



JIM GIBBONS
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512
(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

KENNETH E. MAYER
Director
RICHARD L. HASKINS II
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 30, 2008

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

FROM: Kenneth E. Mayer, Director *Kenneth E. Mayer*

SUBJECT: Department Activities Report
Leadership Team Meeting December 22, 2008

Attendees: Director Ken Mayer, Deputy Director Rich Haskins, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Montgomery, Acting Chief of FSS Sherry Fenison, Chief of Conservation Education Kelly Clark, Chief of Game Mark Atkinson, Chief of Wildlife Diversity Laura Richards, Chief Game Warden Rob Buonamici, Acting Chief of Habitat Steve Siegel, Management Analyst III Kim Jolly.

Director's Office

Director Mayer met with a few legislators for lunch to discuss the Department's budget and Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) this week. The Department continues to enjoy broad legislative support. Over the next month Director Mayer will meet with other legislators. Deputy Director Haskins reminded the Division Chief's that the Assembly Bill 259 Report on Reserve Account (4458) is due January 16, 2009.

The 2009 Legislative Breakfast is scheduled to be held at the Capitol during the session on Thursday, April 9, 2009. Legislators, their staff, wildlife and sportsmen's groups will be invited to this "Wildlife and Conservation in Nevada" breakfast. The program will focus on a basic overview of the Department, our successes, strategies and partnerships for the future. A letter to sportsmen's and conservation groups will be drafted by the Director's staff requesting sponsorship. Conservation Education staff will be responsible for pulling together appropriate the video presentations.

Beginning in January Management Analyst III Kim Jolly will be on maternity leave. Habitat Staff Specialist Steve Siegel will be monitoring and tracking legislation effecting NDOW until mid-February while Kim Jolly is on leave.

In the spirit of the Green Team and energy saving measures, Habitat Staff Specialist Steve Siegel suggested that the Department take advantage of a possible free service that NV Energy provides which is an audit of the NDOW offices and provide suggestions on energy improvements and free retrofits where possible. Contact information is to be provided to Bob Haughian.

FSS

Over the weekend, the Leadership Team got word from Budget Analyst Kristen Kolbe that due to the State's budget situation, NDOW's general fund money was to be swept into the state's General Fund, but after discussions with the Director, Deputy Director and Chiefs, they determined that would not be necessary. The FY10/11 draft budget is at LCB and will be reviewed in the next couple of weeks. For the legislative review, each Division will be responsible for reviewing and "personalizing" their Division's pages of the budget submission.

Federal Aid auditors will at the Kietzke office beginning in March and they will be auditing all Pittman-Robertson and Wallop-Breaux grants.

Operations

No report submitted.

Conservation Education

At the Clark County Shooting Park foundations have been poured for buildings, including the hunter education building. No word from the federal court on the Carmel Canyon homeowner's request for an injunction so construction is moving forward. The bid for the audiovisual and sound systems for the hunter education building is scheduled to go out this week.

The Overton Wildlife Management Area Interpretive Center has been placed on the Moapa Valley Town Advisory Board agenda as an informational item for its Jan. 14 meeting. Representatives from NDOW and PBS&J will be available to present information to the public about the new center and its benefits to the community.

John L. Smith, a columnist for the LV Review-Journal wrote a column basically calling for an end to trapping, calling it outdated for modern Nevada. One of his neighbors' dogs, he lives on Mt. Charleston, was caught in a trap set in a high visitation area.

Staff wrote and distributed news releases promoting the giving of a hunting or fishing license as holiday gifts. The release also encouraged license purchases as the means of giving to the wildlife resource even if one does not hunt or fish. The online licenses for 2009 are tentatively scheduled to be available Feb. 9, 2009.

The outdoor education coordinator completed the Aquatic Education and Hunter Education grant reports and submitted them for review.

The 2009 Spring Wild Turkey brochure was finished and delivered to the State Printer, work continued on the 2009 Fishing Regulations book, and the December Wildside newsletter is under way and will be emailed out next week.

Game Division

Commissioner Raine requested a Wildlife Damage Management Committee meeting be held in Fallon January 8, 2009 to discuss the following items:

- Review and discuss 2009 predator management plan;
- Preview and discuss 2010 predator management plan;
- Discuss and make recommendations to APHIS-WS concerning sage grouse population enhancement;
- Set a date, location, and time for next committee meeting.

Timing of meeting conflicts with previously planned activities for Director and Game Chief and based on Director's earlier announcement regarding budget constraints, final decision regarding this meeting has not been made. Chairman Lent's recommendations are pending.

Wildlife Health Specialist position has been advertised on NEATS since early December and has been distributed by list-serve to members of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians. Several potential candidates have chosen not to apply due to current state budget issues and national recession. Of a total of five applicants, three meet pre-qualification standards and will be interviewed. The position announcement will remain on NEATS pending the review/interview process. Members of the review panel include: Atkinson (NDOW), Ross (NDOW), Rink (NDOA), Thain (UNR) and Nelson (NBU). Feedback from federal agencies supporting avian influenza surveillance suggest up to 25% reduction in funding next fiscal year.

Coordination plans and results of several big game surveys from Eastern Region presented. Of particular note: Helicopter deer survey conducted in Area 6 resulted in the classification of 1,990 deer with ratios of 33 bucks and 69 fawns per 100 does. The fawn ratio was close to 10 fawns per 100 does, higher than the four previous surveys and was similar to ratios obtained in the 1990's.

Fisheries

No report submitted.

Habitat

The Western Region is in the process of a few fire rehabilitation seeding projects in Elko County and purchasing seed for upcoming projects.

We are still working to have the Ruby Pipeline address additional alternatives but it appears that they and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will not be very responsive to our proposed routing alternatives.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided a letter to Washoe County which echoes our request for pre-project monitoring regarding a wind energy project in the Pah Rah Range.

Law Enforcement

No report submitted.

Wildlife Diversity

Sagebrush habitat rehabilitation work continued throughout the month of November in Humboldt County. Field staff organized and led a group of 30 volunteers who helped plant approximately 1,100 basin big sagebrush seedlings in critical wildlife habitat that burned in the Hot Springs Range during summer 2008. In addition, coordination continued with the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Double H Mountains seedling project, greenstrips for fire breaks, and future fuel reduction projects. Three sagebrush seedlings plots were treated with herbicide to reduce cheatgrass.

Wildlife Diversity and Habitat Division staff continued to attend agency scoping meetings for the proposed Ruby Pipeline Project. In addition to the Oct. 23 meeting in Winnemucca, staff attended a more recent meeting in Reno to discuss a routing alternative (Jungo-Tuscarora Alternative) developed by NDOW and the Winnemucca District of the BLM.

Staff continued to work with other agencies, contracted engineers and sub contractors on the new alignment of the Marlette Pipeline Installation Project. The pipeline runs directly through sensitive habitat for mountain beaver; coordination with construction crews, specifically as they entered sensitive habitat to set anchors and restraining straps for the pipeline, resulted in the work being completed without negative impacts to the species.

Several Wildlife Diversity field staff attended a week-long bats and abandoned mines workshop hosted by Bat Conservation International. Topics related to underground mine safety and surveying bats underground techniques were covered to assist field crews in preparing for underground mine surveys for bats and other wildlife that depend on these habitats for critical roosting such as reproduction and hibernation.

Field biologists are working on entering data in the GIS database in preparation for data analysis and reporting for this year's Division-wide Job Progress Report. Review and feedback on the final draft of the Division's Data Management Policy and Procedure is being completed; it is anticipated that the final document will be ready for adoption by late-December.