

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
June 23, 2021**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on June 23, 2021.

PRESENT:

Member Peggy A. Hughes, Chair
Member Jim Curran, Vice-Chair
Member Jason Sibley
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Jesse Lattin

ABSENT:

Member Gary Cordes
Member Timothy Gubler

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 Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 17th day of June, 2021, between the hours of 8:00 and 11:00 AM 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:

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

May 5, 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2021 are submitted for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on May 5, 2021 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Heritage Project Proposals for Fiscal Year 2022.

The Commission will hear recommendations from the committee and may take action to approve up to \$1,268,276.61 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2022 funding from the committee as listed below:

- 2021-2022 Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Capture, Transplant, Test, Remove, Monitoring, and Research Programs (\$161,950).
- Wildlife Related Restoration and Seed Purchase (\$150,00).
- Wildlife Water Development - Emergency Water Haul (\$50,000).
- Izzenhood WMA Mule Deer Winter Habitat Restoration Project (\$71,850).
- Area 10 Mule Deer Migration Corridor Habitat Enhancement (\$75,000).
- Pole Canyon Conservation Easement (\$200,000).
- Nelson Creek Mule Deer Improvement (\$57,750).
- Smith Valley Habitat Restoration (\$75,000).
- Whistler Mountain Pinyon/Juniper Hand Thinning (\$40,000).
- Argenta Rim Mule Deer Enhancement Project (\$75,000).
- Optimizing Management Towards Maximizing Brood Habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse (\$50,000).
- Mule Deer Radio-Collaring Study in Northwest Nevada (\$324,099.24).
- Area 6 Elk Mortality Investigation (\$85,000).
- Moose Monitoring (\$20,000).
- Common Raven Monitoring (\$30,000).
- Investigating Potential Limiting Factors Impacting Mule Deer in Northwest Nevada (\$30,000).

Proposals submitted by others:

- Milk Ranch Spring and Habitat Enhancement (\$90,000).
- Cave Valley Ranch Pinyon Juniper Removal (\$50,000).
- Survey and Maintenance of Existing Big Game Guzzlers (\$41,000).
- Restoration, Foraging, Ecology, and Mating Behavior in Greater Sage-Grouse (Phase 2) (\$69,521).
- Quantifying the Influence of Feral Horses on Greater Sage-Grouse Populations in Nevada (\$5,900).

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED:

Member Curran said I did look at these project proposals but there were none that stood out as being unworthy. They all seem to have support from other agencies.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the project proposals as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Duck Stamp Request.

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$118,600 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2022 funding from the Duck Stamp Account. The specific Duck Stamp Projects that may be approved are listed as:

- Carson Lake and Pasture Infrastructure Improvement (\$40,000).
- Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support FY22 (\$10,000).
- Eastern Complex Weed Control (\$10,000).
- Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots (\$2,600).
- Mason Valley WANA Prescribed Burn (\$20,000).
- Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Improvement Projects (\$20,000).
- Washoe Dam Repairs (\$16,000).

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said the only project I questioned was \$20,000 to the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Water Conveyance Projects. In the past, I have not seen money allocated to federal projects down there. They are usually supported with other funding. I assume it is something that has been worked out between the state and federal governments. The Ducks Unlimited Wetlands Conservation Support project is an ongoing thing every year. We might want to find out later what they have planned at Carson Lake. They have \$40,000 for improvements but it may be an expansion of the boat landing or something. I do not know until we can get them here to get details. Other than that, I have no objections to any of those projects. The Washoe Dam repairs is to repair that little dam on Washoe Lake to keep water back on to the management area itself between the 2 lakes.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the projects as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Review of Upland Game Bird Stamp Request.

The Commission will review and may take action to approve up to \$341,081 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2022 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp Account. The specific Upland Game Bird Stamp Projects that may be approve are listed as:

- Bi-State Sage-Grouse Coordinator (\$45,000).
- Bi-State Sage-Grouse Monitoring within the Mount Grant and Desert Creek Population Management Unit (\$22,500).

- Desert Creek Weed Treatment (\$2,500).
- Estimating Greater Sage-Grouse Vital Rates (\$22,500).
- Greater Sage-Grouse Monitoring (\$44,440).
- Key Pittman WMA Wildlife Food Plots (\$3,900).
- Monitoring Greater Sage-Grouse Response to the Martin Fire (\$22,500).
- Monitoring the Effects of Landscape Level Treatments on Greater Sage-Grouse in the Desatoya Mountains of Central Nevada (\$22,500).
- Montana-Humboldt SGI Spring Protection (\$15,000).
- Native Seed Acquisition for Private Landowner Transitions to Native Seed Production (\$14,000).
- Nine-Mile Unit Riparian Monitoring (\$19,400).
- Upland Game Translocation and Monitoring (\$19,400).
- Virginia Mountains Greenstrip 2021 (\$22,500).
- Mormon Mountains Post-Fire Restoration (\$20,000).
- Assessing Impacts to Sage-Grouse from Anthropogenic Noise in Nevada (\$50,000).
- Nelson Creek Habitat Improvement (\$18,750).

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said I read the support data on the Assessing Impacts to Sage-Grouse from Anthropogenic Noise in Nevada and I am still not really sure what that is. I did not look up that term. Member Sibley said it means that it is human-made noise. Member Curran said it did say something in there about riding 4-wheelers by the strutting grounds or trucks chasing them. That is the only one that I have any question about. I don't have enough information to oppose it. It looks to me like it is for a study. I see they are allocating some money on the Desatoyas to help Sage-Grouse. I think it is probably Pinyon/Juniper (P/J) trimming. Chair Hughes said there have been some projects of P/J removal out there. Member Curran said there have been some small projects out there but where you really see it is in the eastern part of the state in the White Pine Range all the way over the mountain. It is really responding well. It helps with the fires.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the projects as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 20-12, Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits.

The Commission will establish and may vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals, as well as furbearers, for the 2021-2022 season. This regulation may also include modifications to the fall wild turkey seasons for 2021 and spring wild turkey seasons for 2022.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Curran said there were half a dozen changes for the Sage-Grouse for some counties and units, some open, some closed, based on their data of visitation on the strutting grounds. Member Sibley said is that trap visitation? Member Curran said they count the number of males that visit and the length of time. They have kind of a management plan out now if it is below a certain percentage then they recommend certain things. I see that there are some areas in Humboldt County that are open now but were closed last year. Then there were quite a few changes to some of the turkey regulations. None of them impact us, really. There were some season dates and some openings and restrictions on the units.

There were no changes on furbearers. In the support data, even though the title says that, the season was set last year and the ceiling dates were established last year, unless there is a justifiable reason so they don't even show it in the support data. It is exactly the same as last year. I did get reproduction data that was documented this year. There were only 800+ bobcat killed in the whole state because there were just not any trappers out, plus the population is down. The data they collected had some of the highest reproductive rates. When we set it again, it will probably be going back to the 90 or 120 day season, whatever it was. I have no comments on the turkey or the Sage-Grouse. It looks like there was a slight reduction in permits for the Sheldon for Sage-Grouse. That used to be a fun hunt. I used to put in for it every year. September is too busy anymore now that I am retired.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 20-12, Amendment #1, as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 21-07, Amendment #1, 2022 Heritage Tag Vendors.

The Commission will review the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor proposals for 2022 and may take action on the proposals.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said the Department added clarification language stating that portions of hunt units 181, 252, 280, 281, and 282 that do not fall within the boundaries of Fallon Naval Air Station and Nevada Test Range are open to the public. Member Sibley said it looks like it is the Heritage Tag Vendors. Chair Hughes said it tells you, towards the bottom, what species and what group is getting tag quotas. Member Curran said I see Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Fallon got the California Bighorn Sheep Heritage Tag. They don't make any money off of it but it sure brings in the crowd. I saw a picture today on Hunt Nevada of a nonresident deer tag holder that drew the Heritage tag but I didn't see where he was from. Member Sibley said I saw that too.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 21-07, Amendment #1, as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by

unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 21-13, Amendment #1, 2021-2022 Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Migratory Game Birds.

The Commission will consider amending the Overton WMA dove application portion of the Commission Regulation to allow for applications to be submitted electronically and for the draw to be conducted by the Department's licensing vendor, Kalkomey, for the 2021 season.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said they still haven't increased the number of swan tags yet? Member Curran said it takes a couple of years. Member Sibley said there was supposed to be a discussion. Member Curran said probably at the fly-way meeting. Member Curran said I was in Carson yesterday at the doctor and there was a flock of really truly crows in the parking lot there sitting all over the cars. Nearly everything here is all ravens, so I was shocked. Member Sibley said I don't know that we even need to vote on Overton. Chair Hughes said but they also have in there the season bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds, as well as others.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Regulation 21-13 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G- Consideration and possible action re: Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

The Commission will review and may take action to approve the Department's proposed Biennial Upland Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said there wasn't any backup data to support this plan. Member Sibley said there is nothing in here either. It's on the Agenda but there are no supporting documents, which is why we don't have it in ours. Based upon the fact that no supporting documentation was provided, no action was taken.

H- Consideration and possible action re: Proposal by Jesse Lattin for putting turkeys in Dixie Valley.

Jesse Lattin will present his proposal to put turkeys in Dixie Valley for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Jesse Lattin said this discussion started about 2 months ago with me and Jason Salisbury. I had made mention to him that I would like to see some birds that we could access in Churchill County. We used to have access to the birds, you know, on farm ground within the Lahontan Valley. That did not go well and NDOW has ceased any sort of tag allotment for our area, so I brought it to Jason's attention that maybe we could put them down there in Dixie Valley. At the time, he thought that was a great idea but he seems to be getting a little pushback from his bosses. He said that some of the reason for that was that they don't know what Dixie Valley looks like, specifically. I think it was Jason's boss, Shawn Espinosa, who is the upland game boss, so he could just be unfamiliar with it. I pushed a little harder on him and he said that the habitat down there would support X number of birds, specifically, the amount of Russian Olive trees down there that will drop those berries, so that is a good tree to carry them through the winter and get them through year-to-year. Some of the challenges are that Jason is already getting some pushback or had gotten some pushback. He didn't feel that me asking NDOW, as an individual, would carry any weight, so I came here to bring it to your attention to see what you thought and maybe this advisory board could bring it up to them in an email or a letter, which could get Jason and myself some leverage to bring the birds into that area or any other location that has good public land access that might be able to support some birds. I know that there have been some experiments across the state with birds in Pinyon/Juniper areas, Riparian Areas, in Elko County and up in the Ruby Mountains. They have a season where they are living in P/J stuff.

Member Curran said do you know what type those are up in Elko? Mr. Lattin said those are Rios. I believe everything we have here in Nevada are going to be a Rio. The closest Merriams that we are going to have is a northern California strain. The birds that we have access to here or that Jason has access to that would come here would come out of Utah. I don't know the exact details of the wheeling and dealings of horse-trading birds or sheep or any other form of wildlife, but that is essentially how things get transported around is, you know, when one says I will give you 2 sheep and you give me 2 turkeys. The birds that Jason has access to are in Utah. He said that he has ample access to them.

Member Curran said this is the Dixie Valley Homestead or what do you call it? Mr. Lattin said we call it the Settlement. Down there, there are 2 chunks of private ground, both owned by Mick Casey, which would probably be where the birds are released. The other ground down there is all Navy ground. According to their management strategy or whatever you want to call that, all of that ground down there is going to remain open. Even if they get their new plan pushed through where they are going to take Slate and most of Fairview and all that, that ground down there would still remain open to the public. Member Sibley said are you talking about by the Centroid or further north? Mr. Lattin said further north. From the Centroid facility, it would be about 30 miles down to the Settlement. From the pavement to the power plant down there is 61 miles, so it is about half of that. I know that the state just abandoned that road and they ground it up into gravel, so it would be 30 plus miles of dirt road just to get down to where that area is, but I have been down there quite a bit and the only thing that is really messing things up down there are the number of feral horses. They have impacted that area but I still believe there is enough habitat in the tall trees that they could survive.

Member Curran said what is the perennial water out there. Mr. Lattin said it is all artesian wells and there are ponds. Member Curran said I have not been out there for 25 years. Mr. Lattin said there are 4-5 ponds. Chair Hughes said is it all on the Navy's ground or Casey's ground. Mr. Lattin said there is a pond on each one of the private properties and then the other ones, which are not necessarily ponds as much as they are artesian wells that they tried to cap but were not able to cap them because they just started leaking up. As far as water, I would say that it is covered down there. It would be more of a feed issue. Member Curran said there was a guy trying to raise fish out there. That was north of the Settlement, wasn't it? Remember, he dug those big trenches and there is still bass and blue gill in them. There are people that go out there even to fish. Guazzini bought it out and probably tore the house down, but the excavator dug deep channel ponds. I know we put blue gill in there as a source of restocking. There is a lot of largemouth bass. I have heard of people going out there bullfrogging, so I assumed it was there. Mr. Lattin said there are a few bullfrogs there. The ponds that I am aware of have gotten drastically smaller since they were abandoned. The number of large mouth bass in there are living to the scale of their environment.

Member Curran said, with the Settlement itself, are you talking about an area of 5 miles by 5 miles of habitat if they didn't go up into the P/J? Mr. Lattin said that would probably be a safe assessment. Jason would have to talk to you more on the exact number of birds that he could put in there and whether or not that number could support a tag. Member Curran said I was wondering if that population would be big enough to be a huntable population if they did get up into Horse Creek and some of the lower areas further down. Mr. Lattin said they could move, especially in the winter when it is easier for them to move. Member Curran said I have wondered about some of those Elko releases up in the P/J, that is kind of new. Mr. Lattin said they are huntable. They release a tag and people go up there. They do a springtime hunt and they hunt those birds. I just enjoyed turkey hunting when I was a child. I was fortunate enough to be able to go to the Frey Ranch where Joe and I would hunt birds up there. Not a lot of people in Churchill County got to experience that. As far as a release strategy, I feel that we have taken the turkey from almost nothing to where they are literally in every corner of the country, except for where I need them. Member Sibley said do we have a population in Churchill County at all? Mr. Lattin said I am unaware of that. I have heard rumors of some out off of Powerline and I have heard of holdouts at Wolf's. Member Sibley said I think I saw one off of Powerline but there is that lady that has that property right there. Member Curran said she babysits them. Member Sibley said there were 2 or 3 about 8 years ago but I have not seen any since.

Mr. Lattin said, during the years when we did have a decent population, NDOW was releasing a pile of them here. Member Curran said I have them nesting in my 2-acre field. Mr. Lattin said if you want to call it irrigation, predation, I am not sure what the circumstances are that caused them to dwindle here as badly as they have. Member Curran said, in those early years, that is when I was incubating a lot of eggs. Between Mills and different people, I probably had over 50 turkey eggs that did not get broken by the swathers. The nesting period was just terrible for that crop and, with the skunks and no ditch habitat anymore, it is just tough. If it wasn't for the river, the beaver has taken care of most of the cottonwoods, there is nothing left but Russian Olive. Jesse Lattin said, in addition to that, I think there is a desire to go hunting and it is good to be able to get the hunter out away from the houses. I have been in the situation, I have been in your guy's chair with 130 people in here talking about shooting ducks on the river or shooting deer in

Stillwater, so if I can kill two birds with one stone by getting a huntable population established and be able to put those birds where they can be accessed in a decent environment where you can go out there, be left alone, and have a good time that is good. There is ample camping down there and, if you can glass a Bighorn Sheep and maybe hunt a turkey someday, or just go down there and glass a sheep and just look at the birds.

Member Curran said I would assume we would have to get approval from the Navy. Mr. Lattin said we would not if we were to release on Mike Casey's ground. Member Curran asked if Mr. Casey was in agreement with this and was told that he is in favor of it. It was agreed to ask that this be put on a future Agenda when Jason Salisbury can be present to address the matter. Member Sibley said I would almost like to invite Shawn Espinosa too so we could hear his argument. Mr. Lattin said Jason could probably answer that for you, as well. Member Curran said, other than expense, I cannot see any negative impacts. Mr. Lattin said my goal today was just to get the discussion started. If the Dixie Valley Settlement is not the place to do it, we could look at some other place with P/J. We are limited on turkey habitat here in Churchill County. Member Curran said I would suggest we get our recommendation in within the next 6 months as I assume it would have to go on next year's Upland Game Stamp funding because we do not have any outside source of funding. Member Sibley said I would be curious as to what the expense is and if it is something that could be covered.

Informational Items:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for June 25 and 26, 2021, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for June 25 and 26, 2021 is provided for the board's consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: None; Informational Only

There was no further discussion of items on the Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

The following future Agenda items were suggested: Introduction of turkeys into Dixie Valley and invite Jason Salisbury to attend.

Establishment of Next Meeting Date for August 11, 2021:

The next meeting will be held on August 11, 2021, at 7:00 PM.

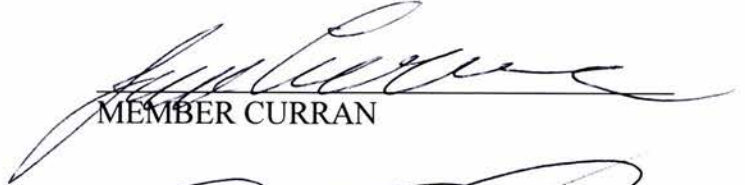
Public Comment:

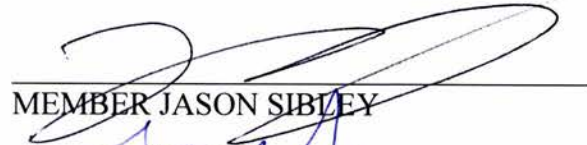
Chair Hughes asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

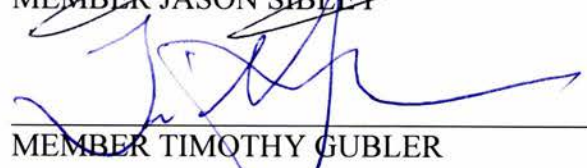
Adjournment:

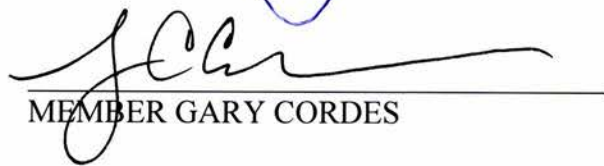
The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER CURRAN


MEMBER JASON SIBLEY


MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER


MEMBER GARY CORDES

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board