

PLUMAS COUNTY FISH & GAME
MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Magill.

Roll Call

Commissioners Ramsey, Valle, Pleau, Roccucci, Magill, and Rotta were present; Commissioners Horton, Orange and Brubaker were absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of May 2025 Minutes

Commissioner Rotta moved to approve May 2025 Minutes as presented; Commissioner Valle seconded; Motion passed by voice vote.

Guests

Lauren James, Plumas Audubon Society
Dave Wood, Feather River Trout Unlimited
Willo Vieira, Plumas County Ag Department

Urgency Items

Commissioner Ramsey recused herself from a funding request for Plumas Audubon Society and asked Lauren James of PAS to make the request. James addressed the Commission and advised that PAS was requesting support for the 2025 Grebe Festival at Lake Almanor. James asked that the Commission reimburse PAS for a pontoon rental from Majors Outpost in Prattville in the amount of \$687. After further discussion, Vice Chair Valle moved to approve refunding \$687 for Plumas Audubon Lake Almanor Grebe Festival pontoon boat rental from the PG&E settlement monies; Commissioner Rotta seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote with Commissioner Ramsey abstaining.

Correspondence & Bills

None were presented

Public Comment:

None were presented.

Old Business:

a) **Request for Funding – Graeagle Fishing Derby – Wood:** Dave Wood, Feather River Trout Unlimited presented the Commission with a letter and a receipt in the amount of \$728.87 for the purchase of 40 fishing rods. The derby was held on the 17th of May with 50 to 75 children participating. Commissioner Valle asked whether the fish cooperated; Wood advised that they cooperated more with some than others. **Commissioner Rotta moved that the Commission reimburse \$728.87 to Trout Unlimited for the Graeagle Fishing Derby; Commissioner Ramsey seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.**

New Business:

a) **Human/Wildlife Conflicts – Magill** Chair Magill advised that this matter was on the Agenda for discussion only. Chair Magill asked Vieira, Plumas/Sierra Ag Department, where the general level of problems are today in this area. Vieira advised that it was indeterminate and seems like there is more predator/human conflict, but with the inception of the Ring Doorbell cams, more people are aware of what is outside their home during the night. She further advised that the current hotspot is in Portola with mountain lions roaming neighborhoods, and advised that a depredation permit has been issued. Further discussion was had regarding the location of the cat sightings. Regarding the wolves, people in the Chester area are terrified of neighbors having their property rezoned for livestock which would attract the wolves. There is also conflict between the wolves and humans in Sierra Valley. Commissioner Valle commented on the map posted by CDFW regarding the location of the wolves to make ranchers aware that they could be in their area. Commissioner Valle advised that there was an abundance of misinformation about compensation and what ranchers are allowed to do to haze the wolves, advising that most people think the ranchers are getting reimbursed for their losses. They don't know that the ranchers are losing livestock and money. Chair Magill suggested that he contact the biologists and wardens to ask that they email him a report on the wolf/bear/mountain lion situations that he can present to the Commission when they are unable to attend to report in person. Commissioner Valle advised that having a report from them would be good but that having them attend the meeting would be better. Chair Magill asked whether anyone had information on the emergency proposal that would allow removal of wolves; Vieira advised that until the wolf is delisted nothing can happen.

b) **Discussion – Ways to Encourage Funding Requests from the Public –** Commissioner Valle had this item added to the Agenda and questioned whether there was any kind of timeline for spending the PG&E funds; Chair Magill advised that he's seen nothing regarding timelines for spending, but has seen requests for reports on what the funds have been expended for. Commissioner Ramsey suggested a press release with information about what the PG&E funds have been spent on and advising how parties can apply to have their projects funded. Commissioner Valle agreed that an article could be placed in the Plumas Sun with photographs. Dave Wood, Trout Unlimited, questioned whether the website contained information on how to request funds; Commissioner Ramsey advised that there is information there, but it is not easily accessed. Commissioner Rotta commented that there is no one coming from the Forest Service or CDFW that may have a project that could be funded. He further stated that it is not the Commission's responsibility to come up with projects because they do not have the ability to implement them. Further discussion was had on what money is available to be spent on. Commissioner Valle stated that an article in the Plumas Sun and more descriptive information on the website would be good.

c) **Reschedule/Cancel July 3 Commission Meeting –** After discussion, the July meeting will be cancelled. The next meeting of the Commission will be August 7, 2025.

Reports

Warden Reports:

No Wardens were present.

Biologist Reports:

No Biologists were present

Plumas/Sierra Ag Department Reports: Willo Vieira, Plumas County Ag Department, addressed the Commission and advised that CDFW had posted the depredations through the 5th of May for the wolves. She advised that mountain lion sightings have increased. She further reported that the wolves that had been targeting the ranch in Sierra Valley have apparently left for the summer with their locations popping up all over the valley. She reported that depredations are occurring in Clover Valley. Commissioner Valle asked if the wolves were hitting the ranch with the Wagyu cattle; Vieira stated that she had no information but would attempt to find out. Commissioner Rotta questioned the wolves movements in Sierra Valley and whether they were moving from the surrounding forest uplands into the valley; Vieira advised that during the day the wolves were staying in the willow bushes along the channels, and they don't seem to be going to the uplands.

Commissioner Rotta advised that the wolves are being maintained artificially and not ecologically by their basically being on a supplemental feeding program that is unfortunately funded by ranchers. Vieira advised that the stress caused the cattle by the wolves will result in 25% loss to the ranchers' future income; this is in addition to the animals that are being killed by the wolves.

Commissioner Reports:

Commissioner Ramsey reported that Plumas Audubon Society had a successful event at the library in May. Chair Magill advised that he spoke with Libby Ehlers, CDFW Wildlife Biologist, after the meeting and that she is hoping to attend a Commission meeting in the future.

Commissioner Valle reported that he ran into Amber Mouser, CDFW Fisheries, with all the kids for the Portola Kids Fishing Day and was able to help out for a bit. He reported that the kids were catching some bigger fish that day and having a great time. He further stated that Mouser does a great job with the fishing derbies around the County. Valle then reported that he had listened to part of the State Fish & Game Commission meeting last month when they were discussing removing coyotes from the non-game list. There were ranchers from all over the State that drove to speak at the meeting; a gentleman from San Francisco that thought that coyotes were spiritual and should not be harassed; others thought or felt there should be a season on coyotes. Valle reported that the State Commission decided not to do anything at this point. As of now, the coyote is still a non-game animal. The ranchers were mainly concerned about calving season in the wintertime and dealing with problem coyotes stealing the young calves. Vieira advised that there were people from Los Angeles at the same meeting because they are having problems with coyotes biting people.

Commissioner Valle stated that no archery program was held this year due to his three-week absence and ongoing challenges within the school system. He explained that he did not wish to disrupt the school's scheduling processes. He did advise that he may be back to request some funds to replace the equipment that was vandalized last year.

Commissioner Roccucci reported he had been involved with kids fishing at Almanor and Round Valley with the Almanor Fishing Association assisting Mouser. He advised that the annual newsletter is out and that they are prepping for the Veterans Fishing Event on June 21. He further reported that on his mountain bike ride today, he saw two bears: one scrawny yearling, and one super-fat, garbage-raiding Peninsula fat bear.

Dorothy J. Miller

Dorothy J. Miller, Recording Secretary

Final 7/2025