



MOTION: _____
SECOND: _____



STANISLAUS COUNTY

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

PARKS AND RECREATION

Sonya K. Harrigfeld, Director
 Margarita D. Ramos, Deputy Director
 Ed Channing, Chairman

3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, SUITE C, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA 95358



MINUTES

JULY 23RD, 2009 AT 4:00 P.M.

3800 CORNUCOPIA WAY, 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
 (Minutes and Agendas can be found online at <http://www.stancounty.com/er/parks/fish-wildlife-committee.shtm>)

FISH & WILDLIFE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Ayers
 Red Bartley
 Ed Channing

FISH & GAME REPRESENTATIVE:

Greg Gerstenberg
 Steve Tsao
 Phil McKay

PARKS & RECREATION STAFF PRESENT:

Tom Dias
 Amanda Fife
 Eddie Espinosa
 Tim Steele

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Sandy Vanwey
 Marvin Johnsen

GUESTS PRESENT:

Dan Tallman
 Julie Tallman
 Ben Paris
 Angie Wulfow
 Norm Winchester

A. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Ed Ayers called the meeting to order and those in attendance introduced themselves.

B. CORRESPONDENCES

1. Reviewed and discussed Fish and Game Correspondences:
 - a.) Notice of proposed regulatory action relating to methods authorized for taking resident small game and migratory upland game birds within the range of the California condor.
 - b.) Notice of findings, Longfin Smelt warrants listing to threatened species status.
 - c.) Proposed Regulatory Action for Waterfowl hunting.

REPORTER

Ed Ayers

C. ACTION ITEM

1. Considered and approved the Eagle Scout project request of \$650.25 (tax included) from the Boys Scout Troop 451 in Turlock for purchase of concrete for the Stanislaus Wildlife Care Center in Hughson where animals in need of care are housed and released after they are well.

REPORTER

Ben Paris
 __Channing motion,
 Bartley second,
 Unanimous Approval

Project meets the Fish and Game code under section 13103(m) Other expenditures, approved by the department, for the purpose of protecting, conserving, propagating, and preserving fish and wildlife.

Ed Ayers

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D. PUBLIC COMMENT	ACTIONS
1. None	
E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	ACTIONS
1. Minutes for April 23 rd , 2009 were approved upon motion and second with a correction to section L-1, change <i>Alliance Club</i> to the correct name of <i>Lion's Club</i> .	___Bartley, Channing, Unanimous Approval
F. PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE	ACTIONS/REPORTER
1. The Quagga/Zebra Mussel Brochure program was presented as a successful self-certification handout. Staff saw a visual estimation of about 60% compliance where the certifications were seen placed on boater's vehicle dashboards despite the lack of full program enforcement. Discussed the potential to have dog detectors in the future. The Department of Fish and Game currently have two detection dogs that underwent the usual two-week training class on how to detect the mussel species. The type of dogs to be trained must meet the criteria to become detection dogs. Irrigation districts were suggested to also be a recommended participant in preventing the invasive species.	<i>Tim Steele/Tom Dias</i> <i>___Phil McKay will inquire more info. on detection dog training requirements.</i>
2. The Waterfowl Draw date is on August 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. The Pre-Season Waterfowl Hunters' meeting is on August 12, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Both will be located at the Ag Center. The Waterfowl hunting season usually begins the third Saturday, however, the actual date is unknown until the Commission approves it in August.	<i>Tim Steele/Tom Dias</i>
G. WILDLIFE REPORT	ACTIONS/REPORTER
1. Quail/Chucker brute counts were conducted in the Panoche Hills at 2 youngs per adult per Quail and 0.3 youngs per adult per Chucker. The sample size is up. This was a good production year for the California Quail but not as much for the Chuckers.	<i>Greg Gerstenberg</i>
2. Last Spring, there was a deer mortality rate event in the overpopulated Pine Mountain Lake area with reports of over 200 dead deer. Samplings of the dead deer were taken. The deer sample had severe copper and selenium deficiency with also two species of lice on the deer; the two lice species found were the African Blue lice and the Bovicola Tibialis lice that is a native to the Fallow deer. The louse infection is a big concern to the Department due to statistics from central Washington having a 50% decline in the last four or five years after the louse was first detected on a Mule deer. During the Spring composition count, visible hair loss was found in the Tuolumne and the Yosemite deer herd. Two deer collected from the Jawbone Ridge were found with severe louse infestation of over tens of thousands of louse on the deer. Two additional deer were collected at Anderson Flat exhibiting visible hair loss but were not infected with louse instead their skin had boil-like textures. The samplings were submitted to the California Health and Food Safety Laboratory for further testing with results pending. Another deer was collected from the Gravel Range area with only guard hair loss where the undercoat was still in good condition. In conclusion, there are multiple causes to the deaths. The Department may be setting up louse surveillance on the migratory herds they've been following.	
3. The fawn survivorship proposal is currently on hold due to budget, staffing changes, and a priority shift to the new deer louse infestation concern at this time. Staff has been asked to reduce their workload by 15% due to the current furloughs; therefore, Greg and Nathan Graveline may be taking turns in attending this meeting.	

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H. FISHERY REPORT

ACTIONS & REPORTER

Steve Tsao

1. The annual Mossdale Trawl survey of the Out Migration Chinook Juvenile study on San Joaquin River just completed. The Mossdale data is still in the progress of being entered into our database. This years' juvenile caught is 639 verses last year at 1696 in the trawl survey period which is April, May and June. Since last year's estimated number was at 188,000, this year is expected to drop below 100,000. The catch rate at Mossdale is supposed to be higher than normal due to the low instream flow at the survey site, and yet, there were very few number of the juvenile Chinook caught. Instream flow measures at the Vernalis is 2700 cfs (Cubic Feet per Second). The Tuolumne river right now is 100 cfs at the La Grange dam. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) required instream flow at La Grange to be at 50 cfs. Water temperature measured 15 degrees celcius/59F at Basso Bridge when the instream flow was at 50 cfs. National Oceanic Atmosphere Administration (NOAA) Fisheries are requesting irrigation districts to have a suitable habitat and river temperature for Steelhead trout (Rainbow trout) at Roberts Ferry bridge; however, with the 100 cfs, river temperature may not be low enough for Steelheads to have a suitable habitat. There is no take for any salmon fishing both in river and ocean. Vernalis Adaptive Management Plan (VAMP) also conducted another acoustic tag study on the out migration of salmon where preliminary results of the study showed salmon dying on the way or being eaten before reaching the delta. Acoustic tag study is conducted at the Tracy fish facility, and the study fish are coming from Feather River Hatchery due to low salmon production at Merced River Hatchery.

I. FINE MONEY STATUS

ACTIONS & REPORTER

Phil McKay

1. Since the Fish and Wildlife suggestion letter had been submitted to the Commissioner, there have been improvements in the fine dismissals. Cases are being resolved with penalties and being followed by the bail schedule. More citations are being written now then in the past with the extra help from the Tuolumne district including their new staff Adam Cahn. There are three upcoming bigger cases—two dairy cases and one pollution case of Ag discharges into the Tuolumne River. All three cases have been submitted to environmental prosecutor, Roy Hubert. There has been an increase in trash and debris along the rivers due to the increase in the homeless population; some areas included Santa Fe, Oakdale, the Hickman bridge and Waterford area. This may be a project that may need funding to assist with hauling trash out of these areas.

J. WOOD DUCK REPORT

ACTIONS & REPORTER

1. No report.

K. GREAT VALLEY MUSEUM

ACTIONS & REPORTER

1. No report.

L. NEW BUSINESS

ACTIONS & REPORTER

Red Bartley

1. *The DFG Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Program (BDSFES) is requesting proposals for projects that benefit sport fish populations, sport fishing opportunities, and anglers within the BDSFES geographic range: Golden Gate Bridge to the most downstream dam of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries.*

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The PSN is on-line at www.dfg.ca.gov/fish/Administration/Permits/BayDeltaStamp/
An informational workshop will be held on **August 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Yolo Wildlife Area Headquarters in Davis.

Questions on the PSN process may be directed to kmitchell@dfg.ca.gov.

- 2. The Kids Fishing Day had a great turn out of 50 kids. 400 one-pound Black bass were pre-planted and netted off in the area. P.A.L. was also present and did great with teaching the kids about fishing. The event started about 8:30 a.m., lunch was provided around noon and wrap-up was around 2:00 p.m. The event received great comments and recognition. There will be an article to be published in the Prospector (Army Corp) paper about the program.
- 3. Ed Ayers proposed that a notice on behalf of the Committee be given to anyone who is requesting funds from the Committee to return to the following meeting from the time they make a fund request to give a status update. This item will be added to the Fund Request Procedures.

Norm Winchester

*Ayers, Bartley,
Unanimous
Consensus*

M. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned upon motion and second.
The next meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Committee will be held on:
Thursday, October 22nd, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room, 2nd Floor
3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto

*___Ayer, Channing,
Unanimous Approval*