

**THE WHITE PINE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE
WILDLIFE MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON
JANUARY 24, 2022 AT 6:00 PM AT THE BRISTLECONE CONVENTION
CENTER.**

Present:

Mitchell McVicars (Board Chairman)
Steve Marquez (Board Vice Chairman)
Ray Sawyer (Via phone call)
Adam Ruesch

Kayla Couch (Board Secretary)

Absent:

Visitors:

Kody Manghini (NDOW)
Kevin Billows
Thomas Brunson
Jake Rosevear

Called to order:

Board Chairman McVicars called the Meeting order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment Period:

Chairman McVicars welcomed the new secretary for the White Pine County Wildlife Advisory Board, Kayla Couch. McVicars also expressed his gratitude and thanked Christina Sawyer, former secretary for her many years of service to the CAB Board.

Kevin Billows stated that he disagrees with the first come first serve system and how it allows non-residents to obtain a resident returned tag, and at the same cost. Members of the Board were unsure that non-resident applicants would receive the returned tags at the same fee. Kevin Billows stated that regardless of whether or not they are charged the same, he feels that it gives an unfair advantage to the resident applicants to obtain a returned tag. Kevin Billows mentioned that he knows many resident applicants interested in those returned resident tags, but do not have access to the resources to apply as proposed. Kevin Billows stated non-residents should not be permitted to apply for tags designated specifically for residents, and advised that this concern be addressed to the State Commission meeting. Chairman McVicars suggested bringing concerns with the first come first serve system to the TAAHC committee as well. Board member Sawyer stated that he also has concerns with the first come first serve system, allowing applicants to login several times among multiples devices to obtain a returned tag. Sawyer was also in agreement with Kevin Billows, with residents and non-residents obtaining a return tag at the same cost and should not be allowed. Sawyer, explained that he was under the impression that non-residents that were successful would pay the out of state fees.

***Approval of Agenda:**

Board Chairman McVicars called for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 24, 2022 meeting.

A motion to approve the agenda for January 24, 2022 meeting as presented was made by board member Ruesch seconded by board member Marquez, motion passed with no opposition.

***Approval of minutes:**

Board reviewed the November 1, 2021 special meeting minutes for approval.

Board Chairman entertained a motion

A motion to approve the minutes for the November 1, 2021 special meeting as written was made by board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, motion passed with no opposition.

***Payment of Bills:**

Board was presented a bill for Christina Sawyer, for secretary services for the November 1, 2021 meeting in the amount of \$150.

Board Chairman McVicars entertained a motion

A motion to approve the payment of bills to Christina Sawyer was made by board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.

***Correspondence:**

Text- Chairman McVicars reported that he received a text from Shane, questioning what the biological reasoning was for shifting areas in units 133 and 132 for sheep each year. Kody Manghini explained that it is only for area 132 and that it was a split area between North and South. Shane also commented in the text that the last meeting he attended on the mule deer management for area 13, was good.

Reports:

Kody Manghini, representing NDOW reported that Cave Lake is mostly drained and will be accepting bids for construction by spring. He stated that they anticipate beginning the work in July and starting the process of refill in the fall.

Kody Manghini also reported that the boat dock for Comins Lake has been delivered and installed and is waiting on finishing electrical work.

Commission Agenda items:

6. G. Big Game Season Prescriptions and Management Objectives for Quota Recommendations.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: Kody Manghini-NDOW stated that there have been no major changes.

6. H. 2021 First Come First Serve Report.

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer stated that he has concerns with the first come first serve system, allowing applicants to login several times among multiples devices to obtain a tag and that it should not be permitted. He stated that each user/applicant should only be allowed to login from one device or location at a time (As stated under Public Comment).

Board member Marquez stated that he was not in favor of the first come first serve system in general.

Public comment: Kevin Billows stated that he disagrees with the first come first serve system and how it allows non-residents to obtain a resident's returned tag, and at the same cost. Members of the Board were unsure that non-resident applicants would receive the returned tags at the same fee. Kevin Billows stated that regardless of

whether or not they are charged the same, he feels that it gives an unfair advantage to the resident applicants to obtain a returned tag, designed for residents. Kevin Billows mentioned that he knows many resident applicants interested in those returned resident tags, but do not have access to the resources to apply as proposed. Kevin Billows stated non-residents should not be permitted to apply for returned resident tags designated specifically for residents (As stated under Public Comment).

7. A.* Commission Policy 1, General Guidelines for the Commission.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. B. *Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. C. *Commission Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. D. *Commission Policy 33, Fisheries Management Program.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. E. * Commission Policy 63- Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. F. * Commission Policy 64- Input on Land Sales, Transfers, and Exchanges.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

7. G. *Commission Policy 67- Federal Horses and Burros.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission agenda items 7. A-G, as written was made board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.

8. A. *Commission General Regulation 504- E-tag Regulation.

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer voiced his concerns with the wording in sections 4 and 5 pertaining to the actions taken against violators, stating “May be suspended by the department from applying for any tags remaining for the applicable season.” Sawyer Stated the term “May” should be changed to “Shall”.

Public comment: Thomas Brunson questioned how tags could be electronically punched. He stated that tags must be punched upon arrival of the harvested animal and had concerns with cellular service, as many of the areas have little to no service. Kevin Billows stated he has experienced the electronic punch system and found it convenient in other states.

Board member Marquez made the motion to support Commission General Regulation 504. as written, with the exception of the paragraphs in sections 4 and 5, making the recommendation to change the language to read as follows; section 4, **If a person who uses the electronic system to apply for a tag abuses the electronic system by attempting to create or creating an unfair advantage in obtaining a tag, he or she “SHALL” (instead of may) be suspended by the Department from applying for any tags remaining for the applicable season. Activities that are cause for such suspension include, without limitation.** section 5, **If a person who uses the electronic system to apply for a tag engages in severe conduct described in subsection 4, such as continued and substantial efforts to create an unfair advantage, he or she “SHALL” (instead of may) be suspended by the Department from using the electronic system to apply for remaining tags in future hunting seasons.** The motion was seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.

9. A. *Commission General Regulation 495, LCB File R176-20-NAC 502 Simplification.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

9. B. *Commission General Regulation 496, LCB File R009-21-NAC 503 Simplification.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

9. C. *Commission General Regulation 497, LCB File R006-21-NAC 502 Simplification.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 495, 496 and 497 as written was made board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition

11. A. *Commission General Regulation 21-07 Amendment #2, 2022 Heritage Tag Bighorn Sheep Unit Closures.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: Kevin Billows asked what the purpose behind the closure of Heritage Tag was. Kody Manghini-NDOW, explained that the regulation is designed to address the seasons for 2022 and close out units from 2021.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 21-07, Amendment #2. as written was made board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition

11. B. *Commission General Regulation 22-01, 2022 Big Game Application Deadlines.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 22-01, as written was made board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition

11. C. *Commission General Regulation 22-02, 2022 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits.

Board discussion: Board member Sawyer reviewed the regulation and understood that a successful tag holder could obtain both a regular sheep tag as well as a management sheep tag within the same year. Sawyer stated

that there must be an error. Sawyer suggested making the same change in the last paragraph under First Come First Serve Eligibility reading “Shall” instead of “May”; as they did on Item 8.A.

Public comment: Kody Manghini, NDOW, believes the error stating a successful tag holder could obtain both a regular and management tag within the same year, will be addressed at the State Commission meeting. Manghini pointed out the last paragraph under Big Game Tag Application Eligibility stating the removal of eligibility and bonus points if the tag is not purchased within the 7-day period of the draw. Thomas Brunson also disagreed with the purpose of the paragraph, by stating the fee should be taken out of the tag holders account automatically. He has concerns with applicants not knowing the time period in which they must purchase the tag before losing privileges. Kevin Billows agreed with Thomas Brunson’s statement and mentioned that it would be devastating to applicants without quick transaction resources.

*Board member Marquez made a motion to amend Commission General Regulation 22-02, 2022 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits, by omitting the last paragraph under Big Game Tag Application Eligibility (Customers who are successful in a draw will have 7-days to complete the purchase of their awarded tag. If at the time the 7-days has ended and a tag holder has not completed a successful purchase, the customer will be treated as a successful applicant in regard to applied waiting periods and loss of bonus points. The tag will be offered to the next available alternative, if no alternate is available, offered in a subsequent draw or in the First Come, First Served program. (NAC 502, CGR 499 adopted by the Commission November 2021, adopted by the Legislative Commission in December 2021)), limiting one sheep tag per applicant per year, and changing the phase in the last paragraph under First Come First Served Eligibility to read **Persons who actively abuse or attempt to create an unfair advantage of the First Come, First Served program “SHALL” (instead of may) be suspended by the Department for suspicious activity.** The motion was seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.*

11. D. *Commission General Regulation 22-03, 2022 Dream Tag.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission General Regulation 22-03 as written was made board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition

11. E. *Commission General Regulation 22-04, 2022 Partnership in Wildlife Tags.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: Thomas Brunson advised the Board that the regulation states allowing maximum tags for mule deer, pronghorn antelope and elk. He also mentioned issuing one PIW tag for mountain goat and recalled it being two tags. Kody Manghini, NDOW, responded that this has been the same for the past number of years.

A motion to support Commission General Regulation 22-04. as written was made by board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition.

11. F. *Commission General Regulation 22-05, 2023 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota.

Board discussion: Board member Marquez asked how many Desert sheep were allocated and why has the number changed. Chairman McVicars and Kody Manghini recalled the number of tags given has always been two. Member Sawyer stated that he felt there was no need for the change in the regulation.

Public comment: Thomas Brunson questioned how the Department plans to implement and regulate the new process of notifying a sportsman of harvested animals and unit closures. Thomas Brunson stated that the process maybe insufficient as far as enforcement. Jake Rosevear expressed that there are benefits to the process. Kody Manghini- NDOW, agreed that there are gaps in the process of enforcing the regulation.

A motion to oppose the changes made to Commission General Regulation 22-05, and keep the prior written version as is, was made board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.

11. G. *Commission General Regulation 22-06, 2022 Silver State Seasons and Quotas.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission General Regulation 22-06, as written was made board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition.

11. H. *Commission General Regulation 21-03 Amendment 1, 2022-2023 Big Game Seasons.

Public comment: Kody Manghini, NDOW, reported after four years - the antelope recruitment has been poor, hence the reasoning behind low quotas and closures.

Thomas Brunson stated that he is in support of point limitation of antlers on depredation tags. as this will serve rightful purpose of the hunt rather than a trophy hunt. Board Member Marques asked how the points on the antlered elk would be accounted for, in reference to a spike. Manghini reported that the definition of a spike elk has been misinterpreted in the past and that the State Commission plans to revisit the topic in the future.

Manghini explained the purpose of the antlerless depredation hunt, and combined areas of 114 and 115. He also stated that Utah will have a similar depredation hunt to help pressure the elk herd off ranches on both sides of the border.

Manghini reported on the combination of units 131,132 and 164, with a likely low quota for hunt 3151 due to the lack of mature rams. Chairman McVicars asked if the sheep move from units 134 to 164. Manghini responded that majority of the herds that would move across those units have died off. Manghini explained the sheep in the units discussed are affected by disease. Manghini reported on the new management ram hunt 3171 and how it will eliminate the large amount of one horned rams, that are not appealing to most sportsmen. He doesn't believe this hunt will have much effect on the population of the desert big horn.

Manghini reported that the Department will recommend closing the hunt 1181, requested by a ranch. He explained that success rate is variable, and the hunt is not necessary.

Member Sawyer addressed his concerns with the antlered elk hunt in units 121,104 and 108A and the number of tags given for such a small region. Sawyer stated that he would like to recommend a late hunt for these units. Sawyer stated he would also like to recommend the following for mule deer hunts; closing late rifle seasons in 111-113, 114-115, 121,131-134, and 221-223, move the late muzzle loader season in 114-115 to September 10th – October 4th and close the late archery hunt in 121 to repopulate herds. Thomas Brunson is in support of Board member Sawyer's recommendation regarding the late elk hunt, stating that the number of tags given over 60 is too much for that region and effects the quality of the hunt. The Board discussed possibly cutting shorter seasons for mule deer hunts opposed to closing the late hunts and possibly lowering the quotas for specific regions. Thomas Brunson asked what the proper avenue would be to address the junior/youth harvest of does in the units with devastating herds. Manghini advised the Board to address the junior/youth harvest during the upcoming State Commission meeting, as it is the season setting for regulations. Manghini also reported that the doe harvest success rate varies from unit to unit (referring to the White Pine County area) and that there is not a clear pattern among the numbers. Manghini stated he fully understands the devastating mule deer herd numbers

and doesn't believe closing deer hunts will solve the issue and save a few bucks. He believes the Department will significantly decrease the quotas. Board member Sawyer disagreed with Manghini and believes the bucks will increase the deer herds and with quality bucks. Thomas Brunson states he believes the drought in the area plays a role in the reduction of mule deer populations along with other factors like mountain lions. Manghini noted that the late cow elk hunt starts on November 21st and if considering the recommendation for splitting the seasons for bull elk with a late hunt, he recommends adjusting the date around the cow late hunt.

Resident Antelope- Horns Longer than ears-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2181

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Elk-Antlered-Any legal weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

Public comment: Revisit "Spike" definition.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Elk-Antlerless- Any legal weapon hunt 4181

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations with exception of adjusting the late antlerless season to December 5th-January 1st

Nonresident Elk-Antlerless – Any legal Weapon Hunt 4281

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Elk-Antlerless- Archery Hunt 4111

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Nonresident Elk-Antlerless – Any legal Weapon Hunt 4211

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Elk-Antlerless- Any legal weapon hunt 4107

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn sheep – Any Ram- Any legal Weapon Hunt 3151

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn sheep – Any Ram-Archery Hunt 3161

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn sheep – Management Ram- One Horn- Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3171

Public comment: Reconsider the paragraph stating punishment to violators under Additional Regulation Considerations. Pursue a disciplinary action less extreme.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Nelson (Desert Bighorn Sheep-Any Ewe-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3181

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn sheep – Any Ewe-Any legal weapon hunt 3281

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident California Bighorn Sheep-Any Ram-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8151

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep-Any Ram-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8251

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep – Any Ram-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9151

Public comment: None.

Board additional recommendation:

Resident Mountain Goat – Any Goat – Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Resident Mule Deer – Antlerless-Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181

Public comment: None.

Board agrees with department recommendations

Other Recommendations

Public comment: Eliminate junior doe tags.

Board recommends splitting the antlered elk rifle hunt, in units 121,104, and 108 into an early and late season and eliminating antlerless deer hunts from the junior/youth harvest tags.

Board member Ruesch made a motion to support Commission General Regulation 21-03 amendment #1 as written with the exception of 121,104 and 108 rifle elk hunt to be split into an early and late season, and adjusting the antlerless elk hunt dates to December 5th to January 1st to match units 111-113, as well as eliminate the antlerless deer hunts from the junior/youth harvest. The motion was seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition.

11. I.* Commission Regulation 22-09, Black Bear Seasons

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 22-09. as written was made board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition.

11. J.* Commission Regulation 22-08, Mountain Lion Seasons and Harvest Limits

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 22-08, as written was made board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch, Motion passed with no opposition

11. K.* Commission Regulation 22-07, 2022-2023 Restricted Non-resident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas.

Public comment: Thomas Brunson understands that in order make changes to this regulation it must go through legislators. Board member Marquez was asked by the public, why there are 365 non-residents guided hunt tags given out plus non-resident general hunt tags. Thomas Brunson responded by asking the if he was referring to the 10% and explained that the 10% is given as a whole, split between guided and general non-resident tags. Kody Manghini review the system with Board and explained that it is 16% of the quota from the previous year that is given to the non-resident guided tags.

Board discussion: None.

A motion to support Commission Regulation 22-07, as written was made board member Ruesch, seconded by board member Marquez, Motion passed with no opposition.

12.* Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan.

Board discussion: None.

Public comment: None.

Next Commission meeting scheduled for January 28-29, 2022 the location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

Sawyer will log in.

Board discussed having the next advisory meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6pm at the White Pine County Library.

Board Chairman McVicars entertained a motion.

A motion to accept the next meeting date of Monday March 21st, 2022 at 6pm at the White Pine County Library was made by board member Marquez, seconded by board member Ruesch. Motion passed, no opposition.

Public comment: Kody Manghini, NDOW, recommended the Board address the possibility of changing the non-resident guided hunt with the TAAHC committee.

Board Chairman McVicars entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:16pm.

A motion to adjourn the White Pine County Wildlife Advisory meeting on January 24, 2021 was made by board member Ruesch seconded by board member Sawyer. Motion passed with no opposition.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.