

**THE WHITE PINE COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE  
WILDLIFE MET IN SPECIAL SESSION ON  
JANUARY 23, 2023 AT 6:00 PM AT THE BRISTLECONE CONVENTION  
CENTER**

**Present:**

Mitchell McVicars (Board Chairman)  
Steve Marquez (Board Vice Chairman)  
Ray Sawyer  
Jake Rosevear  
Adam Ruesch

Kayla Couch (Board Secretary)

**Absent:**

**Visitors:**

Kenny Mull (NDOW)  
Kody Menghini (NDOW)  
Adam Henroid (NDOW)

**Called to order:**

Board Chairman McVicars called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comment Period:**

No public comment.

**\*Approval of Agenda:**

Board Chairman McVicars called for a motion to approve the agenda for the January 23, 2023 meeting.

*A motion to approve the agenda January 23, 2023 meeting was made by Board member Sawyer. The Motion was seconded by Board member Ruesch and the motion carried with no opposition.*

**\*Approval of minutes:**

Board reviewed the November 1, 2022 special meeting minutes for approval.  
Board Chairman entertained a motion.

*A motion to approve the minutes for the November 1, 2022 special meeting, was made by Board member Sawyer seconded by Board member Marquez. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**\*Payment of Bills:**

The Board was presented a bill for Kayla Couch, for secretary services for the January 23, 2023 meeting in the amount of \$150.00.

Board Chairman McVicars entertained a motion.

*A motion to approve the payment of bills to Kayla Couch in the amount of \$150.00 was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by board member Marquez. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**\*Correspondence:**

-Kayla Couch announced that she had received a letter from the County Clerk's office requesting an annual evaluation to reflect on the 12 months as an advisory board. Kayla Couch reported that Hank Vogler is the new liaison for the County Commission and has forwarded the agendas to him.

-Board member Rosevear reported that the National Outfitter and Guiding Association has requested the support of the White Pine County CAB for policy 78, that will increase the number of board members from 9 to 11 members. Additional members would include a Master Guide as well as a CAB member. (Board member Rosevear read aloud the email request).

-Chairman McVicars forwarded an email from Rex Flowers asking for the CAB and Public's support to disregard changes to 23-05, 2023 black bear seasons. In the email from Flowers he stated that there would be less of an opportunity for sportsmen to successfully fill a tag if the unit applications were divided and expressed that the changes are vague and could be hard to miss.

**Reports:**

**Cave Lake Project-** No new updates. Adam Henroid reported that there was a meeting, but did not obtain any information.

-Adam Henroid reported that the fishing derby for the Rotary Club will be held this weekend January 28, 2023 and anticipates a large number of participants.

-Chairman McVicars suggested adding more concrete around the boat dock area. Adam Henroid voiced that he would fully support the additional concrete request, due to the boat dock's slope and uneven status.

**Commission Agenda items:**

**15A.\* Commission Regulation 23-04, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons.**

**Board discussion:** Kody Menghini stated that the wilderness cow hunts have been closed due to populations in the areas being under objectives. Menghini reported that there is a doe antelope depredation hunt in unit 115 and that the sheep hunt for 114 will be closed due to lack of mature rams and tough hunting terrain. Chairman McVicars asked Menghini if it would be worth adding the ranch on the other side the mountain to unit 115 for the depredation hunt or is that a problem in that area. Menghini responded that SNWA is not qualified for any of the tag programs and the ranch on the other side has no complaints and values the land owner tags for antelope. Board Member Ruesch asked if any sheep have been collared in unit 114. Menghini responded that there are a few ewes in that area that have collars, and has had no success in collaring rams.

Board member Sawyer stated that he addressed his concerns in an email to discuss at this meeting. Sawyer expressed that the tag numbers for elk in area 11 needs to go down and is disappointed with the commission's quotas last season, viewing opportunity over quality. Sawyer suggested that unit 115 should be a lone unit and separated from unit 111. Sawyer stated that he would be curious to see the number of tags returned and harvested for that current unit with the belief that it cannot be well off. Sawyer expressed concerns for not only the elk population, but also the maturity of bulls for unit 111. Sawyer also stated that eliminating the spike elk hunt for units 111-114 could potentially help the bull herd thrive by allowing younger bulls to grow into maturity. Sawyer voiced that the population of elk is truly hurting and some action has to be taken. Sawyer stated that other units are suffering as well but have more resources like trees for protection against long range shots. Board member Rosevear feels the upgrade in technology has allowed for more successful hunts at ease and is changing hunting altogether. Sawyer agreed by explaining his experience of viewing elk, mountain ranges away by using the advanced optics that he has. Sawyer stated that he may be wrong by separating unit 115, if that is the driving factor for survey numbers. Kody Menghini reported that unit 115 is not the driving factor and that units 111-115 are lumped together as combination due to modeling sources. Menghini reported the he has surveyed more elk herds in

unit 111 than in 115, and it is not playing a part towards driving tag numbers. Menghini expressed that he understands how special unit 111 is and is not disregarding the fact that there is a lack of maturity in bulls, and that quotas for bull have lowered. Rosevear asked if the time of survey plays a role in population numbers, when elk are migrating. Menghini responded that surveys generally take place in February/March. Menghini did not invalidate Sawyer's concerns or the recommendations for separating the units, but would suggest mimicking the cow elk hunts to match. Menghini also mentioned that season setting can be hard when the data lacks from tag results from the previous year. Menghini reported that he does have justification for backing off cow hunts to help with health of herd populations. Sawyer fears that in separating the units it could back fire with the increase of quotas for tags in each divided unit. Menghini stated breaking the units up too much could make it difficult for modeling purposes but it is not impossible. By limiting the number of separated units, it could level out the quota numbers for tags. Sawyer stated that he disagrees with the 50'' main beam for elk, and expressed that he has seen mature 4-5 year old bulls carry a 50'' main beam. Sawyer voiced that harvesting spike elk reduces the young bull population and doesn't leave time for maturity and would like to eliminate the spike hunt altogether. Menghini stated that separating unit 115 could make management hard to meet their objective of 200 elk harvested, especially when 500 elk don't leave the state park during periods of time. Board member Ruesch asked what eliminating the spike elk hunt would affect. Menghini responded that very few are successful harvests.

Board member Rosevear expressed his concerns with the mule deer population in areas 131-134. Rosevear stated that he would like to recommend a divide in units 132 and 133 into an a and b units, making the boundary for 132 being the Cherry Creek road and the boundary for 133, the Cold Valley road. Rosevear voiced that there is a larger deer herd that migrates out of 131, compared to a smaller group of deer in 134 that effects the units during harvest season. Rosevear asked what Menghini's thoughts were. Menghini suggested leaving unit 133 whole vs. dividing it into separate sanctions and that it makes sense to divide the 132 unit with low density of deer population, in the local area of 134. Menghini also suggested that the divide be North and South opposed to a and b. Rosevear recommended the combination 131 and 132a(North) as a unit group and 132b(South), 133 and 134 as a unit group.

Chairman McVicars suggested breaking up the units in area 10, by 101-103 being its own unit group because of the lack of deer. McVicars expressed that the deer in the Ruby Mountains are hard to hunt with the terrain. Sawyer stated that he agreed with McVicars' comment. Kody Menghini wanted to clarify that the seasons would stay the same if the board supported Mcvicars' recommendation of separating out the different unit groups in area 10. McVicars responded "yes", that it would only be the unit groups that would change.

Chairman McVicars recommended eliminating the added archery hunts for resident and non-resident nelson desert bighorn sheep in units 161, 267, 271, and 242.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support to Commission Regulation 23-04, 2023-2024, 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons with the following changes; For elk, matching both antlered and antlerless seasons to 108, 131,132, any legal weapon being divided into an early and late hunt, change the unit group in units 111-115 to 111-112 a unit group, 113 an individual unit, and 114-115 a unit group; as well as eliminating all spike elk hunts in units 111-115. For nelson bighorn sheep, eliminate resident archery hunts for units 161, 267, 271 and 242 and eliminate the non-resident archery hunt for unit 161. For mule deer, matching both antlered and antlerless seasons by dividing units 101-109 into two unit groups with 101-103 being a unit group and 104-109 a unit group, divide unit 132 into 132N(North) and 132S(South) by making 131 and 132N a unit group and 132S, 133 and 134 a unit group, remove the mid hunt, allowing only an early and late hunt for units 221-223; was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Ruesch. The motion carried with no opposition.*

## **15B.\* Commission Regulation 23-05, 2023 Black Bear Seasons**

**Board discussion:** Kody Menghini informed the White Pine County CAB that the changes include dividing the applications among the 3 units for harvest. Menghini stated that the current regulation allows one application to hunt all units, but once the total sow quota is met for a unit, it becomes closed and harvests must be taken from another. Chairman McVicars and board member Sawyer stated that they would recommend leaving the regulation as it was prior to changes.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to oppose the recommended changes to Commission Regulation 23-05, 2023 Black Bear Seasons and leave as written prior to revision, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Marquez. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15C.\* Commission Regulation 23-06, 2023-2024 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits.**

**Board discussion:** Board member Rosevear expressed his concerns with the mountain lion population in White Pine County, due to the amount of houndsman. Rosevear stated that he did not want to be the only one to make action if it wasn't necessary. Board member Marquez recalled houndsman from Elko County and Utah running dogs in the area. The Board considered the concerns and would like to see data on lion populations in all Nevada Counties before taking action.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Regulation 23-06, 2023-2024 Mountain Lion Season and Harvest Limits as written was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Ruesch. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15D.\* Commission Regulation 23-07, 2023-2024 Restricted Nonresident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas.**

**Board discussion:** Kody Menghini recommended matching the season setting to the recommendations made for the resident and non-resident mule deer season settings, under Commission Regulation 23-04, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 Big Game Seasons and allow the quotas to match accordingly.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-07, 2023-2024 Restricted Non-resident Guided Mule Deer Seasons and Quotas with the exception of the following changes, by dividing units 101-109 into two unit groups with 101-103 being a unit group and 104-109 a unit group, divide unit 132 into 132N(North) and 132S(South) by making 131 and 132N a unit group and 132S, 133 and 134 a unit group, remove the mid hunt, allowing only an early and late hunt for units 221-223 and to address the quotas accordingly; was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15E.\* Commission Regulation 23-01, 2023 Application Deadlines and Draw Result Dates.**

**Board discussion:** None.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-01, 2023 as written, was made by Board member Rosevear, seconded by Board member Sawyer. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15F.\* Commission Regulation 23-08, 2023 Big Game Tag Application Eligibility and Tag Limits.**

**Board discussion:** Board member Sawyer stated that he approves the verbiage in the returned tag section, relaying that residents would obtain the returned tags. Kody Menghini voiced that verbiage is still unclear and could be interpreted differently. Menghini and Sawyer would recommend better clarification.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-08 Big Game Tag Application with the recommendation to clarify that returned resident tags will be obtained by a resident and non-resident tags will be obtained by a non-resident, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15G.\* Commission Regulation 23-09, 2023 Dream Tag.**

**Board discussion:** None.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Regulation 23-09, 2023 Dream Tag as written, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Ruesch. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15H.\* Commission Regulation 23-10, 2024 Heritage Tag Seasons and Quota.**

**Board discussion:** None.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-10, 2024 as written was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15I.\* Commission Regulation 23-11, 2023 Partnership In Wildlife Tags.**

**Board discussion:** None.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-11, 2023 Partnership in Wildlife Tags as written was made by Board member Rosevear, seconded by Board member Sawyer. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**15J.\* Commission Regulation 23-12, 2023 Silver State Tags.**

**Board discussion:** Kody Menghini stated that he would like to see the mountain goat tag under the “Partners in Wildlife Tags” as an opportunity for residents of Nevada only. The Board agreed.

**Public comment:** None.

*A motion to support State Commission Regulation 23-12, 2023 Silver State Tags with the exception of moving the mountain goat tag to the Partners in Wildlife program, as an opportunity for residents of Nevada; was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.*

*Next Commission meeting scheduled for January 27th, and 28th, 2023 the location of the meeting is subject to change due to direction of the Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission may change the time and meeting location at this time. The Chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.*

*A motion to allow and approve travel and expenses for an available Board member to attend the State Commission meeting on the dates of January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Reno, Nevada, was made by Board member Sawyer, seconded by Board member Rosevear. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**Board discussed having the next advisory meeting on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6:00pm at the White Pine County Library.**

*A motion to accept the next meeting date of Monday, March 6, 2023 at 6pm at the White Pine County Library, was made by Board member Rosevear, seconded by Board member Sawyer. The motion carried with no opposition.*

**Public comment:** No public comment.

Board Chairman McVicars entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm

*A motion to adjourn the White Pine County Wildlife Advisory meeting on January 23, 2023 was made by Board member Rosevear, seconded by Board member Sawyer. The motion carried with no opposition..*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.