

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

**155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406
May 4, 2022**

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was called to order at 7:00 PM on May 4, 2022.

PRESENT:	Member Peggy A. Hughes, Chair
	Member Jim Curran
	Member Jason Sibley
	Member Gary Cordes
	Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
ABSENT:	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 27th day of April, 2022, between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 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 Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

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

A- March 23, 2022.

The Minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2022 are presented for the board's consideration and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on March 23, 2022 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of previously submitted State Fiscal Year 2023 Travel Budget to the Nevada Department of Wildlife.

The State Fiscal Year 2023 Travel Budget was previously submitted to the Nevada Department of Wildlife and needs to be considered and approved by the Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

FISCAL IMPACT: As presented.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: As presented.

FUNDING SOURCE: As presented.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said there is money in the budget for you to get reimbursed for travel expenses if any of you ever want to go to any of the meetings in Las Vegas. They take care of the overnight stay. Member Sibley said I don't know if I am the person you guys would want to send to those meetings. I tend to be rather argumentative in some situations. I can argue a lot in 30 seconds. Chair Hughes said it is there if there is something you feel strongly about. They have given us money in the past and we have never used any of it. We are not requesting any more money. This is just what is in the budget that we have on file with the county.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve the previously submitted State Fiscal Year 2023 Travel Budget to NDOW as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

B- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 3 - Appeals.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 3, Appeals, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jim Curran said I would recommend no recommendation. A lot of these have nothing to do with their administrative policies. Chair Hughes said do you want to take them all into consideration at this time? All the way down to Item M. Member Curran said no. Like the petition policy on how someone can petition the commission. Chair Hughes said so we want no action on B? It is the first reading so they may come up with some other changes. Some of the documents have changes in them. Member Curran said they have their meeting on Thursday, I think it is. Who knows what they will come up with. We will be looking at it again. Chair Hughes said a couple of these were already on our last Agenda. Member Sibley said I am going to go ahead and admit that I did not do my homework. What does any of this mean? Appeals of what? Member Curran said if you want to submit a formal appeal of an action. Chair Hughes said convictions. Member Curran said any legal procedure. Chair Hughes said judiciary review

is what it is.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Policy 3 - Appeals - as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

C- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 4 - Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 4, Petition Process and Adoption of Regulations, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said I think this one is the same thing. I didn't see any changes. Member Sibley said it looks like they changed the address and the words bag limits to quotas.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve Commission Policy 4 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

D- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 21 - Game and Furbearer Management Plans.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 21, Game and Furbearer Management, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said it looks like they corrected a typo and misspelled the word principal. They are changing it to a 10-year schedule for management plans to be reviewed.

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

E- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 22 - Exportation of Wildlife.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 22, Introduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said it looks like they are just cleaning up wording and talking about reintroduction. Member Sibley said they list mountain goat as a non-native wildlife. Member Curran said they can't nowadays introduce them like they did then.

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to approve Commission Policy 22 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

F- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 25 - Wildlife Damage Management, First Reading.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 25, Wildlife Damage Management, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Chair Hughes said it looks like they took a lot of the wording out of it. Member Curran said I have a question on that one. I have been involved in trying to get the Conservation District a permit. Some of the stuff they have taken out dealt with beavers. Then it is talking about deer, lions, and bobcats. Member Sibley said, in Section 7, they removed the methods used may include arial hunting, M-44 devices, trapping, snares, denning and registered pesticides. It says they are now utilizing currently approved methods. How do you know if it is an approved method? Interesting. Member Curran said I don't understand what they are doing. Member Sibley said some of the writing is just terrible in this. I think a lot of this is just trying to fix it. Where it used to say that they included those items is now lined out, so now it is just approved methods.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 25 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

G- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 26 - Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Population.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 26, Managing Rocky Mountain Elk Populations, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said they just added the word reinduction to the whole thing.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 26 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

H- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 27 - Protection of Wildlife.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 27, Protection of Wildlife, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said I love the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971. Can you tell I am opposed to that whole thing? Member Cordes said I am so surprised at your comments. Member Sibley said they lined out to oppose a population of wolves in Nevada. Now it says recognizing that wolf sightings will continue in Nevada. The state is finally acknowledging that wolves are here, I guess.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 27 as presented.

Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

I- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 28 - Transparency on Quota Setting, First Reading.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 28, Transparency on Quota Setting, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 28 as presented.

Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

J- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 29 - Elk Arbitration, First Reading.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 29, Elk Arbitration, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 29 as presented.

Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

K- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 40 - Statewide Boating Safety, Second Reading.

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 40, Statewide Boating Safety, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to repeal, revise or adopt the

policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said they are adding paddle boats. Boating and paddle craft safety education. They are going to offer some educational programs. Member Curran said they are changing boats to watercraft.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to accept Commission Policy 40 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

L- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 51 - Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award.

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 51, Wayne E. Kirch Conservation Award, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 51 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

M- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Policy 63 - Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds, Third Reading.

The Commission will have a third reading of Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission Policy 63 as presented. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

N- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 501 - Tag Transfers, NAC 502.385

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 502.385 that would allow the transfer of a game tag to a non-profit organization and determine the status of the tag if the Department is notified of the tag holder's death. This regulation was created after the passage of Assembly Bill 89 of the 81st Legislative Session.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to accept Commission General Regulation 501 as presented. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

O- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 505 - First Come First Serve Prevention Unfair Advantages.

The Commission will hold a workshop to consider amending NAC 502.4215 that would allow for the suspension of a person from the First Come First Served program for attempting to create an unfair advantage to obtain a big game tag.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Sibley said this is reference to the people who are cheating in order to get first come first served tags. Member Curran said it may be a tough one to enforce. Member Sibley said they are talking about if you put a tag in your cart and then let it fall out of your cart more than 2 or 3 times, then you become ineligible. Chair Hughes said is that what they are saying? Member Sibley said yes. Member Curran said after all the different draws, guys are sitting there with some of these computers that instantly claim it but they don't really want it when they get to looking at it. It instantaneously refreshes and the second it comes available; it clicks it without ever looking at it. They have had that issue for a while. They have had a lot of tags that were picked up many times and just let go back into the pool because it is not what they want. They are trying to do away with that. Member Curran said they stay awake all night to do it.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission General Regulation 505 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

P- Consideration and possible action re: Commission General Regulation 507 - Petition Process.

The Commission will consider adopting changes to NAC 501.195 recommended by the Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy Committee. The regulation was approved by the Committee at their March meeting and will be considered by the Commission for the first workshop.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to accept Commission General Regulation 507 as presented. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Q- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 22-11 - Big Game Quotas

for the 2022-2023 Season.

The Commission will establish regulations for the numbers of tags to be issued for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats for the 2022 - 2023 seasons.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Jason Salisbury said antelope populations are pretty depressed across the state, especially on the east side. They are running into super low fawn ratios. We don't know if it is consecutive years of drought on the east side or depredation. There are some pretty dramatic decreases in some of the eastern sides. There are some increases in some of the units. Possibly, over the years, it has been underestimated so there were increases in the actual population in area 081 and 7 and then a little in 072. They always had super high success and they kind of kept the populations down. In northern Washoe, the populations are down and you will see comparative numbers are decreased in tags. Antelope surveys are down across the state. In area 043 and 046, they are still doing pretty good. The population is kind of expanding and they don't have as many issues with horses and burros like we do like in 041 and 042. The numbers have definitely gone down probably because of the overpopulation of the horses and burros and maybe some EHD. They are definitely down in those 2 areas. Member Sibley said what is EHD? Jason Salisbury said Epizootic hemorrhagic disease. There is nothing you can really do with it. I have encountered it in Churchill County with sheep and antelope where I had to euthanize them. Their eyes are all white and they run around in circles. They are totally out of it. We had some individuals in Dixie Valley on an alfalfa field that were suspected. There were about 14 that died within 3 weeks. An antelope may be sick and then bite another antelope and then it starts messing with the nervous system. It affects pretty much everything. It is hard to tell how prevalent it actually is and how much it pops up because the animal has been scavenged by coyotes. It just looks like a dead animal by a spring or something. When we have some of those rain events, we get puddles of water in there, it seems like I encounter those animals during those times too. The whole state has had it to one extent or another. Area 18, I have had lower fawn ratios the last 2 years but we don't put in a harvest for yearling bucks. I just recommended an increase in tags this year just because of how high my success is. Jason Salisbury said my ratios are still good. Some of these populations they have these low fawn ratios this year but some of them are just way down on tags. We are looking at 2-4-year fawn ratios because we take the 2-year-olds out. There are still plenty of antelope. Area 6 and 15 went up in the doe antelope. Member Curran said statewide they are down about 30 buck tags. I am just talking about resident tags.

Member Cordes said you mentioned that feral horses and burros had reduced significantly. Jason Salisbury said the only place we have had any in Churchill County is in the Desatoyas. Member Sibley said they have not been reduced, right? Jason Salisbury said we have only reduced numbers in the Desatoyas in relation to the BLM in the outcome-based grazing, so there are 3 permittees in the state that are doing the outcome-based grazing programs so, to better help them, they reduced their horse populations down so they can actively manage cows. We are way over AML in the Clan Alpines and Stillwaters; we are all over the place. We are 3,000% over;

we are high. The Clan Alpines and Stillwaters are crazy. Newpass is crazy. Member Cordes said the drought has affected every other species but the horses seem to be thriving. Jason Salisbury said horses seem like they do okay in the drought. They still have an ability, it seems like, you do see some reduction but you still have foals and I don't know besides lions eating foals and that or foals being in poor body condition. The foals will die too. It is just like when you go to Reno in the Virginia Range, there are upwards of 4,000 horses. There are some perennial grasses and that and weeds and cheatgrass but they still produce foals every year. The lions in that range are pretty much dependent on horses. Are you saying that there is a migration of antelope coming into the Lahontan Valley? Jason Salisbury said we still have antelope showing up in different places that were not there before, depending on the watering holes. If you had more water and less horses and cattle, you can have plenty of antelope, even under these conditions. Most of the movement has been 043 and 046 has done really well. That is mainly in relation to 18 giving 043 and 046 antelope, and 15 is bonkers in there because you got a lot of fires and horses and burros. It is no different than what happened in 041 and 042. We had all those fires and those antelope started showing up there. The problem with 041 and 042 is that you have 15 years of horses and burros gaining a lot of ground too. We have been putting some new water developments over by the reservation. There are some new projects in the north valley. Some of those areas will have some population of antelope that don't have some of the horse and burro concerns. Those are the places where we can get the most gains and we can put water in some of those areas. Member Curran said there are some antelope now towards Trinity on that Midas Mine Road. The antelope have moved in, I assume out of the ragged tops across the interstate. I was really surprised to hear there were a bunch of them out there now. Jason Salisbury said we have a few back behind Hazen too. It has been an area that will support antelope that I have thought about because it is all checkerboard. We could develop some of those tables and have a few more antelope. Member Curran said I am not aware of any springs up there but there must be some water. Jason Salisbury said the water towards Hazen, that duck club there, I always thought they would try to use Fernley Wildlife Management Area because, most of the time, there is some water available there. They have not been able to find it but right across the highway they are using that. That water is pretty limited, for sure, in the hot springs. Member Cordes said I wanted to know about the coyote hunts. Member Sibley said they are still having coyote contests. Member Curran said, oh yeah, there were a lot of them this year. Member Sibley said they had quite a few of them this year. Jason Salisbury said they are trying to do a little less social media so they get the glory. In my opinion, I think they are great opportunities to get people out hunting that have somewhat of a small impact in an area. When you have a year like this and you can hit coyotes hard, you can set them back pretty good as far as populations. We have places that we use wildlife services and that.

Member Jim Curran made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all antelope hunts in Area 181-184. Member Jason Sibley seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Jason Salisbury said we have seen a reduction in elk population statewide. The calf ratios in 072 have a slight reduction. They are doing pretty good reductions in the bull harvest. They use the metric and the 50-inch main beam. The 072 is a little bit different one. We have discussed it a little bit there because of the stock source. Maybe there isn't a lot of 50-inch main beam holes in there period, it is more of, just genetic wise, in the 40s as a high and occasionally you get a 50-

inch main beam hole because there is definitely a difference in the 50-inch main beam when you go down into the Ely country in area 22. There is just a higher prevalence but you also have a lot of harvest in 072 for many years with that cap on that population. They have been cranking the tags pretty good. This year you saw quite a bit of reduction. You will see reductions in all the antlerless harvest and a lot of the bull harvest because of some of those reduced calf ratios from the year before and this year. They say that 90% of the elk herds are at or below the population objectives, which also affect your cow harvest. Member Sibley said they drastically reduced my spike hunt area from 20 to 8. How am I going to get a spike now? My spike from last year is almost gone. Jason Salisbury said there is one unit that has had higher spikes this year, which is 078. It went from 15 to 19. Member Sibley said it looks like the cow tags went down a pretty good amount; 350. Is that the same thing? Jason Salisbury said they had to set lower cap ratios to really drive those models and lower that population down considerably. Member Sibley said area 6 got hit pretty good too. Jason Salisbury said they separated 062 from some of the other units where we still have the spring mortality like the Tuscarora's, which nobody has figured out why animals are dying.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all Resident Elk quotas. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Jason Salisbury said, statewide, the population of Desert Bighorn is estimated at 8,200 animals. That is a 20% drop from a high of 10,300 in 2019. Most of it can be attributed to the decline like drought, horse and burro competition and the high lamb mortality caused by pneumonia. You will see significant decreases in some of the southern units. Nothing too drastic. Member Sibley said, in the Muddy's, I was reading the summary and it looks like they are trying to relocate some of the sheep because of concerns with the water sources. Jason Salisbury said they are trying to reduce the population levels. They still have a pretty high harvest in unit 268. I don't know why. We have a new biologist in that position, so the supervisor did the quota for this year. They had 37 last year, which was bumped up because somebody wanted it bumped up. I don't know what the normal is there, plus the non-residents. Member Cordes said when you talk about mortality rate, does that include ewes, rams, and the young ones, right? Jason Salisbury said you have, in relation to pneumonia and that, you will have populations that will experience all class die-offs and it will affect mostly the older ones and then the younger ones and then, a lot of times, the teenagers. They have their immune systems up, so those are the ones that will live, so you see a lot of 3–5-year-olds that, depending on the strain, some of the strains will kill 50%. Some of the guys say 100% but I don't believe that there was sheep left after the die-off. If you are left with only 20 sheep and you have encroaching lions, you can't have 20 sheep last for very long. You have to have a higher number to account for the mortality. What we have in Churchill County right now, 3 years ago, 183 went through a die-off and were killed. We estimated a 33% die-off. I had 2 years of low lamb ratios and, this year, I have about 35 in a drought conditions. In the Stillwaters, they had a lamb ration of 20 and that is 2 years post die-off. It is doing okay. Unit 205 and 181 have single digits. I didn't notice any adult mortality in 181. I had some coughing sheep in 181 and coughing ewes but I never had any adult mortality that I know of. I suspect what happened all over the neighborhood is, it still made its way through. Unit 181 experienced the same strain as in 2007. That is a lot of years but there could be a little bit of resistance to it. We will have to see what happens in the future with the lambs if

they can come back. I bumped it up in 181 because I have a crazy amount of sheep. In 182, I went up a little bit in the archery hunt just almost as add-on tags. In 184, I kept it down a little bit. In 205, it went down a couple of tags. Overall, the numbers have been okay. In the next 4-6 years you will see somewhat of a reduction in tags but I want to take advantage of them now while I have them.

Member Sibley said you don't have any one-horned ram hunts? Jason Salisbury said we will have to see after the survey. I just didn't want the phone call asking where the hunt is. There is a big one-horned ram in Sand Springs right now, or there was. You just don't see that many. One year I saw 3 but I am sure they are all dead. There are a lot more one-horned sheep down south.

Member Cordes said are lions an issue here in Churchill County? Jason Salisbury said lions take ewes a bit. Ewes are smarter than rams on how they approach different things. Rams are taken the most by lions just because they will go into questionable water in the thick willows and are just more susceptible because the knuckleheads are going to be eaten by lions. It can depress the population. You are going to see that in the California Bighorns. If it continues the way it is with them and with overpopulations of horses and that, I think we will get down to not a lot of California Bighorn tags in the future. I know that they are looking for, in the future, in area 181, to do a ewe harvest to keep the population down. I went through the die-off in 2007 and you can keep the populations down to where you want it in that mountain range where you feel like there is adequate food and water, but I also look at it where we have a lot of population down south. They are trying to get rid of some of the population because of a lack of resources. When they have adequate resources, the biologist is comfortable with the high numbers. I would rather move sheep and possibly go through a die-off than have adequate numbers come out of the die-off. When you look at the history of some of the mountain ranges, you can keep them lean and mean but it is hard to think that you can control numbers so disease won't show up. Disease will show up. It is just a matter of time. When you look at the Moorman's, they had high numbers and then a disease knocked them down; they still had about 270 sheep come out of it. If you went to Area 181 and just kept it at 150 sheep, and then you have disease take half of them and you also have lions in there, it just takes those animals so much longer to come up out of that hole. It is a fine balance when you can offer some opportunity for people to harvest and then just kind of just manage it in case. You know disease is going to happen but you just don't know when and what effect it will have on the herd.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all (Desert) Bighorn Sheep quotas. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Jason Salisbury said California Bighorn Sheep received a 14% deduction in 2021 with a population estimate of 1,800 animals. Some of these herds, especially in Washoe County, have a lot of issues with feral horses. The feral horse numbers will consistently have lions associated with them. Having those horses in there definitely makes for increased competition for the California Bighorns on accessing water. It has a huge impact on how sheep act and how they get along with lions in those areas. Member Sibley said do the lions follow those horses? Jason Salisbury said I think what you saw in the Del Mars and that was you can have herds of deer that might have moved but then you have those areas that are just straight horses using water and so

those lions could just specifically eat horses all the time, that is all they have. Then you have those areas that have mule deer and antelope so there is a little bit of tolerance from each one of them using those but there is still, I think it just keeps them in an area longer if there are enough foals to eat and older horses to eat. They are still eating easier prey, which is deer and sheep. I would love to see studies where we do different things when we watch. If we could move horses and there is still leave enough deer there. A lot of times you have places where we have lost a lot of the deer and now, there are just all horses. Some of those places still have enough horses or deer and elk and if we could remove horses and cats at the same time, maybe we could study and look at any possibilities that way. We don't have those kinds of studies that show that kind of interaction or any specific competition between those species. Besides 031 and 068, 051 still has some issues with disease and they are trying to do the test and remove, which is basically capturing the sheep and swabbing them and, if they have active nasal swabs, then we are going to euthanize them. Even though we went up in tags in 034, there are still issues there.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all California Bighorn Sheep quotas. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Jason Salisbury said the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep population estimate is 360. In area 102, we have an estimate of 60 and that one tag that is available is going to go to military deferment person who drew a tag in 2009 during that die-off, so there were no sheep available, so he is going to accept that tag unless he has another military deferment. In area 114 I don't think there was much harvest in there even though there were 4 tags. We have seen younger age class animals but not a lot of the mature animals. In area 115, that population seems like it is doing okay so they offered 2 tags outside of the park. I don't know what the status is on the east Humboldt's. I know we still have sheep in there. They are not doing as good as in the Ruby Valley, as far as any lamb recoupment.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep quotas. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Sibley said you have 5 more tags added. Jason Salisbury said we had a record survey but I don't know what the numbers are between the 2 units. Unit 102 has most of the goats and has an increased kid ratio. They are actually seeing some recovery and some of the kids are still making it. There was some discussion, but it didn't go anywhere, of possibly just doing all billy hunts but nothing has really transpired with that. You could increase the number of tags if we knew 100% that they would get a billy. Member Sibley said those are tough to decipher. Jason Salisbury said there are some states where you really have to watch them urinate before you shoot it and things like that to figure out if it is a billy. I don't know if that will go through or not. Units 101 and 103 are holding their own. That is why there is just the one tag. There was the one goat that was in the Cherry Creek Range that somebody will probably go try and look for. They will probably shoot some sheep guy's Pyrenees.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all

Rocky Mountain Goat quotas. Member Gary Cordes seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Member Sibley said why do we set quotas after tag applications start? People are applying and they don't actually know what the tag quota is going to be. Member Curran said it takes them that long to get the data together. Jason Salisbury said we never get our results back from the hunter harvest until late. Member Cordes said I relayed about a year when he applied for an area that had 50 and the quota came out at 5 but you couldn't change it once you put it in. Member Sibley said it is interesting to me that they don't put out that information. People don't have accurate information when they are applying. Jason Salisbury said the reason on some of that is, there will be less people putting in. If it looks like last year, they are going to roll the dice. Member Sibley said, in area 116 early, that has always been one of those hunts that has a ton of tags and they cut it by 160 tags. That is a drastic reduction when you only have 290 to start with. Jason Salisbury said that is this last year's fawn survival. That is what you saw in a lot of these, like in area 13. Member Sibley said there is no deer in area 13. Jason Salisbury said there used to be. Member Sibley said what is the total decrease, just under 300 total for standard tags and muzzleloader. Jason Salisbury said that is if they get the area 6 and 10 increases. Member Sibley said, in area 16, muzzleloader went from 25 to 9. Jason Salisbury said some of them stayed the same, as far as, area 17 relatively stayed the same. I recommended that Unit 18 kind of stayed. It was below that and they rounded it up. They had like a 43% 4-point or better. My success in 18 is always 29% to 34%. Member Sibley said on the muzzleloader hunt? Jason Salisbury said no, the muzzleloader is a lot higher than that. Did you have it? Member Sibley said a buddy of mine had it. We hunted for 7-8 days and were obviously hunting in the wrong place.

Member Jason Sibley made a motion to approve the Department's recommendation for all Mule Deer quotas. Member Jim Curran seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

R- Consideration and possible action re: Commission Regulation 22-09 - Amendment 1 to the 2022 Black Bear Quotas and Harvest Limits.

The Commission will consider adopting the 2022 hunting season dates, open management units, hunting hours, quotas, harvest limits, special regulations, animal sex, legal requirements, hunt boundary restrictions, and dates and times for indoctrination courses for black bear.

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

Member Gary Cordes made a motion to accept Commission Regulation 22-09 as presented. Member Jason Sibley 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 May 6 and 7, 2022, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

Should the board want to discuss Items listed on the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Agenda for May 6 and 7, 2022, which is attached as Exhibit "A".

FISCAL IMPACT: N/A
EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: N/A
FUNDING SOURCE: N/A
ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

There was no further discussion of items on the state's Agenda.

Consider Future Agenda Items:

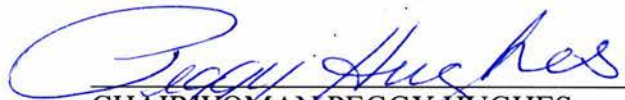
The following future Agenda items were suggested: status update on predation projects and predator funds.

Public Comment:

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

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.


CHAIRWOMAN PEGGY HUGHES


MEMBER JIM CURRAN


MEMBER JASON SIBLEY


MEMBER TIMOTHY GUBLER


MEMBER GARY CORDES

ATTEST:
Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer


Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk