

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
draft minutes

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Members in Attendance

1. Steve Robinson Chairman
2. Arnie Pitts Vice chairman
3. Anthony DoMoe secretary
4. Ray Kabish,
5. Jim Rhea

Others in Attendance

1. Wayne Carner – Deputy District Attorney, Washoe County
2. Kailey Taylor – Nevada Department of Wildlife
3. Joel Blakeslee, public
4. Rex Flowers, public
5. John Lesperance, public
6. Sean Shea, public

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**-[Non-action item]

No members of the public provided Public Comment.

4. **APPROVAL OF October 29, 2020, MINUTES**-[For possible action]

Mr. Blakeslee commented that he would like to see the minutes updated to remove comments he said did not represent what he said at the October 29, 2020 CAB meeting. Chair Robinson took note and called for a motion.

Chair Robinson motioned for approval of the October 29, 2020 CAB minutes with noted changes. Member DoMoe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

Members of the CAB had discussion and determined which member(s) would attend the March 19 and 20, 2021, Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners meeting. Chair Robinson said he would attend the February commission meeting. Member Rhea said he would try to attend if possible.

6. **COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES**-[Non-action items]

Chair Robinson opened discussion on the agenda item. The CAB members discussed the item further. Member Rhea noted mentioned his concern regarding the homeless population along the Truckee River.

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7. Commission General Regulation 495, NAC 502 Simplification–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and asked if there was any discussion from the members. There was no discussion, and Chair Robinson asked if there was a public comment regarding the item. There was no public comment.

Chair Robinson motioned to accept Commission General Regulation 495, NAC 502 Simplification as written. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Commission General Regulation 496, NAC 503 Simplification–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and asked if there was any discussion from members of the board. There was no discussion and Chair Robinson called for public comment on the agenda item. Joel Blakeslee submitted a letter to the CAB as public comment in reference to the agenda item. In the letter, Mr. Blakeslee provided input regarding material that he said supports the case that suitcase traps meet the definition of a "cage trap" and provided additional research published about safety concerns. In summary, Mr. Blakeslee said he believed that suitcase traps are a safe and effective device for trapping, and it should not be made illegal.

Chair Robinson said the language in the simplification regulation did not mention making suitcase traps illegal. Kailey Taylor, Nevada Department of Wildlife, noted that during the commission workshop, there was considerable discussion concerning the banning of suitcase traps. The members continued discussion, with some input from the public.

Member Pitts moved to recommend the Commission General Regulation, NAC 503 Simplification be adopted as presented with the amended language of NAC 503.165 (1) from “Box trap, Cage trap, and Suitcase trap to “3d. Box trap, Cage trap or Suitcase trap.” Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Commission General Regulation 497, NAC 504 Simplification–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked if there was any discussion from the members. There was no discussion among members of the board. Chair Robinson asked if there was any public comment, and there was no public comment regarding this agenda item. no board discussion.

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Chair Robinson moved to adopt Commission General Regulation 497, NAC 504 Simplification as written. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Commission Regulation 21-03, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Big Game Seasons–[For Possible Action]

Prior to opening discussion for agenda item 10, Chair Robinson said it would be best for the board to adopt each of the proposed seasons and dates for hunting separately so members of the board could consider each item clearly and concisely. Chair Robinson noted they would be taking action on: Antelope, Elk, Nelson Bighorn Sheep, California Bighorn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Sheep and Rocky Mountain Goat, Resident Junior Mule Deer, and Mule Deer. Chair Robinson then called for Discussion regarding the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Antelope season.

Antelope:

Chair Robinson suggested eliminating *the 041-042 horns shorter than ears hunt*. Rex Flowers provided public comment that he agreed the *horn shorter than ears* should be eliminated in *041-042* due to poor herd performance and a declining population over the last several years. Sean Shea also provided public comment supporting the closing of that season. Chair Robinson said he appreciated the public comment and asked if the board has any additional discussion. There was no additional discussion amongst the board.

Chair Robinson moved to adopt the season recommendations for Antelope with the elimination of horns shorter than ears hunt 2181 for hunt unit 041-042. Member Jim Rhea seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Elk:

Chair Robinson suggested that the antlered any legal weapon hunt 4151, hunt unit 161-164 and 171-173 early, be rotated from any legal weapon to archery for 2021-2022 2022-2023 seasons. Then, the next 2 years would be muzzleloader, and the next 2 years would be rifle. This rotation would then continue.

Chair Robinson also expressed concern regarding the spike hunt 4651 for areas 111-231. He noted that the elk management plan was supposed to be opened up and the spike hunt shouldn't take place without the management plan being reviewed. Sean Shea, in public comment, supported the rotation of the early season weapon class stating, "the hunt is a great hunt, and everyone should have the chance to experience it. It used to be rotated and we should go back to it." Discussion continued between members of the board and public. Upon completion of discussion, Chair Robinson called for a motion.

Member Pitts moved to accept the Elk hunt with exception of elk any legal weapon hunt 4151 hunt unit 161-164 171-173 be changed to archery for the next 2

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years, then muzzleloader for the following 2 years, and then any legal weapon the following 2 years. Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Nelson bighorn sheep:

Chair Robinson expressed concern that no biologists from the NDOW were present to explain the new archery hunt and how the quota had been decided upon. Providing public comment, Rex Flowers, stated that the quota must have come from the regular season as the quotas should be based on age, class, and population of rams in each unit. Also providing public comment, Sean Shea stated he did not believe the hunt was needed and suggested each unit be opened up 2 weeks early for archery and then switch to only any legal weapon afterwards.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the Nelson Bighorn Sheep seasons as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

California Bighorn Sheep:

Chair Robinson opened the discussion and thanked NDOW for closing the ewe hunt, as the excess sheep should be used to augment the population in other areas. He also pointed out that unit 041 was being closed due to lion predation, which was brought to the department's attention 2 years ago, with limited action being taken to control the lions. He said that now this unit is being closed due to the lack of mature rams due to predation.

Providing public comment, Sean Shea, said he was happy the McGee Mountains were finally being included in area 033 instead of 032. Mr. Shea had been arguing for this for years. He was also in agreement with the department's decision to close the Bloody Runs in unit 035 until the herd had established itself better. Rex Flowers provided public comment and noted last year in the Big Game Status Book, the biologists recommended unit 011 and 013 be opened up in a few years, but it was being opened now, with the possibility of the herd being too small for sustainable hunting.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the California Bighorn Sheep seasons as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Rocky Mountain Sheep and Rocky Mountain Goat:

Chair Robinson opened the item and noted area 091 was being closed to remove the chronically sick sheep that have prevented the herd from growing. He mentioned the herd and its problems were showcased in the Wild Sheep Foundation film "Wild and Wool" and recommended to everyone they watch it to see the complex issue of wild and domestic sheep. He also noted that a longer season in areas 114 and 115 would make for a good hunt. There was no public comment regarding the item.

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Chair Robinson moved to accept as the Rocky Mountain Sheep and Rocky Mountain Goat seasons as proposed. Member DoMoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Junior Mule deer:

Chair Robinson opened the item and there was no initial discussion from members of the board. Chair Robinson asked if there was any public comment, and Rex Flowers stated that due to the declining deer herds, antlerless should be removed from this hunt and only antlered deer should be taken. There was no further discussion on the item.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the Resident Junior Mule deer hunt seasons as proposed with the elimination of the antlerless and to make it only antlered. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried, with Member Rhea dissenting.

Mule deer:

Chair Robinson noted NDOW wanted a late season mule deer hunt any legal weapon in 111-113 to run November 10th – November 30th , but that did not show up in the proposed seasons. Sean Shea provided public comment and noted that the season was added in the muzzleloader season and not the any legal weapon as suggested, and he thought the department made a mistake. No further discussion on the item occurred

Chair Robinson moved to accept the Mule deer seasons as proposed. Member DoMoe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Commission Regulation 21-04, 2021 Black Bear Seasons –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and noted that he supported the hunt and recommended the regulations be changed to include all usable meat from the bear should be removed and used. Providing public comment, Rex Flowers supported the hunt and stated that the regulation regarding usable meat is in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) and the legislature must change the regulation. He suggested opening the bear hunt to discuss, and possibly change this, may lead to adverse outcomes for the overall bear hunting laws. Also providing public comment, Joel Blakeslee too supported the bear hunt. Additionally, Sean Shea spoke in support of the bear hunt during public comment.

While providing his public comment, Jonathan Lesperance gave a historical summary of the success of the hunt and presented the low sow harvest leading to a sustainable population. Mr. Lesperance also discussed the use of hounds for the hunt and supported the continued this continued use of hounds as it leads to a more selective harvest of male bears.

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Chair Robinson moved to accept the Black Bear seasons as proposed. Member Rhea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

12. **Commission Regulation 21-05 2021-2022 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits** –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the agenda item and asked for discussion or public comment. There was no discussion or public comment concerning the agenda item.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the Mountain Lion season and Harvest Limits as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously carried.

13. **Commission Regulation 21-06, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas** – [For Possible] Action

Chair Robinson opened the item for discussion and noted that in order to properly set seasons and quotas, member of the CAB should be presented with harvest data from NDOW to ensure members of the board could make an informed decision. During public comment, Sean Shea noted the seasons and quotas are set in NRS and can't be changed. Also providing public comment, Rex Flowers agreed that the quota was set in NRS and this board did not have the ability to change it.

Member Rhea questioned the reasoning of having this as an actionable item, since members of this board could not amend it. Upon completion of discussion, Chair Robinson called for a motion.

Member DoMoe moved to accept the Nonresident Guided Mule Deer season and quotas as proposed. Member Rhea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

14. **Commission Regulation 21-07, 2022 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota** –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and highlighted at the recent Wild Sheep Foundation auction, the Desert Sheep tag went for \$165,000 and the Pronghorn tag went for \$27,500. There was no additional discussion or public comment.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the 2022 Heritage Tag seasons and quota as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

15. **Commission Regulation 21-08, 2021 Silver State Tags** –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and there was no discussion or public comment.

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Chair Robinson moved to accept the 2021 Silver State Tags as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

16. **Commission Regulation 21-09, 2021 Partnership in Wildlife Tags**–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and there was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the 2021 Partnership in Wildlife Tags as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

17. **Commission Regulation 21-10, 2021 Dream Tag**–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and there was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the 2021 Partnership in Wildlife Tags as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

18. **Commission Regulation 21-11, 2021 Big Game Application Deadlines** –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item for discussion and Member Pitts gave an explanation of the draw order. He noted this was changed to prevent a cow elk tag from being drawn before a bull tag. Member Pitts suggested the Silver State tag should be drawn before the Partnership tag and Wildlife tag.

Providing public comment, Rex Flowers added that he felt the Silver State tag should be drawn first, as it is Nevada’s most prestigious tag and that should make it a priority. There was no further discussion and Chair Robinson called for a motion.

Member Pitts moved to accept with the 2021 Big Game Application Deadline and amend the draw order, so the Silver State tag be drawn before the Partnership in Wildlife tag. Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

19. **Commission Regulation 21-12, 2021 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits**–[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and there was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Robinson moved to accept the 2021 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits as presented. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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20. Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Predation Management Plan –[For Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item and Member Kabisch noted that last year the CAB made the recommendation to add to the management plan making Washoe County a priority for predator removal. However, this change couldn't be discussed at the commission meeting due to the COVID-19 closure.

Chair Robinson stated the proposal the board made last year was to add a 37A to include specific projects for priority mountain lion removal in Area 1 and 2, and add a 38A to add specific projects for predator removal in Area 1 and 2.

Rex Flower suggested during public comment that the CAB eliminate Project 38 entirely and replace it with a \$50 bounty for coyotes. He noted this proposal was similar to what Utah does. Mr. Flowers said nonresidents and employees of Wildlife services, and their families, would be excluded in this proposal and the budget should be increased from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Chair Robinson moved to accept Predation Management Plan with the addition of Project 37A for specific projects for priority mountain lion removal in Area 1 and 2. The elimination of Project 38 to be replaced with a \$50 bounty on coyotes and an increase in budget from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Member Pitts seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

21. Wildlife Heritage Auction Tags –[for Possible Action]

Chair Robinson opened the item by noting that there was no support material for this item therefore the item would be for discussion only. Member Pitts was concerned that NDOW was considering taking the Heritage Tag away from NBU and auctioning it off themselves through an online auction site.

Member Rhea agreed and expressed concern that this was an option. He said it felt wrong for the department consider this as an option. Chair Robinson stated that he believed it would not be a problem since NBU auctioned off the tags last year through an online bidding site and they should be able to do the same this year. During public comment, Rex Flowers said the tags were already allocated to the various NGO's and they should be the ones who auction off the tags.

No Action Taken

22. PUBLIC COMMENTS [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson asked if there was any additional public comment. There was no additional public comment.

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23. ADJOURNMENT [Non-action item]

Chair Robinson adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.