

CHAIRMAN: TOMMY CAVIGLIA
COMMISSIONER PAUL YOUNG
COMMISSIONER SHANE BOREN
COMMISSIONER SHANE ROGERS

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
KRISTY KNIGHT, CHIEF GAME WARDEN
kknight@ndow.org, 775-688-1540

AGENDA
NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS
EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES COMMITTEE
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 @ 5:00 PM

Please click this URL to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88635581475?pwd=2qIcLBACbRar5M8vImcO5CFb05BYzS.1>
Passcode: 087897

Public comment will be taken on each action item following 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 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 Committee will consider, Committee members 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.

A recording of the meeting will be posted to the NDOW Commission YouTube page after the meeting.

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.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Contest Committee with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes.

1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
- **Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia**

INFORMATIONAL

The meeting was called to order at 5:00PM.

Members present: Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia, Commission Vice Chair Paul Young, Commissioner Shane Boren, Commission Chair Shane Rogers.

Commission Shane Boren led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment Period

INFORMATIONAL

Persons wishing to speak are requested to sign in. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; however, the Committee may consider items brought up to be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

No Public Comment.

3.* Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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

COMMISSION CHAIR SHANE ROGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR APRIL 28, 2025. COMMISSION VICE CHAIR PAUL YOUNG SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

4.* Approval of Minutes – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

Minutes from the March 3, 2025, meeting may be approved.

No Committee Comment.

No Public Comment.

COMMISSIONER YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR MARCH 3, 2025. COMMISSION CHAIR SHANE ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

5. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence

INFORMATIONAL

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Committee. Any item requiring Committee action may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. The Committee will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Committee 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 the Department may also be discussed.

No Committee Comment.

No Department Comment.

6. Presentation – Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Committee will receive a presentation from Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight, providing an in-depth analysis of other states thermal device language and or penalties. Department recommendations of amended draft language and or penalty for thermal devices will be presented.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight gave a presentation on an in-depth analysis of other states thermal device language and or penalties, a copy can be found at the link below:

[Thermal-Trail-Camera-Fish-Sonar.pptx](#)

Chairman Tommy Caviglia expressed support for including additional language stating that possession of certain items would constitute prima facie evidence. He further initiated a discussion with Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight regarding her concerns about predator hunting practices.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight elaborated that predator hunting can serve as a loophole for hunters. Specifically, individuals may claim to be predator hunting while actually observing big game animals bedding down in preparation for a future hunt. While not actively hunting, they are using the opportunity to gain an unfair advantage.

Commission Vice Chair Paul Young inquired about the Department's recommendations concerning regulations for predator hunters.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight responded that incorporating the term "wildlife" broadly into the regulatory language would effectively address potential loopholes. She explained that this inclusive terminology would encompass all species, thereby preventing individuals from exploiting predator hunting as a pretext for observing big game animals during their bedding periods.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers recalled that certain states have incorporated specific language addressing scouting activities into their hunting regulations. He inquired whether adding similar language pertaining to scouting could help close potential loopholes in Nevada's regulations.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight indicated that incorporating specific language addressing scouting activities into the regulations could help deter individuals from remaining in the field under the pretense of scouting

Chairman Tommy Caviglia acknowledged that many individuals utilize thermal imaging devices for predator hunting.

He suggested that the committee consider drafting regulations that prohibit the use of thermal imaging during big game seasons, while allowing their use outside of these periods. However, he noted that since mountain lion hunting is permitted year-round in Nevada, any such regulation would need to account for this continuous season to avoid unintended restrictions. Chairman Caviglia also expressed his support for implementing a 12-permit system, emphasizing that this is an active issue requiring attention.

Commission Vice Chair Paul Young concurred with Chairman Tommy Caviglia's concerns regarding the use of thermal imaging devices by predator hunters. He proposed establishing a restricted period from August 1 to December 31 during which the use of thermal imaging equipment would be prohibited. This timeframe would encompass the majority of Nevada's big game hunting seasons, thereby addressing potential loopholes. Outside of these dates, the use of thermal imaging devices would remain permissible.

Commissioner Shane Boren inquired whether implementing a seasonal restriction on thermal imaging devices would effectively prohibit predator hunting during that period. Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight confirmed that such a restriction would indeed limit predator hunting activities during the specified timeframe.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia clarified that the proposed restriction would specifically prohibit the use of thermal imaging equipment during big game seasons but would not entirely ban predator hunting. He acknowledged that this could create enforcement challenges, as individuals might claim to be predator hunting to circumvent regulations. From a fair chase perspective, Chairman Caviglia expressed concerns that the advanced capabilities of modern thermal imaging devices compromise ethical hunting practices. He indicated his support for excluding the use of thermal imaging for predator hunting during big game seasons to uphold fair chase principles.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers emphasized the importance of ensuring that any new regulations do not inadvertently create loopholes. He acknowledged that the issue of thermal imaging use in hunting is likely more widespread than initially perceived. Chair Rogers requested that Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight provide any recommendations she might have to prevent such loopholes in future regulations.

Regarding the proposed implementation of a 12-15 demerit point system for violations, Chair Rogers expressed his support. He concurred with previous sentiments that without enforceable penalties, regulations lack effectiveness.

Commissioner Shane Boren expressed strong support for implementing a 12-point demerit system, describing it as an appropriate measure. He inquired about the current fines associated with violations involving thermal imaging devices.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight stated that fines for such violations typically range from \$100 to \$200. The proposed change would increase the fine to \$500. She further noted that the maximum fine allowable for a misdemeanor is \$1,000.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia clarified that the accumulation of 12 demerit points results in the automatic revocation of a license. Chief Game Warden Knight confirmed this, adding that revocation occurs upon conviction; however, if the charge is pled down to a lesser offense, the revocation would not apply.

Chairman Caviglia inquired whether the Commission has the authority to increase the fine. Chief Game Warden Knight explained that increasing the fine beyond the misdemeanor limit is not permissible at the Commission level.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers expressed support for raising the fine to the \$1,000 maximum allowed under current misdemeanor provisions. He noted that any effort to increase the penalty beyond this amount would require action by the Legislature.

George Forbush private citizen Predator hunter's association; Mr. Forbush recommended a penalty structure consisting of a \$500 fine for a first offense and a \$1,000 fine for a second offense. He emphasized that the proposed regulations should not be directed against predator hunters and noted concern that the recommended season may overlap with big game season. He stated that predator hunters typically use distinct equipment, such as binoculars and tripods, which could serve as *prima facie* evidence of predator hunting. He cautioned against assuming someone is predator hunting based solely on possession of a single item, like a pair of binoculars. Mr. Forbush also expressed agreement that thermal imaging should not be used for big game hunting, as it violates fair chase principles.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia expressed that, from an enforcement perspective, it is challenging to differentiate between legitimate predator hunting and big game hunting, as individuals can easily claim to be hunting predators. Given this concern and the advanced technology available that enables hunting both day and night, he is inclined to restrict predator hunting during big game season to ensure better regulatory oversight.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MOTIONED TO FORWARD TO THE COMMISSION FOR FURTHER

REVIEW THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE NAC, AS PRESENTED BY CHIEF GAME WARDEN KRISTY KNIGHT. THE MOTION INCLUDES THE DISCUSSED SEASONAL EXCLUSION OF THE PREDATOR PORTION DURING BIG GAME SEASONS, AS WELL AS THE INCREASE OF DEMERITS TO 12. COMMISSION CHAIR SHANE ROGERS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED 3-1.

7. Presentation – Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Committee will receive a presentation from Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight, providing an in-depth analysis of other states trail camera language and or penalties. Department recommendations of amended draft language and or penalty for trail cameras will be presented.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight gave a presentation on an in-depth analysis of other states trail camera language and or penalties copy can be found at the link below:

[Thermal-Trail-Camera-Fish-Sonar.pptx](#)

This was a presentation previously given by Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight.

Commission Vice Chair Paul Young requested that Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight elaborate on the demerit points, which were the focal point of the presentation, and clarify the proposed changes. Chief Knight confirmed that the current penalty is 3 demerit points, associated with a fine of \$50 to \$100. Under the proposed changes, the use of a transmitting trail camera would increase to either 9 or 12 demerit points, depending on the committee's decision. Additionally, the unlawful placement of a trail camera would increase to 6 or 9 demerit points. Both violations are currently assessed at 3 demerit points.

Commissioner Shane Boren expressed support for assigning 12 demerit points to violations involving transmitting trail cameras and 9 demerit points for standard trail cameras. He also indicated his preference for a July 1st start date for the regular trail camera restrictions, rather than August 1st, due to the proximity to the Heritage hunts

Commission Chair Shane Rogers asked Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight about the monetary penalties associated with trail camera violations, referencing prior discussions on thermal equipment. He inquired specifically about the fines related to trail cameras. Chief Knight explained that violations assessed at 3 demerit points typically result in a fine of \$50 to \$125; 9 demerit points correspond to \$250 to \$375; and 12 demerit points range from \$375 to \$500. She noted that fines can be increased up to \$1,000 for misdemeanor offenses, though the agency generally aims for a softer approach unless circumstances warrant otherwise. Chair Rogers then asked whether both 9 demerit points and a \$1,000 fine could be imposed simultaneously, or if that was reserved for 12 demerits. Chief Knight confirmed that a fine of up to \$1,000 can be applied to any misdemeanor offense, regardless of the demerit level.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers expressed support for assigning 12 demerit points to trail camera violations. He noted that taking a more lenient approach in the past has resulted in a high number of cases and stated his support for imposing the highest demerit point value and monetary fine allowable.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia noted that these discussions had previously taken place at the Commission level. He emphasized that, unfortunately, to prompt compliance, the penalties must have significant impact. He expressed support for increasing both the demerit points and associated fines.

Commission Vice Chair Paul Young agreed with the proposal to assign 12 demerit points for transmitting trail cameras and 9 demerit points for standard trail cameras. He also asked Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight to clarify the rationale behind the differing start dates for transmitting versus non-transmitting trail cameras.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight explained that the differing start dates are established in existing regulation under NAC 503.1485. She noted that the distinction is already written into the regulation, although it has not yet been codified. She further clarified that there was no specific reason provided for the different dates.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers requested, for the sake of consistency, to maintain both at 12 demerits. Commissioner Shane Boren and Chairman Tommy Caviglia concurred with keeping the limit at 12 demerits. Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight asked whether the Commission wished to apply the same trail-camera dates if NAC 503.1485 were reopened to amend them. Commissioner Shane Boren affirmed his preference to retain the same dates.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia noted that both transmitting and non-transmitting cameras could be consolidated under a single July 1 effective date, and Commission Chair Rogers concurred. Commissioner Boren then asked whether doing so might "paint us into a corner" with transmitting cameras if future technological advancements arise.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia stated that both non-transmitting and standard trail cameras could be combined under a single season beginning July 1, with 12 demerits applying to both.

No Public Comment.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA MOTIONED TO FORWARD TO THE COMMISSION A RECOMMENDATION TO MODIFY NAC 503.1485 TO INCLUDE BOTH TRANSMITTING AND NON-TRANSMITTING TRAIL CAMERAS, TO FURTHER PROHIBIT THEIR USE FROM JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, AND TO INCREASE THE PERMITS TO 12.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers questioned whether they wanted to include the monetary fine as well.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN CAVIGLIA AMENDED THE MOTION TO INCLUDE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE FINE AMOUNT. COMMISSIONER SHANE BOREN SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED 4-0.

**8. Presentation of Emerging Technology on Fish Finders
- Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Committee will receive a presentation outlining the tournament stipulations regarding allowable sonar units in official bass fishing tournaments.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight gave a presentation outlining the tournament stipulations regarding allowable sonar units in official bass fishing tournaments.
a copy can be found at the link below:

[Thermal-Trail-Camera-Fish-Sonar.pptx](#)

Commission Vice Chair Paul Young expressed concern that no regulations have been drafted regarding sonar, possibly because it is a newer technology in other states. Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight responded that hunting is typically the primary focus. Commission Chair Shane Rogers noted that Wisconsin is the only state actively looking into this and questioned whether their focus is specifically on tournament use or general use. Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight replied that it is for general use.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia expressed that having the ability to view fish on a screen gives him the impression of an unfair advantage.

Commission Chair Shane Rogers asked Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight how confident she is that bass tournament organizations effectively self-police on a tournament basis.

Chief Game Warden Kristy Knight reported that she spoke with Lieutenant Christopher Walther of the Southern Region, who stated that bass tournament organizations self-police rigorously and that participants caught cheating are disqualified.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia noted that if these entities are raising concerns, it is obviously significant, as they are on the front lines. Therefore, their concerns warrant serious attention.

Commissioner Shane Boren stated that fish finder sonar is essentially the equivalent of trail cameras used for big game.

No Public Comment.

The committee requested that the Department draft a regulation concerning the enforcement of sonar use, which will be reviewed at a future committee meeting.

**9. Future Committee Meetings and Agenda Items –
Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia**

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Committee will take action to determine future committee agenda items, or meeting dates, times and locations.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia requested that the next agenda include a discussion on rangefinders and scopes, noting that some devices allow users to mark game across a canyon and receive targeting data directly to their phone, which he believes provides an unfair advantage. He added that many vendors are currently selling such equipment. Commission Vice Chair Paul Young agreed and expressed interest in receiving more information on the topic at the next meeting.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia tentatively scheduled the next Emerging Technology Meeting for June.

Jana Wright, private citizen, directed a question to Chairman Tommy Caviglia. She asked that when considering future discussion topics, the committee also review the use of GPS collars on hounds. She noted there is a petition related to the issue this week and expressed concern that the hounding aspect may not have been thoroughly considered.

10. Public Comment Period

INFORMATIONAL

Persons wishing to speak are requested to sign in. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Committee at this time; however, the Committee may consider items brought up to be scheduled on a future Committee agenda.

No Public comment.

Support material for this meeting may also be requested from Jennifer Miller, NDOW Administrative Assistant, jennifer.miller@ndow.org or wildlifecommission@ndow.org (775) 688-1599.

Note: In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted at <https://notice.nv.gov/> and the following Department of Wildlife offices: 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Reno, NV 89511; 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV 89512; 4082 Reno Hwy, Fallon, NV 89406; 815 East Fourth St, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center Rd, Elko, NV 89801; 1218 North Alpha St, Ely, NV 89301; and 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

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 based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, 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.