

TEHAMA COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Draft Minutes

The Department of Agriculture, Walnut Room
1834 Walnut Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080
December 9, 2025

Next meeting will be held on January 13, 2026.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Jim Connors, Julie Sisneros, Lee Morgan, Keith Marine, Ben Mhyre, and Lorin Fleming. The meeting was clerked by Commissioner Morgan.

Guests: California Department of Fish & Game (CDFW) Environmental Scientist (ES) Pat Sater. Retired CDFW Warden Mitch Carlson, Tehama County Agricultural Commissioner Tom Moss, and Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Adam Davy.

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Connors at 8:10 a.m.

Public Comments: none

Approval Of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Morgan to approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 14, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fleming and approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission members present.

Discussion regarding the County proposal to hire a predator tracker:

Tehama County Agricultural Commissioner Tom Moss, and Assistant Agricultural Commissioner Adam Davy shared their proposal to hire a trapper to assist with wildlife problems, including depredation, in the County. This proposal was previously presented to the Board of Supervisors, with the final contract to go to the BOS for consideration in late December or January. They hope to share the trapper position with Shasta County, with the person working half time for Tehama County at an annual cost to the county of \$50,000. This person would coordinate with state and federal entities and the Sheriff's Office as needed. They feel a strong need to have this position in place to deal with current wildlife problems, as well as future problems with the increase of wolves in our area. It was made clear that the position would follow existing laws related to the take of all wildlife. For example, no problem wolves have yet been identified in Tehama County and currently state and federal approval are required to euthanize a problem wolf. Commissioner Sisneros requested a review of the program in one year.

Discussion regarding public access concerns at Tehama County boat ramps:

Commissioner Marine and others shared their concerns about access for the public. Tehama County RCD has written a grant regarding the Woodson Bridge boat ramp and adjacent area in collaboration with Tehama County Public Works and the Transportation Commission. It would fund planning only and implementation funds would be a separate lift. Commissioner Marine will contact Tehama County Administrative Services Director Tom Provine and get current information about future maintenance and stabilization. This item will be deferred to the February commission meeting.

2025 Pheasant Hunt in the Bend:

Commissioner Morgan explained that the youth hunt slots did not fill up fully in the drawing, and while the family hunt slots were filled through the drawing, many hunters did not show up so that there was room for more hunters. Perhaps we can do additional outreach in 2026 for this event.

FY 2025-26 Mid-Year Budget review:

The budget was reviewed and everything appears to be on track for the year. A motion was made by Commissioner Morgan to acknowledge this finding. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Marine and approved by the unanimous vote of the Commission members present. There is no current need to ask the Board of Supervisors for any changes to the Fish & Game Commission budget for this fiscal year.

Trout in the Classroom Program

No new information at this time, but the program normally starts ramping up at the end of each year. Commissioners Sisneros and Connors will attempt to contact CDFW James Lyons for program status.

CDFW Staff Reports

ES Sater stated that the GPS ear tags approved by the Commission are being placed on deer in the county. There are a few predation problems in the county with coyotes and mountain lions, and constant pig predation issues.

Commissioner Reports

Keith Marine: He noted that there was a good fall Chinook salmon spawning run this year and is hopeful that there will be a good number of juvenile Chinook and steelhead moving downstream this year with turbid river flows and into the ocean.

Ben Myhre: Ben shared that the CDFW Director position formerly held by Charles Bonham is currently vacant. Also, Ben attended a Deer Management Plan meeting in Redding last night. He was worried that the planning effort might not achieve the results we need to turn around the declines of our state deer herds.

Jim Connors: He has tried unsuccessfully to contact James Lyons regarding the Trout in the Classroom Program. The 2026 program status is currently unknown. Jim also attended the Deer Management Plan meeting in Redding and understood that an internal review of their draft plan was expected in 2026. It is unclear when a draft would be shared with the public

Lorin Fleming: Ongoing concerns about the wolves in Sierra County, and the North State in general. He shared a Facebook page- "Sierra Valley Wolf Update" which follows the problems there. Lorin also has ongoing concerns about how protection to avoid the spread of exotic mussels will impact boating opportunities in the North State. He doesn't think the proposed \$5,000 fines will solve the problem.

Julie Sisneros: She was happy to see a good number of spawning Chinook salmon this year in lower Paynes Creek.

Lee Morgan: None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.