

**Minutes
Wildlife Resources Committee**

Brasstown Valley Resort
Salon 1-2
6321 US-76
Young Harris, GA 30582

December 5, 2018

Attendees:

Committee Members

Dee Yancey, Chairman
Mike Phelps, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Joe Hatfield
Rob Leebern
Tim Lowe
Mark Mobley
Billy New
Miki Thomaston
Aaron McWhorter, Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Duncan Johnson
Ray Lambert
Bodine Sinyard
Brother Stewart

Guests

Bryan Tolar, Tolar Capitol Partners
Matthew Taylor, Safari Club International Foundation
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Chattahoochee Riverkeepers
John Fortuna, King & Spalding

Staff Members

Mark Williams, Commissioner
Terry West
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson – Via Conference Call
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Artica Gaston
Houston Webb
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Cown
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Doug Haymans
Eddie Henderson
Eric Bentley
John Bowers
Karl Burgess
Mark Whitney
Jeff Weaver
Adam Hammond
Nathan Klaus
Bob Sargent

Richard Dunn, Director
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Chuck Mueller

The December 5, 2018 meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee was called to order by Aaron McWhorter, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman McWhorter called on Dee Yancey, Chairman of the Wildlife Resources Committee, who called on John Bowers, Chief of Game Management.

Mr. Bowers briefed the Board on Item A, which discusses the proposed Amendments to Hunting Regulations for WMAs and Other State Lands Chapter 391-4-2-.70.

Mr. Bowers stated that the Hillard Tract, Chattahoochee Fall Line WMA complex, Marion County, was acquired. He further stated that in order to quickly provide hunting opportunities on this tract, the Board needs to move to propose turkey regulations for the 2019 season. He also stated that the opportunity for public comment will close December 31, 2018.

Mr. Yancey called on Adam Hammond, Senior Wildlife Biologist, for his briefing on the Statewide Black Bear Management Plan.

Mr. Hammond stated that 3 public hearings have been held regarding this plan. He further stated that the purpose of the plan is the conservation of black bears and the minimization of bear-human contact in the state through science-based decision making and environmentally appropriate practices.

Mr. Yancey asked Mr. Hammond about the process to calculate bear populations. Mr. Hammond stated that, historically, populations are calculated through harvest numbers.

Discussion ensued.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.