



Jim Gibbons
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1207



Kenneth E. Mayer
Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 21, 2008

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

FROM: Kenneth E. Mayer, Director

SUBJECT: Department Activities Report

Director's Office

Director Mayer said activities for this week and next week are as follows: Attending Governor's Cabinet meeting tomorrow to discuss legislation in Carson City; special Heritage Committee meeting tomorrow at 4 p.m. to help with financing repairs to the Department's 2FG helicopter; attendance at the North American Conference in Phoenix next week where a special meeting with all the directors will be held on Tuesday to discuss sage grouse, and kudos to Nevada Mining Association who donated \$40,000 to assist with sage grouse efforts and Larry Johnson in conjunction with Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) that they are setting up that account. He said Invoices will go to Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam and then onto NBU and Director Mayer said he should know this week on funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Winnemucca Commission meeting is this week, and May Commission agenda items are due to Director Mayer on March 28, 2008, and a template will be on the intranet site for letters

Director and Deputy Director and Leadership Team attended Comprehensive Conservation Plan meeting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Conservation Education

Recruitment for the Publications Coordinator position will close March 18.

Conservation Education staff along with game and license staff will conduct two tag application workshops for the public, on March 26 in Las Vegas, and March 27 in Reno.

Department of Information and Technology is now hosting the agency website and has established a ftp site as well for use for transfers of large files.

Media outreach for the past few weeks has focused on stimulating license sales via emphasis on spring fishing. Broadcast exposure includes: Elko – one-half hour radio show on KELK; a 1:00 ice fishing show that aired March 8 and 10 on KENV TV and also on KELK/KLKO radio. Print exposure includes stories in the Sparks Tribune, Nevada Appeal, Mineral County Independent News, Humboldt Sun, Pahrump Valley Times, Elko Daily Free Press, and RGJ online. This is a partial list and press clippings often come in weeks later than press date.

A media release by Joe Doucette on antelope captures also garnered good coverage, including the Sparks Tribune, Fallon Eagle-Standard, Humboldt Sun, Elko Daily Free Press, Las Vegas Review-Journal & Sun, and Pahrump Valley Times.

Staff has coordinated delivery of angler data to Southwick & Associates for the lapsed angler outreach we're doing in conjunction with the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation. We anticipate the first mail drop date to be April 28.

Staff researched a 365-day license year towards the goal of spreading revenue throughout the year and providing customers more value. We discovered that some states have encountered negative impacts due to federal aid reporting requirements, and we will wait until those issues are fully resolved before considering a change.

Fisheries Division

No submission

Game Division

The Division is increasingly concerned with meteorological towers siting in association with wind power exploration. Six of the seven BLM field offices are now considering multiple exploration permit applications. From a safety perspective, in general, new tower coordinates are not being communicated to the Department. Equally troubling, when provided, coordinates may be inaccurate for distances up to an aerial mile. From a biological perspective, towers are being erected without apparent regard for proximity to sage grouse lekking, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat.

The Division is concerned with BLM disregard for the hunting and trapping public in southern Nevada. Other forms of recreation appear to be taking precedence, sometimes in apparently complete disregard of hunting and trapping seasons. In particular, southern region biologists have expressed concern to the BLM that essential roads are being closed for the benefit of OHV races. In one instance this past hunting season; key roads were closed on the opening day of a desert bighorn sheep hunt. Director Mayer said staff need to schedule the annual coordination meeting with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to discuss these items.

In April, the Division will partner with a Humboldt County sheep producer to provide funding for rotary wing predator removals aimed at benefiting livestock, mule deer, and sage grouse.

The Division has learned that the Table Mountain/Mount Wilson wind energy project proposal is now greatly expanded to include White Rock Mountain and the Tub Peak area. Consultants for the proponent have applied to the Department for the necessary permits to capture and mark sage grouse for determination of sage grouse activity and use in these areas.

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited has established a sage grouse conservation account with Heritage Bank to accommodate funding from the Nevada Mining Association. The funds will be used to provide technical assistance to the Division Upland Game Staff Specialist so that critical upland game planning activities and management actions are not impeded by the additional work load created by the current petition to federally list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act.

Habitat Division

No report submitted

Law Enforcement

The Division of Law Enforcement held its annual In-Service Training last week in Southern Nevada.

The Division of Law Enforcement has implemented fuel savings procedures which include the following general rules: Combine/consolidate trips, don't drive to the office before or after patrol unless absolutely necessary; use all terrain vehicles whenever possible; carpool to and from meetings; if the speed limit is 65mph or greater drive five miles an hour under the posted speed limit, if posted 65mph drive 60 mph, if posted 70 mph drive 65 mph, if posted 75mph drive 70 mph, as fuel economy studies indicate that for every 5 mph we drive over 60 our gas mileage drops about 10 percent. Please keep this request in perspective. If we are impeding traffic adjust accordingly until that is no longer the case. Also, keep tires properly inflated, avoid wide open throttle on our patrol boats and lower cruising speed when possible, and keep vehicles properly maintained.

Operations Division

The contract required to initiate the repair on the gear box for helicopter 2FG was sent to the vendor (Standard Aero) on March 17. The vendor will FedEx the document back to Fiscal Service by March 18 in time to be processed for the upcoming Board of Examiners meeting.

On April 1 the Operations Division will conduct training for the Administrative Assistants of the Western Region counter staffs. The focus of the training will be on refresher boating registration and titling issues, to include further training on the new beneficiary requirements for boat titles. Additionally the staff will get refresher training on the application hunt system and the big game draw processes. With the draw about to commence on March 24 the counter staffs will routinely engage with inquiring customers and we want to ensure these ladies have the full complement of information resources to assist those customers.

In coordination with Law Enforcement's Boating Education staff, the License office staff is working with Systems Consultants to introduce programming changes to the Nevada Wildlife Data System. These changes, expected to be accomplished as early as this week, will provide

for a required report format to support the United States Coast Guard's Vessel Identification System (VIS).

Staff is presently assembling two CIP projects. One is for the expansion of the Ely office and the other is for improvements to the Elko office, to include enhancements for the Elko conference room. The deadline for submission of CIP projects is April 3.

Staff will complete access training courses on March 18 and Access will be used as the new Human Resources database.

Chief of Operations is on leave from March 20 through March 28 – Maureen Hullinger will serve as “acting” in Bob Haughian's absence.

Wildlife Diversity

No report submitted