

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

MINUTES – April 24, 2019

The meeting of the Modoc County Fish, Game and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Chris Ratliff at 6:00 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Ratliff, Cheryl Kunert, Lorissa Soriano, Curt Talbott, Mark Moriarity, and Paul Molder.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Patricia Cantrall, Dale MacDougall, Laura Snell, Brian Gallaher, Claude Singleton, Kat Smith and Richard Shinn.

Minutes from the March 27, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

California Fish and Game Commission

- Notice that April 17, 2019 meeting agenda posted to website.
- Notice of revised April 17, 2019 meeting agenda posted to website.
- Notice that Commission would soon launch new website.
- Notice of continuation regarding proposed regulations related to 2019-2020 mammal hunting season posted to website.

BLM

- Notice of proposed habitat restoration and hazardous fuels reduction project.

Modoc National Forest

- News Release – Fandango Forest Health Project public meeting April 17.
- News Release – Adoption events successful, some horses still available.
- News Release – Obsidian collection season postponed.
- News Release – Forest seeks RAC members in Modoc County.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC:

Patricia Cantrall thanked the Commissioners for their donations to the Lions Club, and Paul Molder and Laura Snell for their donations to the Senior Center.

AGENCY REPORTS:

DFW: Brian Gallaher reported the squirrel shooters were not happy due to land owners poisoning of squirrels. Fishing is accessible. And that they would be having the last Hunter Education Class coming up in May.

Richard Shinn reported that the spring deer surveys had been wrapped up. They are looking to hire an additional person to work on the bear study. They currently have an OSU student working on the sage grouse translocation project.

BLM: Claude Singleton reported that work was being done on springs, camp grounds, planned clean up at Fee Reservoir and Devine Springs. Pit River camp ground is still closed due to flooding. He also relayed to the Commission that they had experienced some thefts of fire rings and picnic tables at Boulder Reservoir.

FARM ADVISOR: Laura Snell reported that Kent Laudon (DFW Wolf Specialist) had given a presentation on the presence of wolves in our area to the Board of Supervisors. UC has presented workshops for Producers on studies and methods of non-lethal control.

USFS: Kat Smith reported that they are looking to post fees on East Creek, Stough Reservoir and Days Reservoir camp grounds. Fees would be used to support the Recreational Staff and maintenance of camp grounds.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Expo Fishing Pond: Chris reported that he had contacted Paul Divine and the Hatchery. Everything is set for 240 fish and they will deliver Friday before the Expo.

OLD BUSINESS

Guzzlers: Paul had spoken with Megan Solace about repairs to a couple of guzzlers that were damaged by a contractor. The contractor will provide equipment to help fix the site but Forest Service has not gotten the coordinates to Paul so he can check the sites.

Hwy 139: Paul reported that there have been some deer hit. Signs have been installed back in original locations but are hard to see. Paul will speak with CDA.

Modoc's Deer Populations: Richard Shinn reported that the deer population counts had been completed. He noted that there were a lot of deer in X2 around the juniper removal sites. There was also an increase in X3B but still down compared to counts done three years ago. DFW is ramping up monitoring on Chronic Wasting Disease, this needs to be detected as soon as possible.

Archery: Nothing at this time.

CDA Fawn Survival in Hay Fields: Dale McDougall reported that CDA is working in collaboration with UC Berkley using drones with heat sensing devices to locate fawns in hay fields or crops so that they can be removed from the fields during harvesting and haying periods. At present they are in the scientific permitting process with target areas in Region 1 being Modoc, Butte and Siskiyou Counties.

SB 395 – Wildlife Traffic Safety Act: Paul has started a letter but has more questions. He will look into farther and bring back to next meeting.

Fish Pack-In: Chris has spoken with Paul Divine and we are on track with allotments for Patterson, Emerson, Pine Creek Basin and Cold Springs. He also contacted Alan Cain with Back Country Horsemen and estimated planting will be mid-July for Emerson, Pine Creek Basin and Cold Springs. And Patterson sometime in mid-August.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recreation Tech Funding: Laura Snell relayed to the Commission that the USFS needs to add a Recreation Tech position for late season to keep some select camp grounds open through deer season. The position would run mid-August to mid-October and would cost approximately \$6,000. At present, RAC could possibly fund ½ of the position and are hoping the Commission could also fund ½. Tabled until next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mid-Year Budget: Cheryl presented the Commission with the mid-year budget. She will work on the 2019/2020 budget to present to Commission in the future.

Bi-state Sage Grouse: Cheryl presented an article on the Bi-State Sage Grouse and was concerned that at some point it could create issues with the Greater Sage Grouse. Upon discussion it was decided that this would not affect the Greater Sage Grouse at this time.

Lorissa reminded the Commission that the Veteran's Sportsman's Day was coming up this weekend and asked the Commissioners to come help out.

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

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl Kuzert, Secretary

