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March 2nd 2016

PARC comments on NDOWs FY2017 Predator Management Plan

PARC recommends:

1. Overall NDOW needs to develop specific goals (i.e. brood size / fawn to doe ratio) for the predator management plans. PARC would also like to see accounting from NDOW to verify where the predator funds are being spent.
2. Because of the nature of predator management and how employees, equipment, and aircraft need to be planned for, PARC recommends NDOW complete the 80% lethal removal budget as close to July 1st as possible. That gives WS and contractors the time necessary to plan to do this correctly. Specifics of who, when, where and how much should be included.
3. PARC recommends NDOW provide more specific information on the budget including past balances, carry over amounts, and specific fiscal information regarding expenditures for project staff.
4. Using phrases such as "abiotic" factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat" and blaming persistent drought or extreme weather are most certainly true, but PARC recommends NDOW start verbalizing other intrinsic justifications for implementing predator programs.
5. PARC recommends the budget should include more information. In past predator management plans the budget included past balances, carry over amounts, and new money. Also included was how much was spent by NDOW, WS, and contractors.
6. PARC recommends NDOW should develop specific goals and objectives for projects. The goal could be to increase fawn/doe ratios for mule deer or antelope. Or the goal could be an increase in population level. For sage-grouse (since nest success data is very difficult to get) we could have a goal of reducing raven densities around sage-grouse leks during the nesting season. Since translocating bighorn sheep is very expensive and some populations are very low the goal for bighorn sheep projects could be zero depredations.
7. PARC recommends NDOW include more information on the resource being protected whether that be mule deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, sage-grouse or

any other natural resource. **NDOW should convey to the public why these resources are important and valuable and why we are protecting them from excessive predation.**

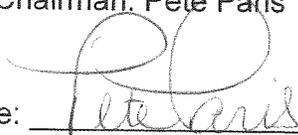
8. PARC recommends NDOW establish peer reviewed research protocols. PARC is also concerned some current research projects do not meet the spirit of AB 78. (Conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife)

PARC comments on specific projects:

1. Project 21: no clear goal, but PARC supports this project. Mid-winter populations of ravens are heavily concentrated along rural roads especially when there is solid snow cover throughout the landscape. The attraction can be viewed as a subsidy, but adjacent power lines and rabbit road kill can and should be considered an opportunity for lethal removal of common ravens. NDOW's plan refers to experimental management and thus should include new approaches. Since much of northern Elko County is considered focal areas for sage-grouse, targeting these clustered ravens with lethal actions, carte blanche, is most certainly justified. Attempting to deal with the same birds, when scattered in the spring and summer months is much more difficult.
2. Project 21-02: lethal/nonlethal, with no details as to percentage of funds spent on lethal. PARC recommends information be provided pertaining to the distribution percentage of funds for lethal or nonlethal management.
3. Project 22-01: Again, no clear goal but PARC supports this project.
4. Project 22-16: This project does not meet the requirements set forth in AB 78 (Sec. 4, 1c) conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife. This project continues to change and the methods continue to change. This study appears to be a failure. PARC recommends this project be discontinued.
5. Project 22-074: What is the goal? PARC supports but would like to know the long term goal.
6. Project 32: PARC feels this project does not meet the requirements set forth in AB 78 (Sec. 4, 1c).
7. Project 37: PARC likes the project idea, but doesn't feel it meets the requirements in Commission Policy Number 23 on pages 4 and 5 Predation Management Plan.
8. Project 38: PARC likes the project idea but doesn't feel it meets the requirements in Commission Policy Number 23 on pages 4 and 5 Predation Management Plan.
9. Project 40: good, PARC supports this project.
10. Project 41: PARC supports this project.

PARC Committee Chairman: Pete Paris

Chairman Signature: _____



Date: 3-3-16