Partnership in Wildlife Tag Seasons and Quotas – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2025 Partnership in Wildlife tags hunt species, seasons, and quota.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that the Department recommends no change to the previous year's partnership in wildlife tag species, seasons, or quotas, and noted that Unit 252 does need to be struck.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if the 22 deer tag max allowed is per NRS or NAC and asked on behalf of one of the CABMWs why it is set so high.

Administrator Matt Maples noted that this is the max per NAC and deferred to Wildlife Staff Specialist, Cody Schroeder, to talk more specifically on the quote of recommendations for PIW.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder indicated that the Partnership in Wildlife (PIW) tags have remained the same for the ten years he has been in his position, and noted his belief that they were set at max. Mr. Schroeder explained that he did not know where the original max came from.

Vice Chair Young indicated that the rationale behind the question about changing the max was the result of congestion in certain units in certain counties.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder provided the following statistics: the previous year, 16 were harvested; seven did not harvest; one did not hunt at all; one did not report. Mr. Schroeder explained that the PIW tags typically are spread throughout the state.

Chair Rogers added that he believes also the question came about due to the fact that the Commission has cut tags significantly across the board in various areas but has not done anything with the PIW numbers.

Joe Crim, Pershing CABMW, indicated that the concerns raised are shared by the CABMW and indicated that the suggestion is to take the tags down to two to line up with Heritage and other areas, and leave the non-resident at one.

There was no additional public comment.

Chair Rogers indicated that he too would like to see the number reduced.

Vice Chair Young concurred, but noted that he believed two is too low and would like to see the number reduced to 15.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated he would prefer 11 but would concur with 15, noting that this would not impact the application but would alleviate some of the pressure.

Commissioner Barnes noted that he also would prefer 11.

Chair Rogers asked if everybody was comfortable with the number for the non-resident.

Commissioner Kiel suggested cutting the non-resident to be in line and consistent with the same ratio for the resident. Commissioner Kiel also noted that 252 might need to be left in the wording to make clear that NTTR training needs to be followed to access that portion for the other tags.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder noted that these are only open for open season on mule deer and that there is no open season for mule deer in the NTTR, and that 252 is specific to sheep.

Commissioner Caviglia recommended that if resident goes down 50 percent, the non-resident should go down to one.

Chair Rogers indicated his support for this.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-05, 2025 PARTNERSHIP IN WILDLIFE, TAG, SEASONS, AND QUOTAS AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGES: ON RESIDENT MULE DEER, QUOTA 11; NON-RESIDENT MULE DEER, QUOTA 1; STRIKE UNIT 252. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOREN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**F. \* Commission Regulation 25-06, 2025 Silver State Tag Seasons and Quotas – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples**

The Commission will consider adopting a regulation to set the 2025 Silver State tag species, seasons, and quota.

Administrator Matt Maples indicated that this regulation is to establish the 2025 seasons and quotas for Silver State big game tags, and that the Department recommends no change to the previous year's Silver State tag species, seasons or quotas, and added that Unit 252 needs to be struck.

Chair Rogers noted that the tag out of Heritage is the California bighorn tag and questioned if anyone had any issues with a California tag in this item.

There was no Commissioner or public comment.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-06, THE 2025 SILVER STATE TAGS AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE TO REMOVE UNIT 252 FROM THE NOTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YOUNG. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**G. \* Commission Regulation 25-07 – 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 Big Game Seasons – Wildlife Staff Specialists Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Mike Cox**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the proposed big game seasons for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 hunting seasons and dates for mule deer, antelope, elk, moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goat including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, physical characteristics, and hunt boundary restrictions.

Shawn Espinosa, Game Division Administrator, discussed the recommendations for the 2025-2026 season

and noted the proposed changes.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder discussed the changes to the antelope season.

Commissioner Booth indicated that the Humboldt County CAB was concerned about the youth antelope horn shorter than ears hunt, and questioned if the antelope population is stable enough to add this hunt.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder indicated that the antelope population has been doing well across the state.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated that he is glad to be able to offer the juniors more opportunities.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder noted that there are no pressure or congestion concerns.

Mel Belding, private citizen indicated his support for the resident junior antelope horn shorter than ears and would like to see more than 25 percent when going to quotas. Mr. Belding further requested explanation around the season dates, noting the 9/8 through 9/24 is dead rut. Mr. Belding added his belief that horns shorter than ears be changed to doe.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder indicated that the idea was to match the junior horns shorter than ears identically to the regular horn shorter than ears hunt. Mr. Schroeder conceded that the season runs through the prime rut, but is the season that has always been in place for the horns shorter than ears hunts.

Commissioner Booth noted that the Humboldt CAB indicated that there was overlapping season for muzzle loader and archery but indicated that they do not see that in any of the dates.

Cody Schroeder noted the proposed change to early archery, but also was unable to locate the overlap.

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20G, 25-07, 2025 THROUGH 2026 AND 2026 THROUGH 2027 BIG GAME SEASONS AS IT APPLIES TO ANTELOPE ONLY, AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Mike Cox, Staff Specialist for Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goats, highlighted some of the changes regarding sheep and goats.

Chair Rogers questioned if there was an archery hunt in 268 the previous year.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that there never has been one there, but has been one held in the Blacks.

Commissioner Booth questioned if moving the mountain goat hunt back to the beginning date by seven days to allow non-interference with snow cock hunters would make any difference.

Scott Roberts, Easter Region Game Supervisor, conceded that this is an issue but not necessarily one worth addressing as it is often dependent upon the dates on which Labor Day weekend falls.

Commissioner Booth clarified that their suggestion was to move the season for goat back one week to eliminate interference from the large number of snow cock hunters.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox raised the concern of the early season coats on the mountain goats, which is a big part of the trophy aspect, and indicated that the growth in that seven-day period will be noticeable.

Deputy Director Caleb McAdoo indicated that these conflicts are pretty limited, and that they will continue to

exist, even if the dates are changed.

Vice Chair Young asked Mr. Cox's opinion on splitting the season for the Muddies.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that from his conversations with Commissioner Caviglia and Joe Bennett, Regional Supervisor, there is not any great reason not to do so and is open to the topic.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated that he would not be opposed to split it and if decided, the time to do so is now so that if quota needs to be increased come May, that pressure could be spread out over two hunts rather than one. Commissioner Caviglia noted that 032B on the non-resident California bighorn sheep and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is not defined.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox noted that these are errors that should both be addressed in the footnotes, and asked that whoever makes the motion request that NDOW add the missing footnotes to the non-resident California and Rocky Mountain Bighorn hunt for 115.

Commissioner Caviglia asked Mr. Cox's thoughts regarding splitting 268.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that if having 21 days, they could start on the same date of November 20 through December 10, have one day off, and then start the late season on December 12 and finish on the same day as all of the other southern Nevada seasons, January 1, noting that one-horned ram and archery season would start January 5.

Commissioner Caviglia suggested adding a couple of more days and moving it up to have a 23-day season.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox noted no issues with this suggestion.

Joe Bennett, Southern Region Game Supervisor, encouraged splitting the season for bighorn sheep based, indicating that the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan manages for age structure in rams, and noted that there are plenty of mature rams on the landscape.

Vice Chair Young asked if Mr. Bennett is comfortable with the November 16 stop.

Staff Specialist Joe Bennett noted that in a normal year, green up occurs, but in a year like this, they are going to be hunting water regardless, and indicated that hopefully this will not be the normal situation.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides indicated his belief that snow cock hunters like to get out early and goat hunters prefer to wait until the later part of September when goats are haired up better.

Coby Roe, Washoe CABMW, indicated the CABMW's desire to eliminate ewe hunts 3181 and 3281, noting that it would be a better option to use these sheep for relocation within Nevada.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW, indicated that Clark supports the recommendations by Joe Bennett fully.

Fred Volz, private citizen requested that the following comments be added to the record verbatim: For the record, Fred Volz. After all the ostensible concern by your licensees and officials that bighorn sheep numbers are in a steady decline, an obvious approach has been studiously overlooked. One step to take in boosting long-term numbers and sustainable herds for future killing seasons would be to completely suspend or drastically reduce the killing seasons and quote as presently, giving them time to organically increase their numbers. No such common-sense approach has been suggested in the NDOW documentation by biologists or Commissioners. Media coverage in the last week, saw NDOW's Joe Bennett quoted regarding the years long pneumonia problem among bighorn sheep species plus chronic wasting disease. All the forced

transplants of sheep from unfamiliar places and water hauls to inhospitable places won't solve either of these problems and apparently there are no wonder pharmaceuticals to conquer the diseases, yet the killing will no doubt continue because your licensees are addicted to the immediate gratification they derive from dominating and killing an animal and especially the healthiest, biggest, and strongest of the species needed to overcome diseased members. No matter how you try to characterize it and sanitize it with euphemisms, killing at-risk wildlife species isn't anything resembling conservation; it is just regressive behavior toward the ecosystem. As the species numbers continue their inexorable decline, you'll find at some point there will be few animals left to kill when species are pushed to their limits. Science has once again been ignored by the Department and Commission and in the interest of meeting efficiency, the same comment applies to mule dirt quotas and seasons, and I would ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

Chair Rogers requested that Mr. Cox comment on the recommendation from Washoe CAB.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that if funds are found and a lot of sheep are moved, then the tag quota will definitely be reduced, but the issue is that there are too many sheep and not enough aggressive management of the resource capability. As such, Mr. Cox indicated his belief that this was not the time to let things go.

Chair Rogers indicated his support for the split season in Unit 268.

Commissioner Caviglia discussed the non-resident Nelson tag for the Mormon, and questioned if that is something that the Commission wants to leave on the table or strike down right now.

Staff Specialist Mike Cox indicated that there are mature rams for the quotas issued, indicated his hope that there would be recovery, and added that there will be the ability during the off-season to close it if need be.

Staff Specialist Joe Bennett added that the season was closed two years ago based off the population level trend, and indicated that he anticipates that quota to be around three or four. Mr. Bennett noted that he anticipates the likely closure of that season and suggested striking it now rather than having to come back.

Commissioner Caviglia asked the Vice Chair his thought on splitting 268.

Vice Chair Young indicated his suggestion was 11/16 through 12/8, a day off, and then 12/10 through 1/1, with the intent of providing hunters two more days.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-07. 2025 THROUGH 2026 AND 2026 THROUGH 2027, BIG GAME SEASONS SPECIFIC TO SHEEP AND GOATS WITH THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: ON RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT 3151, SPLITTING HUNT UNIT 268 INTO AN EARLY AND A LATE HUNT WITH THE SEASON DATES ON THE EARLY HUNT ON NOVEMBER 16 THROUGH DECEMBER 8, AND THEN THE LATE HUNT DECEMBER 10 THROUGH JANUARY 1; ON THE NON-RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT 3251 AS PRESENTED WITH THE SAME CHANGE TO HUNT UNIT 268, AN EARLY HUNT AND A LATE HUNT; ON UNIT 271, 242, THE 2025-2026 HUNT WILL BE FROM NOVEMBER 20 TO JANUARY 1, AND NO HUNT FOR NON-RESIDENTS IN 2026-2027; RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP ARCHERY HUNT 3161 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT NELSON DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT ONE-HORN HUNT 3171 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP, ANY RAM MANAGEMENT HUNT 3172 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP, ANY EWE HUNT 3181 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT NELSON BIGHORN SHEEP, ANY EWE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 3281 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT 8151 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP, ANY RAM HUNT 8251 AS PRESENTED WITH THE ADDITION OF THE DESCRIPTION OF THE HUNT UNIT 032B; AND THE RESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP HUNT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 9151 AS PRESENTED WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF UNIT GROUP 115A;**

**RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7151 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 7251 AS PRESENTED; AND STRIKING UNIT 252 IN THE NOTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YOUNG. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Cody McKee, Wildlife Staff Specialist, discussed the changes to elk seasons, and noted that there were a few recommendations made by the CABs that the Department does support.

Vice Chair Young indicated his understanding that that 108, 131, 132 muzzle loader hunt is a low success hunt and noted White Pine's request to move the seasons up to October 5 through 21.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee confirmed that shifting it earlier created an opening that puts the hunt a bit closer to the rut, and noted that the hunt can be challenging because of the densities of pinon and juniper in the unit, and noted that there might be an increase in success for those season dates, but also noted that he himself was indifferent as to the suggested shift.

Commissioner Boren indicated that if that were to happen, he would want extreme caution with quotas as the 5th to 15th is still pretty heavy in the rut in that area.

Commissioner Caviglia concurred.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee reiterated that he did not have a preference as to whether or not the dates should be shifted or remain the same.

There was no further Commissioner or public comment.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee went over the recommendations proposed and supported by the Department.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-07; RESIDENT ELK ANTLER HUNT 4102 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4151 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON HUNT 4251 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLE LOADER HUNT 4156 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED MUZZLE LOADER HUNT 4256 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ARCHERY HUNT 4161 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERED ARCHERY HUNT 4261 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK SPIKE, ANY LEGAL WEAPON 4651 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS HUNT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON 4181 AS PRESENTED WITH THE ADDITION OF A MID-SEASON HUNT FOR UNIT GROUP 062 WITH SEASON DATES RUNNING FROM OCTOBER 5 TO OCTOBER 21; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS HUNT, ANY LEGAL WEAPON 4281 WITH THE ADDITION OF THE MID-SEASON HUNT IN 062 RUNNING FROM OCTOBER 5 TO OCTOBER 21; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLE LOADER HUNT 4176 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS MUZZLE LOADER HUNT 4276 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ARCHERY HUNT 4111 AS PRESENTED; NON-RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ARCHERY HUNT 4211 AS PRESENTED; RESIDENT ELK ANTLERLESS ANY LEGAL WEAPON DEPREDATION HUNT 4107 AS PRESENTED; AND RESIDENT MOOSE ANTLERED, ANY LEGAL WEAPON 10151 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Cody Schroeder, Staff Specialist, provided a brief overview of the proposed changes for mule deer.

Chair Rogers asked what the date was previously for the juniors 181 through 184.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder indicated his belief it was either the 1st or the 2nd of November.

Coby Roe, Washoe CABMW noted concern from the public on Units 194, 196, archery early, indicating concern of the quality of the hunt versus the later archery hunt and as such, the CABMW requested to close on 1341 and the non-resident 1342 for 194, 196. Mr. Roe explained that there is still a late archery tag in December, so there will still be opportunity for the hunters for an easier hunt.

Chair Rogers asked Mr. Schroeder to comment on the requests brought forth by Washoe CAB.

Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder indicated his belief that there's going to be congestion both in the early and the late season, that there were only five tags total, and only five percent of the total harvest. As such, Mr. Schroeder noted that he personally did not see a reason to close it.

**COMMISSIONER KIEL MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-07, RESPECTIVE OF ALL OF THE MULE DEER HUNTS AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR YOUNG. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Staff Specialist Cody McKee next discussed the emergency big game hunts, noting that the header incorrectly says '24-'25 but should say '25-'26. Mr. McKee said there were minimal changes, but that some clarifying language was added.

Commissioner Caviglia asked if the new language would be for a separate draw completely independent of the main draw.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee indicated his belief that this was the intent and noted that the language that had existed for issuing these tags has been modified over time. Mr. McKee explained that the addition of the new languages gives full flexibility for issuing emergency depredation tags, depending on the situation.

Mel Belding, private citizen asked if the quota would be approved today or if that would be approved in the May meeting.

Chair Rogers asked if Mr. McKee had any comment to Mel Belding's question.

Staff Specialist Cody McKee confirmed that the quota would also be approved today.

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20G, 25-07, 2025 TO 2026 AND 2026 TO 2027 BIG GAME SEASONS WITH THE TWO CHANGES IN THE TITLE TO 2025 AND 2026 RIGHT BEFORE EMERGENCY BIG GAME HUNTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOREN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**H. \* Commission Regulation 25-08 – 2025 Black Bear Seasons – Game Division Administrator Shawn Espinosa**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2025 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, special regulations, animal sex, legal weapon requirements, hunt boundary restrictions and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

Administrator Espinosa noted that there are minimal changes from the 2024 season recommendation, with the exception of the indoctrination course, and discussed the recommendations for the indoctrination course.

Commissioner Caviglia indicated his concern with leaving a free for all on Zoom and concurred with shipping the dates into July and leaving the Zoom option for that day. The Commissioner did note his preference for attendance at an actual class rather than over Zoom.

Henry Krenka, Nevada Outfitters and Guides Association, discussed the difficulty of those taking part in the last two archery antelope seasons, who needed to leave the field during active guided hunts in order to attend the mandatory indoctrination course. Mr. Krenka further noted that the class is very redundant and offered the fact that Utah has a required a bear class for hunters that offers a certification of completion.

Katherine Bricker, private citizen requested that the following comments be entered into the record verbatim: My name is Katherine Bricker. I'm a Douglas County resident, and I request my comments be entered into the record verbatim. NAC states it is unlawful for any person to kill a female black bear that is accompanied by a black bear cub. This law is clearly ineffective at fulfilling its intended purpose. I ask the Commission to take immediate action to rectify the problem. Despite lactating female bears being killed regularly, has any tag holder ever been charged? The Bear Hunt Anthem is starting to seem more like a Britney Spears song: oops, we did it again. There are no consequences to those who I allege no better, yet kill a mother bear even so. According to NDOW mortality reports for last year's hunt, a 150-pound lactating female bear was killed October 1st in the Pine Nut Mountains using professional guides and their packs of hounds. Could these guys not recognize a 150-pound bear? Could they not see she was a female? Could they not see her swollen nipples as she gazed down from the tree? In response to news of the two mother bears with dependent cubs who were killed in the 2023 hunt, an article in the Nevada current reported the following, "I had not heard of lactating female bears with cubs being killed, says longtime bear hunter and guide Mitch Bailey of Nevada Hunting Services. You're going to have infanticide, no question about it, because these young cubs are likely not able to fend for themselves, and they're going to be preyed on by male bears." Bailey says his company, "Very much discourages harvesting sows. Female bears are just off limits. It's not something we do. It doesn't matter if they're single and have no cubs." Given that the intent of the NAC to protect dependent cubs is a broadly shared value, I asked the Commission for the 2025 hunt to take one of two actions: number 1, ban the killing of female bears while the NAC issue can be addressed; and/or 2, suspend the license and find the guides and tag holders who harvest a female bear whose body upon check-in indicates she has dependent cubs. Perhaps doing so will help this issue to be taken more seriously by those who do not. Thank you.

Jackie Chandler, Sustainable Tahoe, discussed the unpopularity of the bear hunt with the public, citing 95 percent disapproval. Ms. Chandler discussed the importance of the black bear as a keystone species, and opined that hunting is detrimental to forest health, and pushes bears into human territory. Ms. Chandler discussed non-lethal strategies to manage human/wildlife interactions. Ms. Chandler stated that the Commission is funding by hunting revenues, which creates a conflict of interest and perpetuates unethical practices, and discussed the need for laws that reflect the broader constituency of those who value lives of wildlife. Ms. Chandler concluded by asking if this society wants to be remembered as one that destroyed what it didn't understand or one that cherished, protected, and lived in harmony with nature.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen concurred with Ms. Chandler's recommendations and reiterated that the bear hunt is deeply unpopular in the state. As such, Ms. Myers recommended that the quota be limited to zero.

Paul Dixon, Clark CABMW noted that their Board voted to support the regulation of having a black bear season with a 5-1-1 vote. Mr. Dixon indicated the dissenting vote felt that black bears should not be harvested because there is not good predator management reason, and the small number of bears play an important role in the state's dry ecosystem. Mr. Dixon further requested to see the study that shows that 95 percent of the population oppose the hunt.

Fred Volz, private citizen requested that the following comments be added into the record verbatim: For the record, Fred Volz. The Trophy Bear Hunt continues to lack any management plans supporting its operations

despite year after year of public comment reminding officials to follow well-settled scientific concepts. The public you are to serve has been told bear hunters and their guides are expert enough to bypass females, but we had hunter-caused female death this past year proving indoctrination isn't working. Ms. Bricker gave you constructive suggestions on how to improve that sorry, situation. As with virtually all other species, the Department's black-bear-population guesstimates have wildly fluctuated from 400 to 800 over the years. In the documentation, there is now no population guesstimate at all underlying the biological justification for a killing season, nor listing and brutalities from all sources, including those bears that are killed by NDOW, by vehicles, and by hunters. This hunt is all about killer convenience, opportunity, and success, emotional and subjective justifications for a biologically destructive activity that are not favorable for the species, and I would ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

Cathy Smith, private citizen requested that the bear season be shortened to allow bears more time to forage for hibernation as well as to give cubs more time to grow as there are no consequences for killing females with cubs.

Craig Downer, Minden Nevada Wildlife Ecologist, agreed with those wishing to suspend the black bear hunt, noting his belief that the bears play an important role in the ecosystem and that removal of them upsets food chains and food webs. Mr. Downer expressed his appreciation for being heard and his willingness to work with the Commission for the better treatment of black bears.

Randal Massaro, Union Members for the Preservation of Wildlife international, first commended Lynda Barr, and then discussed the fact that he sits on five Native American Boards and the history of the organization he represents. Mr. Massaro opined that killing bears is a slap in the face to the native community. Mr. Massaro discussed the wins of his organization in California and informed the Board that his group is currently doing documentaries that expose the corruption and money in the killing of wildlife. Mr. Massaro expressed his desire for people to shoot animals with cameras instead of guns and questioned the animal cruelty laws in Nevada. Mr. Massaro questioned if hunters are eating their prey, and noted that on behalf of union members, Teamsters, AFL-CIO, his organization is pushing for a boycott of all travel to Nevada.

Steve Robinson, Washoe CABMW, indicated that Washoe CABMW voted unanimously to support the bear hunt with 100 percent of the public in attendance supporting the hunt. Mr. Robinson pointed out that the previous speaker is an example of the kind of activity and thoughts the CABS need to fight and stand up against, and addressed the fact that the intent is not exterminate bears and that Mr. Robinson himself does eat bear he catches.

Chair Rogers voiced his support for moving the course to July.

Commissioner Caviglia asked what August dates the Department was considering if moving up the class.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa indicated that he had not yet looked closely at this, but would likely consist of two dates in the third week of July.

Commissioner Caviglia questioned if the Commission could make direction for this today.

Director Jenne indicated the desire for a calendar to have something more concrete.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa suggested Thursday, July 17 and Saturday, July 19.

Director Jenne discussed potentially spreading the dates out a bit further with the Saturday date occurring on July 26.

Chair Rogers noted that he would be in support of those dates.

Commissioner Caviglia concurred.

Deputy Director Scott corrected that the Department would also contact those tag holders prior to July 14 rather August 14.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE CR 25-08, THE 2025 BLACK BEAR SEASON AS PRESENTED WITH THE NOTED CHANGE SPECIFIC TO THE INDOCTRINATION COURSE, WHICH WOULD NOW TAKE PLACE ON THURSDAY, JULY 17 AND SATURDAY, JULY 26. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KIEL. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

Note: Agenda item J moved before Item I as agreed during Item 16 Approval of Agenda.

**J.\* Commission Regulation 25-10 – 2025-2026 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas – Wildlife Staff Specialist Cody Schroeder**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2025-2026 hunting season and quotas for restricted non-resident guided mule deer including hunt boundary restrictions.

Cody Schroeder, Staff Specialist, noted that there are no changes proposed for the seasons.

**COMMISSIONER BARNES MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE COMMISSION REGULATION 25-10, 2025-2026 RESTRICTED NON-RESIDENT GUIDED MULE DEER SEASONS AND QUOTA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BOREN. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**I.\* Commission Regulation 25-09 – 2025 Mountain Lion Seasons and Harvest Limits – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme**

The Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2025 hunting season open units, harvest limits by unit group, hunting hours and special regulations for mountain lion.

Administrator Shawn Espinosa, filling in for Russell Woolstenhulme, indicated that the Department has no recommended changes.

Cathy Smith, private citizen discussed the trap visitation issue, noting that Nevada is the outlier with 96 hours, and indicated that she would like to see the animals treated with more respect. Ms. Smith cited numerous studies in opposition of mountain lion hunting, noting that predators are not always bad.

Craig Downer, private citizen discussed his value of mountain lions, and cited studies that they are major predators of wild horses and burros, thus making them balancers of their population. Mr. Downer requested that the Board take these things into consideration and do away with the mountain lion hunt.

Fred Volz, private citizen requested that the following comments be added into the record verbatim: For the record, Fred Volz. Scapegoating hated species that kill or impact ungulates NDOW licensees wish to kill, be they ravens, coyotes, wolves, wild horses and burros, feral cats, and of course, mountain lions has been a frequent pastime engaged in by licensees and officials, both in Nevada, other states, and at the federal level. The thin documentation published for the proposed mountain lion killing season lacks any sound guesstimate of population numbers. The suggested population ranges during yesterday's petition discussion lack any probability of accuracy, and only serve to further disrupt the food chain by eliminating an apex predator essential to the stable operation of the ecosystem. It has been stated repeatedly by self-described

government experts that mountain lions are elusive creatures as a justification for our 365/24/7 killing season, which begs the question of how NDOW can come up with any type of accurate population guesstimate. Blatantly absent from a science-based analysis has been a discussion of the positive impacts predators, such as mountain lions, provide before lunging forward with more killing. What we have here is another tragic example of how wildlife policy is based on emotion and killer convenience, not science or the best interest of the ecosystem and individual species. And I would ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen noted that during a perpetual season, every hour of every day is open season on mountain lions and requested that the hunt be confined to the winter months when the paw prints can be seen into the snow. Ms. Myers suggested that the take or the time be limited, or the hunt canceled altogether.

**VICE CHAIR YOUNG MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 20-I, COMMISSION REGULATION 25-09, 2025 MOUNTAION LION SEASON AND HARVEST LIMITS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BARNES. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**21. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Jenne and Chairman Rogers FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 7 and 8, 2025 in Las Vegas. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The chairman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Director Jenne indicated that the next meeting will take place on March 7 and 8 in Las Vegas, where the draft predation plan will be heard again, and the meeting schedule will be visited. The Director noted that he has on his list the committees that will likely be meeting before that time.

Vice Chair Young suggested adding the southern Nevada bighorn sheep and their potential translocation with the NEPA process on the agenda.

Director Jenne indicated that the Department will provide an update after its conversation with the BLM State Office. The Director added that the Department will attempt to schedule a field trip in Las Vegas for the Commission to see firsthand what is happening with wildlife in southern Nevada.

Commissioner Booth informed the Department that there is a Department vacancy on the Wildlife Damage Management Committee. Commissioner Booth added his opinion that the comment made in yesterday's meeting regarding CAB counties that are being supplied with funds should either be part of the Commission or inform the Commission that they wish not to be involved.

Commissioner Caviglia noted that there will be an Emergent Technologies Committee as well.

Commissioner Booth indicated that because Commissioner Caviglia sits on both committees, care will need to be taken regarding time conflicts.

Chair Rogers requested and update on the situation in southern Nevada with the sheep herds at the next

meeting, and asked DAG Burkett to look into whether or not the Commission must potentially fund CABS that have not been actively engaged.

DAG Burkett indicated that he would look into this on behalf of the Commission.

Chair Rogers suggested a potential change of date and venue for the June meeting from June 20 and 21 in Yerington to June 13 and 14 in Elko.

Vice Chair Young discussed the potential dissolving of the contest committee.

Chair Rogers dissolved the contest committee on the grounds that the commitment had been satisfied.

Stephanie Myers, private citizen requested adequate Zoom capability at the Elko meeting for those unable to travel in person.

Fred Voltz, private citizen requested the following comments be added to the record verbatim: For the record, Fred Volz. Earlier in the meeting, comment was made about how one CAB out of 17 has frequently met and appeared at Commission meetings following the NRS guidelines this weekend, we have had just over half of the CABS present, still an unacceptable and illegal performance per black-letter law and I would hope your DAG would document that for your edification. The rest of the story is that consistently five or six CABS out of only 15 supposedly active CABS appear in person or online when that technology is available, despite them all being funded by this Commission. While CABS in non-urban counties with a tiny minority of the state's population intermittently insist their policy preferences should supersede the wishes of the majority or wildlife's best interests, they still refuse to appear. What's biologically best for wildlife survival in Esmeralda County is good for Clark's or Washoe Wildlife. This Commission provides periodic funding for all CABS to meet and show up at Commission meetings, even when they don't do their jobs. Who gets paid for a job they refuse to perform in the real non-governmental world? Coaxing, nagging, wheedling threatening and brow beating have had no impact on this chronic failure to follow state law. As broken as the CAB system has become, legislation should be proposed by this Commission and NDOW to do away with it altogether. It is not functioning as designed and has become a superfluous piece of bureaucracy, much as foolish, outdated, and owners' regulations such as the new ones you will be creating for wildlife killing contests. Your patron and boss, the Governor, wants to streamline government. Do your part and I ask that these comments be added to the record verbatim. Thank you.

**COMMISSIONER CAVIGLIA MADE A MOTION TO MODIFY THE 2025 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE JUNE MEETING WITH A MOVE TO JUNE 13 AND 14 IN ELKO. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHAIR ROGERS. THE MOTION PASSED 7-0 WITH COMMISSIONERS MCNINCH AND WALTHER ABSENT.**

**22. Public Comment Period**

**INFORMATIONAL**

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. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record.

There was no public comment.

Chair Rogers adjourned the Saturday, January 25, 2025, meeting at 11:58 AM.

\*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at [January Commission Meeting 2025 - NDOW](#). Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1599 or [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org). In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting [January Commission Meeting 2025 - NDOW](#).

Notice to the Public: Nevada Department of Wildlife receives Federal Aid in Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability. Individuals with hearing impairment may contact the Department at (775) 688-1500 via a text telephone (TTY) telecommunications device by first calling the State of Nevada Relay Operator at 1-800-326-6868. Disabled individuals in need of special services should contact the Department prior to the meeting at (775) 688-1599 or [wildlifecommission@ndow.org](mailto:wildlifecommission@ndow.org).