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Kenneth E. Mayer
Director

DATE: March 4, 2008

TO: NBWC Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife Members, and All NDOW Employees

FROM: Director Kenneth E. Mayer

SUBJECT: Leadership Team Meeting Minutes – Nov. 13, 2007

Attendees Present: Director Ken E. Mayer, Deputy Director Doug Hunt, Management Analyst III Kim Jolly, Executive Assistant Suzanne Scourby, Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark, Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici, Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam, Acting Fiscal Services Section Chief Sherry Fenison, Chief of Operations Bob Haughian, Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins, and Chief of Game Russ Mason.

Director's Office

Director Mayer said local talk radio show host Ira Hansen left a voicemail for him thanking the Department for making Game Division Chief Russ Mason available for a guest appearance on his radio show. Mr. Hansen said Dr. Mason did a great job and looks forward to more interviews in the future.

Elk Damage, Incentive Committee – Group discussed Wells Resource Management Plan at the last Commission meeting. Dr. Mason said this may be highly controversial, and thus the next meeting will be a pre-workshop for a regulation change.

August and September Commission meeting agendas and support material need to be prepared by staff simultaneously, as there is no turn around time between the two meetings due to the date change for the September Commission meeting from Sept. 26 and 27, 2008, to Sept. 5 in Truckee, Calif., and Sept. 6, 2008, in Reno. A Sept. 4, 2008, barbecue is being planned for both Commissions along the Truckee River at Mayberry Park.

Director Mayer told staff that the Governor's Cabinet was advised that all legislative and legal issues are to be sent through Josh Hicks and all other issues are to be directed toward Dianne Cornwall. He believes that the Executive Branch's bill draft request number has been reduced to 100 from 120. Director Mayer is talking to a number of legislators to carry some of NDOW's legislation.

In addition the new acting Director Tony Lesparance of the Department of Agriculture was introduced by Governor Gibbons.

Director Mayer said the call for data for sage grouse came out today from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the 90 day data gathering clock has started. He said staff had a great meeting with mining industry representatives who said they may be able to provide financial assistance to the Department while we are working on data gathering.

Revenue has been slow in coming to the Department and thus all employees are asked to do their share to reduce expenditures.

Deputy Director Doug Hunt said he met with Dave Prather and his staff to discuss fiscal status of the agency, and once we get past March 7, 2008, the fiscal condition should improve.

Marketing team has several ideas to get the Department through these lean winter times.

Conservation Education

Staff received complimentary copies of the April issue of Nevada Magazine for distribution featuring wildlife viewing on the cover and a seven page feature article, and readership of Nevada Magazine is nearly 1 million and the articles can also be viewed online at <http://nevadamagazine.com/>.

The marketing coordinator completed Level III of the Certified Public Manager program entitled "Managing Government in Nevada."

Staff initiated work on the 2008 Hunt Book; put together the February Wildside employee newsletter for distribution this week; final stages of printing the 2008 Big Game Application Hunt book is underway; and completed Big Game FAQ pamphlet for distribution, available on the intranet.

Volunteer Coordinator prepared for lek survey March 8; and spent Thursday afternoon through Sunday on Wells earthquake as a member of the governor's Joint Incident Command.

Fish Division

The Wells earthquake was felt at Gallagher Hatchery, but no damage was done.

Game Division

The Game Division suggests that the Department organize a work group to develop a systematic approach to the use of climate change funding should those funds become available. The work group might consist of one staff level biologist from the Game, Habitat, Diversity, and Fisheries Bureau, with leadership of the group provided by the Diversity Bureau representative, since any new climate change funding would likely be provided as a function of the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan.

Southern Region Game Division biologists hiked into the Delamar Mountains to determine whether a bighorn sheep mortality had occurred among the cohort fitted with GPS telemetry collars during population augmentation efforts earlier this winter. No further mortalities were detected. Wildlife Services (WS) removed two adult female bobcats from the Delamars near where one collared bighorn ewe was killed.

The Division is moving forward to obtain a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove ravens to protect sage grouse from excessive predation. The permit requests authority to remove up to 500 ravens, and will supplement the existing permit held by USDA Wildlife Services.

Habitat Division

The Habitat Division submitted a request for work program in order to accept a donation of sagebrush seed from Native Seed Company valued at \$398,860.

There is a proposed natural gas pipeline to be installed across the northern part of Nevada, running from Opal, Wyoming to Malin, Oregon. Supervising Habitat biologists from that portion of the state have been alerted.

Law Enforcement Division

A Spring Creek homeowner was routinely hazing deer from his property with use of a pellet rifle. A neighbor found a dead deer and called NDOW. An investigation revealed that the deer had been shot behind the shoulder. The homeowner was interviewed and admitted to shooting the buck fawn "accidentally" with a pellet rifle. Necropsy showed the deer died from internal bleeding due to a punctured lung. The investigation is continuing.

In a plea bargain, a former Elko county resident with a long history of possessing exotic wild animals and other wildlife with and without the proper permits, pleaded guilty to one count of failure to maintain adequate fencing for ungulates (third conviction within the last two years). As a condition of probation this man is not to possess or apply for permits to possess any live wildlife.

Game wardens conducted the second shed hunter operation of 2008 in Lincoln County. The weather was not the best for shed hunting but several contacts with trappers and lion hunters made the effort worthwhile. The next operation is scheduled for Northern Lincoln County in mid-March.

A game warden witnessed a case of domestic violence in the parking lot at a local supermarket and assisted Elko Police in locating, identifying and arresting the male suspect.

Game wardens worked with researchers in Los Angeles developing a more accurate series of tests to detect Operation under the Influence.

Game wardens dealt with urban wildlife complaints concerning bobcats in the Southern Region. Game wardens, boating education and license officer personnel participated in the Las Vegas Boat Show over the weekend. Hundreds of contacts were made with the public who had

multiple questions over the upcoming Hunt Book and Fishing Regulations. Staff handed out education material, answered questions, sold licenses and provided agency information to the public.

Game wardens investigated a residency case involving a Utah resident illegally acquiring mule deer tags in Nevada with the investigation ongoing.

Operations Division

Bob Lloyd the new Pilot III for the department met with the director, deputy director, and chiefs of game and operations as one of his first official duties as a new NDOW employee. Mike King, NDOW's chief pilot, anticipates Bob will be flying wildlife surveys are soon as this Thursday in the Eastern Region.

The Department of Personnel is presently conducting a state-wide occupation study of program officer positions. This week NDOW's program officers, all assigned to the Operations Division, will be interviewed for this data collection effort.

Wildlife Diversity

Wildlife Diversity Division staff have been coordinating with the Division of State Lands and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire 40 acres of water rights that will be transferred to Carson Lake Wetlands in Churchill County. The acquisition of these water rights will enhance wetland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds and other wetland associated species. This is a joint acquisition with the U.S, Fish and Wildlife Service's Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge. NDOW's Question 1 Conservation Bond funds are being used to acquire the water rights.

We are also very close to finalizing the acquisition of the Izzenhood Deer Winter Range property located in Lander and Elko counties. This acquisition project will protect 4,161 acres of habitat for wildlife, and is of particular importance for mule deer winter range. NDOW's Question 1 Conservation Bond funds and NDOW's Mule Deer Mitigation Account funds are being used to acquire the property.

Wildlife Diversity staff attended an organizational meeting with Department of Conservation and Natural Resources staff and numerous non-profit conservation organizations to discuss the feasibility of pursuing the next conservation bond initiative since the Question 1 Conservation Bond program will be drawing to a close in the next few years. Issues for NDOW include having sufficient funds to quickly rehabilitate habitats impacted by wildfire, and obtaining state matching funds for possible federal funds associated with Climate Change legislation to mitigate wildlife and habitat impacts.

Final edits are being made on the Wildlife Diversity Division's Annual Job Progress Report. A final report will be printed and made available to conservation partners and Department staff in the coming weeks.

Final preparations are being made for the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan Performance Measures Workshop, to held in Reno, March 6 and 7, 2008. Numerous federal, state, and local agencies and conservation partners that helped develop the Wildlife Action Plan will be attending, as well as numerous staff from within NDOW. The workshop is sponsored by NDOW, University of Nevada at Reno, the Heinz Center for Environmental Policy and funding from a grant from the Doris Duke Foundation.

Several members of Nevada's Teaming with Wildlife Coalition are attending the annual Teaming with Wildlife (TWW) Conference and Fly-In in Washington D.C. this week. Last year, over 45 states sent TWW Coalition members to the meeting in support of continued State Wildlife Grant funding and for dedicated funding to implement State Wildlife Action Plans.