

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
AND  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, NATURAL RESOURCES AND  
TRANSPORTATION**

**Seventy-Eighth Session  
March 19, 2015**

The meeting of the Subcommittees on Public Safety, Natural Resources and Transportation of the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means was called to order by Chair Pete Goicoechea at 8:04 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, 2015, in Room 3137 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Pete Goicoechea, Chair  
Senator Mark A. Lipparelli  
Senator David R. Parks

**ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman Chris Edwards, Chair  
Assemblyman John Hambrick, Vice Chair  
Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton  
Assemblywoman Jill Dickman  
Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle  
Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus, M.D.

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblyman James Oscarson, Assembly District No. 36

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Stephanie Day, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst  
Jeff A. Ferguson, Senior Program Analyst

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Adam Drost, Program Analyst  
Emily Cervi, Committee Assistant  
Cindy Clampitt, Committee Secretary  
Jeanne Harrington-Lloyd, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Troy Dillard, Director, Department of Motor Vehicles  
Nancy Wojcik, Administrator, Division of Field Services, Department of Motor Vehicles  
Terri L. Albertson, C.P.M., Administrator, Division of Management Services and Programs, Department of Motor Vehicles  
Tony Wasley, Director, Department of Wildlife  
Patrick O. Cates, Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife  
Alan Jenne, Habitat Division Chief, Department of Wildlife  
Tyler Turnipseed, Chief Game Warden, Department of Wildlife

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will open the meeting with public comment. We will move to hear budget account (B/A) 201-4735, DMV Field Services.

**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**MOTOR VEHICLES**

DMV - Field Services — Budget Page DMV-96 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 201-4735

**Troy Dillard (Director, Department of Motor Vehicles):**

This is a continuation of our budget hearings from last week, when we presented an overview of the issues that are facing the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

Since 2008, we have experienced a decrease in agency-authorized staffing. We have more than doubled our employee turnover rates and experienced in excess of 33 percent growth in measurable customer workload. The solutions to the problems we face are outlined and contained in the Governor's

Executive Budget. The budget contains a three-point approach to address the issues that we face today and in the future. Those issues are education, efficiencies and resources. We discussed education last week; we debated and discussed efficiencies with the primary element being system modernization.

While this component is the single biggest upfront investment contained in the budget, it is also a long-term solution to many of the challenges faced today and in the future. To compare the investment necessary to address the State's issues with long-term solutions, the investment accounts for 1.7 percent of the Agency's revenue collection over the same 5-year period. It also becomes fractions of a percentage over the long utilization of the system itself. This brings us to resources. Today we are going to focus on budgets that need resources to fulfill their statutory obligations. While system modernization will be the driving force to keep resource demands under control in the future, immediate attention is needed to address the demands of today that cannot wait for a modernized system.

The DMV offices cannot meet the existing customer demands, yet so far in this Legislative Session we have seen several bills introduced that, if enacted, would bring additional customers into the DMV offices. Those include voter identification cards, moped registrations, yellow-dot personal medical information packets for motorists, unmanned aerial vehicle storage facility registration, medical marijuana caregiver cards for pet owners, annual odometer inspections of classic vehicles and bills are still coming.

The Department is not able to absorb the continuing increases and responsibilities thrust upon it each legislative session without the accompanying resources, where the Department can respond in a timely manner. Customers come into the DMV because they are obligated to do so. Wait times can be 2, 3, 4 and 5 hours for services required by law. The DMV is requesting both short-term and long-term solutions for our residents.

**Nancy Wojcik (Administrator, Division of Field Services, Department of Motor Vehicles):**

The Field Services Division is the first point of contact for customer service with the DMV. Currently, there are 686.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions located in 18 offices. Field Services is responsible for processing driver's licenses,

instruction permits, identification cards and titling and registration of vehicles, as well as providing support to eight assessor offices.

Decision unit E-225 requests funding for 75 new positions, 68 technicians and 7 supervisors. This is to bring the five largest metropolitan offices up to a 100 percent staffing level. The offices referred to are Reno and the four Las Vegas metro offices, Henderson, Sahara, Decatur and West Flamingo. This would allow these offices to achieve and maintain maximum window coverage. We are proposing the implementation of these positions by July 1, 2015. With the implementation of these new programs in the last Legislative Session, we have seen an increase in customer volumes within the offices.

#### E-225 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DMV-98

Decision unit E-716 represents 100 percent pin (personal identification number) pad replacement. Due to the technology and encryption changes, we need to replace the existing pin pads with the Europay, MasterCard and VISA (EMV) integrated circuit chip. The EMV chip technology is now the global standard for credit and debit card payment compliance. It increases security, reduces fraud and protects sensitive card data. If we do not have EMV-compliant units by October 2015, the DMV would be responsible for any damages customers and businesses might incur if a security breach occurred.

#### E-716 Equipment Replacement — Page DMV-101

Decision unit E-230 represents an enhancement to improve the new queueless customer flow system. During the last Session, Highway Fund appropriations were approved to implement a new customer queuing system. This offered new technology to the customers, enabling them to text in to queue up. Because of this function, the customer can wait in line from outside of the DMV. The system also offers additional appointment capabilities. We are asking for additional funding to enhance the system. With these additional functions and fully staffed windows, we will be able to receive a true measurement of wait times.

#### E-230 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DMV-99

**Senator Lipparelli:**

The volume of people is changing. We are fulfilling the job to enable people to come in without a 4-hour wait. What can we do so that people are not required to come in to the DMV at all?

**Mr. Dillard:**

There are many elements concerning who is coming to the DMV for service. We are looking for ways to move those services to online and mobile platforms. This connects with our request for a modernized system, where many of the mobile platforms will become available to us. We have large volumes of customers that require temporary movement permits. We are looking for solutions to allow temporary movement permits to be tied into Web services.

Another solution is going from a 4-year driver's license to an 8-year driver's license that was approved by the 2013 Legislature. That will lead to a reduction in the number of people coming into Department offices at that 4-year mark. Over an 8-year period, 1.5 million fewer people will come into the offices. We have added customers coming into the offices including 9,000 medical marijuana card customers. We have submitted a bill allowing the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public and Behavioral Health, to begin issuing those cards instead of the DMV.

**Chair Edwards:**

Is there a reason why the voter ID requirement is not going to the Office of the Secretary of State for implementation? Why is the DHHS not implementing the Medical Marijuana Program and why are the other agencies not taking responsibility for their programs?

**Mr. Dillard:**

Voter identification cards are still under debate this Session. We have expressed our concerns about the manner in which the initial bill has come out. This will continue to be debated this Session. The DMV is the one point that almost every adult citizen deals with. The DMV is a centralized point for getting things done across various areas of our State and meeting our government requirements. There are additional demands on our Department and the resources are not there to manage the additional demands.

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**Chair Edwards:**

Everyone is aware of the DMV, but not of the other agencies. Do we need to educate people and encourage them to use the other options?

**Mr. Dillard:**

There should be a debate on these issues for each piece of legislation that comes forward. We can provide an impact analysis for our Department to the bill's sponsors for each of those bills.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

According to your earlier presentations, there has been a dramatic increase in visitors to the DMV, especially in southern Nevada, since changes in regulations a number of years ago. Specifically, there has been an increase in the issuance of the driver's authorization cards. Do you have a percentage as to how many of these driver's authorization cards are issued and what impact it had on the DMV services?

**Mr. Dillard:**

Yes, we know exactly how many transactions were conducted for driver's authorization cards throughout the State. We have percentages of written testing, percentages of drive testing and the overall number of issues. When there is a new start-up endeavor like this, there is an initial elevation in the first few months and then it flattens out as time goes by. We now have a leveling out and we know what that ongoing impact is.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

I understand considerable time is spent in the office testing and retesting. Please provide the related data.

**Mr. Dillard:**

Written testing has a higher fail percentage rate than noncommercial driver's license applicants. As a result, we see more repeat customers in the driver authorization written testing side. This is not the case with the practical tests or the issuance process itself.

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**Assemblywoman Titus:**

The actual breakdown of your budget indicates there were no expenses for employee background checks in 2014 and prior to that time, but suddenly there was \$11,375 in 2014-2015, then nothing for the next several years.

**Mr. Dillard:**

The employee background check expenses are pass-through costs. Employees pay for the fingerprint itself. Everyone related to commercial driver's licenses was federally required to have background checks. When employees were hired prior to the policy change, we covered those background checks.

**Assemblyman Hambrick:**

The DMV issues identification cards to State employees and those who do not drive, such as senior citizens. What is the percentage of that type of work in relation to the employees who issue driver's licenses to the general population?

**Mr. Dillard:**

Issuing identification cards to State employees and those who do not drive is a very small percentage of the actual workload.

**Assemblywoman Dickman:**

I would like an overview of the issuance and renewal process for the medical marijuana cards. What would the process be if it goes to the DHHS?

**Ms. Wojcik:**

The customer will go to the DHHS with proof from the doctor that identifies they are eligible for the medical marijuana card. The DHHS provides a letter to the customer who now contacts the DMV directly, makes arrangements for them to come in and we will issue an actual identification card. The customer has to have a driver's license on record because that information is tied to the existing record. In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, they share confidential information with a specific supervisor and a medical marijuana card is processed.

**Mr. Dillard:**

The issuance of a medical marijuana identification card is an annual requirement. We have two focuses with the bill that the DHHS has introduced. First, it would

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allow the DMV to move to a batch process where there could be an interface between the DHHS and the DMV. We could validate if the individual does have a record, then pull the photograph and have it printed onto a card that is mailed to the individual, which could be handled through the DHHS. Those individuals would not be required to come to the DMV offices. Second, the DHHS will take over the entire issuance process.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

What calculation method is used to determine the number of positions that are needed to staff support functions?

**Mr. Dillard:**

A budget amendment moves all 75 of the new positions to a new start date of July 1, 2015, so that we can address the continuing customer demands expediently. These new positions are no longer phased in based on the continuing customer demands. The new positions include 68 technicians and 7 supervisors.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Why would we approve all 75 positions when you presently have 39 vacant positions that you are unable to fill?

**Mr. Dillard:**

We constantly have vacancies. We have over 1,200 staff at the DMV. There is over 400 staff in the Field Services Division alone. This is a simple every day process of positions becoming vacant and we fill them. We put 18 new technicians out to the windows. We also have two new academies in the north and the south which is part of the routine vacancy process.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Will the additional staffing positions bring the field offices up to their maximum capacity?

**Mr. Dillard:**

We have the offices, windows, the computers, the printers and the pods. We have everything we need to transact business for the public except the people to fill those spaces to keep customers moving through our offices.



**Ms. Wojcik:**

The back-office support functions include monitoring our daily transactions and title processing from the window technicians. We monitor the title paperwork and verify if it was completed correctly, then make corrections as needed. We also have a fleet section, where we deal with companies that come in with 25 or more vehicles for renewals. We have staff responsible for maintaining that information and processing those transactions, aside from doing daily production for customers walking in the front door. Those transactions are obligated by a deadline and have to be transpired, processed and returned to the companies.

We have a registration service window and service agencies that come in for registration renewals. Because they bring 15 transactions at a time, we implemented a separate window with a technician. We offer either to make an appointment or a drop-off capability. Included in our back office functions are an information area and a camera area. We need technicians to keep these areas running at all times.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Is this new technology, because the queuing enhancements were not included in the 2013 legislation?

**Mr. Dillard:**

The queuing system that was approved in the last Session was a replacement system for an unsupported archaic system. Yes, it is new technology. We are the first State to move to a full implementation of this particular technology. The other departments were locally based, but we adopted a full State system. There is a learning curve as to how those technologies work within our operational environments. We are not able to predict wait times accurately because of algorithm difficulties used by the system. We also look at ways to make our system more convenient for our customers. It takes time to learn the new technology and have it modified and tested as to what works within our system.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We are reviewing the wait times and in early 2014, the wait times were reasonable, averaging about 47 minutes. We increased your duties and in early

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2015 the wait times nearly doubled, sometimes to a couple of hours. How did you calculate your new projected wait times?

**Mr. Dillard:**

The DMV wait time is a standard calculation used universally across the Country that considers customer volume, transaction time and customer flow. The DMV transacts a little over 100 customers per hour. We are open between 10.5- to 11- hours a day for transacting business. If we have 100 customers an hour, no one will wait more than an hour and we service 1,100 customers. If we have 500 customers at opening, which we have many times, then 5 hours is the wait time, because we can only transact 100 customers per hour.

The biggest impact is how quickly we process the customers through. If we can process more customers by keeping windows open that we currently have in our offices, we are going to increase the number of customers we serve. If we can reduce the transaction time it takes to serve those customers, we are going to increase the number of customers that we can transact. System modernization will also reduce the transaction time and increase the number of customers we have the ability to serve.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

The first two items you identified were employees at the window, including their expertise, experience and the ability to move people. When you are constantly training and bringing in new people, the new employees will have a different level of expertise than the more experienced employees. When the layoffs were completed, your turnover rate was high. What has the turnover rate been during the last few years?

**Mr. Dillard:**

The turnover rate increased from 11 percent to as high as 28 percent. It is presently between 21 percent and 24 percent. We lost over 105 positions when the layoffs occurred.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

When one-quarter of your workforce is still in training mode and reaching out to the person next to them or their mentor for help, it slows down the whole process. Once these people are hired and trained, it is vital to retain them. This

key part is overlooked. There is a need for people who have been sitting at these windows for a couple of years and can go through the process quickly. The new employees will be making the same amount of money that new employees were making 5 years ago.

**Senator Parks:**

Last November, I received a card indicating I needed to have my eyes examined because of my age. I went to the DMV and I experienced the queuing system that confused many people. The customers had to go to the counter for directions. Is this an everyday normal experience?

**Mr. Dillard:**

There is confusion that surrounds the new process. For years, we had a ticket process where you pulled a ticket and waited for your number to be called. We can now offer additional conveniences with new technology. The ticket number process works, but does not maximize time efficiency. The intent is for the customer to join the line, but not be at the DMV office. The intent is for the customer to be updated as their service time approaches. This status service time update is accomplished via text, via voice or via the Internet. The customer will be updated approximately 19 minutes before the service time. Customers come into the office, are called to a window, take care of their business and then leave.

In the Las Vegas offices, the customer volume is high. As a result, outside access to the system is limited at a certain time and the customer has to come in earlier in the day to get in line. They come into the office, obtain their number for entering the line and leave. They are then contacted via the system and given a service time. The customer can also adjust the time and move back farther in line if they are unable to be there at that time. This can be done twice to accommodate the customer's schedule.

Because of the high demand and without the new technology, people would be sitting outside the offices because there is no space for them. The demand for services has far exceeded our actual capacity and we would have violated the fire codes in all our buildings.

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**Senator Parks:**

I liked the message system indicating you are about to be called up. A few people seemed to think they needed to go to the counters at that time. There seemed to be added confusion.

**Mr. Dillard:**

We did recognize that the customer had too many choices. They were confused about where they were going and what line they should be in. There are now only three choices: written testing, reinstatements of driver's licenses or all other DMV business, which is 95 percent of transactions. At this time, the customer is called to a window.

**Senator Parks:**

I noticed on the Field Services budget you have an entry for voter registration of approximately \$11,000 for each year. Would you explain why \$11,000 per year is expended?

**Mr. Dillard:**

This is a funding item that has been continually in our budget. That is the only General Fund piece of the DMV budget and it is for voter registration forms.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

I am commenting on Assemblywoman Carlton's statement that there is a 25 percent turnover rate and yet we are authorizing 75 new positions. This totals 100 positions. By July 1, 2015, will you be able to fill these positions?

**Mr. Dillard:**

The usual start date for new positions is October 1, but we need the resources today. We have a complete strategy to ensure that the positions will start on July 1. The entire infrastructure has been put into place. We need the funding to hire these positions. We constantly recruit for these technicians. We have recruitments open and supervisory recruitments are already open and many have closed. There are existing lists to fill these positions and put them in place on July 1.

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

If the DMV is funded, is there a level of confidence that you can fill the positions?

**Mr. Dillard:**

Yes.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

How long is the training module?

**Mr. Dillard:**

The training is 6 weeks long, as well as window training. The total training time is 2 months. As you commented earlier, the new employees are not highly skilled technicians at the time they have completed training. Their skill level is lower than that of highly skilled technicians.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

At what point do the new technicians reach the skill level where they can help you process the 100 transactions per hour you are seeking?

**Ms. Wojcik:**

It takes approximately 3 to 4 months for the technician to feel comfortable with transactions. The seasoned staff handles the extensive transactions, such as suspensions and insurance verification programs that require in-depth knowledge.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

Although their employment begins in July, there will not be a significant improvement until October?

**Ms. Wojcik:**

That is correct. The training class starts on Monday, where they will be out on the floor to fill the current vacancies. The 75 new employees will undergo about 3 months of training.

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**Chair Edwards:**

In reference to the new facility you would like at Sahara, how much additional capacity would that give you? Will the new facility meet the current need as well as the growing need?

**Ms. Wojcik:**

At the Sahara office we average 4 to 6 vacant windows on a daily basis, where I do not have enough staff to keep them occupied. With the growth of the additional building, we will increase the windows needed up to 10. This will give the supervisors the opportunity to add staff as needed. The added windows are designed so when occupational licensing and the information area are closed, we will be able to use the additional space to place a technician and run production from there.

**Chair Edwards:**

Can you quantify that?

**Ms. Wojcik:**

Currently at the Sahara office, we have 34 windows that are working. With the additional requested 10, we will have 44 windows, plus the areas that are not production windows, such as information, occupational licensing and the fleet area.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

What is your authorization for overtime to allow the staff to work an extra shift to help get through this summer, to avoid 4- to 5-hour wait times?

**Mr. Dillard:**

With the volume of customers and the resources we have, we are in crisis management mode. We have authorized overtime from the salary savings category in the particular budget account. Our staff is working overtime almost every day.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will now move to B/A 201-4742, Management Services.

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DMV - Management Services — Budget Page DMV-109 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 201-4742

**Terri L. Albertson, C.P.M. (Management Services and Programs Division  
Administrator, Department of Motor Vehicles):**

The Management Services and Programs (MSP) Division consists of 16 FTE dedicated to supporting the DMV. The MSP is comprised of two teams that manage projects related to vehicle, driver, occupational and business licensing programs and interact closely with the Motor Vehicle Information Technology Division for the implementation of various projects. The MSP is responsible for providing project management, research, policies and procedures, driver handbooks. Over 700 forms are monitored for the DMV, as well as requests for proposals, fiscal notes, legislative implementation and regulations.

As you heard Director Dillard state in his Department overview, we have had a number of projects for the Department that have affected the drivers' team. Specifically, the implementation of REAL ID, drivers' authorization cards, commercial driver's license enhancements and mandates have impacted not only the DMV, but also the MSP. Currently, within the drivers' team, 5 of the 16 FTEs are dedicated to supporting those services within the DMV.

Decision unit E-225 contains an enhancement request for an additional management analyst III to support the Driver Program Team in implementing State and federal mandates. This additional position will also provide for equivalent resources for the two project teams. The new management analyst will be dedicated to project management roles, business rules, consulting with programmers and leading project teams. The position will also provide analysis of mandates and work with stakeholders to allow program officers within that team to focus on duties such as policy and procedure reviews, form development and revisions.

**E-225 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page DMV-111**

The MSP has consistently failed to meet the performance measure of completing 90 percent of its service requests on time. The addition of this resource is anticipated to improve our rating from 70 percent to 80 percent, as

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well as increase our overall customer satisfaction rating. The request is for approximately \$130,000 over the biennium.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

How do you determine which policies you will review?

**Ms. Albertson:**

The new management analyst position will be dedicated to projects that will free up the program officers within the Division to complete the policy and procedure reviews. According to the *Nevada Revised Statutes*, we are required to review our policies and procedures on an annual basis. As of now, we are unable to complete the required review due to the lack of available resources.

**Chair Edwards:**

Can the policies and procedures be reviewed every 2 years rather than every year?

**Ms. Albertson:**

There are consistent policy changes through legislation and through federal mandate. The staff uses those policies in order to conduct their daily work and as a resource to ensure they are following procedure correctly. It is good practice to review them on an annual basis to make sure they are current and compliant with State and federal laws.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) budget account, B/A 101-4460.

INFRASTRUCTURE

WILDLIFE

Wildlife - Director's Office — Budget Page WILDLIFE-10 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4460



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**Tony Wasley (Director, Department of Wildlife):**

I will provide an overview of NDOW and our programs for our budget discussion. Nevada has a statutory responsibility for management of the State's 892 unique wildlife species through the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, consisting of nine Governor-appointed members representing different interests and different geographies.

There are 17 county advisory boards, appointed by 17 county commissions, providing input and perspective to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners. A Governor-appointed director also serves as the secretary of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners. The Agency consists of 247 FTEs across seven different program divisions statewide, as indicated on page 2 of ([Exhibit C](#)) entitled "Nevada Department of Wildlife, FY 2016–2017 Biennial Budget."

The NDOW consists of the Director's Office and seven divisions including the Operations Division, Conservation/Education Division, Law Enforcement Division, Game Division, Fisheries Division, Wildlife Diversity Division and the Habitat Division. We maintain approximately 120 structures around the State: 32 radio towers, 11 wildlife management areas consisting of 120,000 acres, 8 major facilities, primarily offices located in urban areas, 7 unique divisions and 4 fish hatcheries spread across 3 regions of the State.

Our major priorities for this next biennium include sage grouse conservation; habitat restoration, primarily driven by wildfire; rehabilitation efforts; game management; aquatic invasive species program; energy; and development reviews. We have approximately 85 percent public land and federally managed land in the State that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The State and wildlife agencies are responsible for providing species information for clearance and review proceedings.

We want to emphasize urban wildlife conflicts, public safety on the water and on the land and provide equipment, support and training for personnel success. Wildlife and boating recreation is significant to Nevada's economy. Boating generates retail sales of \$540 million, wildlife watching results in \$682 million in retail sales and sport fishing results in \$189,689,911 in retail sales. The total estimated value of wildlife and boating contributing to Nevada's economy is about \$1.6 billion each year. Shooting sports also contribute. There is a federal

excise tax collected on fishing and hunting equipment, guns, ammunition and archery equipment. Several interests that pay the excise tax do not contribute directly through hunting or sport fishing, but do contribute in terms of management dollars.

The NDOW operations are funded from 86 percent wildlife fees and grants, 11 percent by boat fees and grants and 2 percent by indirect cost fees charged through interagency transfers, primarily from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. One percent of NDOW is funded by the State General Fund which funds many nongame species of the 892 species the State has a statutory responsibility for managing. Approximately 100 of these are game species people pay to pursue. The balance does not have a direct funding mechanism. By receiving the General Fund contribution, we can leverage that 3 to 1 match to receive federal dollars to manage the nongame species, as indicated on page 6 of [Exhibit C](#).

**Patrick O. Cates (Deputy Director, Department of Wildlife):**

Fees such as sportsmen revenue, restricted revenue, trout stamp revenue and boating fees fulfill the NDOW funding. Those fees are collected into the wildlife account reserves and then transferred into our operating accounts, as needed for operations. This is where we pull in the federal funds and General Fund appropriation as well as several interagency transfers, as indicated on page 7 of [Exhibit C](#).

The Executive Budget and nonexecutive budget for NDOW are described on page 8. On page 9 is an overview of the FY 2014 NDOW financial summary executive accounts, where its own budget account and the different types of funding in those accounts represent every division. Page 10 shows a summary of our FY 2014 nonexecutive accounts and indicates revenue, expenditures and balance forward. Revenue for FY 2014 is described on page 11. The revenues we collect into the Wildlife Fund Account are all fee-based revenues. The sportsmen license and tag fees are the largest portion. Miscellaneous fees and transfers are mostly sportsmen related. The revenues starting with hunt application fees through trout stamps are special restricted reserve fees and have specialized use in statute. Also included are boat fees and fuel tax. In addition to boat registration and titling fees, we also receive transfers from the DMV for motor boat fuel tax.

The Wildlife Fund Account Expenditures for FY 2014, described on page 12, show transfers going to each division and the amount. Included are external transfers where, for example, boat registration fees are transferred to local governments for school districts. The NDOW keeps half and the rest goes to the school districts, which is similar to vehicle registrations. Page 13 shows reserves for FY 2014. The accounts are tracked separately.

The Nevada Legislature authorized the NDOW Question 1 Fund account in 2001 with \$27.5 million. Since FY 2004, \$24.5 million in bonds have been sold and \$22.2 million spent. We expect to spend the remainder by the end of FY 2015, and will request \$1 million to sell additional bonds for FY 2016 and FY 2017, as indicated on page 14, [Exhibit C](#).

The Habitat Enhancement Fund account is for mitigation and mitigation-like funds from project development on federal lands. Those funds are negotiated by the federal government for project permitting to develop projects on the landscape, such as energy and mining. The purpose of those funds would be to mitigate the impact to wildlife resulting from those projects. There are a variety of projects contained in the habitat enhancement account, including the Ruby Pipeline Project LLC, Ormat Technologies, Pattern Energy and Spring Valley Wind. The latter is the only source of funds received into this account in FY 2013 and FY 2014, as shown on page 15.

The Ruby Pipeline funds, as shown on page 16, indicate that \$8.8 million was received from Ruby Pipeline, LLC in 2010. Those funds are managed cooperatively with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We have spent \$5.5 million and have \$3.3 million remaining. We match those funds with a variety of sources, at a ratio of approximately 2 to 1. These funds are used only for habitat protection, habitat enhancement, research, or property acquisitions and easements, which only relates to the Ruby Pipeline project. It is defined as to where it can be used and must be used in a certain vicinity of the pipeline, in the three BLM districts across Nevada.

The Wildlife Trust Fund is an NDOW gift account for private donations. This was approved by the 2011 Legislature. The NDOW received \$290,000 in FY 2013 and \$166,000 in FY 2014. Most of the donations go to on-the-ground projects, equipment or to support specific programs. The Game Division

receives the most donations which are spent according to the terms of the donor. Conservation organizations are by far the most numerous donors and they primarily support the Game Division. We also receive funds from mining and ranching. The Jiggs Reservoir is an example of cooperation. We received funds and support from the Gunn Ranch, Newmont Mining Corporation and Barrick Gold Corporation, as well as contributing our own funds to assist Jiggs Reservoir to become operational for the fishing public, as mentioned on page 17 of [Exhibit C](#).

The Wildlife Heritage Trust account was established in 1995. This is a special account created to fund game projects. The money from that account comes from specialty hunting tags, such as Heritage Auction Tags, Silver State Tags and Partners in Wildlife Tags. The Board of Wildlife Commissioners controls this fund and expends 75 percent of the proceeds as grants for game-related projects. Most of that money comes back directly to the NDOW or to partners we are working with. In FY 2014, \$526,000 was awarded out of the Wildlife Heritage Fund Account, as indicated on page 18.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to the Wildlife Operations Account, B/A 101-4461. The major issues involved are the creation of mobile versions of the NDOW Web sites, colocation of headquarters staff, advanced planning for two new facilities and transfer of air operations to game management.

Wildlife - Operations — Budget Page WILDLIFE-15 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4461

**Mr. Cates:**

We have three Web sites. The NDOW Web site was recently upgraded to a content-management system that we are working to improve. We are working in-house to develop a mobile-friendly Web site and update our three Web sites to be mobile-friendly. More people use mobile devices as a means of accessing the Internet. Funds for our Conservation Education Division, staff training and Web tools help us maintain our current NDOW Web site. Two other Web sites are maintained by our contractor, Systems Consultants (SCI). One is the hunt application system for big game tags and the other is the NDOW consumer Web site, used to purchase licenses, register boats and sign up for classes. Both sites

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are in need of a mobile-friendly upgrade. Decision unit E-225 allows SCI to provide the upgrades as described on page 27, [Exhibit C](#).

E-225 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page WILDLIFE-17

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Are there any Web site questions?

**Chair Edwards:**

What prompted you to focus on the mobile aspects of the Web site? What kind of return on investment do you expect from people accessing the Web site to purchase tags and licenses?

**Mr. Wasley:**

We observed other states to find out what they had to offer. We want to remove as many hurdles as possible so interested parties can quickly access the required permits and licenses necessary to pursue their interests. Consumers have commented they would prefer to access the Web sites and purchase licenses through their smart phones to expedite the process.

**Chair Edwards:**

Are there estimated cost savings in the future?

**Mr. Wasley:**

We have a significant investment in equipment, licensed vendor training time and specialized printers and paper that could be reduced using a smart phone.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

Will Senate Bill 41 affect your computer programs?

**SENATE BILL 41:** Revises provisions governing the stamp required for the hunting of migratory waterfowl. (BDR 45-364)

**Mr. Wasley:**

Senate Bill 41 allows us to sell duck stamps as an electronic privilege and not the physical stamps. The statute as it is currently written requires a signature across the physical stamp. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS),

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responsible for the issuance of the federal migratory bird stamp, is allowing states to purchase that privilege electronically. A follow-up stamp is sent in the mail. Our use of the smart phone will be integrated into the electronic privilege requirement.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

How many of NDOW's 32 radio towers are in conjunction with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) radio towers at remote sites?

**Mr. Cates:**

Most of our towers are a separate system. The NDOT's system is geared toward highways and transportation routes. Our towers are designed for the backcountry.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

Better communication involves integration. For example, your wildlife officers and game wardens may need to communicate with emergency personnel.

**Mr. Wasley:**

We communicate with our law enforcement partners, the USFWS and BLM rangers, forest rangers and with local sheriffs' offices. We program primary frequencies with our partners as they are identified. We are able to communicate and share communication systems.

**Mr. Cates:**

Recently, our system went through a major upgrade for Federal Communications Commission compliance. There is interoperability built into the system. Technically, we have separate systems, but shared communication capability does exist.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will now move to the colocation of the headquarters staff.

**Mr. Cates:**

Decision unit E-226 requests funds to move headquarters staff from their current locations in the Valley Road facility in Reno, which also serves as a Western Region Office, to a shared leased office facility in Reno. Moving

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headquarters staff to a single leased location allows for better interaction and coordination on a daily basis, as described on page 26 of [Exhibit C](#).

#### E-226 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page WILDLIFE-18

We are currently in negotiations with a landlord for a specific property in south Reno. We have estimated costs for that property and may come forward with a budget amendment to add funds to this request. The building is larger than what we originally projected based on minimum standards set by the Building and Grounds Section of the Department of Administration's State Public Works Division (SPWB). The landlord will include tenant improvements that increase the rent. We plan to add furnishings and information technology (IT) equipment.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

The budget you originally requested is approximately \$250,000, where \$36,000 is the relocation cost and the annual rent is \$227,000. Are you now requesting additional funds with a budget amendment? What will the amended annual rent be?

**Mr. Cates:**

In approximate terms, the additional rent will be \$100,000 more than previously projected. The lease will be for 10 years.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Decision unit E-850 indicates advanced planning for two new facilities costing approximately \$300,000 to program and build a new facility. I am concerned and question spending approximately \$400,000 for relocation and rent and another \$300,000 for building an additional facility at the Mason Valley/Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) in Yerington.

#### E-850 Special Projects — Page WILDLIFE-20

**Mr. Cates:**

There are two projects under Capital Improvement Program (CIP) advanced planning. The SPWD will program and plan the projects estimated dollar amounts. One CIP project is the MVWMA. We are planning to colocate the MVWMA with our fish hatchery. I do not anticipate we will spend as much

money as suggested. The other project is long-term planning for a Department headquarters and Western Region Office. The cost estimate includes finding the site, programming, preliminary design and engineering. The most important part for the next biennium is locating the appropriate land. We are meeting with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) on a possible site selection. We may need to engage realtors for the site selection. We need to do preliminary programming to determine the size of the building, as viewed on page 26 of [Exhibit C](#).

**Assemblyman Sprinkle:**

During the last 2 years, work was completed at the Valley Road facility in Reno, where funds were expended. Also included in this project were two enhancements after the original budgeted amount. Employees were relocated for a period of time. Who will be left at the Valley Road facility? What was the reason for expending money and time during the last 2 years? Now the discussion is converting the building for classroom space. Why was that not built into the CIP project 2 years ago?

**Mr. Wasley:**

What took place at Valley Road was asbestos abatement, upgrading the fire sprinkler system and roof repairs because of dry rot. In 10 years, we outgrew the space and relocated 40 people to a separate facility. The construction at Valley Road was to bring the facility up to the required standards. The bare minimum construction was completed to continue the occupancy. We plan to colocate the fiscal staff and all the contracts, operations division and license office with the key functions of headquarters staff. It is inefficient for us to conduct business procedures and communication in two locations.

We plan to continue to have a regional office at Valley Road. We have, at times, three professional staff using a very small area. The third professional has a stand-up workstation to fit in the space, which we have now outgrown.

**Mr. Cates:**

Part of the Valley Road upgrade was an electrical replacement that was a life safety issue. The Valley Road office will continue to be the NDOW Western Region Office and will house its staff. We will use part of the facility for storage and visiting staff will need work areas. We may lease part of the space to other agencies.



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**Assemblyman Sprinkle:**

You mentioned UNR has been discussing their campus expansion to Valley Road. Is there concern that this area will no longer belong to the State and become part of UNR?

**Mr. Cates:**

The UNR owns the land that houses our facility on Valley Road. The NDOW built the facility in 1962 and we have \$1 a-year lease with UNR for that building. Before the economic downturn, UNR had plans to expand their campus out to Valley Road. The UNR has the same long-term plans for expansion. We are continuing our dialogue with them.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

Who makes food-planting decisions regarding the MVWMA? Recently, a rancher reported to me that many of his cattle died after ingesting onions husks that were planted near the MVWMA.

**Alan Jenne (Habitat Division Chief, Department of Wildlife):**

Planting decisions are an annual assessment and negotiation between the lessee and our MVWMA area manager. As of now, no approval has been given to plant onions at the MVWMA. Within the lease, there are provisions as long as there is an agreement. If there is an approval, we then negotiate very small segments that have been allowed in the past. The onions are harvested in August and winter wheat is replanted to provide a benefit to the migrating waterfowl.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

I would like to speak to you again as to what the overall plan is for that area.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Assemblywoman Titus, we will hear the habitat piece of this budget, where we will have questions pertaining to other regions in the north. What are you recommending as far as structural enhancements in the MVWMA?

**Mr. Cates:**

That is the CIP advanced planning. We have an old office and shop that are in disrepair. We have preliminary plans to renovate the existing structure, as described on page 26, [Exhibit C](#).

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will now move to decision unit E-900 transferring the air operations unit to the Game Management Division. Who would assume oversight of the two pilots and the air operations unit in the Game Management budget?

E-900 Transfer Flight Operations From B/A 4461 To B/A 4464 — Page  
WILDLIFE-20

Wildlife - Game Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-36 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4464

E-900 Transfer Flight Operations From B/A 4461 To BA 4464 — Page  
WILDLIFE-42

**Mr. Wasley:**

Our air operations presently consist of two pilots, a fixed-wing airplane and two helicopters. Our air operations unit has IT, engineering and facilities maintenance which include dams around the State. There has been an additional burden on the air operations unit because the Game Management Division is the primary recipient of the services provided by air operations in all our aerial survey activity.

The vast majority of the aerial survey activity is a game-related function and it made sense to us to assume supervision from the Game Management Division for the air operations program. This would free up time in the Air Operations Division to deal with fleet management, maintenance to streamline, fleet efficiency, structure maintenance and facilities maintenance around the State, with engineering and IT.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Do you assume it would improve your budget to control the air operations while separating it from the true operations? Do you use some contractors to manage game counts? Clearly you have to since the game is moving north in the spring and south in the fall. Two helicopters cannot cover that activity.

How much contract work do you do?

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**Mr. Wasley:**

The contract amounts vary and are small, and the overall percentage is small. I do not know what the dollar amount is. Our challenges are biological windows. We only use contractors for game counts and surveys during the 2 weeks of mating season. We cannot cover the whole State with 2 helicopters during peak of rut. Contractors are hired during periods when we need to augment due to critical bottlenecks. I would be guessing if I gave you an amount right now. I can give you an exact amount for contractors, but it is small in comparison to what we use and only during critical periods.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Please provide a cost comparison for your in-house air operations costs versus a contract P-7 helicopter.

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

Do you find the Cessna 206 aircraft inefficient for herd count?

**Mr. Wasley:**

We do not use the Cessna 206 for herd count work. There is very limited work we do out of the fixed-wing and it is not suited for herd count. We use the fixed-wing to conduct waterfowl surveys where speed is required to go from one marsh to another marsh.

**Chair Edwards:**

Do you have the capability to tap into commercial satellites that could give you a better count of the herds as they are moving, especially the 2-week period you mentioned? Is there a cost comparison that would provide better accuracy?

**Mr. Wasley:**

A sample is taken and not a true census. When we go into these areas, we classify according to age and gender. Based on that classification, we can determine the magnitude of the population and the trend of the population. The resolution through satellite technology is not adequate at this point, but we do investigate new technology. For example, infrared technology is used to examine unique signatures such as a doe versus a fawn. There is a benefit to using the helicopter when there is a large group of animals that does not allow accurate or effective classification. We use the helicopter to fly low and

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separate the herd into smaller groups, where classification is a more accurate sample. Our goal is to obtain an accurate representation of bucks, does and fawns.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4462 to discuss conservation education and the General Fund appropriations for urban wildlife management.

Wildlife - Conservation Education — Budget Page WILDLIFE-23 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4462

**Mr. Cates:**

The initiative is to manage the growing nuisance problem of urban wildlife. Bears and coyotes are a growing concern.

Decision unit E-350 requests funds for education and outreach to the general public and what they can do to live with wildlife in their areas. The funding requested includes public service announcements and instructional videos. The requested funds also include two seasonal positions to field calls from the public and direct them towards resources. We do take calls when there is a public safety concern. We prefer specifically trained personnel to assess the seriousness of the threat.

E-350 Safe and Livable Communities — Page WILDLIFE-26

In 2014, we received 2,054 calls related to nuisance wildlife. At our dispatch center, 820 of the calls were related to bears and 223 were related to coyotes. Other calls come into our regional offices and the staff will field those calls. The two new positions would go to homeowners associations and provide proactive urban wildlife education to groups. One 9-month position would be placed in Eastern Nevada and another 9-month position would be placed in Western Nevada.

We are requesting equipment related to our bear program. We have several game wardens and biologists who respond to urban bear problems. They typically do not have the same equipment and have to wait for the other person to show up with the right equipment. We also use Karelian bear dogs to do

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aversion training. The nuisance bear will be captured and then released. The dogs will chase them up a tree and eventually scare the bear away from people. The dogs we have are the personal property of our wildlife biologist and one game warden will be purchasing a Karelian bear dog for work-related activities. We are requesting funds to provide for the support, care and upkeep of the dogs, as discussed on page 29 of [Exhibit C](#).

We are requesting permission to use General Funds for personnel costs related to nuisance animal control activities rather than using sportsmen revenue. Currently, we are using sportsmen revenue, license and tag fees to fund the nuisance control activities that were put into place during the recession. Our USFWS grants do not allow those funds to be used for urban nuisance wildlife control.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

The Executive Budget recommends General Fund appropriations totaling \$174,174 to replace sportsmen revenue to manage urban wildlife. In addition, \$275,826 is recommended to provide funding for enhancements to urban wildlife management activities in the Conservation Education, Law Enforcement and Game Management Divisions' budgets. The total amount is approximately \$450,000 of General Fund appropriation that would provide enhancements in those three activities.

Even though all the mentioned budgets will be coming from the General Fund, you have many small budgets that are confusing.

**Mr. Cates:**

We work in a cooperative nature across the regions, where certain divisions work closely together in nuisance wildlife, such as the Law Enforcement Division budget or the Game Management Division budget.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

What part of this budget will my constituents see for public safety with coyotes?

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**Mr. Wasley:**

Public awareness is a key part. Legislation will limit some of the tools to effectively deter coyotes. We will not be able to remove coyotes or remove that threat from the situation that exists in Clark County.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

My constituents would like to be able to comfortably walk in their neighborhoods with their pets and their children. I will ask this question again: What part of this budget will my constituents see for public safety with coyotes? They have been living in fear of these animals for the last couple of years. There are real safety concerns.

**Mr. Wasley:**

This new budget will allow us the ability to put staff directly in the field to address these issues, not just for your constituents, but also everywhere in the State where this problem exists. Presently we have one person in the entire State who answers the phone on a limited basis. This budget will also allow us to have dedicated resources to assist those people in education and not only more presence on the ground, but also directing people to more resources and coordinating our other partners to also share responsibilities.

**Assemblywoman Carlton:**

The resources issue has become a problem because they have not been able to find resources. Coyotes have become a big problem. I do not want a seasonal person for education, but a person on the ground who is able to manage the dangers of urban wildlife.

**Mr. Wasley:**

Our proposals will not create a dedicated person on the ground for your constituents. What the proposals will do is bring the Western Region and the Eastern Region closer to what you presently have in your district. You are the only Region of the three regions in the State that has an individual with dedicated responsibilities to this urban wildlife issue. The proposal will bring the other two regions on an equal basis with the Southern Region. A dedicated source of funding will be provided to that individual in the Southern Region. The individual's responsibilities will be expanded in terms of urban wildlife issues.

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

I represent significant portions of Clark County and Pahrump, where coyotes are an issue. We will bring changes to the program. The videos and education are helpful, but do not provide legal control and that is what we really need. The NDOW has a Spanish outreach campaign program and many people hear these presentations, such as videos and signage in Spanish. The regulations are understandable, as mentioned on page 31 of [Exhibit C](#).

**Assemblywoman Titus:**

I share my concerns with Chair Goicoechea and Assemblywoman Carlton. More needs to be done for predator control. People who have serious risk concerns, either perceived or real, should have a phone line where they can access someone to address their concerns. Rabies was found in a puppy in Lyon County last year.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4463: the Law Enforcement Division enforces wildlife and boating safety laws. The major issues are General Fund appropriations for wildlife management and replacement law enforcement equipment.

Wildlife - Law Enforcement — Budget Page WILDLIFE-30 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4463

**Tyler Turnipseed (Chief Game Warden, Department of Wildlife):**

We use a microwave system and are set up to be compatible with what is approved by the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology Service. We share radio availability with several other agencies and sheriffs in rural counties. We do not share operability with the 800-megahertz system that the Nevada Highway Patrol uses, as it is line of sight.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4460 to discuss the Director's Office. The Director's Office is responsible for the general administration of the NDOW including fiscal services and human resources administrative support functions.

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**Mr. Cates:**

We are requesting \$25,000 a year to use sportsmen fees for employee training. Forty-nine percent of our employees have less than 10 years of service with the NDOW. This provides for general management training and succession planning. We will provide training for Department personnel, wildlife education and technical skills training to improve productivity. This type of training will enhance technical skills and management ability. We currently have a training budget that is used for in-house supervisor training completed every other year. In the off year, we train the general staff on policies and State policies, as viewed on page 21 of [Exhibit C](#).

**Chair Goicoechea:**

How did you determine \$25,000 versus \$10,000?

**Mr. Wasley:**

We identified specific types of training such as leadership training and conservation leadership training. Several national programs provide significant value. We determined associated costs with the training that includes travel and per diem costs.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

What is the name of the program?

**Mr. Wasley:**

The name of the program is the Conservation for Leaders of Tomorrow training. This program trains staff within an agency that does not have a traditional hunting background through exposure. An example of not having a hunting background is our fiscal staff. We also have been considering the National Conservation Leadership Institute. This is an intensive one-week elite program limited to 36 individuals a year. An example would be a specific problem in your agency or organization and you problem solve. The training for this particular program is approximately \$5,000. There are associated travel costs. Programs are also available through the Wildlife Society for leadership training.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will now discuss decision unit E-227 that includes two new management analyst positions for the Fiscal Services Unit, as viewed on page 22, [Exhibit C](#).



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E-227 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page WILDLIFE-12

**Mr. Cates:**

We are requesting two new management analyst positions. Their main duties would include contract management and subgrant management, cost allocation and indirect cost rates, and management of nonexecutive accounts that have complex analytic needs. These new positions are a result of the fiscal reorganization that was enacted in the 2011 Session. To improve the transparency of our financial system we had a letter of intent from the 2009 Session. Many complex programs were integrated into one large operating budget. One operating budget was divided into several budgets. The budgets were more transparent, but more complex. Our Agency has very complex finances. We are not a big agency, but have many funding sources and detailed cost accounting, as discussed on page 22, [Exhibit C](#).

**Chair Goicoechea:**

There are 18 positions in the budget. There is an indication for two more positions.

**Mr. Cates:**

We have complex budgets that include 8 operating budgets; 5 special fund budgets; more than 40 fees with multiple purposes; and 4 separate fee reserves with multiple separately tracked subreserves. We currently manage 84 active federal grants and 47 active subgrants that are awarded to entities. We manage 350 active contracts and have 697 separate cost accounting codes to allocate funds to various sources. We managed 107 work programs last year, as viewed on page 23.

The administrative services officer (ASO) I would supervise the first management analyst position. The position would be responsible for contracts and accounts payables. Due to the lack of staffing, the ASO I is responsible for the contract processing. There is not sufficient time to attend to the accounting and errors made. The management analyst would focus on subgrants and cost accounting. Currently, two existing budget analysts are utilized to provide assistance to meet the demand. The budget analysts' positions were intended to assist administrators in forecasting, tracking and

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budget preparations. Because of the staffing shortage, there are lapses in contracts, delayed projects and less customer service.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Your budgets are very complex and there are many moving parts. Ten percent of your staff are analysts and accounting technicians, which seems considerable.

**Mr. Cates:**

It is necessary to implement the programs. We have people in the field who have identified projects they need to do. In order for them to complete the program, they need to have someone process the subgrants, prepare requests for proposal, manage their contracts and oversee the accounting. An earlier audit noted deficiencies in financial information to the division administrator to make decisions for their programs.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4464, the Game Management Division. This Division is responsible for management, protection, research and monitoring of wildlife classified as game mammals, upland and migratory game birds and furbearing mammals.

**Mr. Wasley:**

Decision unit E-229 requests funding for a contract with an information technology company to assess the current paper data and compile and specify the data needs. The requested recommendations are for compiling data infrastructure and development of a new unified scientific database. The big game data is the most extensive and would be a template for other game. We will have better communication with remote locations, as viewed on page 32 of [Exhibit C](#).

E-229 Efficient and Responsive State Government — Page WILDLIFE-38

**Chair Goicoechea:**

The amount of funds you requested may not be sufficient to cover your proposal, such as geographic information system technology and mapping.

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**Mr. Wasley:**

We do have the skills needed in-house. We are requesting a professional consultant to advise us as we initiate the development of the new database design in FY 2016 only.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

In the 2017-2019 biennium, will you be requesting funds to implement this database?

**Mr. Wasley:**

Currently, we rely on this data. There is a variety of science-based data stored in several locations. Our goal is to consolidate the existing data into a single source. I do not anticipate requesting additional funds.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4465, Fisheries Management. The Fisheries Management Division brings together programs for fisheries throughout Nevada. These programs include recreational fishing and conserving and protecting Nevada's native fish, amphibians, mollusks and crustaceans. The Division works to prevent and control aquatic invasive species.

Wildlife - Fisheries Management — Budget Page WILDLIFE-45 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4465

**Mr. Cates:**

Decision unit E-720 requests two new decontamination stations for fish transport in each year of the biennium.

E-720 New Equipment — Page WILDLIFE-49

We need to ensure that the fish being put in bodies of water are transported in decontaminated trucks and are not spreading aquatic invasive species throughout the State. We need to maintain the infrastructure and the vehicle needs of the Division, as discussed on page 33, [Exhibit C](#).

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**Assemblywoman Titus:**

As our bodies of water are becoming farther apart, we need to ensure the fish trucks are able to drive long distances.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We will move to B/A 101-4467, Habitat. There are 11 wildlife management areas (WMA). The Habitat Division is responsible for reviewing, assessing and providing comments on all proposed land and water uses and providing fish and wildlife data to all entities. The Division is responsible for planning, operating and maintaining state-owned or leased lands on the WMAs. In addition, the Division administers the water development (guzzler) program, rangeland and wildlife habitat restoration, rehabilitation efforts and industrial pond permitting operations for the NDOW. How are 11 WMAs being managed?

Wildlife - Habitat — Budget Page WILDLIFE-58 (Volume III)  
Budget Account 101-4467

**Mr. Jenne:**

We have properties spread throughout the State. The Board of Wildlife Commissioners has designated 11 WMAs. The Bruneau WMA includes the Bruneau and the Howard properties. They are not manned areas and do not have designated personnel that stay on-site. Because personnel do not stay on-site, we work with the adjoining federal land management agencies to collectively manage the property.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

We determined there are 120,000 acres in the 11 WMAs. Please provide a breakdown of what was formerly private property that the NDOW is now managing statewide.

**Mr. Jenne:**

We have a current inventory of our holdings and we will provide that information to you.

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

My constituents have mentioned the lack of management in fire fuel reduction in areas such as northern Elko County including the Howard land, which has not been leased in 20 years.

**Mr. Jenne:**

The Howard land was last leased in 2008. In 2007, the Murphy fire consumed 600,000 acres and the NDOW spent over \$600,000 to rehabilitate the area. There has been chronic trespassing since that time. We are contemplating a lease arrangement to coordinate and discuss this with the public land management agencies on an annual basis.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

Other than the BLM, who are the other parties participating in the discussion? There is a significant amount of private property involved. Do you speak with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service or the conservation districts? There are concerns with the general degradation of the meadow and the riparian conditions on the Bruneau River. People in that area are commenting on encroachment of weeds and sagebrush. These areas need to be managed where the public feels comfortable.

**Mr. Jenne:**

We work with the land management agencies around us and with landowners adjacent to us. We are managing weeds as a collective. We are taking a holistic approach to keeping these areas in decent shape.

**Chair Goicoechea:**

At one time those properties had allotment boundary fences. Because this area is unmanned, are the fences down and gates open?

**Mr. Jenne:**

There are fences around the area. We take good assessments of the fences. One of the benefits the property has is the winter range for big game. We do remove interior fences to make the area more wildlife friendly. We also take into consideration the leases in regard to the exterior fences.

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

Trespassing is a concern.

**Mr. Cates:**

This is a follow up from a question asked earlier about the 5-ton fish truck. The flatbed is to haul fish for Mason Valley. The cost is for a \$95,000 truck. It is replacing a 2002 Kenworth 5-ton truck with over 210,000 miles.

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**Chair Goicoechea:**

I will call for public comment. Seeing none, the Subcommittees' meeting is now adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Jeanne Harrington-Lloyd,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Pete Goicoechea, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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Assemblyman Chris Edwards, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit		Witness or Agency	Description
	A	2		Agenda
	B	4		Attendance Roster
	C	34	Nevada Department of Wildlife	FY2016-2017 Biennial Budget