

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

MINUTES – January 29, 2020

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, Cheryl Kunert, Lorissa Soriano, Dewayne Matthews, Curt Talbott, Pete Carey, Mark Moriarity, Chris Ratliff and Paul Molder.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Patricia Cullins, Monte Fenske, Paul Bailey, Richard Westman, Steve Clay, Brian Gallaher, Aaron Freitas, Ken Sandusky, Patricia Cantrall, Richard Shinn, Buck Silva and Ralph DeForest.

Minutes from the November 26, 2019 meeting were approved as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE:

California Fish and Game Commission

- Notice that CFGC expects to initiate 5-year status reviews for threatened or endangered species listed within the next two years.
- Notice of receipt of petition to list Shasta snow-wreath as endangered or threatened.
- Notice of receipt of petition to list western Joshua tree as endangered or threatened.
- Notice of revised meeting start time for December 11-12, 2019 meeting agenda.
- Notice of proposed 90-day extension of emergency regulations concerning Chinook salmon.
- Notice that falconry demonstration was cancelled.
- Notice that agenda for January 16, 2020 meeting of Wildlife Resources Committee available.
- Notice of workshop to discuss developing Experimental Fishing Permit program.
- Notice that Roadkill still illegal to possess on January 1, despite passage of law.
- Notice that agenda for January 17, 2020 Tribal Committee is available.
- Notice of proposed regulation changes concerning 2020-2021 mammal hunting season.
- Notice of proposed regulation changes concerning 2020-2021 waterfowl hunting season.
- Notice of proposed regulation changes concerning Klamath River Basin sport fishing.
- Notice of proposed regulation changes concerning upper Klamath-Trinity spring Chinook salmon sport fishing.
- Notice of continuation regarding proposed regulations related to the issuance of experimental fishing permits.
- Invitation to participate in conference call to discuss potential revisions on existing Striped Bass Policy.
- Notice of receipt of petition to up-list Clara Hunt’s milkvetch from threatened to endangered status.
- Notice of continuation regarding proposed regulations related to issuance of experimental fishing permits.
- Notice of proposed regulations concerning wildlife areas, public lands & ecological reserves.

Modoc Forest

- News Release: Younger Devil's Garden Horses for sale with limitations.
- News Release: All horses at Double Devil Wild Horse Corrals one dollar.

BLM

- Notice of DNA for purposes of performing maintenance work on existing juniper reduction and fuel break projects.
- Notice of preliminary EA to reduce hazardous fuels near private lands in Northeastern corner of Shasta County.

DFW

- Northeastern California Wildlife Connectivity Symposium registration open.
- Reminder of Northeastern California Wildlife Connectivity Symposium registration closes December 20th.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE PUBLIC: None

AGENCY REPORTS:

DFW: Brian Gallaher gave an update that the later portion of duck season had went well. Currently waiting on late season goose to kick off.

Aaron Freitas reported that he had seen lower numbers of deer during hunt season on the X1 and about average on X2. Also that Collins Pine had closed access to hunters allowing only those that had special permits issued by them. Waterfowl season has been weird in that guides were having to cancel clients due to low numbers of birds.

Richard Shinn reported that the BLM had supplied enough funding to purchase GPS collars and he has been involved with an antelope capture/collar project in Surprise Valley in which they have captured 25 antelope. Institute for Wildlife Studies in collaboration with Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted a drop net antelope capture. Two animals were captured and collared using this program. Coming up, they will be doing antelope helicopter captures, elk captures in march and more sage grouse trans location.

Modoc Refuge: Steve Clay reported on duck season on the Refuge. They had the highest harvest since 1981 during the duck season this year. Number of hunters is creeping up. Working on handicap hunter accessible blinds and hoping to have at least one completed by next season. He also relayed to the Commission that they would not have an YCC crew this year due to funding issues.

Modoc Forest: Ken Sandusky reported that they would be supporting an YCC crew this coming year. He also reported that they are down to 108 horses left for sale/adoption at the Devil's Garden corrals.

Work on the head gate at C Reservoir had been completed. They are currently looking into solutions to alleviate the vandalism to the head gate. He also relayed that planning was underway for the Children's Forest program and will be a part of the Outdoor Education project.

RCD: Richard Westman gave an update on where the WIP Capacity Program Sub grant stands. The goal for this grant is to implement forest health and wildfire prevention projects. Stipulations for the grant is to conduct assessments of collaboratives/partnerships. Mr. Westman would like to meet with the Commission to complete the assessment. After discussion, a subcommittee will be set up to meet with Mr. Westman.

Elk Foundation: Paul Bailey reported that they had completed the fourth year of the elk study on Devil's Garden. Checking on cow/calf ratios, bull ratios and herd health. Interesting was the productivity of the herd. Camera's picked up quite a few different wildlife species.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Jr. Chukar Hunt: Cheryl reported on the hunt. 15 youth hunters bagged a total of 41 birds, weather cooperated, over all everything went well.

OLD BUSINESS

Guzzlers: Weather and muddy roads have put a hold on the surveys.

Hwy 139: Paul and Aaron Freitas attended the Northeastern California Wildlife Connectivity Symposium. The Highway 139 was specifically spoke on and has been put in the Caltrans 20 year plan.

Mountain Lion: Nothing new to report.

USFS Recreation Working Group: Ken Sandusky reported that the Cedar Pass camp ground was open. A search for additional funding for recreational personnel is in the works. Next meeting will be February 14, 2020 at 9:00 am.

Modoc Resource Sustainability Group: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Cat Hunting: After discussion it was decided to change this to Predator Control. A subcommittee will be set up to work on this.

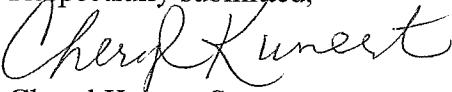
Top Shot Lunch: Motion to provide lunch to the 4-H Top Shot participants and spectators was made by Dewayne Matthews; seconded by Lorissa Soriano. All present in favor. The Top Shot competition will be April 19, 2020.

Set Yearly Meeting Calendar: Due to unavailability of the Sheriff's Annex the February meeting will be held at the Modoc Wildlife Refuge at 1:00 pm. Future meeting dates and places will be discussed at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: None to report.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Cheryl Kunert, Secretary

