

**Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Meeting Minutes
Riverton, WY**

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Members Present:

Mark Jolovich, President	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Rusty Bell, Vice President	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
John Masterson, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Kenneth Roberts, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Fonzy Haskell, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Bill Mai, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Ashlee Lundvall, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Commission
Angi Bruce, Member	Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Staff Present:

Eric Wiltanger, Jeff Davis, Meredith Wood, Rhiannon Jakopak, Amanda Fry, Roy Weber, Alan Osterland, Dave Zafft, Sean Bibbey, Ray Bredehoft, Dan Smith, Craig Smith, Justin Binfet, Martin Hicks, Dirk Miller, Rene Schell, Dr. Dan Thompson, Brian Parker, Bobby Compton, Matt Lentsch, Carli Baum, Jason Hunter, Dillon Bates, Rob Shipe, Brady Frude, Kyle Lash, Luke Schultz, John McCoy, Lara Gertsch, Paul Dey, Kevin Gelwicks, Jerry Cowles, Larry Kidwell, Samuel Jackson, and Toni Bell.

Legal Representation:

Jason Keen, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Guests Present:

Paul Mavrakis, former WGFD employee; John Harris, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation; Cliff LeBlanc and Tim Metzler, Voices for Wyoming Wildlife; Anna Miller, National Bighorn Sheep Center; and Meghan Riley, Wyoming Outdoor Council.

Commissioner Haskell moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and property matters. Commissioner Lundvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session began at 12:06 p.m. and ended 12:29pm

Open session began at 1:02 p.m.

President Jolovich began the meeting with a welcome and a request to silence cell phones, noting a \$50 fee will be collected for The WYldlife Fund for any disruptions. A quorum was established by a roll call of the Commissioners. President Jolovich provided information on how to comment during the meeting and participate in the meeting via Zoom. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Presenter: Commission President. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes.

Commissioner Masterson moved to accept the Open Session minutes and Executive Session minutes from the March 2026 Commission meeting. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Presenter: Angi Bruce, Director. Director's Report.

Director Bruce provided an update on upcoming Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources (TRW) committee meetings and outlined the topics planned for discussion. Director Bruce noted that upcoming discussions will cover several other key areas, including trapping,

Director Bruce informed the Commission that there has been positive feedback regarding the Wyoming Mule Deer Conservation strategy. These discussions will transition into more substantive action during the November 13, 2026, Mule Deer Summit.

Director Bruce thanked the Commission for their support regarding her upcoming travel to Washington D.C. for a congressional briefing. She will be providing testimony on two important subjects. First, highlighting the importance of wildlife crossings and the necessity for a sustainable funding mechanism. She will discuss State and Wildlife grants and noted that the State Wildlife Action Plan facilitates the acquisition of funds for species of greatest conservation need. Director Bruce also plans to meet with Representative Hageman to discuss the grizzly bear delisting bill and intends to meet with our other delegation and leadership representatives concerning various matters.

Director Bruce acknowledged the Wyoming Local Assistance State Team (L.A.S.T.) for a \$3,000 contribution provided by Lanny Applegate, who appeared on behalf of the organization.

Director Bruce recognized Commissioner Lundvall for a successful term as President of the Commission and presented her with a plaque and gavel.

3. Presenter: Meredith Wood, Chief Financial Officer, Fiscal Division. FY 2026 Revenue Transfers.

Ms. Wood explained the revenue transfers process and asked to vote to approve the transfer of 6% of the lifetime license fund balance and alternative enterprise merchandise net sales revenue into the Commission's operating fund.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the transfer of 6% of the lifetime license fund balance and alternative enterprise merchandise net sales revenue into the Commission's operating fund. Commissioner Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presenter: Alan Osterland, Chief, Fish Division. Speas Warm and Cool Water Facility Update.

Chief Osterland presented an update on the Speas Warm and Cool Water Facility since the previous meeting. He noted that activities are moving quickly, including bid notifications and the removal of old raceway covers, which will be repurposed at various locations throughout the state. Chief Osterland thanked the Wildlife, Services, and AIS divisions for their assistance, which resulted in a savings of approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000 for the Department. Current coordination efforts involve MacMillen regarding the project plans, the power company for utility needs, and communication with the contractor, Sletten. A supervisor will be on-site at all times during the building process.

Commissioner Masterson suggested sending a formal letter of appreciation to the University of Wyoming (UW) Board of Trustees for facilitating the involvement of a UW project manager. He also inquired about the coordination between the UW manager and MacMillan. Commissioner Mai noted that the university employs experts who regularly handle such responsibilities.

The Commission discussed the need for construction oversight and would like assurance that a single point of accountability exists to monitor expenditures and ensure the efficient use of funds. They want to be mindful regarding overall project costs. The Commission commended the Department for providing ongoing budget updates.

Commissioner Mai asked for a monthly report on what is being spent to keep the Commission on track and also keep them posted on change orders of \$50,000 or above.

President Jolovich thanked the UW Board of Trustees.

5. Presenter: Ray Bredehoft, Deputy Chief, Services Division. Table Mountain Property.

Deputy Chief Bredehoft presented a PowerPoint update to the Commission on the property next to Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA).

Commissioner Roberts inquired about the well on the property, and Deputy Chief Bredehoft explained the operational limitations currently in place. Commissioner Mai thanked the Department for their efforts and noted that the property would serve as a significant addition to the WHMA.

6. Presenters: Dan Smith, Chief Game Warden, Wildlife Division; Alan Osterland, Chief Fish Warden, Fish Division; Sean Bibbey, Chief, Services Division. Awards, Recognition, and Donations.

Chief Osterland presented the following service awards:

Bobby Compton - 20 years

Steve Gale - 20 years

Chief Bibbey presented Brian Parker with his 20-year service award.

Chief Smith presented Matt Lentsch with his 35-year service award.

Chief Smith presented Jon Desonier with the Shikar-Safari International Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.

7. Presenter: Nathan Lindsey, Sheridan Region Habitat and Access Coordinator, Services Division. Lake DeSmet Monument Point Public Access Area (PAA).

Mr. Lindsey provided a PowerPoint overview of Lake DeSmet Monument Point PAA and asked the Commission to vote to approve the shoreline lease between Johnson County and the Commission.

Commissioner Lundvall moved to approve the shoreline lease between Johnson County and the Commission. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Haskell asked if there was money involved in this transaction. Mr. Lindsey stated that it is an in kind transaction.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. Presenter: Jerry Cowles, Laramie Region Habitat and Access Supervisor, Services Division. Rawhide Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) Management Agreement.

Mr. Cowles gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Rawhide WHMA and asked the Commission to vote to approve the Department's management agreement for five years with the option to renew for an additional five years on the Rawhide WHMA to improve wildlife habitat.

Commissioner Masterson moved to approve the Department's management agreement for five years with the option to renew for an additional five years on the Rawhide WHMA to improve wildlife habitat. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Presenter: Anna Miller, Executive Director, National Bighorn Sheep Center. National Bighorn Sheep Center Update.

Ms. Miller provided an informational PowerPoint presentation with an update on the National Bighorn Sheep Center.

10. Presenter: Roy Weber, Chief, Communications and Education Division. Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Policy Revisions.

Chief Weber provided a PowerPoint presentation on one Commission Policy. He asked that the Commission vote to approve the revisions of Policy III E – Awards and Recognition Program.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve the revisions of Policy III E – Awards and Recognition Program, as presented. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Presenter: Martin Hicks, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. Winter Update.

Deputy Chief Hicks provided an informational PowerPoint presentation regarding the current statewide weather conditions.

12. Presenter: Meredith Wood, Chief Financial Officer, Director's Office. Preference Point and Reduced Price License Fee Overview.

Ms. Wood provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation overview of preference points and reduced price licenses.

There was discussion amongst the Commissioners regarding raising Preference Point fees.

Commissioner Mai moved to raise the non-resident Preference Point fees for deer, elk, and antelope to the maximum. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion.

The Commission discussed the rationale behind the fee adjustment and noted that it demonstrates to the Legislature the necessity for flexibility across various license types. By selectively adjusting fees, the Department avoids broad impacts on hunting opportunities. Commissioner Bell expressed support for this approach and would like to see future legislative engagement to increase resident license fees and explore funding from non-consumptive users. Commissioner Haskell concurred with Commissioner Mai regarding the importance of maintaining current rates for reduced-price licenses. The Commission further discussed conducting a public survey to gauge hunter sentiment on these matters. Commissioner Bell suggested adding an effective date of January 1, 2027.

Commissioner Mai made an amendment to the motion to read “nonresident Preference Points increase to \$75 effective January 1, 2027.

The motion passed unanimously.

13. Call to the Public.

Cliff LeBlanc, Voices for Wyoming Wildlife - Powell

Mr. LeBlanc shared his viewpoint regarding fair chase and noted that Wyoming doesn't have explicit statutory definitions concerning modern technology. He questioned whether the state would take a proactive stance or remain reactive as new technological advancements emerge. He talked about new robot technology being used in Poland and encouraged the Commission to watch a video titled "Edward the Robot" on YouTube for further information. Mr. LeBlanc emphasized the need for upholding hunting ethics amidst contemporary technological developments.

Commissioner Lundvall moved to adjourn for the day. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned for the day 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

Members Present:

Mark Jolovich, President
Rusty Bell, Vice President
John Masterson, Member
Kenneth Roberts, Member
Fonzy Haskell, Member
Bill Mai, Member
Ashlee Lundvall, Member
Angi Bruce, Member

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Staff Present:

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Legal Representation:

Jason Keen, Senior Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Guests Present:

Joe Hickey; Tedd Jenkins, Jenkins Hunting Camp; John Harris, Wyoming Wild Sheep; Harvey L. Dalton, Bowhunters of Wyoming; Budd Betts, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association (WYOGA)/Absaroka Ranch; Angie Denny, WYOGA/Table Mountain; Bill Ames, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance; Erick Mares, WYOGA/High Pine Outfitters; Dax McCarty, WYOGA/Wagonhound Outfitters; Steve Martin, North American Pronghorn Foundation; McKay Erickson, Representative - Wyoming State Legislature; Craig Benjamin, Wyoming Wildlife Federation; Tex Frazier; Jeff Smith, Dustin Child, Jim Schell, Randy George, Dustin Steffer, WYOGA; Jason West, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance; Meghan Riley, Wyoming Outdoor Council; Harold Schultz, Wyoming Wildlife Foundation; Brian Taylor, Taylor Ranch/Gros Ventre Wilderness; Luke Schultz, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance; Dave Banehaf; B.J. Hill, Swift Creek Outfitters; Jim Brines; Casey Dickinson, Joan Eisenmann, NWTF, Sy Gilliland, SNS; T.C. Loughery.

Open Session meeting started at 8:01 a.m.

President Jolovich began the meeting with a welcome and a request to silence cell phones, noting a \$50 fee will be collected for The WYldlife Fund for any disruptions. A quorum was established by a roll call of the Commissioners. President Jolovich provided information on how to comment during the meeting and participate in the meeting via Zoom. He led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

14. Presenter: Justin Binfet, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. General Hunting Regulation, Big Game, Wild Bison, Wild Turkey, Upland Game Bird, Small Game and Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons, and Light Goose Conservation Order Regulations.

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the season setting process then proceeded to discuss each hunting regulation by species, regions, and hunt areas.

Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulation

Deputy Chief Binfet discussed the public comment summary. Changed Section 15 transportation & disposal of deer, elk, and moose taken within Wyoming - CWD Provisions.

MacKay Erickson, Representative - Wyoming State Legislature

Representative Erickson discussed concerns regarding technology and fair chase when hunting.

Commissioner Roberts stated that he and Commissioner Haskell would be happy to meet with Representative Erickson and any folks to discuss concerns and really look into this concern about fair chase and ethical hunting.

Commissioner Masterson concurred with Commissioner Roberts regarding the need for continued engagement. He emphasized the importance of the relationship between the Commission and the Legislature and maintaining an open dialogue.

Commissioner Bell concurred and discussed the need for Legislative work that needs to be done particularly in the law concerning enforcement and fines.

Commissioner Haskell discussed terms and definitions and the need to include hunters with physical limitations.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve Chapter 2, General Hunting Regulation, as proposed. Commissioner Lundvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 5, Antelope Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet briefly discussed the 2026 Winter Severity report and asked the Commission to keep this in mind going forward. He explained antelope populations, public comment summary. Deputy Chief Binfet stated that public comment will be taken by region, then the Department will ask the Commission to vote on Chapters 5, 6, and 7 as a whole. He explained the layout of how they will present hunting regions.

Pinedale Region

No comments.

Cody Region

Deputy Chief Binfet said there are no major concerns in this region.

No public comment.

Sheridan Region

Deputy Chief Binfet stated the major concern in this region is from 2024 wildfires. Minor adjustments in Type 1 licenses and modest decrease in doe/fawn. There was interest in creating a Type 2 license in Area 18 on private land only and suggestions to change the opening date to September 15 for Hunt Area 109.

Green River Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained conservative quotas will be maintained but there is an increase in doe/fawn and any antelope licenses. Public interest focused on the antelope population in the region.

No public comment.

Laramie Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained that the largest proposed increase was 400, reflecting the current growth in these herds. Overall support was indicated, though there were specific requests for additional licenses in Hunt Area 11. Several modifications to the proposals were made following public feedback, including an increase of Type 1 licenses to 500 in Area 11 and the removal of the Type 6 license in Area 52.

Commissioners stressed the importance of the public input process and that comments from the public are highly valued.

Lander Region

Increases in antelope licenses to 675. Overall support for proposed seasons. Because there was concern about hunter crowding on public lands in Hunt Area 62, changes were made to quota, open hunting dates, and Type 1 and Type 2.

No public comment.

Casper Region

Deputy Chief Binfet stated there were no concerns raised from the public.

Commissioner Masterson moved to approve Chapter 5, Antelope Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 6, Deer Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet shared good news about mule deer and some herds that are growing. Buck ratios are within management objectives. He discussed white-tail deer populations and discussed cuts in certain areas. He discussed the proposed changes and Antler Point Restrictions.

Jackson Region and Pinedale Region

Public comment.

Jason West, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance

Mr. West supports removing APRs. He also supports season dates, decreased hunter crowding, and improved hunter experience. Mr. West is supportive of increasing nonresident licenses.

Bill Ames, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance

Mr. Ames voiced support for removing APR. He is in support of increasing nonresident tags in Region 8 and stated that the season date of October 4 is good, but he would also support going back to October 5 and 6.

MacKay Erickson, Representative - Wyoming State Legislature

Representative Erickson is concerned about expanding opportunity in Region G and part of Region H. He spoke against the proposals and asked the Commission to wait a few more years before approving this. Representative Erickson is also against adding 50 tags to nonresidents.

Tedd Jenkins, Outfitter - Freedom, WY

Mr. Jenkins agreed with Representative Erickson, would like to go to 3-point APR another year, and extend the date to October 2.

There was robust discussion, questions, and answers about these two Regions.

Brian Taylor, Gros Ventre Wilderness Outfitter - Kelly, WY

Mr. Taylor supports the Department proposals.

Commissioner Roberts moved to keep APR and season dates in Region G Areas 143, 144, 145 the same as last year and deny 50 additional nonresident licenses in Region H. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Deputy Chief Binfet clarified the motion and stated this would create a difference in season dates and limitations for three areas. He asked the Commission to take that into consideration.

Dustin Child, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Child stated that Region G and Region H go hand in hand; and if motion passes, it will single out Region H, leaving it open and shifting hunters.

Brandon Scurlock clarified what would happen if this motion passed. It would be a law enforcement nightmare to enforce because there would be different dates for APRs and season dates on either side. These Hunt Areas were aligned in the early 90s to have similar regulations. He suggested that seasons could be shifted in Region H or adjust the APRs and keep the season dates the same.

Commission Roberts voted in support of the motion. The other Commissioners dissented. The motion failed.

Commissioner Bell moved to deny the Department's request for 50 additional nonresident licenses in Region H and deny the 25 doe/fawn licenses in Area 130. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Green River Region

Public Comment.

Joe Hickey, Lone Tree Resident

Mr. Hickey advocated for returning to a 3-point or better restriction in Hunt Area 132. Regarding youth opportunities, he recommended allowing for the harvest of any buck. Mr. Hickey also commented on the Mule Deer Conservation Plan and noted the lack of predator management.

MacKay Erickson, Representative - Wyoming State Legislature

Representative Erickson requested that a motion be introduced to avoid the two areas being different and return to the previous year's two-week season, which would cut back extended seasons and antler point restrictions (APRs) in Regions G and H.

Commissioner Roberts asked the Department to clarify the hunter survey satisfaction survey responses. Mr. Yancey confirmed that those factors had been taken into consideration and noted that removing the APR hunters expressed satisfaction and were content to hunt without APR restrictions.

Commissioner Roberts moved to keep Region K Hunt Area 135 the same as last year. Motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Bell moved to set the season the same as last year in Regions G and H including 135 and have no change in general license season dates and Antler Point Restrictions. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion.

After much discussion, Commissioner Bell withdrew his motion and directed the Department to rework the language since they know the intent and come back to the Commission with clarification.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Presenter: Justin Binfet, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division. General Hunting Regulation, Big Game, Wild Bison, Wild Turkey, Upland Game Bird, Small Game and Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons, and Light Goose Conservation Order Regulations (cont'd).

Deputy Chief Binfet presented a boundary change proposal to the Commission to dissolve Deer Hunt Area (HA) 146 and modify the boundaries for HAs 138, 143, 155, and 156. The proposal also entailed moving HA 148 into Nonresident Region F (formerly in Region L) and moving HA156 into Region L (formerly in Region H).

Commissioner Masterson moved to approve the boundary change as proposed. Commissioner Bell seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

Deputy Chief Binfet suggested Hunt Areas 138, 139, 140, 142-145, 149-156 to have general license season dates from September 15 to October 2 with APR of 4 points or more. This excludes Hunt Areas 130 and 135.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve the proposed changes to Hunt Areas 130, 138, 139, 140, 142-145, 149-156 to have general license season dates from September 15 through October 2 with an APR of 4 points or more. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jackson/Pinedale Regions Public Comment.

Jason West, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance

Mr. West stated he is disappointed in the public process. He was going to state his support for the Department's recommendation, but the Commission voted on something different before his comment could be heard.

Bill Ames, Pinedale Resident

Mr. Ames passed on his comment.

Commissioner Lundvall clarified that since a final vote on the entire proposal had not yet occurred, the Commission retained full authority to modify its position prior to voting.

Deputy Chief Binfet stated that Hunt Area 130 should NOT have been changed in season dates.

Commissioner Bell made a motion to eliminate the proposed Hunt Area 130 Type 7 license (the proposed quota was 25 licenses). Commissioner Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cody Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

No public comment.

Sheridan Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

No public comment.

Green River Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

Jim Schell, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Schell noted that Region W is uniquely the only region in the state offering extended youth hunting seasons, which he supports when resource conditions permit. Due to recent winter losses, he is opposed to extended seasons within Region W and expressed a desire for the Commission to implement proactive measures to safeguard the mule deer population. Mr. Schell would also like to see consistency in Areas 82, 100, and all the way through Region W.

Laramie Region

Deputy Chief Binfet proposed no changes in the region.

No public comment.

Lander Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained Hunt Area 87 proposals including a new license type of 3-point or less.

No public comment.

Casper Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

No public comment for the Casper Region.

Public comment for Mule Deer.

Bill Ames, Pinedale Resident

Mr. Ames stated he wished there would've been public input for the Jackson and Pinedale before the vote went forth. He asked the Commission to approve the Department's recommendation as originally proposed.

Commissioner Mai moved to approve Chapter 6, Deer Hunting Seasons, as amended. Commissioner Roberts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recap of the amendments include:

- **Reduce Region H from 400-350**
- **Eliminate HA130 Type 7**
- **Hunt Areas 138, 139, 140, 142, 143, 145, 149-156 General license season dates set at September 15-October 2 with 4-point APR.**

Chapter 7, Elk Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet provided the public comment summary and explained the upcoming archery survey. He discussed the 2026 GTNP Elk Reduction Program.

Jackson Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

Pinedale Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement. He noted CWD detected on three feedgrounds in this region.

Public comment on Jackson and Pinedale Regions.

Jason West, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance

Mr. West supported adjusting archery seasons to increase carrying capacity

MacKay Erickson, Representative - Wyoming State Legislature

Representative Erickson encouraged the Commission to evaluate the "Choose Your Own Weapon" initiative.

Tedd Jenkins, Outfitter - Jenkins Hunting Camp

Mr. Jenkins thanked the Commission for supporting "choose your own weapon." He would like to see the Department continue with this.

Bill Ames, Wyoming Mule Deer Alliance

Mr. Ames suggested implementing an early season and modifying Type 6 licenses by splitting the tag numbers equally between October and November. He stated his concerns regarding elk population density and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) risks as the primary reasons for action.

Dustin Child, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association

Mr. Child stated that a system allowing his clients to obtain Type 6 licenses would be beneficial. He recommended that the Commission approve the Department's proposal as originally presented.

Commissioner Bell moved to accept the Department's proposal on the Jackson and Pinedale recommendations. Commissioner Lundvall seconded the motion.

Commissioner Bell withdrew his motion after Deputy Chief Binfet reminded him of the need to be consistent with the process of the previous chapters.

Cody Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and noted there was overall support for proposed seasons.

No public comment.

Sheridan Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

No public comment.

Green River Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

Jim Hickey, Landowner

Mr. Hickey suggested alternating between bull-only and cow-only seasons in Hunt Area 107 to effectively disperse hunters across the small area.

Laramie Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

Public comment.

Dax McCarthy, Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association and Wagonhound Outfitters

Mr. McCarthy commented on both Laramie Region and Casper Region and suggested implementing auxiliary permits in Area 7, specifically Chapter 34 and Type 8 licenses, to facilitate landowners in distributing elk licenses to hunters. He expressed support for a three-year season-setting process and recommended limiting hunting timeframes to distribute pressure more effectively. He proposed that unlimited Type 8 licenses should be restricted to private land only, while increasing Type 4 and Type 6 licenses for public land hunting. Additionally, he suggested that Type 2 licenses be limited to elk with five points or less.

Lander Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region. He noted support for seasons and current elk hunting opportunities was received during public engagement.

No public comment

Casper Region

Deputy Chief Binfet explained the changes of this region and the issues raised during public engagement.

Commissioner Masterson moved to approve Chapter 7, Elk Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Mai seconded the motion.

Commissioner Haskell amended the motion to include Area 7, Type 2 licenses and have them remain area-wide and maintain 5-point APR or less. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

The Department provided clarification.

The motion failed with all Commissioners dissenting except Commissioner Haskell.

Commissioner Lundvall moved to approve Chapter 7, Elk Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons.

Commissioner Masterson moved to approve Chapter 8, Moose Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Lundvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons.

Commissioner Roberts moved to approve Chapter 9, Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion.

Public Comment.

Katie Cheesbrough, Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

Ms. Cheesbrough expressed her support for the Department's recommendation for Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Hunting Seasons.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Seasons.

Commissioner Haskell moved to approve Chapter 11, Upland Game Bird and Small Game Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 14, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Light Goose Conservation Order

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 14, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Light Goose Conservation Order.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve Chapter 14, Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons and Light Goose Conservation Order, as proposed. Commissioner Haskell seconded the motion. The motion passed with Commissioner Masterson dissenting.

Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Seasons.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve Chapter 15, Wild Bison Recreational Hunting Season as proposed. Commissioner Lundvall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons

Deputy Chief Binfet gave a brief overview of the proposed changes to Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons.

Public Comment.

Casey Dickinson

Mr. Dickinson stated he is against using rifles in the spring during turkey hunting season. He is in support of the Department's proposal.

Thomas Loughry

Mr. Loughry is against the use of rifles during turkey hunting season from a safety standpoint. He supports the Department's proposal.

Joan Eiseman, Riverton resident

Ms. Eisemann believes in safety first and supports the Department's proposal.

Commissioner Bell moved to approve Chapter 20, Wild Turkey Hunting Seasons, as proposed. Commissioner Masterson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mai amended the motion to remove Section 2, Subsection C. Commissioner Haskell seconded the amendment.

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Haskell, Mai, and Roberts voted in favor with Commissioners Bell, Lundvall, Masterson dissenting. President Jolovich's dissenting vote broke the tie.

The amendment failed.

The original motion passed unanimously.

15. Call to the public.

Sy Gilliland

Mr. Gilliland expressed his support for the three-year season setting meeting concept. He provided several points for further consideration, specifically regarding the 2030, 2031, and 2032 seasons, which are scheduled to be set in 2029. He noted that nonresident sportsmen have expressed dissatisfaction with the current timeline, as they apply in January but do not receive results until May, whereas the draw previously occurred in February. Additionally, he suggested that pronghorn seasons might be better suited for an annual setting process rather than a three-year cycle.

Commissioner Mai informed Eric Wiltanger that he had been contacted by a landowner regarding concerns over spring shed hunting. The landowner stated that there has been a significant influx of out-of-state participants this year.

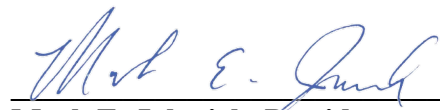
Currently, the Commission and Department are authorized to establish an antler hunting season for areas west of Interstate 25 (I-25) and Interstate 90 (I-90). Present regulations extend south of Highway 30 and upward toward Lander to protect elk on feedgrounds. The landowner claims the increased activity is putting undue pressure on elk and pronghorn populations and requested that the Department evaluate the feasibility of extending shed hunting regulations to I-25.

Deputy Director Wiltanger stated that the Department could return with a formal proposal to present to the Commission. Chief Game Warden Dan Smith discussed potential options, including whether to proceed via regulation and public engagement. It was determined that the Department will provide a presentation and analysis, after which the Commission will provide further direction.

Based on information received regarding the Muley Fanatic Foundation, Commissioner Mai requested that Dr. Kevin Monteith be allotted a couple of hours during the June retreat meeting to provide a presentation of the work his shop has been doing.

Commissioner Bell moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Roberts seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.



Mark E. Jolovich, President