

**MINUTES OF THE CHURCHILL COUNTY
ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE**

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
August 13, 2025**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on August 13, 2025.

PRESENT: Member Peggy A. Hughes
 Member Jim Curran
 Member Jason Sibley
 Member Andrew Howells
 Member Aubry Burgess
 Deputy Clerk Crystal Muschetto

ABSENT: N/A

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Crystal Muschetto, Deputy Clerk, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 7th day of August, 2025 between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 PM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

Deputy Clerk Muschetto reported that the Minutes of June 11, 2025 had not been completed and, therefore, had been withdrawn from the Agenda. Therefore, the Agenda needs to be revised accordingly.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Agenda as revised. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on:

A- June 11, 2025.

The Minutes of the meeting held on June 11, 2025 are presented for the boards consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

This item was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

Member Andrew Howells made a motion to approve the withdrawal of June 11, 2025 Minutes prior to the meeting. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 515 - Demerit Points Associated with Trail Cameras and Thermal Imaging Devices.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to change demerit points associated with trail cameras and thermal imaging devices.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Howells said I am strongly opposed to this regulation. The fact that you want to increase the demerits to be equal to killing a bald eagle doesn't seem like the same amount of punishment should be required for having a trail camera or night vision.

Member Sibley said I want to back up a little bit and find out when the night vision even passed because we just voted on that 6 months ago and we declined it. Now, all of a sudden, it is already passed and there is a demerit already associated, according to this, and they are asking for an increase in demerits. I don't understand why we are starting to dictate what people can have in their vehicles. It is already illegal to hunt with it and I understand that, but now we are saying they can't even have it. That is the dumbest thing I've ever heard. Member Howells said and it is illegal to hunt at night. Member Sibley said that is right and there are already laws in place. What are we doing?

Member Curran said, if you look down the list, you will see the 9 demerits and 6 demerits and it lists thermal imaging and trail cameras. It is absolutely ridiculous to try to assign 12 demerits to either of those activities. Member Sibley said it is an immediate 1 year suspension and you have to apply. Member Howells said it says 3-10 under the NRS if you collect 12 demerit points in a 60 month period. Member Curran said I am not sure how strongly we can word it other than to say we are absolutely opposed to assigning any further demerit points. Member Sibley said I am opposed to assigning a demerit. Member Curran said I know everything has a demerit and this should be a 1 demerit. Member Sibley said I want to go to the opposite way and put 1 demerit. If you get someone who is an avid coyote caller and he happens to have thermal in his gun that is in the back of his truck, now he is looking at a punishment that doesn't fit the crime. It just doesn't make sense. Member Curran said I remember that, at our last meeting, we opposed that regulation dealing with this. Member Sibley said I am looking here and they are listing all of the NRS and NAC regulations but, when you get to that, it says Section 1 of LCB File No.

R035-20. Member Curran said it gets codified into the NRS regulations. Member Sibley said why are we increasing demerit points already? It isn't even approved yet. It is ridiculous. Member Curran said I couldn't find the Minutes of that meeting because they aren't out yet. I know there was statewide opposition to this. The Commission must have gone along with it but I don't know that to be a fact. Member Sibley said I am flabbergasted that they are doing this. Member Sibley said I am completely opposed not only to the 12 demerit points but I think it is outside the purview of the Department of Wildlife to govern what is inside somebody's vehicle when they are hunting. If they were to use these, that is one thing, but not to just have it in their car. That is none of their business what is in my car. Member Curran agreed. Member Curran said it is like saying you can't have traps in your car. Member Sibley said we are getting back into trying to police ethics. Member Curran said that is not even trying to police ethics, that is outside the range of the Department of Wildlife. Member Sibley agreed and said this is not a Department of Wildlife matter and I really don't think the department has any say if I have night vision in my vehicle during hunting season. If I get caught using it, that is a violation and I understand that. It doesn't have a season assigned or anything. Member Sibley said I am not even going to address the demerit points situation because I don't think it should be a violation at all. I can shoot a big game animal from a helicopter and it is the same demerit points as this proposal.

Member Howells said, with the trail cameras, they want to extend it one additional month to trail cameras that are capable of transmitting images. Member Sibley said I think they are trying to push both back by a month. Member Howells said the other one still says August 1st. Having a trail camera is not a 12 demerit offense either. Member Curran said a non-hunter could still do it. Member Howells said it says: "...a person from placing, using, or maintaining trail camera or similar device during certain periods of the year and under certain circumstances." Member Sibley said, well, that is kind of vague; certain circumstances. Member Curran said this would apply to public lands. If you do it on private land, you have to have permission from the land owner. I have a trail camera set on my place right now. Member Sibley said it reads somebody who uses it for livestock is acceptable within the scope of their duties and if they have clearly marked each trail camera; approval from the department, so it does not say anything about having to be hunting. That is straight from the NAC. It also says anytime that the placement, maintenance or use prevents wildlife from accessing, so that is that you can't put them there at all. The only exemption is if the state does it, somebody has approval from the department, it is placed on private property, or it is used by any water source of livestock. The public probably doesn't even know that, if they want to put a trail camera out during these seasons, they are in violation. The way it is written, you know there is going to be a game warden that will write a citation for that. Member Howells said I am flat out opposed to this, which Member Sibley agreed with.

Member Curran said do we need to address the points system too? Member Sibley said, with the trail camera aspect, yes, because that ship has sailed. We opposed this initially and they passed it anyways, and now they are asking for more, similar to just about every other regulation. You give them a little bit and they continue to take. I agree that the 12 demerit aspect is absolutely ridiculous. I can hunt or take a threatened species and have less demerits. I can kill a furbearer out of season for less demerits; I can kill a big game animal during a closed

season for less demerits. There really is a Constitutional right that the punishment has to fit the crime and this does not. This is absolutely ridiculous, and I think that it needs to be a 3 demerit at most. I think it needs to stay where it is at. Chair Hughes said they didn't say why they changed it. Member Sibley said no. Chair Hughes said are they going to do anything about that because I know George and Jeff turned somebody in with a trail camera last year when they were trapping on the hill. They just talked to them but didn't do anything. They didn't get any fines or whatever. Member Sibley said I waited until after the first of the year to put one out. Member Sibley said I want thermal gone. Member Curran said but it is already there. That is not up for discussion. Member Sibley said but it isn't passed, correct? Member Curran said it must be. Member Sibley said there is no NRS or NAC associated with this. Member Curran said but there is a Commission General Regulation 515. Member Sibley said do they both fall under the same regulation? Chair Hughes said they do. Member Curran said I am just assuming that it was passed at the last Commission meeting and it is still over at the LCB to get codified. Where you get it killed is with Ira Hansen. Every Commission General Regulation has to go the Legislative Commission for approval. That is where they have killed them in the past. Member Sibley said then we need to write Ira a letter telling them that we are vehemently opposed, as are other CABs, to this regulation. Member Curran said do you mean individually? I don't know when that meeting is. It could be next week. Member Sibley said it does not state how many, it just says existing demerit schedule. What is the existing demerit? Member Howells said they have it highlighted as the addition to, so you don't know if it is highlighting it as a new line. Member Sibley said the 12 is in blue and that is all that I saw, so anything not listed is a 3. If it is not listed in this document, then it is a 3 demerit, and I think this needs to stay there. Member Curran said it lists it as 1 demerit. Member Sibley said 1. I think it needs to stay there.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to vehemently oppose Commission General Regulation 515, to oppose specifically to changing either of the demerit points, and we are opposed to the thermal imaging regulation in its entirety. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 521 - Junior Mule Deer Tag Transfer.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to provide for the circumstances surrounding the transfer of a mule deer tag to a junior hunter.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Howells said I am not against this, but they are talking about adding all of this additional language that you can transfer to the existing language where the existing language talks about transferring if you can prove that you have an extenuating circumstance or life threatening condition. Member Curran said that is the old one and we don't want to change that. Member Howells said I don't want to change that. They are adding to that. Under subsection 2

of their proposed language, it says: “to be eligible to transfer a tag pursuant to subsection 1, the holder of the tag must, when submitting his or her application for the main drawing, designate the name and client number of the minor to whom transfer of the tag to hunt mule deer is to be transferred.” One, it is written very poorly. Two, I don’t feel like you should have to identify the junior that you want to transfer it to. I would say you almost strike that completely because 1) I don’t think you should have to identify the minor you want to transfer the tag to at the main tag drawing because, if I am putting in for the main tag drawing, I am putting in for a tag for myself, not for someone else; 2) if you are a father who has multiple kids and the one that you designate that you want to transfer the tag to pulls a tag in the junior drawing or the live draw, he is no longer eligible to receive said transfer.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 521, except for subsection 2 should be omitted from the Commission General Regulation 521. Member Andrew Howells seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Curran said the only thing that would make that better if it was for the kids from 12-18 or seniors over 65 years of age. Member Sibley said they are all going to draw a tag before any of us.

C- Commission Regulation 25-04, Amendment #2, 2026 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota.

The Commission will review, revise, and consider for adoption the recommended changes to the Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep 2026 Heritage Tag Season.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Howells said they want to change the seasonal start date from July 1st to August 1st. The change complies with regulations regarding the seasonal use of trail cameras in the field and adheres to fair chase principles relating to the Heritage big horn sheep tags. They want to knock off a month for the Heritage Tag season because of the trail cameras. Member Curran said they want to change the dates on that? Member Howells said, yes, they used to start on July 1st and they want it to start on August 1st. Member Curran said what will that accomplish? Member Sibley said the trail cameras are set to July 1st and they want to push it back to meet the regulations. Member Howells said they are saying a guy with a Heritage Tag can hunt big horn sheep so they are changing the season to fit the trail camera law. Member Howells said the other big game tags for the Heritage are August 1st to December 31st, so it is putting it in line with those also, which they should have mentioned. I don’t see a problem moving it to August 1st. I don’t know anybody who wants to hunt Nelson big horn sheep in July anyways.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 25-04, Amendment #2, 2026 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota. Member Aubry Burgess seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for August 15 and 16, 2025.

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for August 15 and 16, 2025, which is provided for the board's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Other

Member Curran said it looks like it is mostly reports and a field trip.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

Chair Hughes said I sent you guys an email about this Greenlink North project. I didn't know about it and had never heard about it. It has to do with them coming out of the power station there in Yerington and going all the way to Ely with it along Highway 50. I went to the meeting yesterday, which was well attended. I was surprised at the number of people there. It involves special interest groups that have a concern about it and the NEPA process is supposed to be finished and the report is supposed to be available at the end of September. Member Curran said I assume it is in the highway right-of-way, which Chair Hughes confirmed and said they have a map where they showed the 3 different sites for solar, one in Austin, one in Eureka, and one in Ely. Those are all south of the highway. The concern with the group is the fact that most of the people along the highway aren't even aware that this is going in. It will have an effect on economies, wildlife, and lots of other stuff. It is going to take forever to get it done anyway. Member Sibley is it underground or overhead? Chair Hughes said I assume it is overhead transmission lines. Member Burgess said I don't understand what people would be opposed to? Member Sibley said I would be more opposed to the solar than anything on my end. Member Curran said those solar fields that you are talking about are already there. Chair Hughes said, no, they are not. These are going to be new things that go in. Member Howells said it is 200,000 acres of solar project. Chair Hughes said there is a lot of that stuff that they can't even get some of the information on it. The guys from the Center of Biological Diversity led the discussion yesterday and they didn't have a lot of information about that kind of stuff, such as how many permits have been requested or whatever. It is just a heads-up so you can be aware and prepared for us to look over that NEPA report to see if we believe in this project or not. They said it would involve high intensity power lines, so the sound associated with those is a consideration because it runs the sage grouse off. The question that I asked was how this will go through Highway 50 with the Navy's expansion? They haven't even talked to the Navy, yet. It was interesting.

Member Sibley said did we ever get an update on the land transfer in Wells? Member Curran said I don't think so. It got tied up in the great bill. Senator Lee from Utah, all of a sudden, he wanted to turn over a few million acres or something. I think that is where that company was going to try to slip it in. Member Sibley said that got shut down? Member Curran said it is dead right now. At first it wasn't too bad when they were going to transfer land around Reno and Sparks for development and maybe some down in Vegas but, all of a sudden, Senator Lee got

involved and it was pretty much that all public land was for sale. Member Sibley said it was like 2/3 of Nevada was listed as potential for sale. We were the hardest impacted state. Member Curran said Wyoming was too, but Member Sibley said they weren't as bad as Nevada. Member Curran said the senator tried to slip it through a second way and it looked like it was going to kill the whole Trump proposal. I think he was told to close his door.

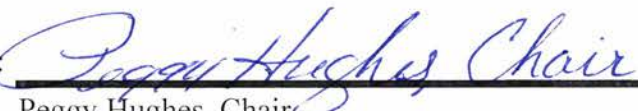
Member Sibley said I think we will have a discussion about the salvage bill from the department in a few months. That was passed and signed by the Governor. Member Howells said does that count towards the bag limit? Member Sibley said it does not.

Public Comment:

Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

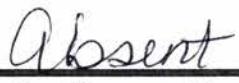
Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Approved: 
Peggy Hughes, Chair

Approved: 
Jim Curran, Vice-Chair

Approved: 
Jason Sibley, Member

Approved: 
Aubry Burgess, Member

Approved: 
Andrew Howells, Member

////

////

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board