

MODOC COUNTY
FISH, GAME & RECREATION COMMISSION
202 W 4TH STREET
ALTURAS, CA 96101

MINUTES – February 27, 2019

The meeting of the Modoc County Fish, Game and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Chris Ratliff at 1:00 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bryce O’Sullivan, Paul Molder, Pete Carey, Mark Moriarity, Chris Ratliff, Cheryl Kunert, Lorissa Soriano, Dewayne Matthews, Curt Talbott and George Wistos.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Brian Gallaher, Michael Hinton, Steve Clay, Jessica Simons, Patricia Cantrall, Garrett Cockrell, Ed Wistos, Claude Singleton and Ken Sandusky.

Minutes from the January 30, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

California Fish and Game Commission

- Continuation of the notice of proposed regulatory actions relative to Archery Equipment and Crossbow Regulations.

Curt Talbott reported:

- Changes would happen to how/who can sign off on deer tags. Any kind of Firefighters used to be able to sign off on tags, now they have to be a full time employed firefighter.
- Tag numbers will increase for Big Horn Sheep and Tule Elk.
- Elk quotas will increase on those signed up in the SHARE Elk program.
- Salmon quotas will be cut back on the Klamath River due to low populations.
- Archery & Crossbow changes are to include poundage for bows.

California Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Webinar Announcement – Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Data Collection System Webinar.

Modoc National Forest

- News Release – Online wild horse adoption event rescheduled.
- News Release – Sanchez acting Modoc National Forest Supervisor.
- News Release – Modoc National Forest welcomes two new rangers.

California Sportfishing League

- 365 – Day Fishing Legislation Introduced.

Brian Gallaher brought up Senate Bill 395 – Wildlife Traffic Safety Act. If this bill passes, it will allow salvage of “Roadkill” animals. Chris Ratliff presented more information and after discussion this will be added to next month’s agenda.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC:

Patricia Cantrall gave a thank you card and bouquet to Cheryl Kunert for being a "great secretary".

AGENCY REPORTS:

Modoc Refuge: Steve Clay introduced Jessica Simons, the Refuge's new Wildlife Biologist and Michael Hinton the new Administrative Officer for the Refuge. He also reported that the new access trail had just received a Development Award from California Trails and Greenways development program.

DFW: Brian Gallaher reported that the prospects for restitutions to proceed as in the past look good. The late goose season is in the process and is going along okay.

Modoc Forest: Ken Sandusky handed out reports on the adoptions of the Devil's Garden horses. He also stated that they are looking into placing "Day Use Fee's" at some of the camping areas on the forest due to budget cuts. He brought up the possibility of putting together a collaboration group to look into ideas for this. He will bring it back sometime in the spring.

BLM: Claude Singleton reported that they were having problems checking on sites due to the weather. He also spoke on the upcoming Interpretative Sites that they would be putting up throughout the County. One of which will be placed on the Pete Carey Ranch.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Expo Fishing Pond: The Commissioner's will help during the Expo. The Refuge personnel will set up the pond. During discussion it was brought up to get less fish so that there are less fish to transport after the Expo. 240 fish will be requested. The Expo will be June 22nd & 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS

Guzzlers: Paul had been contacted by the Doublehead district concerning three guzzlers, two were destroyed by fire and one by a contractor. They asked if CDA could replace the guzzlers. Paul thinks that he can get two but the problem will be getting them installed. He will continue to work on this.

Highway 139 Report: There have been very few deer losses to vehicles so far this year. Paul will be participating in a deer pellet count happening in the Tionesta area, this will be in collaboration with UC Davis. He also reported that the new signs have not been installed yet, they are waiting on the "OK" from CalTrans.

Modoc's Deer Populations: Through email Richard Shinn reported that he shares concerns about low deer populations in the Warner Mountains. His survey results in X3b the last two years are the lowest that he has seen in his 17 years in Modoc. There could be many reasons for this but he currently does not have answers as to why. They are continuing to attempt to improve their survey methods to develop better population estimates. They had hoped to capture and collar an additional 120 deer throughout the northeastern zones this winter, but that project was temporarily delayed. His annual spring surveys are coming up in March and he hopes to be able to provide updated information to the Commission at the next meeting.

He also wanted to report that they are still wrapping up aerial elk surveys. They have captured and collared 20 elk and 48 pronghorn in January and February. There were 45 adult female and 3 adult male pronghorn captured and fitted with GPS collars. The spring kid captures will begin in May.

NEW BUSINESS:

Archery Club: There being no further information, remove from agenda.

Duck Populations: This was covered at the last meeting, remove from agenda.

CDA Fawn Survival in Hay Fields: Chris brought information to the Commission. CDA ran a study in collaboration with University of California by running drones equipped with heat sensors in front of hay swathers and last year they saved 17 fawns out of one field. They would like to expand the project but are running into people saying that this is a form of harassment. They are asking for a letter of support for the project. After discussion, Paul Molder made a motion to write a letter of support for the project; seconded by Pete Carey. All present in favor.

USFS Camp Site Directories: See Agency Reports. Remove from agenda.

Veteran's Sportsmen's Day: Lorissa Soriano asked the Commission if they would support this event again this year. The Commission supported \$500.00 last year. Paul Molder made the motion to put \$500.00 towards the Veteran's Sportsmen's Day; seconded by Curt Talbott. All present in favor. Remove from agenda.

Outdoor Education Program: Lorissa Soriano asked the Commission if they would support this event again this year. The Commission supported \$1,000.00 last year. Curt Talbott made the motion to put \$1,000.00 towards the Outdoor Education project; seconded by Mark Moriarity. All present in favor. Remove from agenda.

Dorris Reservoir Management Plan: Steve Clay explained that no changes to the management plan would be happening any time soon. The Reservoir opened to foot traffic on February 1st and vehicle access will open on April 1st. Remove from agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Clear Lake Sage Grouse Meeting: Chris and Paul attended this meeting. At the meeting it was reported that the Sage Grouse in the area are doing well, there were 6 collared last March and 5 are still surviving. They are planning on doing more translocation from Nevada. Rough estimates of 200 birds are located in the Clear Lake area. Stage 5 is being delayed due to timber and fuels projects; therefore the juniper removal will probably be delayed a few years. Stage 4 is being held up by heritage/cultural findings. The plant life and hydrology reports are coming back with good reports.

NRA Dinner: George reported that the local NRA Dinner would take place on March 9th at the Brass Rail.

There being no further business to come before this Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl Kunert, Secretary