

MOFFAT COUNTY LAND USE BOARD MEETING MINUTES Monday March 10, 2014

Attendees:

Burt Clements, LUB
Jean Stetson, LUB
Ken Bekkedahl, LUB
Bob Grubb, LUB
Kevin Wilbanks, LUB
Ray Owens, LUB
Jerod Smith, LUB
T. Wright Dickinson, LUB
Doug Wellman, LUB
Steve Hinkemeyer, LUB
John Kinkaid, LUB
Bob Grubb, LUB
Frank Moe, Guest
Brad Petch, Guest
Chuck Grobe, Moffat County Commissioner
Jeff Comstock, Moffat County Natural Resources Dept.

Call to Order:

Jean called the meeting to order at 7:00

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Steve / Burt / Unanimous

General Discussion

CPW- 5 year big game season structure/sage grouse update- Brad Petch

Brad Petch spoke about the 5 year hunting season structure process that Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is conducting. The renewal of the 5 year season structure plan will apply to years 2015-2019. CPW's planning process considers topics such as number of seasons for each species and what methods of take should be allowed. Timing of seasons and the beginning and end dates of seasons are also considered as well as the addition, removal, or maintenance of trophy hunt areas to the season structure. Species included in this process include elk, deer, pronghorn, moose, bear, and lion.

Brad stated the State is receiving more comments from their web site than traditional public comment letters or emails, and bear comments seem to dominate species of interest so far, while most comments are related to preference point issues. Currently if a hunter uses their preference points, all must be used in an application. Most hunters do not like using them at once and would prefer being able to use a portion of their points for a license. Preference point banking is a common suggestion that CPW is receiving where a hunter would only use the points necessary where you hunt. Another issue that seems to arise is that basic math for accumulating preference points makes it hard to hunt trophy areas as some trophy areas take more points to hunt than can be accumulated. CPW is considering a weighted preference point system such as is used in Mountain Goat licenses. Four season hunts seem to be still popular with hunters.

John Kinkaid asked about the possibility of buying points to build up faster points. Brad said CPW is considering an option where hunters can pay to keep preference points active for several years but it would take a statutory change to allow purchasing points.

Current elk population objective for Data Analysis Unit (DAU) E-2 (Bears Ears Heard) is 15,000 to 18,000. Current elk estimate is 16,700. High was 40,000 in year 2000. DAU E-6 (White River Heard) objective 32,000 to 39,000. Current elk estimate is 34,700 high was 67,000 in 2003.

Colorado does not have a bounty program. CWP is concerned with deer population numbers being low. Elk numbers are within target.

T.Wright asked if Utah was paying a \$50 bounty on coyotes to help reduce predation on deer. State general fund supports the bounty.

SAGE GROUSE

Brad stated CPW is reporting stable grouse populations in Colorado for several years and currently. Brad said budget cuts are disproportionately affecting species conservation and both the research on big game and avian species have taken substantial cuts, and that grouse research in Moffat County may be affected, but no announcement by CPW has occurred.

Motion: The Land Use Board recommends the Commissioners forward a letter to Mike King (DNR Director) and Bob Broscheid (CPW Director) that indicates Moffat County's desire to be involved in assuring state funding is allocated to conduct grouse research, data collection, and monitoring so that no data gaps occur leaving NW Colorado Sage Grouse Populations vulnerable.

T.Wright/Burt/Unanimous

Land Use Board Elections

Chair: motion for Steve Hinkemeyer to hold chair position (T.Wright/Burt/ Unanimous)

Vice Chair: motion for Bob Grubb to hold vice chair position (T.Wright/
Burt/Unanimous)

Secretary Treasurer: motion for T.Wright to hold secretary/treasurer position
(Doug/Steve/Unanimous)

Air Quality Control Commission Updates

Jeff updated the board on the new Air Quality Control Commission regulations regarding methane and other volatile organic compounds emitted from storage tanks on well pads.

Updates:

Future Agenda Items

Adjournment:

9:35 PM

Burt/Steve/Unanimous