

Washoe County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife –
June 9, 2025 minutes

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** [Non-action item]
2. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** [Non-action item]

Members in Attendance

1. Coby Rowe, Chairman
2. Ryan Browne, Vice Chairman
3. Steve Robinson

Members Absent

1. Matt Melarkey
2. Jim Rhea

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**-[Non-action item]

There was no public comment.

4. **Approval of April 23, 2025 minutes**-[For possible action]

Member Robinson motioned for approval of the April 23, 2025 CAB minutes. Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **BOARD MEMBER MEETING ASSIGNMENT**-[Non-action item]

Chair Rowe asked who would be able to attend the upcoming Commission meeting. Board members noted they would be able to be in attendance for the upcoming Commission meeting in Elko.

6. **COMMITTEE, MEMBER AND LIAISON UPDATES**-[Non-action items]

Chair Rowe and Member Robinson spoke about the sheep transfer going on in Nevada.

7. **Consent Agenda** [For Possible Action]

- A. Appeal – Mr. Dallas Mark Lewis
- B. Legislative Committee Report
- C. Fiscal Year 2026 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Budget Requests
- D. Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Upland Game

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The CAB chose to go through each item individually and vote on each item separately. There was no public comment.

8. Consent Calendar items pulled for further discussion [For Possible Action]

A. Appeal – Mr. Dallas Mark Lewis

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss the appeal of Dallas Mark Lewis. Chair Rowe provided an overview of the appeal and his thoughts on the merits. Chair Rowe said based on what he had seen he believed the appeal should be denied. Mortimer, NDOW Game Warden, provided an explanation regarding the case based on his understanding. There was no public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to deny the appeal of Mr. Dallas Mark Lewis. Member Robinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Legislative Committee Report

C. Fiscal Year 2026 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Budget Requests

D. Biennial Small Game Release Plan for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Upland Game

Chair Rowe combined agenda items 7b, 7c, and 7d to discuss and take action on together. There was no discussion and no public comment.

Member Robinson moved to agenda items 7b, 7c, and 7c as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Trail Cameras and Thermal Imaging Regulation Discussion- [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss proposed regulations that were formed by the Emerging Technology Committee for trail cameras and thermal imaging. Member Robinson asked how many hunters had been caught with thermal imaging, and said they were hunting coyotes, but were scouting deer. Mr. Mortimer said there were no instances of that to his knowledge. Vice Chair Browne said he believed this issue was being addressed due to encounters in eastern Nevada with guides who were scouting with thermal imaging. Chair Rowe talked about a hunter he had run into bragging about using binoculars with thermal imaging. Member Robinson said he was against the proposal because he felt it overly penalized hunters to address a small group of bad actors. Members of the CAB continued to discuss the proposal and the dates

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that were included. Member Robinson's main point of contention was that the use of thermal imaging was already spelled out in law and he would prefer those laws are enforced instead of adding additional laws which would be difficult to enforce. Vice Chair Browne said he felt there should be additional regulations because the use of thermal imaging was growing and the costs of the technology was getting cheaper, so it was something that needed to be addressed sooner rather than later. Member Robinson said he was good with keeping the 12 demerits but removing the rest of the proposal. There was no public comment

Member Robinson moved to deny the Trail Cameras and Thermal Imaging Regulation except for the 12 demerits. Chair Rowe seconded. The motion carried 2-1 with Member Browne voting nay.

10. Elk Management Plan and Sub Plan Direction [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to discuss the revision of the Statewide Elk Management Plan, elk population objectives and present options for the Wildlife Commission and County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife to consider with the intent to provide the Department with direction for reviewing population objectives and future elk management in Nevada. Member Robinson said he was in support of the elk plan and thought it would be beneficial to the population of elk in Nevada. The members of the CAB discussed each option that was proposed. There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Browne moved to recommend, and approve, Alternate #3 as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- 11. Heritage Project Extension Requests– [For Possible Action]**
- 12. Heritage Project Extension Request– [For Possible Action]**
- 13. Fiscal Year 2026 Heritage Project Proposals– [For Possible Action]**

Chair Rowe, and members of the CAB, heard agenda items 11, 12, and 13 as one item since the items were combined as part of the Commission supporting materials. Chair Rowe did note there appeared to be a \$200,000 shortfall, and it was unclear how that funding would be made up. Member Robinson said the CAB had attempted to make recommendations before regarding the Heritage projects, but the recommendations had been denied each time. There was no public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve agenda items 12, 13, and 14 as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Fiscal Year 2026 Habitat, Research and Management – [For Possible Action]

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Chair Rowe opened the item to hear recommendations from the Heritage Committee and take action to approve up to \$373,111 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2026. There was no public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Fiscal Year 2026 Habitat, Research and Management as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Duck Stamp Request– [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to review and take action to approve up to \$98,000 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2026 funding from the Duck Stamp Account. There was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Duck Stamp Requests for Fiscal Year 2026 as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Upland Game Bird Stamp Request– [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to review and take action to approve up to \$332,855 for projects submitted for Fiscal Year 2026 funding from the Upland Game Bird Stamp Account. Member Robinson wondered why the mines in Nevada were not paying for the studies of mineral effects on the habitat. Chair Rowe said he agreed but wasn't sure if the Nevada Mining Act would not allow for mines to cover those costs. There was no public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Upland Game Bird Stamp Requests for Fiscal Year 2026 as written but with a question to the Commission regarding the mines paying for studies of the mineral effects on the habitat. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

17. Commission General Regulations Workshop - Commission General Regulation 525– [For Possible Action]

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503 to provide for season and licensing requirements for participants of coyote hunting contests. Members of the CAB noted the proposed regulation regarding thermal imaging has significant overlap with the coyote contests seasons, which may cause problems for the contestants. There was no public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission General Regulation 525 as written with the notice the proposed season dates conflict with the proposed thermal

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imaging closure dates which may impact the coyote contests. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

18. Commission General Regulations [For Possible Action]

A. Commission Regulation 24-13 Amendment #1, 2025-2026 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits

Chair Rowe opened the item to vote to amend regulations for upland game birds and mammals as well as furbearers for the 2025-2026 season. Members of the CAB discussed turkey season and possible complaints and violations recently. There was public comment.

Member Robinson moved to approve Commission General Regulation 24-13 Amendment #1, 2025-2026 Upland Game and Furbearer Seasons and Bag Limits as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Commission Regulation 25-01 Amendment #1, 2025 Application Deadlines, Draw Result Dates and 2026 Spring Turkey Application Deadlines and Draw Result Dates

Chair Rowe opened the item to review may approve the proposed addition of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge Special sage grouse hunt application deadline and draw date. There was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission General Regulation 25-01 Amendment #1, 2025 Application Deadlines, Draw Result Dates and 2026 Spring Turkey Application Deadlines and Draw Result Dates as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Commission Regulation 25-04, Amendment #1, 2026 Heritage Tag Vendors

Chair Rowe opened the item to review the Wildlife Heritage Committee's recommendations regarding Heritage Tag Vendor Proposals and Wild Turkey Quota for 2026 and take action on the proposals. There was no discussion or public comment.

Chair Rowe moved to approve Commission General Regulation 25-04 Amendment #1, 2026 Heritage Tag Vendors as written. Vice Chair Browne seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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D. Commission Regulation 25-14, 2026 Silver State Turkey Tag

Chair Rowe opened the item to consider and take action to approve the 2026 Silver State wild turkey season and quota. There was no discussion or public comment.

Vice Chair Browne moved to approve Commission General Regulation 25-14 Amendment #1, 2026 Silver State Turkey Tag as written. Member Robinson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

19. Future Meeting Agenda Items – Informational only- Public Comment Allowed

Chair Rowe said he would look into having a presentation regarding the turkey tag allocation. Member Robinson asked to have an agenda item regarding the state's wolf management plan at a future meeting.

20. Public Comment [Non-action item]

There was no public comment.

21. Adjournment [Non-action item]

Chair Rowe adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.