

Predatory Animal & Rodent Control Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 11:00 A.M.

Division of Animal Industry



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture

Meeting location: Microsoft TEAMS Meeting

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Public Notice

Below is an agenda of all items to be considered. **Action may be taken on items preceded by an asterisk (*).** Denotes possible closed session (**). Items on the agenda may be taken out of the posted order, items may be combined for consideration; and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time at the discretion of the Chairperson. Unless noted as an action item, discussion of any item raised during a report or public comment is limited to that necessary for clarification or necessary to decide whether to place the item on a future agenda. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Reasonable efforts will be made for members of the public who have disabilities and require special accommodation for assistance at the meeting. Please call 775-353-3755.

Notice of this meeting was posted on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting at the following locations: Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st Street, Sparks, NV 89431, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2150 Frazer Ave., Sparks, NV 89431, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 4780 E. Idaho Street, Elko, NV 89801, Nevada Department of Agriculture, 2300 St. Louis Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104.

Copies of the agenda, supporting documentation and meeting minutes are available, at no charge, at the Department of Agriculture website at www.agri.nv.gov or www.notice.nv.gov or by visiting Nevada Department of Agriculture, 405 S. 21st St., Sparks, NV 89431, attention Executive Assistant.

AGENDA

1. Open meeting-call meeting to order by Chair Darrell Pursel

- a. Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll call

Committee members: Dr. Ihsan Azzam, Cody Krenka, Darrell Pursel, Pete Paris, Casey Kiel

Sparks staff: Doug Farris, Julia Ketcham, Will Dawson, Dr. J.J. Goicoechea, Chad Sestanovich, Liz Smith

Guests: Joe Bennett (NDOW), Shawn Espinosa (NDOW), Richard Yien (DAG), Mark Ono (USDA), Jennifer Mowbray (USDA), Eric Covington (USDA), Jack Spencer (USDA), Margaret Welch

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Minutes

- a. * Approval of February 12, 2024 committee meeting minutes (*for possible action*)

Cody Krenka moved to approve the February 12, 2024 meeting minutes, Casey Kiel seconded this motion. The motion passed.

4. Committee Business

- a. *Committee selection of new Chair for 2025, per NRS 567.040 (*for possible action*)

Pete Paris motioned to have Cody Krenka take Chair position. Darrell Pursel seconded this motion. The motion passed. Darrell Pursel asked that Cody Krenka run remainder of meeting.

- b. *Committee selection of new Vice Chair for 2025, per NRS 567.040 (*for possible action*)

Pete Paris nominated Darrell Pursel as Vice Chair. Casey Kiel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- c. *Nevada Department of Wildlife FY2026 Predator Control Plan presentation and coordination of submission of comments – Joe Bennett, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) (*for possible action*)

Key change to AB 70 is that anyone who applies for a big game tag application, to

include turkey applications, under NRS 502.253 is that they have the chance to choose if they want their \$3 funding, from processing the application, to go into development, developing and implementing an annual program for the lethal removal of predatory wildlife, or to go into habitat research and management beneficial for non-predatory game species. During 2024's game tag application period, 64% of people chose implementation on legal removal and 36% chose habitat research and management side.

Cody Krenka noted that the predator control plan has been working in specific areas. Questioned if there are any areas that may be neglected because it may not be a "specified" area.

Dr. Goicoechea asked if there was any funding built in for the surveillance and maintenance for the areas that have been successful in predator work.

Shawn Espinosa responded to the questions presented that a decision had been made to move some of the funding from the Raven Control Project and supplement with the Upland Game stamp funds.

Casey Kiel made a motion to accept the plan as written and to be forwarded to Wildlife Commission. Darrell Pursel seconded the motion. The motion passed.

d. *NDA Program Update: Chad Sestanovich, Administrator, Division of Animal Industry

Update of progress for recruitment of PARC staff in the Eureka, Ely area. Abatement update completed with allocated funds in December of Northern dairies that were indirectly or directly affected by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (H5N1) outbreak.

Dr. Goicoechea commented that Wildlife Service is obviously playing a critical role in NDA response not only to High Path but to all predator nuisance in general. Employees that work for Nevada Department of Agriculture will continue to work for Nevada Department of Agriculture as they are not under contract but are State Employee's. and are safe employees as Director Goicoechea, Deputy Director Farris and Administrator Sestanovich will not allow the PARC program to wither away.

No additional comments or questions.

e. *Progress update on Predatory Animal and Rodent Control program by USDA Wildlife Services, Mark Ono. *(for information)*

Grazing boards have provided \$102,100 to the Wildlife Services Program, which is a significant contribution to the aviation program that averages about \$550,000.

Focus in Central Nevada, Humboldt County, Elko County and White Pine County projects 37 and 47 mountain lion removal is underway as is mule deer enhancement projects. Project 38 still has secured fixed wing and helicopter contract and plan to fly Northwest Nevada as more of a collaborative effort with NDOW.

Thanked Director Goicoechea for funding approximately \$20,000 towards the DRC 1339 procurement. Have deployed staff to conduct wildlife disease sampling and are waiting for results from the lab.

Feral swine eradication through national feral swine program. If any swine spotted across Lincoln County calls can be placed to 775-289-7902.

No additional comments or questions.

f. *Meeting schedule discussion (*for information*)

Committee discussed holding 2026 meeting as soon as possible after the NDOW Board meeting being held January 2026 – dates for this meeting have not been announced yet. Pete Paris requested it not be later into Springtime.

5. **Public Comment**

Pete Paris – Nevada Woolgrowers have a self head tax on every sheep in the State of Nevada for predator control and Nevada Woolgrowers would like to see as much predator that benefits everyone in the state. Rather, its wildlife that is very very important to predator control.

No additional comments.

6. **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am