

Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission

Kern County Parks and Recreation Department
Administration Office
2820 M Street
Bakersfield CA 93301

October 12, 2016
8:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The Kern County Wildlife Resources Commission met on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. Chairman Bakman presided. Commissioner Cooper was absent

Present: Dave Freeland, District 1; Bob Bakman, District II; Dave McArthur, District III; Fred Kinoshita, at Large.

Advisors: Robert Lerude, Kern County Parks and Recreation Department
Bret Haney, Kern County General Services

Others: There were 11 others present.

NOTE: Ba, Co, Fr, Ki, and Mc, and are abbreviations for Commissioners Bakman, Cooper, Freeland, Kinoshita, and McArthur. As an example, Fr-Ba denotes Commissioner Freeland made a motion and Commissioner Bakman seconded the motion.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. Flag Salute

Commissioner Bakman led everyone in the flag salute.

2. Approval of the Minutes of July 13, 2016

Mc-Fr motion to approve the minutes of April 16, 2016. All ayes, motion carried.

3. Public Presentations

Audience member Dennis Fox mentioned that the Commission and the public need to be observant of the natural of environment since the Bureau of Land Management has taken over the Carrizo Plains/Chimineas Ranch area. Food, water, and habitat protection are now in very short supply so there isn't much wildlife left. Trees have been cut down that the pioneers had planted. Non-native plants have been planted, the lookout from World War II has been torn down.

4. Correspondence – Receive and File

Fr-Mc motion to receive and file all correspondence. All ayes, motion carried.

5. New Business

- a. A funding request from the Kern County Parks and Recreation Department was made by Laura Akey, Business Manager, for a Rainbow Trout plant at Lake Evans at Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area. She mentioned that the price of the trout had increased significantly from last year and the amount of trout was also decreased. The request was for \$6,000.

Mc-Fr motion to approve. All ayes, motion carried.

- b. Justin Dellinger, Senior Environmental Scientist, from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a brief presentation on his funding request for the Mountain Lion Ecology project in the Tehachapi Mountains. There is a statewide mountain lion project in different eco-regions to radio collar the lions and to check the impact to the deer populations in relationship to the lions. The project will start in March 2017. They will be working with hound dogs to collar approximately 10 mountain lions per region. The department will monitor the habitat use and develop lion population tools. The public is attracted to this study. We will study the mountain lion's foraging interaction with wild pigs and deer. The study will be for three (3) years and we hope to receive good data from the study.

Commissioner Bakman lives in the Tehachapi area and he stated that sometimes the mountain lions attack people or children. He suggested that the CDFW contact the local newspaper prior to the study.

Audience member Dennis Fox mentioned that a 1990 UCLA study on the mountain lions concluded that they have eaten off the middle predators, such as fox, weasels, etc. Now ground squirrels have over populated those areas which has contributed to the plague and hantavirus spreading.

Justin Dellinger stated that the study will have a health aspect to it. They will keep this in mind. The funding from Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Program has to study the effect on the deer, elk, etc.

Audience member Bill Asserton asked if the area in northern Kings County was included in a previous study. Justin answered yes that it has been analyzed and they are doing a write up on the study.

It was recommended by the Commission that funding be approved for this project for \$1,500 since the funding balance is getting low.

Mc-Ki motion to approve \$1,500. All ayes, motion carried.

- c. There are two (2) Commission vacancies, District IV and At Large.
- d. It was recommended by the Commission that electing the Vice Chairman be delayed

until the next meeting to allow time to receive applications for the Commission vacancies.

6. Old Business

None

7. Advisory Report

None

8. Staff Report

Every County department took just under a 5% cut this past year. In the next 3 years the departments will take additional 5.6%, 2.1%, and 2.1% cut. The Parks department is transitioning to General Services effective November 1st. The Admin employees will move to the main County office downtown. Bob's last working day will be December 9th.

9. Commission Comments

Commissioner Freeland stated that the Lake Isabella water level is up but it is still much lower than normal. The U.S. Forest Service is moving out of the log cabin in Kernville to a new building. They are also going to build a new spillway and will replace the current visitor center.

It has been a huge fire year in the Kern River Valley. There are still a lot of standing dead burned trees and other hazardous trees everywhere.

Commissioner Bakman said the fires in the Tehachapi have been low.

He invited Justin Dellinger to come to any future meetings that he is able to attend.

The Commission thanked Bob Lerude for all of his years of service.

10. Date and Location of Next Meeting

January 11, 2017 – County Administrative building, General Services 3rd floor
multipurpose room, 1115 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to continue with the field trip to Chimineas Ranch at 8:37 a.m.