



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

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KENNETH E. MAYER
Director

DOUG HUNT
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 29, 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 – August 11, 2008, Meeting

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth E. Mayer".

Present: Director Ken Mayer, Deputy Director Doug Hunt, Executive Assistant Suzanne Scourby, Acting Wildlife Diversity Chief Ralph Phenix, Acting Chief of Conservation Education Kim Toulouse, Administrative Services Officer III Dave Prather, Chief of Law Enforcement Rob Buonamici, Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins, Chief of Operation Bob Haughian, and Administrative Services Officer II Daralyn Dobson, Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam, and Acting Chief of Craig Mortimore.

Director Mayer discussed the logistics of the upcoming Commission cookout, and employees who assist are being asked to flex time so that no comp or overtime is incurred.

Director Mayer told the group that he had ordered leadership publications for Division chiefs to borrow at their convenience: The Speed of Trust, The Leadership Engine, and High Velocity Change.

Symposium Dec. 9 – 11, 2008, on Wildfire and Invasive Plants in the American Desert at Grand Sierra Resort, and Director Mayer asked that chiefs and staff participate.

Director Mayer said he was called today by Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Executive Director Matt Hogan regarding Hunting Heritage and that they have an Access database on hunter access countrywide. He said Oct. 1 and 2, 2008, are the dates for the unveiling of the database here in Reno and details will be forthcoming on this event.

Director Mayer's plans for this week are to attend the Governor's Cabinet meeting tomorrow, and he will drive to Elko to tour areas in Elko with NDOW biologists and former Wildlife Commissioner Mike Riordan and current Commissioner Pete Mori. The following week he will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan meeting.

Director Mayer said he will be calling Game Division Supervisor Steve Kimble direct to insure that folks are at the CABMW meetings and to prevent self-inflicted wounds such as are occurring at Commission meeting especially with the sensitivity of the Overton Wildlife Management Area. Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam said he will attend the next Clark CABMW meeting. Chief of Habitat Dave Pulliam said he will be sending out an email to staff that they are required to attend and staff will work with the other regional supervisors to coordinate and will not be waiting for invitations.

Deputy Director Hunt provided spreadsheets to each Division chief with a deadline on Thursday. Acting Chief Kim Toulouse said no one is available this week in their Division to make the deadline. Monday is the drop dead date for this to be done.

Deputy Director Doug Hunt said we have a heavy Interim Finance Committee schedule and will provide an agenda to each chief, and he will handle the bear items for Game Division.

Deputy Director Hunt and NDOW Engineer Lisa Schettler will attend the Capitol Improvements Project (CIP) meeting on Aug. 27, 2008. Director Mayer talked to the Governor's staff and received agreement that Question 1 funds could be used for CIP.

Chief of Fisheries Rich Haskins and Deputy Director Doug Hunt met at Mary Connelly's office to discuss Walker Lake.

Conservation Education

Conservation Education Division Chief is on vacation for the week of August 11, so acting in her stead is Kim Toulouse (August 18 and 19), Doug Nielsen (August 20 and 21) and Chris Healy (August 22).

The Youth Upland Game brochure was completed and is ready for distribution. Migratory Bird brochure is next in line for the next publication.

Bear Aware magnets and Living in Bear Country brochures were delivered to the resource conservationist at the Incline Village General Improvement Districts to distribute to vacation rental agencies, at special events, and other outlets.

The Cabela's Fall Great Outdoor Day's in Reno is set for the next three weekends (August 23 and 24, August 30 and 31, and September 6 and 7) and volunteers from Law Enforcement, Game and Conservation Education will be manning NDOW's booth. This event is centered on hunting and fishing and will include, among others, a fishing pond for kids, mini-seminars and various vendors and will provide outreach opportunities.

Though somewhat late in the season, or early depending on how you look at it, we are starting to receive reports of bobcats coming into the neighborhoods at the southern end of Las Vegas Valley.

In the Southern Region, staff is working on upland game and waterfowl hunting seminars for beginning hunters and lapsed hunters. The short one hour workshops will be a partnership effort with the new Henderson Sportsman's warehouse.

Western region staff produced five radio segments on the following topics: Summer Fish; Summer Fish; Sparks Marina; Waterholes - Antelope Hunt; and Sheep.

The Clark Shooting Park received its certificate from the EPA acknowledging acceptance of the park's environmental stewardship plan.

Public lands closures around Las Vegas have increased demand for the annual Free Range Day at the Desert Sportsman Rifle & Pistol Club, though it is not scheduled until Sept. 9, 50 shooters have already signed up.

The Oxbow Nature Study Area restoration is still at the forefront of the Wildlife Education/Volunteer program. Staff met with the City of Reno in regards to the restoration of the area and discussed the city's plans to rip/rap the area as their bank stabilization plan. Also, working with Washoe County in the ongoing battle of weed control.

The SR volunteer coordinator is planning the 2008 Chronic Wasting Disease sampling project with the goal of collecting 150 samples.

The Waterfowl regulation brochure is currently in the final proof stage, the revised 'Color Nevada Wild' coloring book is also in the editing stages.

Director Mayer was a guest of the Eastern Region staff on the monthly Elko Live radio show on KELK, Friday, August 22. The fishing report was prepared and submitted to the Elko Daily Free Press and the website.

Eastern Region staff videotaped fish salvage below South Fork Reservoir for future TV segment, also coordinated with the East Slide Rock Ridge Fire Information Officer getting information to hunters on both the website and through local media. The fishing report was also prepared and submitted to the Elko Daily Free Press and the website.

Media continues to show interest in the new Wildlife Commission, with coverage in Las Vegas on channels 5, 8 and 13, in Reno on KOLO Channel 8, and Channel 4, as well as coverage by the Associated Press.

Henderson Parks and Recreation Department has contacted the Southern Region Conservation Education supervisor expressing a very preliminary interest in creating an urban fishery at an old gravel pit.

A member of the Clark County Commission is proposing an ordinance that would allow individuals to feed and maintain populations of feral cats. The concept is to catch them, neuter or spay them, then release the animals and feed them. The SR ConEd supervisor has been working with the Diversity Supervisor to provide input and address NDOW concerns.

The SR Wildlife Education Coordinator (WEC) worked with law enforcement personnel to write a bulletin about African clawed frogs for the Clark County School District. Included are caveats about purchasing wildlife for the classroom and a list of prohibited species.

SR WEC prepared and delivered a presentation on owls to members of the Boys and Girls Club.

Fisheries Division

The opponents of ground water pumping in Snake Valley are attempting to turn the installation of a monitoring station on Spring Creek into a "cause for concern". The operation of the monitoring station by Southern Nevada Water Authority is no more a threat to the operations of Spring Creek Rearing Station, than our day to day activities. The information collected at this station will be valuable in the long term monitoring of the potential effects of ground water pumping in Snake Valley on adjacent surface waters.

Habitat Division

Habitat Division Chief is preparing for a panel presentation on NDOW's regulatory responsibilities relative to mining and an update on the sage grouse and pygmy rabbit status reviews at the upcoming Nevada Mining Association Convention on Sept. 4.

The Division continues to participate and provide information to the Governor's committee on renewable energy transmission access.

Steve Siegel has reported as the habitat staff biologist and is assuming duties as the supervisor for the Regional Supervisory Habitat Biologists, Grant administration for FW3T and providing staff leadership for habitat restoration programs.

The division will participate as a cooperating agency for the BLM's Programmatic EIS for Solar Energy Development in the west. The Southern Region Supervisory Habitat Biologist will have the lead in development of Department inputs.

The Wildlife Management Area managers, staff biologist and Chief will hold their annual coordination meeting Sept. 9 - 11.

The Overton WMA is experiencing the trespass cattle problem again. Staff and area manager are working on solutions.

Law Enforcement

A captain participated in National Night Out in Carson City in conjunction with numerous other Law Enforcement agencies.

A captain dealt with an individual who had already drawn and received an antelope tag, prior to being revoked by Arizona. License and tag determined to be invalid as a result of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

We are working to address Justice's of the Peace and District Court Judges regarding the importance of civil penalties and proper assessment of these charges.

Work continues on the Law Enforcement portion of the Nevada Wildlife Data System.

Felony charges are imminent in conjunction with a residency case originating in southern Nevada. The case involves gross misdemeanor charges in Churchill County, unlawful killing of an antelope in White Pine County and a mountain goat in Elko County. Elko County Asst. District Attorney hopes additional felony charges will be filed in Elko County by the end of the month.

Game wardens assisted Elko County Sheriff's in a search for an overdue fisherman in the area between and around Wilson Reservoir to Carlin the man was found in good condition. His vehicle had broken down while he was exploring a side road after an overnight fishing trip.

Recent nuisance wildlife calls have included a live skunk trapped in a plastic wastebasket, a gopher snake in a pine tree above the front door of a residence, dead deer on lawns and driveways in Spring Creek.

Utah Game Wardens received information from an individual on a poached deer. During the investigation it was found that the deer was poached in Nevada. Nevada Game Wardens are working with Utah on final prosecution.

A special event was held on the Colorado River this weekend. It was sponsored by the City of Bullhead. The event was a pirate themed float tube event. The event drew over 2000 participants and increased traffic on the Colorado River this weekend.

Game wardens worked with the public to collect the prohibited African Clawed Frog. Several frogs were confiscated and subsequently euthanized. Residents were educated as to the hazards and legality issues of possessing the frogs. No citations were issued due to the cooperation of all persons possessing the frogs who were unaware of the species being prohibited. Many schools throughout the State obtained the frogs for science projects. The schools have been very cooperative. The source of all frogs has been traced to a company in Florida.

Wildlife Diversity

The Wildlife Diversity Chief is attending a U.S. Geological Survey/U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service workshop on Climate Change and Wildlife in Tucson this week.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sponsored a conference in Boulder City on Abandoned Mine Land (AML) safety. It was called the FAST Conference. FAST stands for Fix a Shaft Today. The AML program in Nevada was used as a template for how to coordinate and complete AML site closures. This was highlighted at the conference. NDOW is an integral part of the AML closure program in Nevada. Several Wildlife Diversity personnel attended the conference including two from the Eastern Region.

Efforts to secure AML sites on Ward Mountain were completed. A contract crew from Oregon was selected to conduct the securings. Wildlife and Habitat Division personnel spent a week using rented equipment to prepare the sites for gating or hard closures. Five wildlife compatible gates were constructed. Culvert gates were constructed at three sites. Polyurethane foam was used to secure two other openings. This is a Question 1 Bond funded project.

The U.S. Forest Lands (USFS) bat gating crew completed a project to secure 14 AML sites on USFS lands in the Grant Quinn Range in White Pine County. Thirteen wildlife compatible structures and one permanent foam plug were constructed. NDOW Question 1 Bond monies are being used to fund this crew for work their work on public lands in Nevada.

Steel Liberty fence was constructed around three badly degraded aspen stands in the Stag Mountain area of Elko County. Improper management has halted natural development of multiple age classes of aspens in these stands. The fencing is designed to allow the stand to regenerate and develop a normal age pattern for the aspen in the clone. This project has been a cooperative project between the Elko District of the BLM and NDOW utilizing Question 1 funding. Volunteer and contract laborers were utilized to construct these temporary fences around aspen stands that are in danger of disappearing. AmeriCorps was contracted to construct several of the fences and the NDOW Volunteer program was selected to complete one of the fences.

Additional aspen fencing projects were coordinated with the Elko District of the BLM. A proposal to construct five fences in the Beaver Creek drainage near Wild Horse Mountain in Elko County is being developed to present to the BLM for review and NEPA compliance.

Scoping for a land exchange between a private individual and the Elko District of the BLM to preserve colonial nesting bird habitat on the Humboldt River has been initiated. The Nature Conservancy is a partner in this project with NDOW.