



**Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife  
Government Center  
500 S. Grand Central Parkway (Pueblo Room)  
Las Vegas, NV 89155  
March 7, 2023 (5:30 PM)  
Meeting Minutes**

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**NOTE:**

- Items on the agenda may be taken out of order.
- The CCABMW members may combine two (2) or more agenda items for consideration.
- The CCABMW may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item at any time.
- No action may be taken on any matter not listed on the posted agenda.
- Please turn off or mute all cell phones and other electronic devices.
- Please take all private conversations outside the room.
- With a forty-eight (48) hour advance request, a sign language interpreter, or other reasonable efforts to assist and accommodate persons with physical disabilities, may be made available by calling (702) 455-3530, TDD at (702) 385-7486, or Relay Nevada toll-free at (800) 326-6868, TD/TDD
- Supporting material provided to CCABMW members for this meeting may be requested from Secretary Darlene Kretunski at (702) 455-1402 and is/will be available on the County's website at [www.clarkcountynv.gov](http://www.clarkcountynv.gov).
- If you do not wish to attend the meeting in person but desire to provide written general public comment or public comment on an individual agenda item, please submit your comments prior to 2:30 p.m. March 7, 2023, to [Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov). Please make sure to include your name, address, the agenda item number on which you are providing comment, and your comment. All comments will be compiled into a document and shared with members of the public body, meeting attendees and on the public body's website.

BOARD MEMBERS:

Paul Dixon (Chair)  
Dan Gilbert Vice Chair  
Jacob Thompson  
Brian Patterson  
John Hiatt  
Dave Talaga  
(Vacancy)

SECRETARY:

Darlene Kretunski (702) 455-1402,  
EMAIL: [Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:Darlene.Kretunski@ClarkCountyNV.gov)  
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COUNTY LIAISON:

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Las Vegas, NV 89118

**I. Call to Order-Roll call of Board Members determination of a quorum:**

If no quorum is present, meeting cannot begin and will be canceled.

- Secretary Darlene Kretunski took roll call: Present- Chair Paul Dixon, Vice Chair Dan Gilbert, Board members: John Hiatt, Alexander Harper, Brian Patterson, Jacob Thompson) Board member Dave Talaga will arrive late.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

- Chair Paul Dixon led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Public Comment-** This is a period devoted to comments by the public about items on this agenda. No discussion, action, or vote may be taken on this agenda item. You will be afforded the opportunity to speak on individual Public Hearing Items at the time they are presented. If you wish to speak to the CCABMW about items within its jurisdiction but not appearing on this agenda, you must wait until the “Comments by the General Public” period listed at the end of this agenda. **Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes.** Please clearly state your name, address, and please spell your first and last name for the record. If any member of the CCABMW wishes to extend the length of the presentation, this will be done by the Chair or the CCABMW by majority vote.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Public Comments: (*Jana Wright, member of the public*): She stated the agenda offers remote access for the public and she can appreciate this but unfortunately on multiple occasions she was unable to get into the meeting. She stated she feels this should not be offered without IT

support.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he appreciates (*Jana Wright, member of the public*) comments.
- Public Comments: (*Stephanie Myers, member of the public*): She stated she feels the CAB should do more to express the opinion of the minority to the Wildlife Commission and not just state CAB passes the vote. She stated this would be a win for the members of the public who come to express their opinion rather than stay home, and members of the public who do express opinion can feel as if they are represented.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he would like to make it clear to everyone, the CAB in Clark County works differently then the other CABs in other counties, he stated this board has seven members in which if one disagrees, he will provide the dissenting opinion that will be on his action report which goes to the Commission. He stated there is a board member who is put in position to represent the members of the public, he is our new board member Alexander Harper, previously it was Therese Campbell and the first board member who represented members of the public was board member Brian Patterson, he was appointed into this position after the change of the rule in which placing a board member in place for that sole purpose was established. He reiterated that his action report if viewed from now to previous has always had a dissenting opinion and advised if the member of the board agrees or disagrees with the public opinion or vice versa, he will always try to represent this in his action report. He stated this board is the only advisory board to the state Wildlife Commission and he wants to make sure that the State Wildlife Commission understands the positions of the members and the public and who these opinions came from.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski stated that she is aware of the few times of members of the public not being able to attend the meeting online due to technical difficulties. She stated that she is not IT and unfortunately could not assist with these issues. She advised that she has went to IT department from Environment and Sustainability and they are working on members of the public having access through Teams. She stated that Teams as of this point is for County and not members of the public, but the IT department are working on connecting the members of the public to have access and it has been determined that using Teams will help with technical issues from previous and will be easier for anyone to sign into the meetings going forward.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked if any members of the public would like to volunteer to do testing prior to our next meeting on May 2, 2023. He advised if so, the members should let Secretary Darlene Kretunski know so that she can put these members on the schedule for the testing date.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski received acknowledgement from two members of the public of their interest in assisting with the testing, she advised that she would be sending out a invitation of the chosen date and time and appreciated these members of the public volunteering to assist for the betterment of the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.
- Chair Paul Dixon reiterated that if anyone would like to join in the testing please email or call Secretary Darlene Kretunski or send him an email as well. He stated that his CAB is the only CAB that offeres both options and his thinking behind doing so is to offer more ways to have anyone join the meeting and get involved and have the flexibility in case members of the public cannot attend in person.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that this item is hereby closed.

**IV. Approval of Minutes for November 1, 2022, CCABMW Meeting (For possible action).**

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to newly appointed board member Alexander Harper that he can abstain from voting on this since he did not have an opportunity to read the minutes.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised he will sustain from voting.
- Board comments: (None)
- Public Comments: (None)
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised a motion to approve the meeting minutes for November 1, 2022, CCABMW meeting as approved.
- Board member Jacob Thompson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 5-0-1. (Newly board member Alexander Harper was abstained from voting on this matter, due to the fact he was recently appointed into his position and did not have adequate time to read the minutes from November 1, 2022, CCABMW meeting).**

**V. Approval of Minutes for January 24, 2023, CCABMW Meeting (For possible action)**

- **Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.**
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that the board members will be presented with summary for meeting minutes going forward and if anyone members of the public or board members would like the detailed version of the meeting minutes, they may go to the website to view the meeting minutes.
- Secretary Darlene Kretunski advised that the meeting minutes are located on the website of Environmental and Sustainability under Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife/CCABMW Board meetings, at this location you can find current meeting minutes/agenda and previous meeting minutes and agendas.
- Board member John Hiatt advised motion to approve Meeting Minutes from January 24, 2023, CCABMW meeting as presented.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 5-0-1 (Newly board member Alexander Harper abstained from voting on this matter, due to fact he just recently was appointed into his position and did not have adequate time to read the minutes from January 24, 2023, CCABMW meeting).**

**VI. Approval of the Agenda for March 7, 2023. Agenda items may be Held, Combined, or Deleted. (For possible action).**

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon introduced the new member of the CCABMW who represents the members of the public Alexander Harper and asked if he would introduce himself to everyone at tonight's meeting.
- Board member Alexander Harper thanked everyone and introduced himself he stated he is wildlife ornithologist mainly studying birds and birds of prey, he stated he is familiar with desert and its ecosystem. He stated he comes from florida not having a large background in hunting. He stated presently he is bird field guide and runs his own business and advised he loves the outdoors. He stated he is excited to bring his position as a biologist and ornithologist background into the CAB.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he is excited to have board member Alexander

Harper on the board and who is active in the field of biology and field of animals bring fresh ideas and have someone who is nonconsumptive healthy viewpoint to this board.

- Board member Jacob Thompson stated he is in agreeance with Chair Paul Dixon.
- Public Comments: (None)
- Board Comments: (None)
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised to approve Agenda for March 7, 2023, as presented.
- for Secretary Darlene Kretunski to make note that board member Dave Talaga has just arrived at tonight's meeting.
- Board member Jacob Thompson seconds the motion.
- Motion passes 7-0.

**VII. CCABMW Member Items/Announcements/Correspondence:**

*(Informational)* CCABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the CCABMW. Any item requiring CCABMW action will be scheduled on a future CCABMW agenda. CCABMW board members may discuss any correspondence sent or received. (CCABMW board members must provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record).

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon went around to each board member to see if they had received correspondence or have subject matter that they would like to discuss in tonight's meeting.
- Board member Alexander Harper: (None)
- Board member John Hiatt: (None)
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert: (Yes): He stated he had a few items of discussion. 1) He stated the article published on 2/10/2023 Outdoor Life called "The Biggest Threats to Mule Deer" by John B. Snow, he stated it is comprehensive view discussing different aspects facing mule deer population in the state of Nevada, 2) He stated that the CAB need to strongly view the survey guide coming in this year due to news of land up North with severity of winter there is loss of life, fawn mortality, malnutrition and expressed that the mule deer have tough situation and it will be few more months before the ground is thaw completely and green appears therefore and the CAB needs to be cautious of these impacts. He stated the heavily impacted areas are the areas where there is large number of tags issued. He stated he is against putting numbers on the board just because and the mule deer should be the priority.
- Public Comments: (*Joe Bennett, Supervisor, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated he would like to provide content to Vice Chair Dan Gilbert on this subject matter, he stated flyover between Area 23 and Area 24 and stated it looks promising with predictions of a warmup coming thus helping see greener sooner. He stated that NDOW he hopes will conduct the surveys in the large areas later due to the timeframe for the warmup conditions. He stated in Area 10, NDOW anticipates that due to snow and low temperatures that there could be a over winter amount of fawn mortality. He stated that he has heard discussion that Area 6 and Area 7 have more

burnt off conditions and stated he hopes it is not as bad as Vice Chair Dan Gilbert is hearing due to his knowledge that the mule deer population had good amount of body conditions going into the winter months but acknowledged that the survey results will show exactly the case.

- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised that the specific aspects that is a major factor is the number of deer and the competition for forage with wild horses. He stated that neither the wild horses nor the mule deer body conditions are well at this time due to this. He stated that the findings for the survey by NDOW should be very interesting this year.
- Board member Brian Patterson: (Yes): He stated that the WHINN (Wildlife & Habitat Improvement of Nevada Banquet will be on March 11, 2023, at the Orleans Hotel and Casino.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he was told the cost of tickets are at \$500.00 per person as of today March 4, 2023.
- Public Comments: (*Ron Stoker, member of the public*) advised that the cost of tickets is closer to \$600.00 per person.
- Board member Jacob Thompson: (Yes): He stated he had three quick items to discuss: 1) He stated he has read the article that Vice Chair Dan Gilbert was referencing “The Biggest Threats to Mule Deer” by John B. Snow, published 2/10/2023 Outdoor Life, and he stated he felt it was excellent and asked if the secretary would submit a link of the article into the meeting minutes as well. He advised he thinks it was shared to the board by email but could not remember.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to Vice Chair Dan Gilbert and board member Jacob Thompson that this was shared from Vice Chair to him, and he sent it to Secretary Darlene Kretunski who in return sent it out to all the other board members. 2) He was not sure of the list of things that the Commission had upcoming but one issue he would like to discuss is the use of blood tracking dogs for hunting and advised that there are 40 plus states in the US allow these dogs to recover wounded animals. He stated with these regulations they often state that the dogs are required to be on a leash and employed by certified trained handler to avoid interfering of other wildlife in the area where the wounded animal is being tracked. He stated the key aspect of the North American Model of Wildlife Management is conservation and usage of renewale resource, but this is the opposite of this model and stated he felt if recovery of the wounded animals in this situation is possible then he feels it should be done and thinks that blood tracking dogs is effective method for this to happen. He stated he understands that there is a need for this in certain places of the US including Nevada, but at the same time, there are many parts of the state of Nevada that there is open ground and easy to lose the game therefore he feels the value of this and the need for the CAB to investigate.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to board member Jacob Thompson to send him an email for this to be put on future agenda for item of discussion. He stated the CAB can decide as a group about this subject matter and give both (*Erin Woods, Biologist NDOW, Southern Region*) and (*Joe Bennett Jr., Supervisor, NDOW, Southern Region*) and (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*) the opportunity to look into what is needed in the state of Nevada to do and have a discussion on possible recommendation to the Wildlife Commission and have the Commission

work with NDOW on this matter possibly.

- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He asked the question to board member Jacob Thompson if he was aware of the cost found for this in the research he quoted.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated giving example if a hunter wounded an animal and is unable to track this animal, then payment would go to a person who has license and is bonded and certified tracking dog handler who brings their dog to the location thus using their dog for tracking the game. He stated he is aware that there is cost entailed to this, but he is unaware of the total cost but knows that this process is at no cost to the state of Nevada.
- Board member Jacob Thompson advised if an individual would like to have their own blood tracking dog, then they could speak to individuals at the organization called [UnitedBloodTrackers.org](http://UnitedBloodTrackers.org) this organization has a vast amount of information. He stated that he believes that there are six or seven different states that do not allow this.
- Board member Dave Talaga: (Yes): He stated regarding board member Jacob Thompson's comments he advised that his family member in the state of Michigan uses blood tracking dogs. He stated this family member does not owe blood tracking dogs but hires out for this in situations where coyotes have been problematic and stated the cost ranges from \$200.00.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised the following announcements: 1) Legislative Committee Meeting will take place at 8:00 am on March 11, 2023, all legislative bills will be discussed that NDOW and the Commission are pushing to pass. He advised for anyone who is interested to attend. He asked Secretary of the email that he forwarded to her from (*Cameron Tull, Administrative Assistant III, NDOW*) to send to the receiptants can view as well. (*Email: states the date, time, also gives link to supporting material that will be discussed for this meeting*). 2) He advised that the Wildlife Damage Management Committee Meeting will take place on Thursday, 3/9/2023 @ 5 PM, at NDOW location (3373 Pepper Ln, Las Vegas, NV 89120). He stated to review the draft Predator Management Plan that the CAB will be discussing tonight, giving more detail than the CAB will address in tonight's meeting, as well as discussion on the Mule Deer Enhancement Predator Project Proposals that will be presented. 3) He stated that the Wildlife Commission Meeting will take place at the Government Center at the Main Chambers on Friday, March 8, 2023 @ 9:00 am and on Saturday, March 9, 2023 @ 9:00 am. 4) He advised that he was asked by (*Tommy Caviglia, Chairman of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners*) to be on this new Regulation Simplification Committee that Governor Lombardo has put together, Chair Paul Dixon will be serving on this committee and the meeting for this is at the Government Center, on Friday, March 10, 2023 @ 8 am with the goal of discussing how stricken language can be simplified thus preventing a deferment of action items due to no clear understanding of what is being conveyed in the language due to the amount of stricken language. He stated the new committee consist of Chair Paul Dixon, (*Wildlife Commissioner Shane Rodgers, Vice Chair*) (*Commissioner David McNinch*) (*Commissioner Tommy Caviglia, Chairman*) (*CABMW Member Joe Crim of Pershing County*). He advised he recommends that if individuals have

time, please attend any of the meetings.

- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert asked Chair Paul Dixon was the recommendation of Governor Lombardo executive order in regarding the elimination of the certain action items.
- *FYI- The CAB had no discussion on at the January 24, 2023, CCABMW meeting, these Action Items are: (e) Commission General Regulation 502, Junior hunt, and Turkey Program; (f) Commission General Regulation 509, License and Vessel Product Refunds-Temporary Regulation; (r) Commission General Regulation 500, Subdivision Map Review; (s) Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances.*
- Chair Paul Dixon agreed with Vice Chair Dan Gilbert.
- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated he thought it was 10 items.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that Governor Lombardo has put this committee in place to determine which CGR's (Commission General Regulations) are necessary. He advised the committee will be working throughout the summer months and giving recommendations at the Regulation Simplification Committee September 2023 meeting.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised that simplification is not to simplify existing regulations, but it is to choose if the regulations should exist.
- Chair Paul Dixon agreed and stated it is to see what regulations are in place and choose which regulations need to stay in place. He advised these regulations are tied to NRS giving example of the youth hunt and the determination of the amount of trys that should be in place for the junior youth hunter.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert stated that one of the regulations that got put on the shelf was that youth hunters can no longer take a doe in areas that do not have a doe harvest.
- Chair Paul Dixon agreed and stated that he will keep the board informed of the decisions that will be made at these meetings giving a debriefing at each CAB meeting going forward.
- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that this item is hereby closed at this time.**

#### VIII. Recap of the January 27, 2023 & January 28, 2023, Commission virtual meeting by Chair Paul Dixon: (*Informational*).

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that board member John Hiatt attended this meeting on his behalf and will give a brief recap of the Commission meeting.
- Board member John Hiatt stated the following: 1) In regard to the Desert Bighorn Sheep money regarding The Desert National Wildlife Refuge (NTTR) The Nevada Test and Training Range portion of this, there has been some violations, if this occurs again they will close the (NTTR). He stated that these violations range from hunters or individuals with the hunters not abiding by ordinance "Look, but Don't Touch" applies that visitors may not disturb, injure, spear, poison, destroy, collect, or attempt to disturb,



injure, spear, poison, destroy, or collect any plant or animal, except as authorized. Visitors may not destroy, injure, deface, or disturb or remove without authorization any property, including natural objects, visitors may not search for or remove objects of antiquity except as may be authorized by 43 CFR Part 3. Visitors may not introduce plants and animals, or their parts taken from anywhere off the refuge onto the refuge, except as authorized. (*Citation 50 CFR 27.51- Disturbing, injuring, and damaging plants and animals & 50 CFR 27.52- Introduction of plants and animals & 50 CFR 27.6- Destruction or removal of property & 50 CFR 27.62- Search for and removal of objects of antiquity*).

- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated that individuals do not realize that this entire area in the (NTTR) is always under surveillance. He stated this is not emphasized to individuals in the indoctrination meetings and he feels that individuals do not have clear understanding of this, he stated bottom line is the entire area is under surveillance.
- Board member John Hiatt continued stating the following: 2) He stated when producing the number of tags, the success rate is higher for wilderness hunts than it is for non-wilderness hunts. He stated he is under the assumption that the success rate is higher due to one hunt being guided hunt, and there is higher buyers' success rate as well. He stated he felt wilderness hunts spend more time in the area and work extremely much harder at the hunt. He stated the number of tags will be reduced to not exceed the number of quotas in these areas. 3) He stated in regard to the bear hunt the question that was asked if a hunter has a tag in one area and the quota amount is reached in the area in which the hunter has a tag, can this hunter go to the other two areas and hunt even though his area is at desired quota and there is two areas that are not, he stated the Commission answers no to this question. Board member Hiatt advised that the language on this action item was confusing due to (*Pat Jackson, Wildlife Staff Specialist, NDOW, Western Region*) recycling the information from last year without a very good edit not understanding that the wording needed change as well.
- Chair Paul Dixon asked the question to board member John Hiatt to understand clearer, he stated if a hunter draws a tag in a particular area he asked once the quota is met that is the only region that the hunter can hunt.
- Board member John Hiatt stated right, the hunter cannot transfer the tag to another area.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked board member John Hiatt if the quota is met in a region, then the region is closed.
- Board member John Hiatt stated to board member Jacob Thompson yes, correct.
- Board member John Hiatt continued stating the following: He stated

with the Elk Depredation Tag there was questions in reference to the wording in the language with the words stating, “the number of tags” and it is up to certain number of tags, tag amounts are not set, and NDOW does not have to issue a certain number of tags, leaving it up to the NDOWs discretion.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that he received a call from two board members from th Washtoe County CAB asking the question of why the Chair did not attend the meeting and had a member of the board attend the meeting in his place. He stated that he explained that the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife CAB is different in the fact that he has other board members attend on his behalf and that this board works together. They did not understand why and wanted to know the logistics behind this decision because other CABs do not do this, and the Chair advised that he stated that Clark County Board does and they voted as a board on this decision to have board members attend meetings on behalf of the Chair, and he explained that this decision works for his CAB. He stated they also complained that some of the opinions coming from our CAB members are different from the other CABs on some matters that the other CABs seem to be in harmony on their opinion but stated that we will as a board continue to have at times opinions different than other boards after having great discussions at our meetings. He thanked board member John Hiatt for attending this meeting on his behalf. He stated thus far board members Jacob Thompson and John Hiatt have attended Commission meetings on his behalf and stated going forward he would like the other board members to attend on his behalf or even if he is attending any of the upcoming Commission meeting, he would still like if the board members would attend as well. He stated it is good for the board members to see that the Commission meetings are much different than our CAB meetings as they give a great deal more detail on different action items then we have at our CAB meetings. He stated as members of the public can attest (*Jana Wright, Stephanie Myers*) who have attended these meetings it is intense and stated that he continues to do his best in getting to the CAB as much supporting material as possible to have at our CAB meetings for board members and members of the public to be as informed as possible.

- **Chair Paul Dixon advised that this matter is hereby closed.**

**IX. General Business/Action Items:**

**Discuss & make recommendations regarding the following Action Items from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners March 10, 2023 & March 11, 2023, meeting agenda, as well as additional items brought forth to the CCABMW from the public for discussion.** CCABMW agenda & support materials are available upon request to Darlene Kretunski at (702) 455-1402 or you may email Darlene Kretunski [darlene.kretunski@clarkcountynv.gov](mailto:darlene.kretunski@clarkcountynv.gov). The final commission agenda & support at: [http://www.ndow.org/Public\\_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/](http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/).

- a. **Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan (*For possible action*).** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predation Management Plan.
- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
  - Chair Paul Dixon reiterated that there will be Wildlife Damage Management Committee Meeting, Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 5 PM at NDOW location (3373 Pepper Ln, Las Vegas, NV, 89120). He stated at our last CAB meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, we had discussion about this action item and voted in favor of this action item.
  - Board member Jacob Thompson stated to Chair Paul Dixon to be clear the CAB already voted on this action item.
  - Chair Paul Dixon agreed. He stated we have two board members that were not at that meeting (Brian Patterson, newly appointed Alexander Harper), he asked both if they had anything they would like to add on this action item.
  - Chair Paul Dixon stated if the CAB needed additional time, then he could simply go to public comment.
  - Public Comment: (*Jana Wright, member of the public*): She stated she would like to advise to everyone that the Wildlife Damage Management Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 5PM had a zoom link for the meeting in case someone would like to attend from their home.
  - Chair Paul Dixon thanked (*Jana Wright, member of the public*) for that clarification.
  - Board member Alexander Harper stated regarding Mountain Lions he stated looking at fifty years later mountain lions need to be a part of the ecosystem.
  - Chair Paul Dixon stated when looking at mountain lion harvest numbers that are presented by NDOW with the limits on seasons, averaging between 250 to 300 mountain lions a year in the state of Nevada, he realizes that these numbers are indeed sustainable numbers. He stated the mountain lion cubs have large range in which they will be in and now people are seeing these younger toms in town suggests to him, that there are few dominant males in the mountain ranges, and they are kicking the younger toms out of these locations and the younger toms are going into town for food. He advised in the state of Nevada with amount of public land it has and being so large the way of counting them is not the same as the count for deer, elk. He stated it is looking at these factors: harvest data, age class, he stated he has not seen in fifteen years any evidence to suggest that there is anything being done with the age class factors and animals being taken to affect the herd population. He stated he agrees with board member Alexander Harper when he stated that the mule deer population is severely stressed, which they are a diet source for the mountain

lions and now they have started eating solely wild horses as their diet source. He stated there is less predation on elk but have a preference of eating wild horses over the elk.

- Board member John Hiatt stated that antlers are nasty.
- Chair Paul Dixon agreed with board member John Hiatt that the antlers are nasty and stated that the big horn sheep with the attempt to rear the sheep on all the mountains there is a large issue with disease in the sheep population. He stated in areas where there is need to reestablish the sheep population attempting to set them in areas that have no mountain lions for a period but not lasting long because mountain lions will come in. He stated the population growth with the mule deer and horses has changed in the last fifteen years. He stated there are studies in this Predation Management Plan which looks at the diet, and the synchronization of horses in the field, he stated NDOW works hard due to the legislative mandate that requires that 80% of the money spent from the Predation Management of the Wildlife Damage must be spent on lethal therefore it is important to put it into prospective of where it is needed and they have tried to do this. He advised that many years ago the Commission used funds from Heritage this to hire hunters to kill certain amount of mountain lions, this attempt lasted almost a year because of an incident in which hunter shot multiple cubs and received payment for this. He stated when a bounty is presented people lose sight and do insane things. He stated that he feels today the department watches very closely on this.
- Public Comments: (*Erin Woods, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*): She stated that there are bighorn projects in which they have isolated patches of bighorn sheep impacted by disease and the recovery time for the sheep is indeed long. She stated the mountain lion's majority of diet is mule deer, but they do eat bighorn sheep and when can become specialized on bighorn sheep if they focus on the sheep as main part of their diet. She stated that there are projects that do assessment on overall harvesting of mountain lions.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked the question to (*Erin Woods, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*) if it was true statement that the overall harvest is 250 per year.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated not true it is 500 a year.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert stated it is 379 a year.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that number is in the 300s, but this number changes each year.
- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated the report shows the number not far from the overall harvest quota.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised that the state of Nevada has never reached the harvest quota and each area of the state has certain harvest goals, but the harvest quota has not been reached, he stated a way to clean up the regulations is in the added regulations. He advised there is regulation that is currently that individuals can hunt in the form of being government trapper if you are also a professional guide for mountain lions, and stated it was only one mountain lion that was taken by a government trapper. This will employ more resources to help keep a healthy ecosystem of prey species and predator species and the funding is equal helping to maintain proper flow for the control species numbers and he feels that there needs to be more adverse conditions with placement on the mule deer population with mountain lion control is a very important aspect to employ at this time.
- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated the harvest quota number is 247 is the harvest quota.

- Chair Paul Dixon advised the largest number he has seen was in the 300's in the state of Nevada years ago.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated giving statewide estimate of mountain lions is very difficult from his understanding and it is based mostly on harvest data. He stated that some time ago NDOW reported a total of 2,000 mountain lions and they also commissioned a private organization to do an estimate and they showed their numbers for the total of mountain lions from 3,400 to 3,500 statewide placing the state of Nevada in the top 10 or 12 states in terms of mountain lion population. He stated when considering 10% of mountain lion population removed annually this is very sustainable. He stated he seen nothing to suggest that the mountain lion population is in any danger considering that they do not disrupt the mule deer population numbers or there is not a serious drought this might change for the mountain lions.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert stated that while hunting he is starting to see more mountain lions in the field.
- Board member Brian Patterson states that the predator control plan eight years ago was dominated by coyote projects and programs but this year there are thirteen programs and atleast seven are dominated by lion programs. He stated it is nice change to see shift from coyote to mountain lions giving balance back and forth.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that words count, and he feels that the language in this is problematic. He stated in the Introduction on Page 3 Paragraph 2 & Paragraph 3: *NDOW maintains a philosophy that predator management is a tool to be applied deliberately and strategically. Predator management may include lethal removal of predators or corvids, nonlethal management of predator or corvid populations, habitat management to promote more robust prey populations which are better able to sustain predation, monitoring and modeling select predator populations, managing for healthy predator populations, and public education, although not all these aspects are currently eligible for funding through predator fee dollars. NDOW intends to use predator management on a case-by-case basis, with clear goals, and based on an objective scientific analysis of available data. To be effective, predator management should be applied with proper intensity and at a focused scale. Equally important, when possible, projects should be monitored to determine whether desired results are achieved. This approach is supported by the scientific literature on predation management. NDOW is committed to using all available tools and the most up-to-date science, including strategic use of predator management, to preserve our wildlife heritage for the long term. NDOW works with area biologists and monitors harvest data to ensure localized removal of predators does not result in negative biological consequences on a region or statewide level. NDOW is a state agency that must balance the biological needs of wildlife, statutory mandates, and social desires of the public. In the 2015 legislative session, Assembly Bill 78 was adopted which in part amended NRS 502.253 (4) (b) to read: The Department "Shall not adopt any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife developed pursuant to this section that provides for the expenditure of less than 80 percent of the amount of money collected pursuant to subsection 1 in the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information for the purposes of lethal management and control of predatory wildlife"> NDOW intends to comply with statute and apply the tools of scientific predation management in biologically sound, socially responsible means.*
- Board member John Hiatt advised that it needs to state that Predator Management is defined by and state what that is, and when it states that 80% of the amount of money

collected is used for the purposes of lethal management and control of predatory wildlife, he stated it is done in the best possible way that it can be done, He stated he feels that this 80% is the dominant portion that fuels this program. He feels it is not honestly stated until the sentence discussing the 80% of funding then it states for the purpose of lethal management and control of predatory wildlife. He stated about mountain lions there was a section, he is not sure what section but stated it said something similar that there will be mountain lions continued to be killed until the objective of how many desert bighorn sheep are in that area where the mountain lions are located. He stated he felt this meaning that they will continue to harvest as many mountain lions as they desire until they have the best numbers for the sheep and doing this without science or the numbers or the justification if the mountain lions are indeed the problem and stated the language and the attempt of how it is phrased needs to make sense to everyone for clarification.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member John Hiatt that he stated his first point of having legislative drive to do the 80% that is indicated, he states when viewing this Predation Plan now as opposed as in the past and can see how it evolved, he feels that board member John Hiatt criticism of how the 80% was taken and it being the driving force and the first couple of years of this plan when stating that 80% was taken, was how this plan was written, he stated he feels that there is much more strategic logic with this plan with the measurement of where the 80% is applied right now. He stated the plan is not perfect and he feels there is a desire to see it change in certain aspects of it with habitat studies and removal giving 80% gives difference in how it can be done but does not mean that the other aspects of it cannot be done as well. He stated there is more strategic removal.
- Board member Dave Talaga discussed under Introduction second paragraph Page 3 in which board member John Hiatt had previously discussed upon, the first sentence (NDOW maintains a philosophy that predator management is a tool to be applied deliberately and strategically. He stated he feels that there is philosophy and science that drives predator management, he stated he feels it is based upon population data which he stated comes from modeling. He asked the question of the accuracy of the modeling data. He stated static data that creates given population is based on data that goes into the modeling, therefore how accurate is this. He stated when reading this plan, he feels a large amount of it is presubjective. He stated an example given earlier by board member Jacob Thompson when he stated that NDOW had reported 3,000 and more mountain lions and asked the question of how this is verified and did NDOW have a co-witness for these numbers. He asked the question of where this information is backed up and feels if there were definitive information thus creating confidence in these numbers and he believes that then the 80% in lethal management would not be a big deal because there would be confidence in the findings. He stated the model will continue to change as time goes on due to lack of confidence in the findings of the population models accuracy.
- Board member John Hiatt stated if the 80% of the money that is used for lethal control to do surveys this would create a better Predation Management Plan.
- Board member Dave Talaga stated to board member John Hiatt that is possible. He stated the hunters, ranchers, citizen scientist and bounty hunters for collection of this data.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that just because you pay for data does not mean one cannot be fooled with this data.
- Board member John Hiatt stated modeling is the key and the input data is the key to a perfect model.

- Chair Paul Dixon used the example of bobcats and over the years the study of bobcats in the state of Nevada has taught that the bobcat population can be tracked by certain things such as by seeing what they eat, such as crash in the rabbit population in certain area brings increase in bobcat population in that area as well because the bobcats are dependent on the rabbit population as the source of their food. He stated looking at jaw, skull, age data of harvested bobcats gives a general idea of the bobcats. He is unsure if the same applies to mountain lions in how they track their food source of deer or horse populations. He stated there is selective removal in areas, this information will come back to feed these models, even though it is lethal, this information is necessary to have to find out. He stated learning will be done from lethality in different matter then we would learn in another spectrum.
- Public Comments: (*Erin Wood, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*): She stated that NDOW has done a large amount of collaring on the mountain lions and a lot of the collars have been returned and most data that is obtained from mountain lions comes from the harvest information and what is assessed from the animals that are turned in yearly from the members of the public and hunters have turned in. She stated (age, sex ratios) she stated in other states they require the female reproductive parts of the bobcat to be turned in to assess the number of litters they had during their lifetime as well as taking tooth to get accurate age assessment. She stated in the southern region NDOW conducting any active monitoring it is passive monitoring.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated that the 80% limited factor does allow for 20% non-lethal and stated that he noticed that one of the components of the plan for NDOW includes black bear monitoring is all from population survey, estimates that include trail cameras and collaring projects as well.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Jacob Thompson it also included DNA and spears as well.
- Public Comments: (*Erin Woods, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*): She agreed.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated if the 80% of the amount of money collected was changed but he stated we are not the legislature, but if changed it would leave room for more non-lethal population studies for trends for predator, giving much better information to make lethal removal effective if necessary. He stated he agrees with board member Dave Talaga about his statement that a model is only as good as the data that goes into this model. He stated that good statistical models wait for a period and exclude certain data resulting in a confident interval end, leaving no uncertainty of the result in the end. He stated please use caution drawing balance between citizen science and potential of garbage going into the model. He stated he would favor more money going into non-lethal studies in this budget.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert stated there are a lot of parts in which human cause and effect and being able to manage human effects as well.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that there is not enough on how this impacts prey and predator relationships and he stated he sees nothing showing a strong input on this as it could be in the state of Nevada. He stated there is a lot of information coming out of habitat improvement still not having an answer to some of the questions involved.
- Board member Dave Talaga advised that he wanted to clarify he has no debate on population management he can lead either way on this, what he wanted to note that from previous years there was a average of only 250 mountain lions a year with 3,000 being the highest ever and stated if the model assess a any number the uncertainty of the model information being correct would still lead the Commission to only give small number to harvest. He stated this is his concern that accurate data is not being produced.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Dave Talaga that the only place that has accurate mountain lion data is southern California because they use the collaring methods tracking all collared mountain lions, giving each mountain collared lion numbers and monitoring where these collared mountain lions go every night.
- Board member Dave Talaga stated that mule deer, elk, ravens, coyote, mountain lions etc. all species are modeled, and the data collected to give input to the models is in his opinion not verifiable.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked the board what the alternative would be.
- Board member John Hiatt asked the question to board member Jacob Thompson he would consider to be adequate verification.
- Board member Dave Talaga stated the answer is easy for him and advised he is not a scientist and stated he is a citizen. He stated there is eyes on target, flyovers, trail cameras, citizen scientist, all of these things are data points, and the question is if it is used in its entirety, he gave example if NDOW put up trail cameras and asked hunters to go through them, this he stated puts pressure on NDOW to go go through this.
- Public Comments: (*Lt. Chris Walthers, Game Warden, NDOW, Southern Region*): He stated that the trail cameras can be stolen that is added pressure on the Game Wardens as well.
- Board member Dave Talaga stated this is part of management of a large state like Nevada. He stated might ask what the data points are given that can be used, and the plus is the accuracy of the species which is being measured. He stated this can be done with trail cameras, observation, flyovers, scientific and unscientific and weigh both and do statistical analysis. He stated this will take work and maybe use some of the money to hire more individuals to assist in this work to get a much more accurate account. He stated if there was certainty in an accurate count then there would be no need for these conversations or any others like it.
- Public Comments: (*Brian Burris, member of the public*): He stated there are a lot of new people who are working in the system that do not have knowledge of the 80% program and its meaning and advised when there was not the 80% program there were studies instead of proof of animals having no effect on the wildlife populations. He stated from his personal outdoor experience in January 2023 there was a single guide that harvest three toms in 4 days with the time being less than day and a half on each hunt. He stated if three toms could be pulled that quickly this shows there is over population of mountain lions in the same area and by not having accurate data to use, they cannot go through and give the correct harvest data. He stated that the board members should stop using the word citizen scientist in a derogatory manner. He stated he had conservation group full of citizen scientists and the accumulated more data on ducks in the state of Nevada besides NDOW. He stated the citizen scientists are out in the field and have firsthand knowledge what the population of species are doing, and the citizen scientists are studying the species populations therefore should not remove the 80% mandate by doing so it can cause harm to the wildlife population in the state of Nevada. He stated he feels the Predator Management Program is good realizing that there are several mountain lion projects for a reason, that there is mountain lion issue. He stated if anyone states we do not have an issue then these individuals should go into the field, the actual field the physical state of the field to see the truth.
- Public Comments: (*Ross Stoker, member of the public*): He stated he does not have an issue with the predator management fees, he states that he does not have a choice of the price he pays for his tags, he stated he got behind the program when it was



made 80% lethal and stated to change the 80% and not change the fees for tags, he feels is extremely unfair. This 80% is for variety of species, such as coyotes, mountain lions, ravens eating duck eggs, species that ruin the wildlife. He stated in the 80s there was heavy Predator Management done in Area 10 and by doing so the population of mule deer skyrocketed. He stated that he hates for NDOW to pay for more studies and feels when paying for studies they are in favor of the person who pays for the studies and receive the data they want. He reiterated that he gladly pays his fees for tags, but if the 80% goes down to smaller amount, then he would like his fees he paid for his tags back because he does not want to pay for something that he does not support.

- Public Comment: (*Mark Transue, member of the public, sportsmen*): He asked the question of the Mule Deer Enhancement there were trail cameras placed to receive correct counts of the deer in that area, and he wanted to know if there would be another meeting coming up, he stated the trail cameras where suppose to be placed next month in April 2023.
- Public Comments: (*Erin Woods, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*) she stated that she has to wait for the trail cameras to come in and stated she has a list of locations where the trail cameras will be placed, and she will gladly send out this list of these locations upon request. She stated the next possibility of a meeting will be in April or May. She advised she will send out a email to the individuals on the group email list of the next meeting date. Wood
- Chair Paul Dixon stated to (*Mark Transue, member of the public*) that (*Erin Woods, Biologist, NDOW, Southern Region*) is stating for everyone to have patience while she waits for the trail cameras to be sent and once this happens, she will send out an email for the next meeting date.
- Public Comments: (*Nick Gulli, member of the public*): He stated that the 80% of the money collected a portion is coming from the sportsmen who pay for their tags, and the amount is depending on how many species they would like to hunt, tag fees for each species. He stated he feels the 80% is fair enough and advised that the studies come with difficulties example he gave is in the Predator Management Plan it indicated that the Migratory Game Birds studies could not be done due to plane issues that NDOW was having, this is no fault he stated of NDOW and things like this we have no time to fix at this time. He stated we can control that the hunters are paying for Predator Control and NDOW is going to receive 1.4 million dollars for the program, why are the hunters paying for this. He advised the funds from 2020 all the funds have not been located and there is a complaint about 8% of the funds used on non- lethal. He feels if more individuals need to be hired to do more studies, then he is for this but asked the question of what that accomplishes. He stated the members of the public who are hunters and who are in organizations are in the field more than wildlife experts at NDOW, there are not enough staff at NDOW he feels. He stated all must come together and find out exactly where the 80% of the funds are going down to every cent.
- Public Comments: (*Joel Henderson, member of the public*): He stated that he is in agreeance of both (*members of the public: Brian Burris and Nick Gulli*) comments.
- Board member Jacob Thompson advised a motion to accept the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Predator Management Plan as presented.
- Board member Brian Patterson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 6-0. (Board member Dave Talaga stepped out of the room and did not vote on this action item).**

- b. Commission Policy 23-Predation Management (*For possible action*)** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about adopting Commission Policy 23-Predation Management.
- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
  - Chair Paul Dixon advised all the stricken parts have been cleaned up this is a clear version, he stated he seen no new changes, and this is awaiting a second reading and after the second reading this will return to the CAB for recommendation and the Commission for adoption.
  - Chair Paul Dixon advised that there is a large amount of people as well as the CAB have commented on the Predator Management fees and stated that hopefully the funds will be received from The Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022 if passes, he stated he would suspect that there would be an legislative drive to make sure Predator Management fee are voluntary due to the massive amount of money that will be received from the (RAWA) thus the 80% rule can be bypassed and lethal can be done if needed and there will be no future issues with the manadate for the 80% and it will probably be removed if these funds are received. He stated the 80% lethal was able to be pushed through at that time when there was a legislative (House & Senate).
  - **FYI- (*S.2372-The Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2022 (RAWA): funds conservation efforts for more than 12,000 species of wildlife and plants in need of assistance by providing \$1.4 billion in dedicated annual funding for proactive efforts across the country, and wildlife conservation education and recreation projects, The Department of Interior must use a portion of the funding for a grant program, the grants must be used for innovative recovery efforts for species for greatedst conservation need, species listed as endangered or threatened species, or the habitats of such species, in addition the bill requires certain revenues generated from fees and penalties for violations of environmental requirements to be used as a source for the funding.*)**
  - Public Comments: (*Brian Burriss, member of the public*): He stated that currently there is a legislative bill right now that removes the 80% lethal requirements.
  - Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised motion to accept Commission Policy-23-Predation Management as presented.
  - Board member Jacob Thompson seconds the motion.
  - **Motion passes 7-0.**

c. **Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances (*For possible action*)** The CCABMW

Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about amending NAC 503 to allow for possession of a golden eagle under certain circumstances.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon read the following: (**Brief Explanation of Proposed Regulation**): *The regulation was created after the passage of Senate Bill 125 of the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session. It would authorize a person who is licensed as a master falconer and who meets certain federal conditions to possess a golden eagle that is obtained from the wild under a new eagle permit if the golden eagle is obtained for rehabilitation purposes, is legally obtained in another state, is legally possessed by a master falconer in another state and that master falconer moves to this State, and if a golden eagle is transferred to the master falconer from another falconer in a manner authorized by this regulation and upon Department approval.*
- Chair Paul Dixon advised to simplify this, all the rules were changed and in federal regulations individuals can have golden eagles, but this is not the case with state regulations and now the state is changing the rules to reflect master falconers can bring their golden eagles from another state when they move here, or if from another state and the individual is rehabilitating the golden eagle they may do so in this state but cannot remove a golden eagle from the wild to rehabilitate. He stated he feels the state of Nevada is attempting to make rules slowly on this action items to see effects before they decide to go full circle.
- Board member Jacob Thompson advised that there is a large amount of golden eagle rehabilitation in California that exceeds their ability to handle therefore they are asking for assistance from individuals in Nevada who are master falconers and can assist with this rehabilitation but cannot legally possess the golden eagles.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated nationally this is common practice and the state of Nevada has always been slow to adopt on matters. He stated the state has low populations for golden eagles therefore they want to make sure that the laws protect the golden eagles and the rehabilitation efforts do not affect the low population of golden eagles here by people attempting to use the rules to take golden eagles who do not need rehabilitation as a future goal until the population increases more but they also want to assist with the master falconers in California who need the assistance in rehab for the golden eagles here.
- Board member John Hiatt asked Chair Paul Dixon why the population for golden eagles is so low.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated large raptors in the state of Nevada are affected do to mining in which arsenic release from sulfide minerals are accelerated, and lead poisoning.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that golden eagle's issue is DDT since the bald eagles are primary associated with water, meaning lakes and rivers etc., they eat waterfowl and fish from places such as Lake Mead, or Pyramid Lake and stated that the golden eagles should do well in the state of Nevada due to rabbit population being large and this being their primary source of food.
- **FYI-** *DDT was hailed as a new pesticide to control mosquitoes and other insects. However, DDT and its residues washed into nearby waterways, where aquatic plants and fish absorbed it. Bald eagles in turn were poisoned with DDT when they ate the contaminated fish.*
- Board member Alexander Harper stated that the golden eagles population is 3,000

this estimate is from Joe Lawrence who previously worked there and had vast knowledge of golden eagles and stated that the population is somewhat stable. He stated any place where there are mountains that have cliffs the golden eagle will be, but he advised that the drought and the disease they have gotten (**Avian trichomonosis caused by the Protozoan *Trichomonas gallinae*, is an infectious disease affecting birds worldwide, and is usually fatal in nestling golden eagles**). He stated the success rate for breeding for the golden eagle is not high, and they are paired therefore is removal of one adult golden eagle then this removes the ability of another adult golden eagle to breed. He stated the golden eagles are doing fair with indication of a decline. He stated with approval of more wind and solar developments this creates more stress for the golden eagles. He stated at the Great Basin the golden eagles do remarkably well.

- Chair Paul Dixon stated to board member Alexander Harper that he realizes that power plants outside of California in Primm some allow in their permits allow a certain number of raptors to be killed and in California there is hefty fines as well as court date for the death of golden eagles.
- Board member Alexander Harper stated that these permits could be paid for referring to solar and power plants permits, having certain amounts of raptors to be taken before the location will be in danger if they go over that amount.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated he had heard there was an issue with golden eagles eating items that created them self poisoning themselves in Ely, Nevada.
- Board member Alexander Harper stated the mortality for golden eagles is 11% shot, 9% poisoned, 40% through starvation and death through natural causes and 15% through natural injuries and stated many mortalities are from youth birds that are hit on roadways while the birds were busy feeding on roadkill. He stated the golden eagle population is stable and they can go on to live 20 to 30 to 40 years. He stated the difficulties comes from the golden eagles not breeding therefore it is difficult seeing what the short-term goal will be, and advised in the last two to three years throughout the state of Nevada the golden eagle has not been breeding, he stated this is his concern regarding falconry. He stated that after discussion this seems as if this is pertaining to individuals having golden eagles in their possession.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he feels this is the state of Nevada starting small on this.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that red tail hawks are dominant raptors in the state of Nevada.
- Board member Brian Patterson stated there is large amount of Harris and Copper's Hawks in the state of Nevada.
- Board member Alexander Harper stated there are no Harris Hawks breeding in the state of Nevada.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that it is in the state of Arizona.
- Board member Jacob Thompson advised that when he attended the last Commission meeting March 10, 2023 & March 11, 2023, he learned that there are 40 to 50 licensed master falconers in the state of Nevada, and these are very low numbers. He stated that the CAB had discussed in their 11-2-2022 meeting about the quota number suggestion of the quota number of golden eagles that can be taken seemed quite high and the amount taken by master falconers is low, and he stated the number for red tailed hawks were only in the single digits.
- Board members John Hiatt stated to view *Page 7 Section 7: In addition to the requirements of NAC 503.375 to 503.395, inclusive, a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit must ensure that each facility that houses an individual golden*

*eagle in his or her possession is large enough to allow the eagle to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings or **bate** without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors. He stated he needed clarification on the word **bate** in this sentence.*

- Board member Brian Patterson stated that the term **bate** is used numerous times throughout the document.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised that the definition is located on Page 9.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised to board member John Hiatt the definition is located on Page 9: “**Bate**” means to attempt to fly while tethered.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated that regarding Page 7 Section 7 when asking about in the last Commission meeting there was concern about master falconers placing golden eagles in facilities that house these birds not being large enough to adequately let the golden eagles stretch their wings properly and to keep the golden eagle safe.
- **FYI- Section 7: In addition to the requirement of NAC 503.375 to 503.395, inclusive, a master falconry licensee who has an eagle permit must ensure that each facility that houses an individual golden eagle in his or her possession is large enough to allow the eagle to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings or bate without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors.**
- Board member Brian Patterson stated he would like to discussion on the following: *The existing regulations provide that the owner of a raptor that dies may: (1) keep or donate the feathers: (2) donate the body of the raptor to certain persons: (3) under certain circumstances have the raptor mounted by a taxidermist: or (4) dispose of the body and feathers of the raptor.*
- **FYI- (NAC 503.460) Section 19 of this regulation provides that if a golden eagle in the possession of a master falconry licensee dies, the licensee is required to surrender the body and feathers of the golden eagle to the Department no later than 5 business days after the discovery of the death.**
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he feels this is to stop trade of this.
- Board member John Hiatt advised that in the case in all birds and keeping feathers need a permit and this is protected under The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).
- **FYI- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The birds that are not protected under this act are: the house sparrow, European starling, and pigeon also known as the rock dove.**
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated to board member Brian Patterson he feels that the existing regulation that he was discussing that state if the owner of the raptor that dies of natural causes this is what is allowed and keeping in mind the current code that is in place with the feathers only having the ability to give these feathers to the Department in a timely manner.
- Board member John Hiatt stated he would like if the definitions were placed at the beginning instead.
- Board member Alexander Harper advised a motion to approve Commission General Regulation 506, Possession of Golden Eagles Under Certain Circumstances as presented.
- Board member Dave Talaga second the motion.
- **Motion passes 7-0.**

- d. **Commission Regulation 23-13, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands- 2023-2024 Season (For possible action)** *The CCABMW will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 seasons. Adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management areas and designed state lands.*
- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
  - Chair Paul Dixon read the following: **(Purpose):** *The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2023-2024 season and adopt regulations consistent with the proposed regulations framework for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will become final pending adoption of federal frameworks. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.* Chair Paul Dixon continued to read the following: **(Summary):** *Season regulations for hunting migratory waterfowl, doves, and crows differ from some other common species, like mule deer, that are not governed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with the states within designated flyways, and Nevada resides within the Pacific Flyway. Collectively, the Pacific Flyway develops regulatory sideboards known as the Federal Frameworks within which each state may promulgate seasons for hunting. Although the Federal Frameworks are generally established by the time the Commission acts on the Migratory Game Bird Commission Regulation, the federal government suffered delays this year and the proposed frameworks are still draft. Should the final approved frameworks require amendments to this CR, the Department will bring this CR right back to the Commission before seasons are published. The Department is recommending no Changes to last season.*
  - Chair Paul Dixon advised that the Department is recommending no changes from last season.
  - Vice Chair Dan Gilbert stated there are areas with correction indicated as well.
  - Chair Paul Dixon advised that he only sees changes in the following area: *(Key Pittman WMA) 2) Waterfowl Remainder of Season Reservation Process: (Remainder of season reservation process is defined as that portion of the season following the opening day and weekend applications at Overton WMA and Key-Pittman WMA) and there is also additional information*

added after the next two paragraphs indicating the following:  
*Hunters that are successful during the Overton WMAQ  
Opening Day and the Weekend application process must use  
those reservations before making reservations for the  
remainder of the season.*

- Board member Brian Patterson stated: **Page 9, Item 3 (Upland game bird and rabbit hunting is prohibited during the regular duck and goose seasons, except for persons possessing a valid wild turkey tag to hunt turkeys in the Moapa Valley of Clark County. These persons may hunt turkeys every day for which the tag is valid. These people are prohibited from pursuing any other upland game birds or rabbits during such time that the fall turkey season is concurrent with the waterfowl season)** He asked Chair Paul Dixon if this language would stay and indicated that there has not been a fall turkey season in several years.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised he believes that they leave this section included in case they decide on a fall hunt and stated we have just had spring turkey hunt for just three seasons. He stated he was uncertain if this is indeed a valid concern, or should the language just be removed or stay in place in case later they decide to have a fall turkey hunt.
- Board member John Hiatt asked if anyone reads this material and advised that there was some concern on Page 2.
- Chair Paul Dixon stated that Page 2 is not part of the regulation it is put together by (*Russell Woolstenhulme, Eastern Region*).
- Board member John Hiatt read the following from Page 2: *First paragraph: The total 2022 duck population estimate (excluding scoters, eiders, long-tailed ducks, mergansers, and wood ducks) was 34.2 million birds. This population estimate is 132 lower than the 2019 estimate of 38.9 million, which was the last year the survey was conducted, and was 4% lower than the long-term average. He stated that this entire section makes no sense.*
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised that the section does make sense, but the numbers may not add up.
- Board member John Hiatt stated that the total instead of 34.2 million should be 4.7 million.
- Board member Brian Patterson advised that instead of 132 lower than the 2019 estimate, that it should be 13.2%.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that he thought he viewed that the duck season totals were down.
- Public Comments: (*Ron Stoker, member of the public*): He stated that there were a lot fewer juvenile ducks harvested and more mature ducks that were harvested this year. He advised that due to many factors the numbers skyrocketed this year.
- Chair Paul Dixon
- Public Comments: (*Ron Stoker, member of the public*): He stated that most of the ducks in Nevada did not migrate and stayed local and stated that the drought did indeed affect our duck population.
- Public Comments: (*Nick Gulli., member of the public*): He

stated that the birds are staying in the valley and not heading down to Overton and if they do migrate, they return and eventually die in the Valley. He gave example of juvenile bird that was banded and migrated to Baja Mexico and was killed there. He reiterated that the birds are staying local.

- Public Comments: (*Brian Burris, member of the public*): He stated that the pothole in Canada and Alaska had great recruitment numbers this year, giving almost zero recruitment this year thus the juvenile birds will be down last season in which is expected. He stated Wildlife Habitat is doing a new study with UC Davis, California about bird recruitment. He stated there is lower recruitment numbers than in previous years and there is hope with the wet winters and heavy rain that there will be less drought issues. He stated the water is down in northern California in the pothole areas in Canada.
- Board member Jacob Thompson stated he was interested in knowing if the (Avian influenza or bird flu) has had any impact on the duck population this year.
- Public Comments: (*Ron Stoker, member of the public*): He stated he feels that the (Avian influenza or bird flu) did not have a density for the state of Nevada.
- Board member Jacob Thompson asked (*Ron Stoker, member of the public*)
- Public Comments: (*Brian Burris, member of the public*): He stated that it was found in Canada and there were some losses of birds here in Nevada, but it was more with the raptors instead. He stated he was not sure if the loss was from (Avian influenza or bird flu) or from something else. He stated the number of ducks losses were not the amount they had thought it would be surprisingly. He stated this was a concern to US Government and Fish and Wildlife Services to the point they did not allow any ducks to be brought in from Canada until they realize that regardless the ducks were still migrating into the United States with there being no fences or ability to stop them from doing so. He stated he has an issue with the wording in **Section 2. Waterfowl Remainder of Season Reservation Process: Hunters that are successful during the Overton Wma Opening Day and Weekend application process must use those reservations before making reservations for the remainder of the season.** He stated he advised the CAB needs to say no to this and stated it is burdensome if a individual has a family emergency such as death in the family where hunter is unable to use their tag, this language stops them from hunting the remainder of the season. The hunter can not make a reservation because he was unable to use the reservation due to his family emergency. He cautioned the CAB of letting this go through.
- Public Comments: (*Nick Gulli, member of the public*): He had issue with this section as well.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised motion to approve Commission Regulation 23-13, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory



Game Birds; Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands-2023-2024 Season as presented with the following recommendations: on Page 10 to reflect a change in the text to state that no one person can have a date in the cue unless the date on the reservation has lapsed or passed and or the reservation has been cancelled.

- Chair Paul Dixon seconds the motion.
- Motion passes 7-0.

e. **Commission General Regulation 23-04 Amendment #1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons (*For possible action*)** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 emergency depredation hunt structure and statewide quota.

- Chair Paul introduced this topic.
- Vice Chair Dan Gilbert advised motion to accept Commission General Regulation 23-04, Amendment #1, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons as presented.
- Board members Brian Patterson and board member Dave Talaga both seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 7.0.**

f. **Wildlife Heritage Grants Manual (*For possible action*)** The CCABMW Board will review, discuss, and make recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners about recommendations made by the Heritage Committee to cap principal balance projects at 50% of the available balance per year.

- Chair Paul Dixon introduced this topic.
- Chair Paul Dixon advised that of the 4 million only 2 million can be spent.
- Chair Paul Dixon read the following: **(Brief Explanation of Proposed Guidance): NDOW is conducting its annual review and edit of the Heritage Grant Manual, providing an opportunity to incorporate new guidance on the limitations of the amount of principal balance available annually. The Wildlife Heritage Committee has recommended a cap of 50% of the principal balance above \$5,000,000 per year. Any approved principal balance guidance provided by the Commission will be incorporated into the Heritage Grant Manual that will be presented to the Wildlife Heritage Committee at their May meeting.**
- Board member John Hiatt advised a motion to accept Wildlife Heritage Grants Manual as proposed with further recommendation of not spending any of the principal.
- Board member Dave Talaga seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 5-2**

X. **Authorize Chair Paul Dixon to prepare and submit any recommendations from today's meeting to the Wildlife Commission for its consideration at the March 10, 2023 & March 11, 2023, meeting (*For possible action*).**

- Chair Paul Dixon advised motion to have him prepare and submit any

recommendations from the CCABMW meeting to the Wildlife Commission Meeting on March 10, 2023 & March 11, 2023.

- Board member Brian Patterson seconds the motion.
- **Motion passes 7-0.**

**XI. The next CCABMW board meeting will be scheduled for May 2, 2023, in the Clark County Government Center (*Pueblo Room*) Address: 500 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89155.**

**XII. Adjournment.**

**(POSTING) The agenda for this meeting was legally noticed and posted at the following locations:**

- Nevada Department of Wildlife: 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89120
- Clark County Government Center: 500 Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89108
- City of Henderson: Henderson City Clerk: 240 S. Water Street, Henderson, NV 89015
- Laughlin Regional Government Center: 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, NV 89028
- Moapa Valley Community Center: 320 North Moapa Valley Road, Overton, NV 89040
- Mesquite City Hall: 10 East Mesquite Boulevard, Mesquite, NV 89027
- Boulder City: Boulder City Hall, 401 California Avenue, Boulder City, NV 89005

**ONLINE:**

**[https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/environment\\_and\\_sustainability/advisory\\_board\\_to\\_manage\\_wildlife.php](https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/environment_and_sustainability/advisory_board_to_manage_wildlife.php)**