



Jim Gibbons

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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Kenneth E. Mayer
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Feb. 1, 2008

TO: Board of Wildlife Commissioners; Governor's Office; County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Members; Department of Wildlife Employees; and Director Allen Biaggi

CC: Kristen Kolbe, and Eric King

FROM: Kenneth E. Mayer, Director

SUBJECT: Jan. 14, 2008, Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Director Ken Mayer, Deputy Director Doug Hunt, Management Analyst III Kim Jolly, Executive Assistant Suzanne Scourby, Game Division Chief Russ Mason, Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam, Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins, Chief of Conservation Kelly Clark, Chief of Law Enforcement Rob Buonamici, Chief of Operations Bob Haughian, Chief Fiscal Financial Services Officer Dave Prather and Daralyn Dobson, and Chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards.

Director's Office

Director Mayer attended today's Cabinet meeting in Carson City and said there is much going on with State Government. Director of Administration Andrew Clinger went thru fiscal projections, and they are projecting a \$517 million deficit at the end of the biennium, the 4.5 percent cut matched with approximately \$250 million of the states' rainy day fund. He said state officials are crossing their fingers that no catastrophe occurs requiring them to dip further into the rainy day fund. He said the bright side is the net proceeds of minerals and the price of gold are up. The Governor thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget cuts. Compared to other agencies NDOW's cut is small. Hiring freeze is status quo. The Department of Personnel (DPA) will be requesting approximately \$250,000 at the next Interim Finance Committee to purchase a new

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position classification model. The model will help DPA evaluate every position classification in state government for salary equity. The cabinets were provided with an update on "Real ID" implementation required by Homeland Security (HS). HS mandates that all states put a system in place this year, the real ID program is designed to protect social security numbers. Director Mayer asked Director of Administration Andrew Clinger whether or not the Department can take credit cards for license sales, and was told that we could. Management Analyst Kim Jolly has been tasked to research the use of credit cards, and assemble a team to develop a credit card proposal. Having the ability to take credit cards will allow us to sell more licenses especially at shows.

Director Mayer said he was duly impressed with the antelope capture in Elko, and the professionalism of NDOW staff was impressive. Ken Gray did an outstanding job organizing and directing the capture. Director Mayer was impressed how all the Division's worked together in harmony to accomplish the task. He said in the future he would like to have Josh Hicks and possibly the Governor attend. The helicopter contractors said that of all the states that they work with, that NDOW is the best at trapping and transplanting operations. The dedication of the employees is outstanding, as is that of the volunteers. He said without the volunteers especially, our NGO partners like Nevada Bighorns Unlimited these operations would not be possible.

Director Mayer met with Diane Cornwall who is the Department new Governor's Office liaison and briefed her on what the Department was up to. Ms. Cornwall was supportive of the Department's direction and programs, and she is supportive of us all being located in one building.

Governor Gibbons is going to be in Washington, D.C., next month, and will meet with Secretary Kempthorne to bring the message about sage grouse and sagebrush ecosystem restoration being high priority. He will ask about streamlining NEPA.

Director Mayer and the Deputy Director plan to travel to Tonopah Jan. 28 and 29 to attend the Diversity coordination meeting in Tonopah and lastly Director Mayer will be in Memphis, Tenn., attending the North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee meeting. Director Mayer represents the Pacific Flyway on the committee.

Chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards said a workshop for performance measures (pilot project) and what the measures show may be possibly scheduled for March 6 or 7, 2008.

Agenda Day is Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008.

Conservation Education

Conservation Education staff held monthly Division meeting via teleconference call on Jan. 8.

The Reno headquarters conference room schedule is now viewable online. Please email your requested dates and times to Gayle Gregg ggregg@ndow.org and Carolyn Montgomery cmont@ndow.org and they will get back to you with an email confirming the dates.

Staff are currently working on updating and reprinting Western Region Fishable Waters Map.

The website was moved from SCI to DOIT server and went live on Friday, January 11. Due to this switch, the FTP site is no longer available, but with the help of DoIT, it will be back up soon. An email will be sent to Everyone NDOW with the new FTP info as soon as it happens.

Marketing Coordinator (MC) secured a grant from the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) for lapsed angler outreach, submitted agreement paperwork to RBFF for signature, created contract to receive funds; closed advertising in the 2008 Nevada Big Game Seasons & Application Regulations. advertising sales in this book total \$10,750; secured and paid for trade show booth for the Western Hunting Conservation Expo (joint FNAWS/MDF) for February 6 - 9 in Salt Lake City and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Elk Camp for February 21 - 24 in Reno.

Outdoor Education Coordinator (OEC) attended Tonopah and Las Vegas instructor appreciation dinners and met with NWTF/Women in the Outdoors rep; completed preparation of 25 year HE instructor award; coordinated Hunter Ed participation at RMEF convention; continued research and preparation for NSSF Hunting Heritage grant application; OEC participated in resolution of California hunting license as proof of hunter education issue.

Volunteer Coordinator (VC) met with Washoe County regarding Verdi Library and Nature center – possible expansion, funding for finishing project; coordinated schedules with Oxbow interpreter on upcoming Trout in the Classroom and other projects; worked with Sheri FFS on Volunteer Database issues; continued work on Wildlife tracking program for web page; coordinated pronghorn trapping in Elko County; and responded to JIC activation for Fernley flooding.

Fisheries Division

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Department of the Interior agencies and Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) have developed an additional Stipulation Agreement for withdrawal of protests for the water authority's applications in Cave, Dry Lake and Delamar valleys. At this time we have not seen the agreement or any other documentation and do not know if there is any change in our role or ability to participate compared to the existing Spring Valley agreement.

Southern Region staff will be implementing a treatment project this week assisting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in removing exotic cichlids from the Fairbanks Spring system on Ash Meadows NWR. This will be the first test of a new rotenone formula which uses a "non-toxic" or at least less toxic carrier.

The Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) rangewide interagency meeting is scheduled for January 16 and 17 and is being hosted by NDOW this year. Regional fisheries biologists have been busy coordinating with fellow distinct population segment or recovery team members preparing their presentations to update the group on their 2007 accomplishments and 2008 objectives.

NDOW biologists are consulting with USFWS on the development of a GIS database which includes current and historic distributions of LCT throughout the basin. The database will assist the USFWS in developing a 5-year Status Review for LCT. The Endangered Species Act requires completion of periodic reviews of species that are listed as threatened or endangered to ensure that the listing of these species remains accurate.

Work continues on the development of a recovery plan for the Jarbidge River population of bull trout. the team is currently working on threats based recovery criteria.

Montgomery-Watson-Harza has submitted a draft report on potential solutions to water temperature and quagga mussel issues at Lake Mead Hatchery. Staff is currently reviewing this document.

Wiser Construction has until February to complete remaining items at Gallagher Hatchery. Much of this punch list has already been completed and trout culture began in July. Additional eggs will be received during the month of January.

Mason Valley Hatchery personnel have been stocking the Southern Region during the month of January and will continue to augment stocking operations throughout the remainder of the stocking season in southern Nevada.

Nevada recently chaired the winter meeting of the Colorado River Fish and Wildlife Council in San Diego. Issues discussed included quagga mussels, declining water levels, largemouth bass virus and various native fish issues.

The Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) strategic plan was approved by WAFWA directors at the winter meeting in San Diego. This plan describes a common set of conservation needs for inland trout species and proposes a framework to develop partnerships and funding sources to carry out the conservation actions needed to secure the status of these species, with the ultimate goal of providing fishable populations. Nevada has played a leadership role in the development of the initiative. An application has been submitted to the National Fish Habitat Board for recognition of the WNTI. Several projects in Nevada have already been funded through the WNTI.

Game Division

Division personnel, with assistance from other departmental employees and volunteers, completed a pronghorn capture and re-location effort on January 11 and 12. Nearly 200 pronghorn were captured for re-location to Coal and Garden Valleys in central Nevada. Forty buck antelope were ear-tagged and released on site, and 7 does were radio-collared to explore whether animals are moving to Area 6 winter ranges from Area 5.

Division personnel held an all-hands meeting in Elko on January 10 to discuss emerging issues and concerns. Reflecting the emerging issue of resident town deer in Caliente, Pioche, Panaca, Eureka, Minden, and Elko, the Division will explore the development of a policy and procedure to direct when and where the Division takes action to remove resident deer through hunting or other methods.

The Wildlife Health Specialist will develop an Occupational Health Safety and Necropsy training short course for Game Division biologists. The first course will be held at the summer organizational meeting of the Division at Zephyr Cove between June 16-19. Other Departmental personnel are invited to attend the training.

The Division held initial interviews for the Deer and Antelope Compensation Tag position in Elko on January 10. Interviews and the advertisement for the position will remain open until a successful incumbent is identified.

Habitat Division

The Division has prepared a proposal for SNWA to fund securing for 2,050 acre feet of water rights, implement appropriate water facilities, purchase additional water rights

and possibly a piece of adjacent property. The project is a partnership to enhance the WMA and for SNWA to pass through the area their Muddy River Water rights to Lake Mead.

The division has met with budget staff and completed an analysis of our program financial status.

Staff attended the Wild Horse Commission meeting. Discussion continues on the potential for the State to initiate litigation on BLM for not managing wild horses consistent with the intent of the Act.

Division is working on setting up a meeting of state and federal agency directors to discuss the Governor's "War on Cheatgrass" partnerships and roles.

Izzenhood acquisition is moving forward with a work program being prepared. With that accomplished, funding will be able to be deposited and closing should follow fairly soon.

Division staff were involved in discussions and development of issues evolving around proposed development of private parcels up Steptoe Creek in the Schell Creek Range.

Law Enforcement

An OGT caller reported a possible baited field that goose hunters were using in the Minden area. An early morning holiday patrol of the area found no hunters out in the fields. The landowner was contacted and an inspection of the field revealed no sign of baiting.

Recent snows brought out more mountain lion hunters and associated guides. Several hunters and guides have been checked. Sealing of harvested mountain lions is increasing.

Topaz Lake opened for fishing on January 1. Bad weather and low water slowed participation initially. Out of 24 fishermen checked over the weekend, only four fish were caught.

Trap line patrols are continuing. Several trappers have been contacted. There are some suspected visitation violations; however timing has not yet worked out to be able to prove most cases.

Trap line projects continue with State Game Warden Jake Kreamer making a good case in the Battle Mountain area. Citations were issued to two individuals.

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Game wardens are working a case involving the illegal killing of a swan at the Ruby Marshes.

Game wardens patrolled in Area 23 checking spotlighting activity during a predator hunt event, contacting several hunters. Most hunters were in compliance.

Game wardens observed an increase in trapping activity in the Southern Region and worked to educate the public to the hazards of allowing dogs off leash in areas frequented by trappers.

Operations Division

The Ops teams are available to help their team mates - The Chief of Operations is obtaining feedback from various regional and field offices which Ken Mayer has requested be included in this weekly report. There are a growing number of occasions where scheduled meetings and other events of importance aren't being shared with your Boat Registration and Licensing staffs, e.g., information regarding scheduled interviews, special meetings and other of-interest events. Please ensure you you're your Ops teams in the loop on these events so they can adequately communicate needed information to walk-in and telephone customers.

Excel Building Planning continues – Plans from relocating the headquarters function from the Valley Road office to the Excel building in Reno are progressing. One key issue under consideration by the Leadership Team is whether or not the Western Region function will move to the Excel building.

A second NDOW pilot coming soon - Pilot 3 interviews began on January 17 and are expected to conclude by January 25.

Wildlife Diversity

Many of you in the Reno HQ have had a chance to meet Shirley Atkinson, who started her new position as Western Region Supervisor within the Wildlife Diversity Division last week. Shirley brings a wealth of experience and leadership in the field of wildlife management to this position and will be an excellent member of our outstanding Wildlife Diversity Team!

Also, Rory Lamp has accepted the Eastern Region Supervisory position within the Wildlife Diversity Division. Rory begins his position effective March 3, 2008. Rory has extensive experience with wildlife resources in the Eastern Region. He is going to be a great addition to the Wildlife Diversity Division. We are really looking forward to the great

work our newly expanded team will be able to accomplish for the wildlife resources of our State!

Wildlife Diversity staff are finalizing the plans for the annual Division coordination meeting to be held in Tonopah from January 28 - 30, 2008.