



**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 Ron Salter
DISTRICT 5 Mickey Daniels	

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**PLACER COUNTY
FISH & GAME COMMISSION
Minutes**

TIME/DATE: 7:00 P.M. WEDNESDAY, July 25th, 2012

**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 – Gary Flanagan, Chairperson**
- II. ROLL CALL – Mark Fowler, Don Gould, Mickey Daniels, Gary Flanagan, Ron Salter, Kari Freidig, Gregg McKenzie**
- III. APPROVAL OF Minutes for June 27th, 2012 and Agenda for July 25th, 2012**

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

Commissioner Fowler motioned to accept the minutes from June 27th, 2012.
Commissioner Gould seconded the motion
All voting commissioners voted to accept the minutes.
Commissioner McKenzie abstained.

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

A. Budget Update – Ed King

Expenditures for FY 11/12, through June 30, 2012, total \$8,669.53 including \$4,214.46 in grant awards, \$1,866.66 in commissioner's fees, \$1,000.00 in secretary fees and \$1,580.13 in mileage reimbursement.

Revenues through June 30, 2012 total \$560.09, including \$329.46 in fine monies and \$230.63 in interest. A total of \$1,200.00 was budgeted for the fiscal year.

The BOS is scheduled to approve the final FY 12/13 County budget on September 25.

VI. AGENCY REPORTS

A. Commission Updates

Commissioner Flanagan introduced the newest member of the commission, Gregg McKenzie. Commissioner McKenzie provided some background about himself. He is a fourth generation Placer County resident and an avid fly angler and waterfowl hunter. He has served on the Placer Land Trust board for the last 4 years and is currently their Treasurer. He also serves on the Rocklin Planning Commission.

Commissioner Gould has been in contact with the Roseville Police department. Roseville has incorporated lands adjacent to the west side of the city. This land has historically been used for dove hunting. There is a process to acquire a \$47 permit to hunt within city limits. The city annexed the property to create a corridor to the water treatment plant in Lincoln. Commissioner Gould will continue to work with the Roseville Police Department to see if access can continue.

Next meeting of the Central Sierra Fish and Game Commissioners is August 8th in Placerville. Commissioner Salter will be attending the meeting.

Commissioner Freidig provided an up update on Fish and Game Commission t-shirts. She acquired permission from the Placer County CEO to use the county logo. Collared Polo Shirt with silk screened logo would start at \$30 per shirt and on up. They would have the Placer County logo with **Fish and Game**

Commission text over the top. Embroidery would be more expensive and include a \$100 setup fee and minimum \$50 per shirt.

Commissioner Flanagan reported:

- Garden Bar Dam is permanently on hold according to an article in the Auburn Journal.
- Senate Bill 1221 passed in the Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee and is now in appropriations. The Placer County Board of Supervisors elected to not agendaize this item.
- A Tahoe resident called him about a bear problem. Gary indicated that there is a need to get all the groups (i.e. DFG, Bear League and others) together to help communicate how to deal with bear issues. This would also help the public know whom to call. Suggestion to place on the Agricultural website so people can find the information.
- Commissioner Flanagan indicated he has a meeting with his supervisor to discuss Forest Service road closures. In Placer County, that equates to about 800 miles of roads and therefore limits the access by the public. The Commission could go to the Placer County Board of Supervisors and ask county counsel to do an amicus brief to have legal action to open up the roads.

B. California Department of Fish & Game – Lt. John Lawson

DFG has defined procedures for dealing with bears in the Tahoe Basin.

Nevada County Mountain Lion attack – The attack started at 2:00 AM while the victim was sleeping on his thermarest pad. The victim reacted upon feeling pressure on his cheek and that is when the mountain lion attacked. According to the victim, the attack lasted about a minute and half. Had bites on his head and arm. After awhile the lion moved off and looked back at the victim. Based on DNA, it was a female lion. Based on paw prints, it weighed approximately 120 lbs. A tracker spent 10 days looking for the lion. The victim drove himself to the hospital.

Tahoe Bear Attack – On July 4 at 3:00 AM a report came in that a man was attacked by a bear in his house. The victim reported hearing noise downstairs and found the bear inside the house. The bear swiped at the victim and scratched him across his leg. The sow then exited the house followed by a cub. Lt. Lawson interviewed the victim at the hospital and investigated the site of the attack. The bear caused very little damage within the house. Lt. Lawson swabbed the windowsill and was able to collect enough material to run a DNA profile on the bear. Lt. Lawson communicated with the Bear League. A DFG

warden monitored a trap until July 5 when the bear returned to the neighborhood. The warden watched the bear examine doors and windows attempting to enter houses. The bear charged the warden at one point. The sow and both cubs were trapped. DNA testing proved that it was the same bear. Unfortunately, the sow had taught the cubs how to break into houses. Because the sow attacked the victim the case was considered Code Red and the bear was put down. The cubs were delivered to a rehabilitation shelter.

Two cubs from North San Juan in Nevada County and four other cubs from recent depredations have also been placed in rehabilitation facilities.

Both wildlife attacks happened in the same week.

Commissioner Freidig asked about how the Robbers Fire effects the displacements of animals. Lt. Lawson has indicated yes, there are more sightings of mountain lions. In addition, more reports with people being afraid of the animals and worried about the animals attacking. The following spring after a fire there is generally lots of new growth that pulls the animals back into the area.

He fields 5 to 10 calls a day on bears.

Commissioners indicated they are receiving the weeklies from Lt. Lawson. Intent is to document significant actions. It was a big revelation to what each warden is doing. The report is specific to Lt. Lawson's wardens.

He showed the commission a spreadsheet of the citations issues between February and April of this year. DFG issued 11 citations in Placer County.

He met with DA Jane Crue. He has worked with her before on environmental crimes. Her focus is environmental crimes in Placer County. An example is streambed alterations. Indicated he was excited to have her and he thinks these crimes will be successful prosecuted.

He has secured a 23 foot Grady White specifically for Lake Tahoe. This boat is a Center Console with twin 150s. Mooring slips cost \$800 a month to keep the boat on the lake. DFG will add a light bar and star on the side.

Commission Flanagan posed the question if a buoy would work with a secure place to access the boat. Or, what about birthing at a private launch.

Lt Lawson indicated a buoy would have risks as the expensive equipment would have to be ferried on and off each time. Easy access would increase the patrol time. They are looking at other options. The boat is going to be split between both counties (Placer and El Dorado). The boat will be on the water in the spring of 2013.

C. Nevada Irrigation District – Sue Sindt

None

Non-Action Items

- VII. Dave Lentz, (DFG Fishery Biologist) Former leader of the DFG heritage and Wild Trout Program, current, Native Trout Conservation Coordinator. Assignments helping DFG team with activity contributing to efforts for recovery, restoration, conservation and management of inland native trout such as cutthroat trout, golden trout and redband trout. The revision of DFG trout management – policy and strategic planning efforts.**

Dave Lentz talked about the conservation status of native trout in California. There are 12 different species of trout in California. Unfortunately, all of them are either threatened or listed as species of special concern. There is a very high abundance of diversity.

Water use practices and introduction of non-native species have had detrimental effects on native trout. For example, some cutthroat trout have not had to compete with other trout. The introduction of brown trout and brook trout, has affected their ability to survive.

The bull trout was lost in the mid-1990s in California. They were in the McCloud River watershed. This was the southernmost species of bull trout.

Upper McCloud has redband trout. This is a unique form of trout.

There is an angler challenge – Heritage Trout – You can catch 6 of the California native trout and get a plaque.

Cutthroat and golden trout will be the primary focus for tonight's presentation.

There are two species of cutthroat on the eastern Sierras and one species on the coast. The coastal species co-exist with salmon and steelhead. They are as far south as the Klamath River, but not the Trinity. They have a complex life history and some are sea run.

Lahontan cutthroat is the world's largest inland species of trout. They are found in a few locations in California. Independence Lake and Heenan Lake have populations of Lahontan. More than 98% of the habitat in California has been lost due to the introduction of non-native trout. The recovery plan is to establish the

fish in the headwaters. In order to do this, they need to eliminate the non-native species. The politics of using rotenone is very complex.

Paiute Cutthroat – native in only in Silver King Creek.

Paiute are above Llewellyn Falls. The plan is to eliminate the non-native fish below the falls. There is a very small core of determined people working to stop this project. DFG lost in federal court because the judge determined that they did not consider certain Wilderness Act provisions. The Forest Service has readdressed the plan to balance wilderness issues. Hoping that the injunction will be lifted next year.

There are three forms of golden trout in the Kern area. Many of the high sierra golden trout are hybrids of golden and rainbow trout.

There are only a few locations left of pure golden trout. DFG invested \$3M to build a barrier on the south fork of the Kern River. Most of the habitat is in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Cattle grazing in the past has affected stream quality. Grazing has not occurred in the last 12 years. However, the stream has not recovered yet.

Kern River Rainbow – they have found some pure strains elsewhere. They are looking to see if they can use that strain to repopulate.

Little Kern Trout – A listed threatened species. A big fire burned the area last year. They are doing an assessment to see how the fire affected the fish habitat.

Commissioner Freidig asked what happens to the fish when there is a fire.

Mr. Lentz answer that it depends on the type of fire. They can kill by the heat and the ash can change the water chemistry. In most cases, there are other impacts. For example, erosion and sedimentation can fill up the stream and there is loss of habitat. Because this is a wilderness area, recovery is left to natural processes.

Commissioner Freidig asked if trout are cold blooded and if human hands burn fish?

Mr. Lentz answered that trout are cold blooded. In winter, their body temperatures might go down to 33 or 34 degrees. It is best to leave the fish in the water.

Commissioner Freidig asked if the state is still stocking non-native fish in these areas. Mr. Lentz indicated that in some areas non-native species are considered naturalized. In addition, they need to manage for native species.

Commissioner Flanagan asked if there were any blue ribbon rivers in Placer County. Mr. Lentz indicated yes, the Truckee River and the North Fork of the American River above Iowa Boot Hill Bridge.

VIII. Development of pre-questions for Placer County District Attorney R. Scott Owens and Deputy DA Jane Crue for August meeting.

Commissioners discussed questions to pose to District Attorney Scott Owens and Deputy District Attorney Jane Crue at the August meeting including questions the Nevada County Fish and Game Commission posed to their district attorney.

They discussed the distribution of monies from fines—50% goes to enforcement and the other 50% to the commission, and potential accomplishments, like specific days fish and game violations could be tried in court.

Action Items

IX. Discussion and vote on term limits for Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioners discussed the election of the next chair and vice-chair and a possible two year term limit for each position.

Commissioner Flower motioned to postpone this discussion to the next meeting
Commissioner Gould seconded
Commissioner Daniels opposed the motion.
All other commissioners voted for the motion. Motion passed.

X. ADJOURNMENT at 10:00

XI. Next meeting will be Wednesday August 22nd, 2012