



**COUNTY OF PLACER
FISH & GAME COMMISSION**

Ed King
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
County Contact

FISH & GAME COMMISSION MEMBERS

DISTRICT 1 Don Gould	DISTRICT 2 Mark Fowler
DISTRICT 3 Gregg McKenzie	DISTRICT 4 Gary Flanagan
DISTRICT 5 Kari Freidig	DISTRICT 5 Marc Wyatt
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
MINUTES**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, February 26, 2014
LOCATION: PLACER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING ROOM
Community Development Resource Agency, DeWitt Center, Auburn
3091 County Center Drive (corner of Bell Road and Richardson Drive)

The Placer County Fish & Game Commission is committed to ensuring that persons with disabilities are provided the resources to participate fully in its public meetings. If you are hearing impaired, we have listening devices available. If you require additional disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Recording Secretary at (530) 889-7372. If requested, the agenda shall be provided in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. All requests must be received at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which you are requesting accommodation. Requests received after such time will be accommodated only if time permits.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Gregg McKenzie, Vice Chair
- II. **ROLL CALL** - Mark Fowler, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan, Kari Freidig, Marc Wyatt, Gregg McKenzie
Absent: Don Gould
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR February 26, 2014 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF January 22, 2014**

Commissioner Daniels motioned to accept the agenda.
Commissioner Freidig seconded the motion.
All commissioners voted to accept the agenda.

Commissioner Wyatt motioned to accept the January 22 minutes.
Commissioner Flanagan seconded the motion
All commissioners voted to accept the minutes.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Individuals may address the Commission on items under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Commission not included on this agenda for no longer than five (5) minutes. ***No action can be taken on items addressed under Public Comment***

None.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT
Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures for FY 13/14, through January 31, 2014, total \$7543.96 including \$600.00 in commissioner's fees, \$400.00 in secretary fees, \$680.84 in mileage reimbursement, \$4995.80 in grant awards and \$382.00 in A-87 costs.

Revenues through January 31, 2014, total \$467.72 including \$323.32 in fine and penalty monies and \$144.40 in interest.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

Fowler – attended an informative Foresthill community meeting sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the Sierra Fund. The topic of the meeting, Fish and Dust: Legacy Impacts from the Gold Rush, addressed studies related to mercury, lead and asbestos exposure from historic mining.

Freidig – invited Ben Smith from the Institute of Wildlife Studies to present on transitioning to non-lead ammo at a future commission meeting.

B. State Wildlife Conservation Board Subcommittee

McKenzie – no current projects or proposals in Placer County.

C. State Fish & Game Commission Subcommittee

Fowler – State Fish and Game Commission recently determined the America Pika's status is not warranted as a threatened or endangered species; northern spotted owl and Townsend's big-eared bat may be warranted (decision delayed).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting public comment on yellow-legged frog critical habitat designation and is accepting comments on proposal to list the North American wolverine as a threatened species until May 6.

Due to the drought and winterkill the number of tags in zone hunts may be reduced. Blue Canyon Apprentice Hunt tags may also drop to 5 - 25 tags.

The Wildlife Resources Committee reviewed potential changes to the Department of Fish and Wildlife's predator policy and implementation of non-lead ammunition alternatives at their January meeting.

Upland game bird and sport fishing regulations are on the state commission's May agenda.

B. California Department of Fish & Wildlife - Lt. John Lawson
El Dorado County Sheriff is investigating the recent shooting incident involving a DFW Warden. Warden Pera was performing surveillance during a varmit tournament in the Georgetown area. Suspects allegedly mistook Warden Pera and shot in his direction from approximately 150 yards away. Fired .243 round hit the doorframe of Warden Pera's patrol vehicle and fragmented. Shrapnel hit Warden Pera's wrist and neck, which subsequently required several surgeries. He is planning to return to work within a couple months. Two suspects were arrested, charges pending.

Wardens are busy completing required annual trainings and inspecting equipment.

Lt. Lawson responded to a CalTip call of an Auburn business that was selling a full mounted bear and two deer shoulder mounts. Business owner was cited for a violation of Fish & Game Code 4758. Lt. Lawson will be filing the case as a misdemeanor with the DA.

C. Nevada Irrigation District - Sue Sindt
None.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

VII. Placer Land Trust Conserved Lands Update – Jeff Darlington, Executive Director, Placer Land Trust
PLT is a private, non-profit organization that works to protect natural and agricultural lands within Placer County. Land is acquired directly or through conservation and agricultural easements. Funding support comes from member donations, fundraisers, grants and investment earnings.

Resources protected throughout the county include vernal pools, livestock grazing lands, blue oak woodlands and wetlands. Over 7,600 acres have been protected to date. PLT emphasizes the importance of protecting creek corridors and interconnections between watersheds while also promoting recreational use of lands including trails and docent led tours.

Recent projects in the American River watershed include the Long Point North Fork Preserve, Oest/Cold Springs Preserve, Auburn School Park Preserve, Mergen North Fork Preserver and helped the Truckee Donner Land Trust with their 3,000-acre Royal Gorge acquisition.

Recent projects in the Bear River watershed include the Outman Big Hill Preserve and a conglomerate of properties that link Hidden Falls Regional Park

with PLT properties along the Bear River. Future plans include working to open these areas to the public.

PLT lands are not currently open to hunting, but considerations are currently being evaluated.

A recent Fish and Game Commission grant supported improvements to burrowing owl habitat in western Placer County.

VIII. Update on Department of Fish & Wildlife Fisheries Management Activities in Placer County – Kenneth Kundargi, Fisheries Biologist, California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Met 2013 allotments for stocking Placer County lakes.

Expecting temperatures at Folsom to rise to a point where DFW may need to release all fish in hatchery. If so, may have to plant early and may not be able to grow fish to catchable sizes or meet stocking targets.

The Lake Tahoe Basin Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Implementation Team (TBRIT) is comprised of DFW, U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Paiute Tribe and Nevada Department of Wildlife. TBRIT's goals are to:

- Maintain and enhance existing Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) populations within the basin.
- Establish new LCT populations by restoring areas of habitat within the historic range where LCT can be introduced and become a self-sustaining population.
- Expand existing and establish additional recreational fisheries of LCT in the basin.

There is vigorous scientific disagreement between the involved agencies in approaches to accomplish these goals, but they are working to resolve differences.

The USFS LTBMU continues to work to expand LCT in the Upper Truckee in Meiss Meadows. They currently have one additional year of project funding and DFW may provide assistance in the upcoming field season.

DFW requested USFWS transition from a research project at Fallen Leaf Lake and write a recovery plan detailing how they plan to proceed with future actions. DFW agreed to collaborate in this process.

USFWS is proposing additional rainbow trout eradication in Glen Alpine Creek as well as expanding their work in Fallen Leaf Lake to Lake Tahoe. DFW has

suggested that USFWS continue to focus on Fallen Leaf and when that project becomes a proven success, and then consider expanding to other areas.

TBRIT is developing a stream prioritization matrix that analyzes recovery potential and restoration needs in 22 Tahoe tributaries. Achievability and feasibility of actually being able to mechanically remove fish and replace with LCT was not a factor in priority rankings.

A management oversight group was formed to facilitate interagency relations and resolve disagreements.

DFW is considering implementing a LCT allocation for the Truckee River between Tahoe and Truckee. This would be a supplemental planting to support recreational fishing and not a restorative action.

DFW does not considering interbreeding rainbow/LCT a recovered species under the ESA.

Implementation of the Truckee River Operating Agreement is forthcoming pending resolution of legal issues. The Agreement will allow sharing and trading supplies from different lakes and reservoirs to improve river flows and fish habitat.

High mountain lake surveys for yellow-legged frog are complete. One adult and one sub adult were identified in Placer in 2004. No sightings were confirmed during the last survey in 2011.

Proposed freshwater sport fishing regulations are being considered.

Recent Placer fish surveys took place in the North Fork American River and for kokanee in Hellhole Reservoir.

DFW implemented a Drought Action Team, which is looking at reservoir levels, water storage, and stream flows. They will prioritize water bodies that may be affected. Criteria include threatened/endangered species, native species and sport fish.

Fish and Game Code has been amended to permit commercial crayfish fishing in Lake Tahoe. The Fish and Game Commission has not implemented regulations yet.

ACTION ITEMS

VIII. Discuss impacts to recreational and sport fishing in Placer County and resource management options to improve fishing opportunities. Consider drafting a letter of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in support of recreational and sport fishing opportunities.

Flanagan - The El Dorado County Fish and Game Commission recently expressed concerns regarding USFWS activities to reestablish LCT in the Tahoe Basin. They drafted a proposed resolution that the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted which reaffirmed the economic and recreation importance of a variety of fishing opportunities.

The El Dorado Fish and Game Commission inquired if the Placer Fish and Game Commission would recommend a similar action to the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

Kundargi - LCT evolved without competition from other trout species and don't fare well when sharing habitat with rainbow and brown trout. DFW prefers a smaller scale and more practical restoration project compared to USFWS. The ESA requires specific steps to be taken and a written recovery plan, which are not in place for Lake Tahoe.

McKenzie – Supports the idea of sending a letter to the BOS recommending that recreational and economic factors be considered in LCT reintroduction decision making.

Flanagan – Also supports sending a recommendation letter to the BOS stating the importance of recreational fishing.

Daniels – If the BOS acts on a commission recommendation letter, NDOW and DFW should be informed of the action.

Freidig – Doesn't support a recommendation letter. LCT are under pressure and economic and recreational fishing should take a back seat to the resource.

Flanagan – *Motion:* Send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors asking that they send a letter to the USFWS, CDFW and NDOW recommending that angling and economic considerations be included in actions to restore LCT in eastern Placer County and the Tahoe Basin. *Second:* Fowler.

Ayes: Flanagan, Fowler, Wyatt, Daniels, McKenzie
Noes: Freidig

IX. Consider making a Public Records Act request to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for information regarding Fish and Game Code citations issued in Placer County.

Flanagan – *Motion*: Send a letter from County Counsel to CDFW requesting citation information between July 1 and December 31, 2013, including citation date, suspect name, date of birth and violation. *Second*: McKenzie.

Ayes: Flanagan, Fowler, Wyatt, Freidig, McKenzie
Noes: Daniels

X. Next Meeting Date – March 26, 2014

XI. Adjournment – 9:15 PM