

*Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
September 22, 2025 minutes*

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Members in Attendance

1. Ryan Browne, Vice Chairman
2. Matt Melarkey
3. Steve Robinson
4. Kristie Marchese

Members Absent

1. Coby Rowe, Chairman

Others in Attendance

1. Mel Belding
2. Sam Sedio, NDOW
3. John Ewanyk, NDOW
4. Wes Coons, NDOW

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**-[Non-action item]

No public comment.

4. **Approval of August 12, 2025 minutes**-[For possible action]

Member Melarkey motioned for approval of August 22, 2025 CAB minutes. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

Vice Chair Browne asked who would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting. Board members noted they would be able to be in attendance for the upcoming Commission meeting.

6. **COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES**-[Non-action items]

There were no updates or communications from members of the public since the June meeting. Member Robins, and the CAB, welcomed Member Marchese to the board.

7. **Petition – Mr. Gregory Dicker, Mrs. Kimberley Dicker, Ms. Traci Lee Pintar and Mr. James Thomas Pintar** [For Possible Action]

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Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss two petitions requesting an amendment to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.1465 regarding archery disability permits. Both petitions propose distinguishing permanent and temporary disabilities and recommend establishing expiration dates for the temporary permits. Members of the board discussed the contents of the petitions and spoke about the disability requirements and the dates in which individuals would have to get a doctor's note. Member Melarkey said the proposed petition could be abused by some hunters. Member Robinsons said he thought there should be a change on the form where the doctor could note whether it was a permanent or temporary disability.

During public comment, Mel Belding said that he understood where the petitioners were coming from but didn't think it was unreasonable to see a doctor yearly.

Member Robinson moved to deny the petition. Member Melakrey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Adaptive Population Objectives – Addendum #2 to the Elk Species Management Plan- [Informational]

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss Addendum #2 of the Statewide Elk Management Plan which defines the proposed process for adaptive population objectives for existing elk populations. There was no discussion from the board or public.

9. Presentation on Regulatory Modifications to Link Master Guide and Sub guide Accountability [For Possible Action]

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss potential modifications to existing regulatory language aimed at establishing a clearer connection between the actions of sub guides and their master guides. The presentation will explore mechanisms to hold master guides accountable for misconduct or noncompliance by their sub guides. Wes Coons, NDOW, said there have been discussions with the Deputy Attorney General regarding master guides being held accountable for the actions of their sub guides since they are employees of those guides. Member Melarkey said that he was in support of the modifications. During public comment, Mel Belding said he was in support of the modifications as well. No action was taken on the item.

10. State Wildlife Action Plan – Online Demonstration– [Informational]

The board chose not to hear the item.

11. Pronghorn Antelope Translocation – [For Possible Action]

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Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss a request for up to 100 pronghorn antelope has been received by the Department from the Colville Confederated Tribes in Washington. Member Marchese asked how many pronghorns had been given to the tribe in the past. John Ewanyk, NDOW, said there had been 150 given to the tribe while he was with NDOW. Mr. Ewanyk said there had been some issues with capture related issues which caused losses of some animals. In 2016, there was quite a few losses due to snow. Mr. Ewanyk said the tribe will give Nevada turkeys in return. Mr. Ewanyk added that these translocations were important for other species in Nevada because there is a surplus of pronghorns and doing these types of deals will help add other animals that the state has deficits in. Prior to negotiating the translocation, NDOW, officials asked biologists in the state if there were areas that pronghorns could be moved to, but no biologists felt their areas could support additional pronghorns.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he was not in support of the translocation of the pronghorns because he was worried about the timing of the move. Mr. Ewanyk said that while there may have been issues in the past, the state was using a different company, and he was confident there would be success with this plan.

Member Melarkey moved to accept the pronghorn translocation as written.
Member Robinson seconded. The motion passed 3 – 1 with Member Marchese voting nay.

12. State Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Biennial Big Game Release Plan– [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss the Department's plans for various big game translocations in Nevada during the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years. John Ewanyk provided the CAB with details regarding surveys that were conducted over the past year. Mr. Ewanyk noted that during the past few years, several spring protection projects have been completed (or in progress) for Units 012, 013, and 015 to help mitigate the impacts of heavy grazing from either livestock or wild horses around spring complexes. These spring fencing projects are in prime antelope habitat and should benefit both mule deer and antelope in future years. In 2023, NDOW and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited built a big game guzzler near Division Peak in Unit 012 for the benefit of bighorn sheep and pronghorn. In 2024, NDOW completed additional big game guzzlers in the northern part of Unit 012 which will benefit bighorn sheep, and antelope. Historically, these ranges supported abundant populations of antelopes although recent drought, wildfires, and rangeland degradation have reduced antelope populations in the area. NDOW biologists believe an augmentation from other healthy population in Nevada may help improve the age structure of prime-aged breeding females in the population and stimulate herd growth over time with improving habitat conditions. Members of the CAB discussed additional details from Mr. Ewanyk's report. There was no public comment.

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Member Melarkey moved to accept the State Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Biennial Big Game Release Plan as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Presentation on Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Trespass Regulation – [For Possible Action]

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to facilitate a discussion on issues related to trespassing for the purpose of hunting, fishing and trapping, including possibly amending regulations to increase trespass violations to 12 demerit points. Additional considerations include changing ‘may’ to ‘shall’ in NAC 504.671 for guides found guilty of trespass and providing a clearer definition of ‘trespass’ within regulatory language. Wes Coons, NDOW, said the game wardens were tasked with increasing violations of trespass to 12 demerit points. He said they would be recommending the violation be 9 demerit points because 12 demerit points were excessive and hunters who violated the same rule twice would have their licenses revoked anyway. Member Melarkey asked about corner-crossing and Mr. Coons said Nevada is a fence out state, which means if an individual wants to keep people off of their property, then they need to fence it off and clearly mark it.

During public comment, Mel Belding said he was in support of the proposed demerits that were discussed by Mr. Coons. He did note that he was concerned with the definition of personal property damage and he hoped that would be clearer in statute and regulations.

After discussion, the members of the CAB chose to take no action on the item.

14. Commission General Regulations – Workshop/Public Comment– [For Possible Action]

A. Commission General Regulation 528 – Motor Restrictions and Revisions Related to Fisheries

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to set motor restrictions on Battle Born Pond (NAC 488.470), establish a “mandatory catch and kill” regulation for Northern Pike (NAC 503.110), revise bait restrictions statewide (NAC 503.500 – 515), amend ice hole size restriction to allow for larger sized holes for spear/bow fishing at Comins Lake (NAC 503.583), and update scientific names in the classification of fish species (NAC 503.060 – 065). Sam Sedio, NDOW, explained that the proposed change would be to only allow for non-motorized vessels on the Battle Born Pond. He also added that the Department is looking to amend NAC 503.110 to require any fishers who catch a pike at Comins Lake would be required to kill it immediately. The Department is also proposing changing bait restrictions in the eastern part of the state to align

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those with the rest of the state in order to prevent confusion. There was no public comment.

Member Melarkey moved to approve Commission General Regulation 528 as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Commission General Regulations – Adoption/Public Comment– [For Possible Action]

A. Commission General Regulation 515 – Demerit Points Associated with Trail Cameras and Thermal Imaging Devices

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss a regulation amending Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to change demerit points associated with trail cameras and thermal imaging devices. Member Robinson said he did not agree with the 12 demerits for leaving a trail camera and Member Marchese agreed. Vice Chair Browne said they were also going to limit the use of thermal during big game seasons statewide. Member Melarkey said that in his opinion that folks who use trail cameras should ensure they go and pick up the cameras, but he didn't think there should be 12 demerits on a non-transmitting camera. He said he would like to see the CAB send the Commission the same recommendation as what they sent during the previous meeting.

During public comment, Mel Belding said that he agreed with having 9 demerits instead of 12 for the trail cameras. He added that he thought trail cameras were an important tool and that 12 demerits were excessive.

Members of the CAB then discussed the rationale for upping the demerits for trail cameras and if upping those demerits would incentivize hunters not to break the law. Member Robinson said he did not agree with the 12 demerits because he had known folks who had made honest mistakes, and he didn't want to see people punished for those mistakes.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission General Regulation 515 with the following change: to reduce from 12 demerits to 6 demerits for a non-transmitting trail camera. Member Marchese seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission General Regulation 524 – Bonus Points Associated with Junior Hunt Applications

Vice Chair Browne opened the item to discuss a regulation amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would simplify

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the issuance, use and administrative management of bonus points associated with junior hunt applications. There was no discussion by the CAB or public comment.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission General Regulation 524 – Bonus Points Associated with Junior Hunt Applications as written. Member Melarkey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Commission Regulations – Public Comment
A. Commission Regulation 25-16, Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027

Sam Sedio, NDOW, explained the rationale for the proposed changes and to encourage fisherman to take stripe bass that were caught. There was no public comment.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission General Regulation 25-16 – Fishing Seasons and Regulations for January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027 as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Reports
A. Wildlife Trust Fund Annual Report

There was no discussion.

18. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only- Public Comment Allowed

There was no discussion.

19. Public Comment [Non-action item]

There was no public comment.

20. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.