Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting Agenda

Meeting Location
Boulder City Parks & Recreation Department (Gymnasium)
900 Arizona Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

Meeting materials are available at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Com/Agenda/

Public comment will be taken on each action item following Committee discussion and before any action is taken. The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments on items prior to the meeting at wildlifecommission@ndow.org or attend and make comment during the meeting. Public comment will not be restricted based on viewpoint. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Commission will consider, Commissioners may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid the appearance of deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. All persons present are asked to sign-in using the chat, whether speaking or not.

FORUM RESTRICTIONS AND ORDERLY BUSINESS: The viewpoint of a speaker will not be restricted, but reasonable restrictions may be imposed upon the time, place and manner of speech. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious statements and personal attacks which antagonize or incite others are examples of public comment that may be reasonably limited.

Friday, March 25, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East**

2. **Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action**
   The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

3.* **Approval of Minutes – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action**
   Commission minutes may be approved from the January 28 and 29, 2022 meeting.

4. **Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – Informational**
   Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

5. **County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational**
   CABMW members may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

6.* Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan – Wildlife Staff Special Pat Jackson – For Possible Action

The draft Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan will be presented to the Commission for review. A report from the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) Meeting, held on February 10th will be shared with the Commission. All comments from the Commission, PARC, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and any other interested publics will be compiled and shared with the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) for their consideration at the March 2022 meeting. Five proposed Mule Deer Enhancement Predator Management Projects submitted by MDEP subcommittees and approved by the MDEP Oversight Committee will be considered for inclusion in the Draft Fiscal Year 2023 Predation Management Plan.

7.* Approval for Elk Damage Payment Exceeding $10,000 – Elk Staff Specialist Cody McKee – For Possible Action

An assessment of elk damage on Granite Peak Ranch in White Pine County, totaling $19,170.00, was completed by Department personnel and submitted for reimbursement by Bruce Hubbard, agent for the property. Per NAC 504.421 Section 1 (f), "A loss on one site must be limited to $10,000, unless the Commission determines that a claimant may be paid more, and there is sufficient money to pay him or her." The Commission will need to approve the elk damage claim so the Department can pay the claim.

8. Appeal – Mr. James Collard – Sub-Guide Denial – For Possible Action

Mr. Collard is appealing the suspension of his guide license for a term of three years.

9. Nevada Department of Wildlife Project Updates – Secretary Wasley – Informational

The Commission has requested that the Department provide regular project updates for ongoing projects and programs as appropriate based on geography and timing of meetings. These updates are intended to provide additional detail in addition to the summaries provided as part of the regular Department Activity Report and are intended to educate the Commission and public as to the Department's ongoing duties and responsibilities.

Friday, March 25, 2022 – Tour will begin at the close of Agenda Item #9

The Commission will tour the new Lake Mead Fish Hatchery in Boulder City. An informational presentation will be made, but no action will be taken by the Commission. The public is invited to participate but will be required to provide their own transportation. The group will depart from the meeting location.

Saturday, March 26, 2022 – 9:00 a.m.

10. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call of Commission Members and County Advisory Board Members to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) – Chairwoman East

11. Approval of Agenda – Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The Commission will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Commission may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

12. Member Items/Announcements and Correspondence – Chairwoman East – Informational

Commissioners may present emergent items. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda. The Commission will review and may discuss correspondence sent or received by the Commission since the last regular meeting and may provide copies for the exhibit file (Commissioners may

provide hard copies of their correspondence for the written record). Correspondence sent or received by Secretary Wasley may also be discussed.

13. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMW) Member Items – Informational
CABMW members may present emergent items, these comments will be shared with the Commission. No action may be taken by the Commission. Any item requiring Commission action will be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

14. <u>Reports – Informational</u>

A. Department Activity Report – Secretary Wasley and Division Administrators
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife activities.

B.* Litigation Report – Deputy Attorney General Craig Burkett
A report will be provided on Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

C. Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee Update – Committee Chairman Casey Kiel and Division Administrator Mike Scott
A report will be provided on the recent Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight committee and the Department will provide an update on the approved projects from 2021.

D. Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) Report - Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia
A report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.

E. Wildlife Heritage Committee – Committee Chairman Tom Barnes – Informational
A report will be provided on the recent Wildlife Heritage Committee meeting.

F. Wildlife Damage Management Committee Report – Committee Chairman Jon Almberg – Informational
A report will be provided on the recent Wildlife Damage Management Committee Meeting.

15. Administrative Procedures, Regulations and Policy (APRP) Committee Report – Chairman McNinch
A report will be provided on the recent APRP Committee meeting.

A.* Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors – Third Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will have a third reading of Commission Policy 10, Heritage Tags and Vendors, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

B.* Commission Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 31, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

C.* Commission Policy 33, Fisheries Management Program – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action
The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 33, Fisheries Management Program, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

D.* Commission Policy 40, Statewide Boating Safety – First Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a first reading of Commission Policy 40, Statewide Boating Safety, and may make any necessary changes and may decide to move it to a second reading.

E.* Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 63, Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

F.* Commission Policy 64, Input on Land Sales, Transfers, and Exchanges – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 64, Input on Land Sales, Transfers, and Exchanges, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

G.* Commission Policy 65, Designation of Wildlife Management Areas – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 65, Designation of Wildlife Management Areas, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

H.* Commission Policy 67, Feral Horses and Burros – Second Reading – APRP Committee Chairman David McNinch – For Possible Action

The Commission will have a second reading of Commission Policy 67, Feral Horses and Burros, and may take action to repeal, revise or adopt the policy.

16. <u>Commission Regulations – For Possible Action/Adoption – Public Comment Allowed</u>

A.* Commission Regulation 22-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds Public Hunting Limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2022 – 2023 Season – Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme – For Possible Action

The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2022-2023 season and adopt regulations consistent with proposed regulations framework for the 2022-2023 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

17. Future Commission Meetings and Commission Committee Assignments – Secretary Wasley and Chairwoman East – For Possible Action

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 6 and 7, 2022. The Commission will review and discuss potential agenda items for that meeting. The Commission may change the date, time, and meeting location at this time. The chairwoman may designate and adjust committee assignments and add or dissolve committees, as necessary at this time. Any anticipated committee meetings that may occur prior to the next Commission meeting may be discussed.

18. Public Comment Period

Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action can be taken by the Commission at this time; any item requiring Commission action may be scheduled on a future Commission agenda.

*Support material provided and posted to the NDOW website, and updates to support material will be posted at https://nvboardofwildlife.org/. Support material for this meeting may be requested from the Recording Secretary at (775) 688-1599 or wildlifecommission@ndow.org. In accordance with NRS 241.020 this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted on the NDOW website at https://nvboardofwildlife.org/.

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Nevada Department of Wildlife
Predator Management Plan
Fiscal Year 2023

1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

STATE OF NEVADA

Steve Sisolak, Governor

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Tony Wasley, Director

Jack Robb, Deputy Director
Bonnie Long, Deputy Director
Mike Scott, Game Division Administrator

BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

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This publication will be made available in an alternative format upon request.

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mailstop: 7072-43
Arlington, VA 22203

or

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Director
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120
Reno, NV 89511

Individuals with hearing impairments may contact the Department via telecommunications device at our Headquarters at 775-688-1500 via a text telephone (TTY) telecommunications device by first calling the State of Nevada Relay Operator at 1-800-326-6868.

Introduction

The goal of the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW's) Predator Management Program is to conduct projects consistent with the terrestrial portion of NDOW's Mission "to preserve, protect, manage, and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States." Provisions outlined in NRS 502.253 authorize the collection of a $3 fee for each big game tag application, deposition of the revenue from such a fee collection into the Wildlife Fund Account, and use by NDOW to 1) develop and implement an annual program for the management and control of predatory wildlife, 2) conduct wildlife management activities relating to the protection of nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species, and 3) conduct research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife. This statute also allows for: the expenditure of a portion of the money collected to enable the State Department of Agriculture and other contractors and grantees to develop and carry out programs designed as described above; developing and conducting predator management activities under the guidance of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners; and provide that unspent monies remain in the Wildlife Fund Account and do not revert to State General Funds at the end of any fiscal year.

NDOW maintains a philosophy that predator management is a tool to be applied deliberately and strategically. Predator management may include lethal removal of predators or corvids, nonlethal management of predator or corvid populations, habitat management to promote more robust prey populations which are better able to sustain predation, monitoring and modeling select predator populations, managing for healthy predator populations, and public education, although not all of these aspects are currently eligible for funding through predator fee dollars. NDOW intends to use predator management on a case-by-case basis, with clear goals, and based on an objective scientific analysis of available data. To be effective, predator management should be applied with proper intensity and at a focused scale. Equally important, when possible projects should be monitored to determine whether desired results are achieved. This approach is supported by the scientific literature on predation management. NDOW is committed to using all available tools and the most up-to-date science, including strategic use of predator management, to preserve our wildlife heritage for the long term. NDOW works with area biologists and monitors harvest data to ensure localized removal of predators does not result in negative biological consequences on a region or statewide level.

NDOW is a state agency that must balance the biological needs of wildlife, statutory mandates, and social desires of the public. In the 2015 legislative session, Assembly Bill 78 was adopted which in part amended NRS 502.253 (4) (b) to read: [The Department] "Shall not adopt any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife developed pursuant to this section that provides for the expenditure of less than 80 percent of the amount of money collected pursuant to subsection 1 in the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information for the purposes of lethal management and control of predatory wildlife." NDOW intends to comply with statute and apply the tools of scientific predation management in biologically sound, socially responsible means.

Budget Summary

Fiscal year 2021 predator fee revenues totaled $858,601. The Department expects to need to allocate about $686,881 on lethal removal to meet the requirements set forth by Assembly Bill 78. Proposed predator projects for fiscal year 2023 include $759,000 for lethal work, these funds include fiscal year 2021 revenues and previous fiscal years surpluses.

Map Note

Maps for each project may be found in the last page of this document.

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TYPES OF PROJECTS

Below are the three categories of projects in the predator management plan. Some projects have aspects of multiple types within a single activity or action. The project types are listed throughout this document.

1. **Implementation**: The primary objective is to implement management of predators through lethal or non-lethal means. NDOW will collaborate with USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors to conduct lethal and non-lethal management of predators. Identifying and monitoring a response variable is not a primary objective for implementation.
2. **Experimental Management**: The primary objectives are management of predators through lethal or non-lethal means and to learn the effects of a novel management technique. NDOW will collaborate with USDA Wildlife Services, private contractors, and other wildlife professionals to conduct lethal or non-lethal management of predators and will put forethought into project design. Response variables will be identified and data will be collected to determine project effectiveness. Expected outcomes will include project effectiveness, agency reports, and possible peer-reviewed publications.
3. **Experimentation**: The primary objective is for increasing knowledge of predators in Nevada. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to study and learn about predators of Nevada. Expected outcomes will include agency reports, peer-reviewed publications, and information on how to better manage Nevada's predators.

LEVELS OF MONITORING

Below are the three levels of monitoring outlined in the predator management plan. The level of monitoring for each project is identified within the project description.

1. **Standard Monitoring**: The primary objective of standard monitoring is to use existing survey protocols to evaluate the response of game species or sensitive wildlife to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW conducts annual and biannual surveys to evaluate trend and composition of game species or sensitive wildlife and to inform the season and quota-setting process. Composition surveys will yield response variables such as recruitment of juveniles into the adult population and will be compared to published benchmarks of productivity in the management area of interest, to neighboring areas not receiving predator management, or in the same area before treatment began. Standard monitoring represents no change to existing monitoring efforts. Expected outcomes include an indication of project effectiveness and agency reports.
2. **Intermediate Monitoring**: The primary objective of intermediate monitoring is to apply a specific monitoring plan designed to evaluate the response of game species or sensitive wildlife to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to identify reference and treatment areas or evaluate productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife before, during, and after implementation to determine effectiveness of predator management. Composition surveys may be modified to thoroughly evaluate productivity in the reference and treatment areas and to better accommodate annual variation in survey conditions. Expected outcomes will include an indication of project effectiveness, agency reports, and possible peer-reviewed publications.
3. **Rigorous Monitoring**: The primary objective of rigorous monitoring is to evaluate several response variables known to affect productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife and to determine the relative influence of those variables when measuring the response to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to identify the requirements of rigorous monitoring and to further evaluate factors influencing productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife such as survival of juveniles, body condition of adults, or habitat productivity. Rigorous monitoring efforts will help to disentangle biotic and abiotic conditions that may influence productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife from the effects of lethal or non-lethal management of predators. Expected outcomes will include agency reports, peer-reviewed publications, and information on how to better manage Nevada's wildlife.

FY 2022 PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR CONTINUATION

Project 21: Greater Sage-Grouse Protection (Common Raven Removal)

Justification	This project proposes to lethally remove common ravens from known Greater Sage-grouse habitat, common raven predation on Greater Sage-grouse nests and broods can limit population growth. Common ravens will be removed around known Greater Sage-grouse leks because most nest sites are located within 4 km of a lek. Common ravens will be removed in areas of known greater abundance to benefit sensitive populations of Greater Sage-grouse.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard to Intermediate
Potentially Affected Species	Common raven, Greater Sage-grouse
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Washoe, and White Pine counties.
Limiting Factor Statement	Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for Greater Sage-grouse, their populations can be suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Increases in predator numbers can also cause decreases in Greater Sage-grouse populations; common raven abundance has increased throughout their native ranges, with increases as much as 1,500% in some areas (Boarman 1993, Coates et al. 2007, 2014, Sauer et al. 2011, O'Neil et al. 2018). Under these circumstances, common raven predation can have a negative influence of Greater Sage-grouse nesting success, recruitment, and population trend (Coates and Delehanty 2010).
Response Variable	Common raven point counts may be conducted before, during, and after removal to detect changes in common raven densities.

Project Goals	1. Reduce common raven populations in high abundance areas that overlap sensitive Greater Sage-grouse populations identified by NDOW and USDA Wildlife Services wildlife biologists. 2. Increase populations of Greater Sage-grouse in specific areas where deemed feasible.
Habitat Conditions	Areas of common raven removal will be within or in close proximity to Greater Sage-grouse leks, nesting habitat, and brood-rearing habitat. Persistent drought throughout Nevada has reduced herbaceous cover, along with nesting and brood rearing habitat; these effects are exacerbated by wildfire and the invasion of cheatgrass. Transmission lines, substations, and nearby agriculture production often attract common ravens which may threaten nearby Greater Sage-grouse populations.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	Raven management, including lethal removal, is imperative to maintain and improve Greater sage-grouse and the ecosystems they depend on. NDOW recommends continuing Project 21 while common ravens are believed to be a limiting factor for Greater sage-grouse.
Methods	*Lethal Removal* Chicken eggs treated with corvicide (DRC-1339) will be deployed to remove common ravens (Coates et al. 2007). To reduce non-target species exposure, no eggs will be left in the environment for over 168 hours. No leftover eggs will be used on subsequent treatments. All remaining eggs and any dead common ravens found will be collected and disposed of properly as per DRC-1339 protocol. DRC-1339 is effective only on corvids and most mammals and other birds are not susceptible to the specific effects from this agent. *Monitoring* Point counts for common ravens will be conducted from March through July of each year, which corresponds with Greater Sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing season. Surveys will be similar to Ralph et al. (1995): lasting 10 minutes; conducted between sunrise and 1400 hrs; conducted under favorable weather conditions; and stratified randomly across study areas (Luginbuhl et al. 2001, Coates et al. 2014).
Anticipated Result	The removal of common ravens is intended to result in long-term protection for Greater Sage-grouse populations through increases in nest success, brood survival, and recruitment. This project will continue until evidence demonstrating Greater sage-grouse nest success and recruitment are not limiting population growth due to common raven predation or common raven populations are in decline from non-lethal measures. The Department anticipates a change in the USFWS raven depredation permit in upcoming years.

Staff Comment	Project 21 will become progressively more precise with deliverables from Project 41. It is the Department's desire to ultimately use Project 21 to create temporary voids of ravens for Greater sage-grouse during sensitive times and to reverse the common raven population growth curve.
Project Direction	Fund Project 21.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$175,000	N/A	$175,000

Project 22-01: Mountain Lion Removal to Protect California Bighorn Sheep

Justification	California bighorn sheep populations have been reintroduced in northwestern Nevada; mountain lion predation can be a significant source of mortality that may threaten this population's viability. Area 01 is in close proximity to the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, California, and Oregon; all three may act as a source for mountain lions. Mountain lions will be removed proactively by USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors until the local bighorn sheep populations reach population objectives.
Project Manager	Jon Ewanyk, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard to intermediate
Potentially Affected Species	California bighorn sheep, mountain lion, mule deer
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Units 011 and 013
Limiting Factor Statement	Mountain lions are known predators of bighorn sheep (Rominger et al. 2004). Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for bighorn sheep and other big game, their populations can be lowed or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Mitigating abiotic factors by removing predators is imperative for some bighorn sheep populations to stabilize (Rominger 2007).
Response Variable	The response variable will be the number of radio-marked bighorn sheep killed by mountain lions.
Project Goal	Remove mountain lions to proactively protect reintroduced California bighorn sheep.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may also be suppressing bighorn populations below carrying capacity or preventing them from reaching self-sustaining levels. Currently, several collaborations between the Bureau of Land Management and NDOW to remove pinyon-juniper are scheduled. These removals are intended to improve bighorn

	sheep habitat, improve access to water sources, and to remove habitat that is ideal for mountain lions to focus on bighorn sheep.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 22-01 until the local bighorn sheep populations reach viability as defined in the annual Predator Plan.
Methods	NDOW biologists, USDA Wildlife Services, and private contractors will collaborate to identify current and future California bighorn sheep locations and determine the best methods to reduce California bighorn sheep mortality. Traps, snares, baits, call boxes, and hounds will be used to proactively capture mountain lions as they immigrate into the defined sensitive areas.
Population Estimate	The population estimates for California Bighorn sheep in 011 and 013 are approximately 50 individuals each.
Anticipated Result	Decrease or prevent predation from mountain lions for all age classes of reintroduced California bighorn sheep, resulting in an established, viable population.
Staff Comment	Proactive mountain lion removal to assist struggling bighorn sheep populations is well documented within the scientific literature.
Project Direction	Fund project 22-01. Monitor population. Cease proactive removal efforts after the local bighorn sheep population reaches 60 in each area (011 and 013; table 1).

Table 1. Population numbers to be used to redirect focus of project.

Action	Bighorn Sheep Population
Monitor bighorn population, conduct removal on case-by-case basis	> 80
Remove mountain lions that consume bighorn sheep*	60 - 80
Remove all mountain lions in area	< 60

*Indicates need for monitoring local mountain lion population.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	Pittman-Robertson	Total
$100,000	N/A	$100,000

Project 22-074: Monitor Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep for Mountain Lion Predation

Justification	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep populations have been established in portions of Nevada, but mountain lion predation can be a significant source for mortality that may threaten the population's viability. One collared bighorn sheep has been killed by mountain lions in the past year. The area biologists believe that mountain lion predation is not currently limiting the small bighorn sheep population, but even a small amount of predation has the potential to affect its viability.
Project Manager	Kari Huebner, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard to intermediate
Potentially Affected Species	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mountain lion
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Unit 074
Limiting Factor Statement	Mountain lions are known predators of bighorn sheep (Rominger et al. 2004). Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for bighorn sheep and other big game, their populations can be lowed or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Mitigating abiotic factors by removing predators is imperative for some bighorn sheep populations to stabilize (Rominger 2007).
Response Variable	The response variable will be the number of radio-marked bighorn sheep killed by mountain lions.
Project Goal	Bighorn sheep populations will be monitored on a continual basis and predator control will be implemented as deemed necessary at the discretion of the Area Biologist.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may also be suppressing bighorn populations below carrying capacity or preventing them from reaching self-sustaining levels.

Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 22-074 until the local bighorn sheep reaches population viability as defined in the annual Predator Plan.
Methods	NDOW biologists will identify current and future Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep locations and determine the best methods to monitor this population. Additional GPS collars will be purchased and deployed to monitor the bighorn sheep population. If mountain lion predation is identified as an issue, then traps, snares, baits, call boxes, and hounds will be used to lethally remove mountain lions from the area.
Population Estimate	The population estimate for Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep is approximately 35-40 individuals in area 074.
Anticipated Results	1. Monitor the population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. 2. If mountain lion predation is identified as an issue, conduct lethal removal.
Staff Comment	Proactive mountain lion removal to assist struggling bighorn sheep populations is well documented within the scientific literature. This project has evolved from a proactive lethal removal project to a monitoring project.
Project Direction	Fund project 22-074. Monitor population. Begin mountain lion removal efforts if mountain lion predation is detected (table 2). Evaluate efficacy of project 22-074 annually. The Department will allocate project 22-074 funds to project 37 if they are not spent by 1 March 2023.

Table 2. Population numbers to be used to redirect focus of project.

Action	Bighorn Sheep Population
Monitor bighorn population, conduct removal on case-by-case basis	> 15
Remove mountain lions that consume bighorn sheep*	10 - 15
Remove all mountain lions in area	< 10

*Indicates need for monitoring local mountain lion population.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	Pittman-Robertson	Total
$20,000	N/A	$20,000

Project 37: Big Game Protection-Mountain Lions

Justification	Predation issues frequently arise in a very short timeframe. These issues often occur within a fiscal year. By the time a project can be drafted, approved, and implemented, it may be too late to prevent or mitigate the predation issue. Removing mountain lions that prey on sensitive game populations quickly is a required tool to manage big game populations statewide.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard
Potentially Affected Species	Mountain lion, mule deer, bighorn sheep, antelope
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Statewide
Limiting Factor Statement	Mountain lions are known predators of bighorn sheep and other big game species (Rominger et al. 2004). Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for bighorn sheep and other big game, their populations can be lowered or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Mitigating abiotic factors by removing predators is imperative for some bighorn sheep populations to stabilize (Rominger 2007).
Response Variable	Response variables may include reduction of prey taken by mountain lions, removal of a mountain lion that was documented consuming the concerned big game species, or a reduction in mountain lion sign. Because of the quick nature of the project, there may be times when no response variable will be measured.
Project Goal	Remove specific, problematic mountain lions to benefit game species.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may have reduced mule deer and other big game populations below carrying capacity. These effects may also be suppressing mule deer or big game populations below carrying capacity (Ballard et al. 2001).
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 37 until local bighorn sheep populations become viable as defined in the annual Predator Report. NDOW supports the ability to remove mountain lions quickly.
Methods	NDOW will specify locations of mountain lions that may be influencing local declines of sensitive game populations. Locations will be determined with GPS

	collar points, trail cameras, and discovered mountain lion kill sites. Removal efforts will be implemented when indices levels are reached, these include low annual adult survival rates, poor fall young:female ratios, spring young:female ratios, and low adult female annual survival rates (table 3). Depending on the indices identified, standard to intermediate levels of monitoring will be implemented to determine the need for or effect of predator removal. These additional monitoring efforts may be conducted by NDOW employees, USDA Wildlife Services, or private contractors. Staff and biologists will identify species of interest, species to be removed, measures and metrics, and metric thresholds. This information will be recorded on the Local Predator Removal Progress Form (see appendix) and included in the annual predator report.
Anticipated Results	1. Lethal removal of individual, problematic mountain lions will provide a precise tool, protecting reintroduced and sensitive big game populations. 2. Implementation will occur in association with game populations that are sensitive (e.g., small in size, limited in distribution, in decline) and may benefit from rapid intervention from specific predation scenarios.
Staff Comment	Proactive mountain lion removal to assist struggling bighorn sheep populations is well documented within the scientific literature.
Project Direction	Fund Project 37.

Table 3. Indices used to initiate predator removal.

Species	Annual Adult Survival Rates	Fall Young: Female Ratios	Spring Young: Female Ratios	Adult Female Annual Survival Rates
California Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--
Desert Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 30:100	--	--
Mule Deer	--	--	< 35:100	< 80%
Pronghorn	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	Pittman-Robertson	Total
$100,000	N/A	$100,000

Project 38: Big Game Protection-Coyotes

Justification	Predation issues frequently arise in a very short timeframe. These occurrences often occur within a fiscal year, therefore by the time a project can be drafted, approved, and implemented, to prevent or mitigate the predation issue, it may be too late. Removing problematic coyotes quickly is a required tool to manage big game populations statewide.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard
Potentially Affected Species	Coyote, mule deer, antelope, Greater Sage-grouse
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Statewide
Limiting Factor Statement	Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for mule deer and other big game, their populations can be lowered or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Predation from coyotes may further suppress these populations (Ballard et al. 2001).
Response Variable	Response variables may include reduction of prey taken by coyotes, removal of a coyote that was documented consuming the concerned big game species, or a reduction in coyote sign. Because of the quick nature of the project, there may be times when no response variable will be measured.
Project Goal	Conduct focused coyote removal to protect game species.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may have reduced mule deer and other big game populations below carrying capacity. These effects may also be suppressing mule deer or big game populations below carrying capacity (Ballard et al. 2001).
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 38 pending available funding.
Methods	USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors, working under direction of NDOW, will use foothold traps, snares, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters for

	aerial gunning, calling and gunning from the ground to remove coyotes in sensitive areas during certain times of the year. Work will be implemented when indices levels are reached, these include low annual adult survival rates, poor fall young:female ratios, poor spring young:female ratios, and low adult female annual survival rates (table 3). Depending on the indices identified, standard to intermediate levels of monitoring will be implemented to determine the need for or effect of predator removal. These additional monitoring efforts may be conducted by NDOW employees, USDA Wildlife Services, or private contractors.
Anticipated Results	1. Removal of coyotes in winter range and fawning and lambing areas in certain situations will provide a valuable tool for managers. 2. Implementation will occur during times and locations where sensitive game species are adversely affected (e.g., local decline, reduced recruitment) based on the best available biological information.
Staff Comment	Proactive coyote removal to assist struggling pronghorn populations is well documented within the scientific literature.
Project Direction	Fund Project 38.

Table 3. Indices used to initiate predator removal.

Species	Annual Adult Survival Rates	Fall Young: Female Ratios	Spring Young: Female Ratios	Adult Female Annual Survival Rates
California Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--
Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--
Desert Bighorn Sheep	< 90%	< 30:100	--	--
Mule Deer	--	--	< 35:100	< 80%
Pronghorn	< 90%	< 40:100	--	--

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	Pittman-Robertson	Total
$100,000	N/A	$100,000

Project 40: Coyote and Mountain Lion Removal to Complement Multi-faceted Management in Eureka County

Justification	Continuing predator removal will complement previous coyote removal, feral horse removal, and habitat restoration to benefit mule deer populations.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard to intermediate
Potentially Affected Species	Coyote, Greater Sage-grouse, mule deer
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Units 144
Limiting Factor Statement	Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for mule deer and other big game, their populations can be reduced or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat, these populations can be suppressed by predation from coyotes (Ballard et al. 2001).
Response Variable	The response variable will be the fawn to doe ratios in the Diamond Mountains. This ratio will be observed throughout the life of the project. The project will be altered or discontinued after three consecutive years of observed spring fawn:adult ratios averaging 50:100 or higher.
Project Goal	To increase mule deer and Greater Sage-grouse populations by removing coyotes and mountain lions.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, fawning, and browsing habitat. These effects may have reduced mule deer below carrying capacity. These effects may also be suppressing mule deer below carrying capacity (Ballard et al. 2001).
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 40 until mule deer populations reach levels defined in the annual Predator Plan.
Methods	USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors working under direction of NDOW and Eureka County, will use foothold traps, snares, fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters for aerial gunning, and calling and gunning from the ground to remove coyotes in sensitive areas during certain times of the year.
Anticipated Result	Coyote removal will complement feral horse removal already conducted by the BLM, habitat improvement conducted by Eureka County, private coyote

	removal funded by Eureka County, and Wildlife Service coyote removal funded through Wildlife Heritage funds in 2011 and 2012.
Staff Comment	The Department supports multi-faceted management projects such as Project 40.
Project Direction	Fund Project 40. Evaluate efficacy of Project 40 annually.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$100,000	N/A	$100,000

Project 41: Increasing Understanding of Common Raven Densities and Space Use in Nevada

Justification	Common ravens are the primary predator of Greater Sage-grouse nests and chicks (Coates and Delehanty 2010). Their populations have increased dramatically in Nevada, primarily due to human subsidies (Boarman 1993, Sauer et al. 2011). Understanding common raven density, distribution, and subsidy use will allow for intelligent management decisions to be made to reduce or alter common raven densities in Nevada. These efforts are intended to benefit Greater Sage-grouse, though desert tortoise may also benefit from this project.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Experimentation
Monitoring Level	Rigorous
Potentially Affected Species	Greater Sage-grouse, common raven, desert tortoise
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Statewide
Limiting Factor Statement	Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for Greater Sage-grouse, their populations can be suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Increases in predator numbers can also cause decreases in Greater Sage-grouse populations; common raven abundance has increased throughout their native ranges, with increases as much as 1,500% in some areas (Boarman 1993, Coates et al. 2007, Sauer et al. 2011). Under these circumstances, common raven predation can have a negative influence of Greater Sage-grouse nesting success, recruitment, and population trend (Coates and Delehanty 2010). Common raven predation has also been documented to negatively impact desert tortoise populations (Boarman 1993, Kristan and Boarman 2003)
Response Variable	No response variable will be collected, this is an experimentation project.
Project Goals	1. Increase understanding of common raven density, distribution, and subsidy use to maximize common raven management effectiveness. 2. Develop a protocol to estimate common raven populations in Greater Sage-grouse habitat and monitor these populations. 3. Increase the understanding of how human subsidies affect common raven movements and space use, particularly near Greater Sage-grouse leks and nesting areas. 4. Develop a resource selection function model to identify landscape features that influence common raven abundance and that may be used in conjunction with Greater Sage-grouse priority habitat maps to locate sites where lethal

	treatments of common ravens may be applied with the greatest efficacy and efficiency.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought throughout Nevada has reduced herbaceous cover, along with nesting and brood rearing habitat; these impacts are exacerbated through wildfire and the invasion of cheatgrass. Transmission lines, substations, and nearby agriculture production also threaten Greater Sage-grouse habitat.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	Common raven predation may be the greatest limiting factor in Greater sage-grouse nest success, NDOW supports continuing Project 41.
Methods	*Population monitoring and space use* Point counts for common ravens will be conducted from March through July of each year, which corresponds with Greater Sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing season. Surveys will be similar to Ralph et al. (1995): lasting 10 minutes; conducted between sunrise and 1400; conducted under favorable weather conditions; and stratified randomly across study areas (Luginbuhl et al. 2001, Coates et al. 2014). ARGOS backpack transmitters will be deployed to monitor common raven space use and space use. *Development of Resource Selection Function (RSF)* An RSF will be developed using data on landscape features collected in habitats with varying observed abundance indices for common ravens. The abundance indices collected will include common raven point count and Greater Sage-grouse point counts. The landscape features that will be entered into the model will include 1 meter resolution digital elevation models and fire regime. The RSF for common ravens will be overlaid on polygons that feature Greater Sage-grouse priority habitats. Identifying habitats likely to support high numbers of common ravens where Greater Sage-grouse conservation is of highest priority will provide future locations where common raven removal may be warranted, land use activities may be modified, or more intensive Greater Sage-grouse monitoring may be focused. *Utility line surveys* Various utility lines will be identified in and near Greater Sage-grouse habitat from February until June of each year, which corresponds with common raven nesting and brood rearing. Surveys will be conducted from OHV vehicles, variables including utility pole type, cross arm type, utility pole height, insulator position, perch deterrent effectiveness, and proximity to Greater Sage-grouse habitat will be recorded.

Anticipated Results	1. Develop a protocol to estimate common raven populations in Greater Sage-grouse habitat and monitor these populations. 2. Increase the understanding of common raven density and distribution in the state of Nevada, and how human subsidies increase common raven density and distribution. 3. Determine what common raven removal location will provide the greatest benefit to Greater Sage-grouse. Determine what time of the year is the optimal time to conduct common raven removal to optimize benefit to Greater Sage-grouse.
Staff Comment	Project 41 has resulted in on of the largest GPS location datasets for common ravens in history. It has also resulted in several peer-reviewed publications. The most recent list of these accomplishments may be found in the Appendix of the FY 2022 Predator Report. This project will develop a statewide population estimate for ravens, common raven growth rate, a common raven density map, detailed analysis of common raven movement and space use, and information necessary to increase the USFWS depredation permit.
Project Direction	Fund Project 41.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$87,500	$262,500	$300,000

Project 42: Assessing Mountain Lion Harvest in Nevada

Justification	Nevada Department of Wildlife has a yearlong mountain lion hunting season limited by harvest quotas, although mountain lions are also lethally removed for livestock depredation and to limit predation on specific wildlife populations. Statewide annual adult female harvest is ≤35%, which indicates that statewide harvests are unlikely to be reducing statewide mountain lion population abundance (Anderson and Lindzey 2005). Nevertheless, regional area harvests may be greater and can be more difficult to assess the effects due to small sample sizes. Conversely, current NDOW mountain lion removal projects may not be sufficiently intensive to reduce local mountain lion populations to attain reduced predation on prey populations. Improved understanding of mountain lion population dynamics in Nevada would allow for better informed management.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Experimentation
Monitoring Level	Rigorous
Potentially Affected Species	Mountain lion, mule deer, bighorn sheep, elk
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Statewide
Limiting Factor Statement	Habitat and prey availability likely limit mountain lion populations in the state of Nevada.
Response Variable	No response variable will be collected, this is an experimentation project.
Project Goals	1. Develop a population model that incorporates NDOW mountain lion harvest data to predict the number of mountain lions that must be removed to reach desired goals in mountain lion removal projects. 2. Identify limitations and gaps in the existing demographic data for mountain lions that precludes a more complete understanding of mountain lion population dynamics and limits NDOW's management ability with the greatest efficacy and efficiency. 3. Create a user-friendly model interface for Department employees to model local populations and improve understanding. 4. Draft and ideally publish work in a peer-reviewed manuscript.
Habitat Conditions	This work would not be conducted in the field but would rely on statewide harvest data collected over time to include periods of normal and less-than-normal precipitation. Due to the span of the state data collection, habitat during the period

	of inference would also span a wide variety of conditions and vegetative communities.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	Findings indicate Nevada has a stable mountain lion population.
Methods	A private contractor will use existing mountain lion harvest data collected by NDOW biologists to develop a harvest model. The modeling approach will involve Integrated Population Modeling (IPM) which brings together different sources of data to model wildlife population dynamics (Abadi et al. 2010, Fieberg et al. 2010). With IPM, generally a joint analysis is conducted in which population abundance is estimated from survey or other count data, and demographic parameters are estimated from data from marked individuals (Chandler and Clark 2014). Age-at-harvest data can be used in combination with other data, such as telemetry, mark-recapture, food availability, and home range size to allow for improved modeling of abundance and population dynamics relative to using harvest data alone (Fieberg et al. 2010). Depending on available data, the contractor will build a count-based or structured demographic model (Morris and Doak 2002) for mountain lions in Nevada. The model (s) will provide estimates of population growth, age and sex structure, and population abundance relative to different levels of harvest.
Anticipated Results	1. Estimate statewide population dynamics, age structure, and sex structure of mountain lions in the state of Nevada with existing NDOW data. 2. Recommend additional data that could be collected to improve the model and reduce uncertainty in model results in the future.
Staff Comment	Building an Integrated Population Model for mountain lions will allow the Department to manage mountain lions on a finer scale.
Project Direction	Fund Project 42.

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$5,000	$15,000	$20,000

Project 43: Mesopredator removal to protect waterfowl, turkeys, and pheasants on Wildlife Management Areas

Justification	Mesopredators including coyotes, striped skunks, and raccoons often consume waterfowl, pheasant, and turkey eggs. Consuming these eggs may limit fowl species population growth and could be causing a decline on Overton and Mason Valley Wildlife Management Areas.
Project Manager	Isaac Metcalf and Bennie Vann, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Implementation
Monitoring Level	Standard
Potentially Affected Species	Assorted waterfowl, turkey, pheasant, coyote, striped skunk, raccoon
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Overton and Mason Valley Wildlife Management Areas
Limiting Factor Statement	Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for waterfowl, turkeys, and pheasants, their populations can be lowed or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat.
Response Variable	The response variable for waterfowl, turkeys, and pheasants will be the number of females with clutches, and the number of young per clutch.
Project Goals	To increase clutch size and survival of waterfowl, turkeys, and pheasants on Overton and Mason Valley WMAs.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought throughout Nevada has reduced herbaceous cover, nesting, and browsing habitat.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW recommends continuing project 43 pending funding availability.
Methods	USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors working under direction of NDOW, will use foothold traps, snares, calling and gunning from the ground to remove coyotes, striped skunks, and raccoons during waterfowl, turkey, and pheasant nesting seasons.

Anticipated Results	1. Increase the number of female turkeys, waterfowl, and pheasants that successful raise clutches. 2. Increase the number female turkeys, waterfowl, and pheasants that have clutches. This project will be cancelled or altered once there are two consecutive three-year averages where: The average hen turkey successfully raises 3 poults. Area biologists believe pheasants no longer need predator removal.
Staff Comment	Area managers have noticed a substantial increase in waterfowl nest success and an increase in clutch size since the inception of project 43.
Project Direction	Fund Project 43.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$50,000	N/A	$50,000

Project 44: Lethal Removal and Monitoring of Mountain Lions in Area 24

Justification	The local desert bighorn sheep population has been underperforming in the Delamar Mountains since the initial reintroduction in 1996 (M. Cox, *personal communication*). Mountain lions may be a contributing factor to this underperformance.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Experimental Management
Monitoring Level	Intermediate
Potentially Affected Species	Mountain lion, bighorn sheep
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Areas 23 and 24
Limiting Factor Statement	Mountain lions are known predators of bighorn sheep and other big game species (Rominger et al. 2004). Though predation is a naturally occurring phenomenon for bighorn sheep and other big game, their populations can be lowered or suppressed by abiotic factors such as dry climate and loss of quality habitat. Mitigating abiotic factors by removing predators is imperative for some bighorn sheep populations to stabilize (Rominger 2007).
Response Variable	Response variables may include reduction of prey taken by mountain lions, removal of a mountain lion that was documented consuming the concerned big game species, or a reduction in mountain lion sign. Because of the quick nature of the project, there may be times when no response variable will be measured.
Project Goals	1. Remove specific, problematic mountain lions to benefit desert bighorn sheep 2. Deploy and maintain up to 20 GPS collars on mountain lions in proximity area to increase understanding of mountain lion diet, space use, and movement.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may have reduced bighorn sheep and other big game populations below carrying capacity. These effects may also be suppressing mule deer or big game populations below carrying capacity (Ballard et al. 2001).
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW supports continuing Project 44 until the local bighorn sheep populations reach viability as defined in the annual Predator Plan. NDOW also supports reactive removal of offending mountain lions while learning more about local mountain lion diet. NDOW appreciates its ongoing collaboration with the US Geological Survey and Utah State University.

Methods	Mountain lions in the area of concern will be lethally removed (see map) until three consecutive years of adult annual survival for bighorn sheep exceed an average of 90% and fall female to young ratios exceed 30:100. Mountain lions in the proximity area (see map) will be captured with the use of hounds and/or foot snares. Captured mountain lions will be chemically immobilized and marked with a GPS collar. Marked mountain lions that enter the area of concern and consume bighorn sheep will be lethally removed.
Anticipated Results	1. Remove any offending mountain lion known to be consuming bighorn sheep. 2. Increase understanding of mountain lion movements, space use, and diet within the proximity area. 3. Increase local bighorn sheep adult annual survival rates and fall young:female ratios.
Staff Comment	Determining mountain lion prey selection prior to lethal removal allows the Department to make more informed decisions on which mountain lion to remove. The Delamar based lions are consuming a substantial number of feral horses. The Department will increase our understanding of the effect mountain lions can have on feral horse populations.
Project Direction	NDOW supports continuing Project 44 until the local bighorn sheep populations reach viability as defined in the annual Predator Plan. NDOW also supports reactive removal of offending mountain lions while learning more about local mountain lion diet. NDOW supports seeking outside collaboration and funding sources.

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$ 100,000	N/A	$ 100,000

Project 45: Passive Survey Estimate of Black Bears in Nevada

Justification	Black bears are expanding numerically and geographically, and in so doing they are recolonizing historic ranges in Nevada. It is imperative the Department be able to estimate Nevada's black bear population and monitor growth and change. Being able to do so passively will ensure the Department can reach these objectives safely and cost efficiently.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Experimentation
Monitoring Level	Rigorous
Potentially Affected Species	Black bear
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Units 014, 015, 021, 192, 194, 195, 196, 201, 202, 203, 204, 291
Limiting Factor Statement	Black bears have recently expanded their distribution in western Nevada to include historical bear habitat in desert mountain ranges east of the Sierra Nevada and Carson Front (Beckmann and Berger 2003, Lackey et al. 2013). Nevada black bears are an extension of a California based metapopulation (Malaney et al. 2017), monitoring this rewilding is important for proper management.
Response Variable	No response variable will be collected, this is an experimentation project.
Project Goals	1. Passively estimate the abundance of black bears in Nevada. 2. Predict the density and occupancy of black bears in Nevada.
Habitat Conditions	The study area consists of mountain ranges and associated basins that are characterized by steep topography with high granite peaks and deep canyons. Mountain ranges are separated by desert basins that range from 15–64 km across (Grayson 1993). These basins are often large expanses of unsuitable habitat (e.g., large areas of sagebrush) that bears and mountain lions do not use as primary habitat.
Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	NDOW also recommends continuing Project 45 as a monitoring project.

Methods	In a collaboration with Michigan State University and University of Montana, trail cameras will be maintained on a grid to determine black bear density. Existing black bear GPS data will be incorporated into models. These data will ultimately result in a population estimate.
Anticipated Results	1. A statewide black bear population estimate. 2. An estimate of black bear occupancy, density, and abundance based on hair snares and trail cameras. 3. Guidance to the Department on which methods will be best suited for sustained population estimation.
Staff Comment	Project 45 will allow the Department to make more informed decisions on statewide black bear management, including the black bear hunt seasons and harvest limits.
Project Direction	Fund Project 45.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$5,000	$15,000	$20,000

Project 46: Investigating Potential Limiting Factors Impacting Mule Deer in Northwest Nevada

Justification	Recent decades have seen Northwest Nevada's mule deer herds decline, resulting in fewer tags issued and low-quality hunt experiences. Several factors may be contributing, including predation, drought, wildland fire, invasive plant species, and competition from feral horses. A combination of these factors are likely at play, it is the Department's desire to better understand the situation.
Project Manager	Pat Jackson, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Project Type	Experimental Management
Monitoring Level	Rigorous
Potentially Affected Species	Mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn, coyote, mountain lion
Span More Than One Fiscal Year	Yes
Project Area	Units 021, 011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 032, 033, 034
Limiting Factor Statement	Predation, drought, fire, degraded habitat, and competition from feral horses may all be limiting factors.
Response Variable	For the first phase of this project, no treatment is expected, therefore no response variable will be collected.
Project Goals	1. Accurately estimate mountain lion, feral horse, mule deer and/or pronghorn densities in specified areas. 2. Increase understanding of how mountain lion, feral horse, mule deer and/or pronghorn densities changes throughout the course of a year.
Habitat Conditions	Persistent drought combined with fires and human disturbances throughout Nevada have reduced herbaceous cover, fawning or lambing, and browsing habitat. These effects may have reduced mule deer and other big game populations below carrying capacity. These effects may also be suppressing mule deer or big game populations below carrying capacity (Ballard et al. 2001).

Comments from FY 2021 Predator Report	Project 46 has the potential to greatly increase the understanding of flora and fauna communities in northwest Nevada.
Methods	In a collaboration with outside researchers, trail camera grids will be placed in strategic locations to determine densities of both predators and prey species. The locations of these camera grids will be determined by using area biologist and input, existing mule deer GPS data, BLM feral horse estimates, and other forms of institutional knowledge.
Anticipated Results	1. A better understanding of predator and prey densities across Northwest Nevada. 2. Specific management recommendations.
Staff Comment	Project 46 should be considered the analysis of a "check engine" light in Northwest Nevada. Upon completion the Department will have a better understanding of predator and prey densities in Northwest Nevada.
Project Direction	Fund Project 46 through FY 2025. Seek outside funding opportunities such as Heritage Grant funds.

Budget

$3 Predator Fee	**Pittman-Robertson**	**Total**
$40,000	$120,000	$160,000

Overall FY 2022 Budget

Project	Predator Fee	PR Funds	Total
Department of Agriculture Administrative Support Transfer[a]	$14,000	N/A	$14,000
Project 21: Greater Sage-Grouse Protection (Common Raven Removal)	$175,000	N/A	$175,000
Project 22-01: Mountain Lion Removal to Protect California Bighorn Sheep	$100,000	N/A	$100,000
Project 22-074: Monitor Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep for Mountain Lion Predation	$20,000	N/A	$20,000
Project 37: Big Game Protection-Mountain Lions	$100,000	N/A	$100,000
Project 38: Big Game Protection-Coyotes	$100,000	N/A	$100,000
Project 40: Coyote and Mountain Lion Removal to Complement Multi-faceted Management in Eureka County	$100,000	N/A	$100,000
Project 41: Increasing Understanding of Common Raven Densities and Space Use in Nevada	$87,500	$262,500	$300,000
Project 42: Assessing Mountain Lion Harvest in Nevada	$5,000	$15,000	$20,000
Project 43: Mesopredator Removal to Protect Waterfowl, Turkeys, and Pheasants on Wildlife Management Areas	$50,000	N/A	$50,000
Project 44: Lethal Removal and Monitoring of Mountain Lions in Area 24	$100,000	N/A	$100,000
Project 45: Passive Survey Estimate of Black Bears in Nevada	$5,000	$15,000	$20,000
Project 46: Investigating Potential Limiting Factors Impacting Mule Deer in Northwest Nevada	$40,000	$120,000	$160,000
Total[b]	**$896,500**	**$412,500**	**$1,259,000**

[a] This transfer of $3 predator fees for administrative support to the Department of Agriculture partially funds state personnel that conduct work for the benefit of wildlife at the direction of USDA Wildlife Services (e.g., mountain lion removal to benefit wildlife).
[b] The projects that contain lethal removal as a primary aspect, making them ineligible for Federal Aid funding.

Expected Revenues and Beginning Balance of Predator Fee

	FY 2020 Actual (revised)	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected
Beginning balance	$287,651	$363,670	$622,972	$595,073
Revenues	$797,287	$858,601	$858,601	$858,601
Plan Budget	$829,000	$854,000	$886,500	$896,500
Expenditures	$721,268	$599,299	$886,500	$896,500
Ending balance	$363,670	$622,972	$595,073	$557,174

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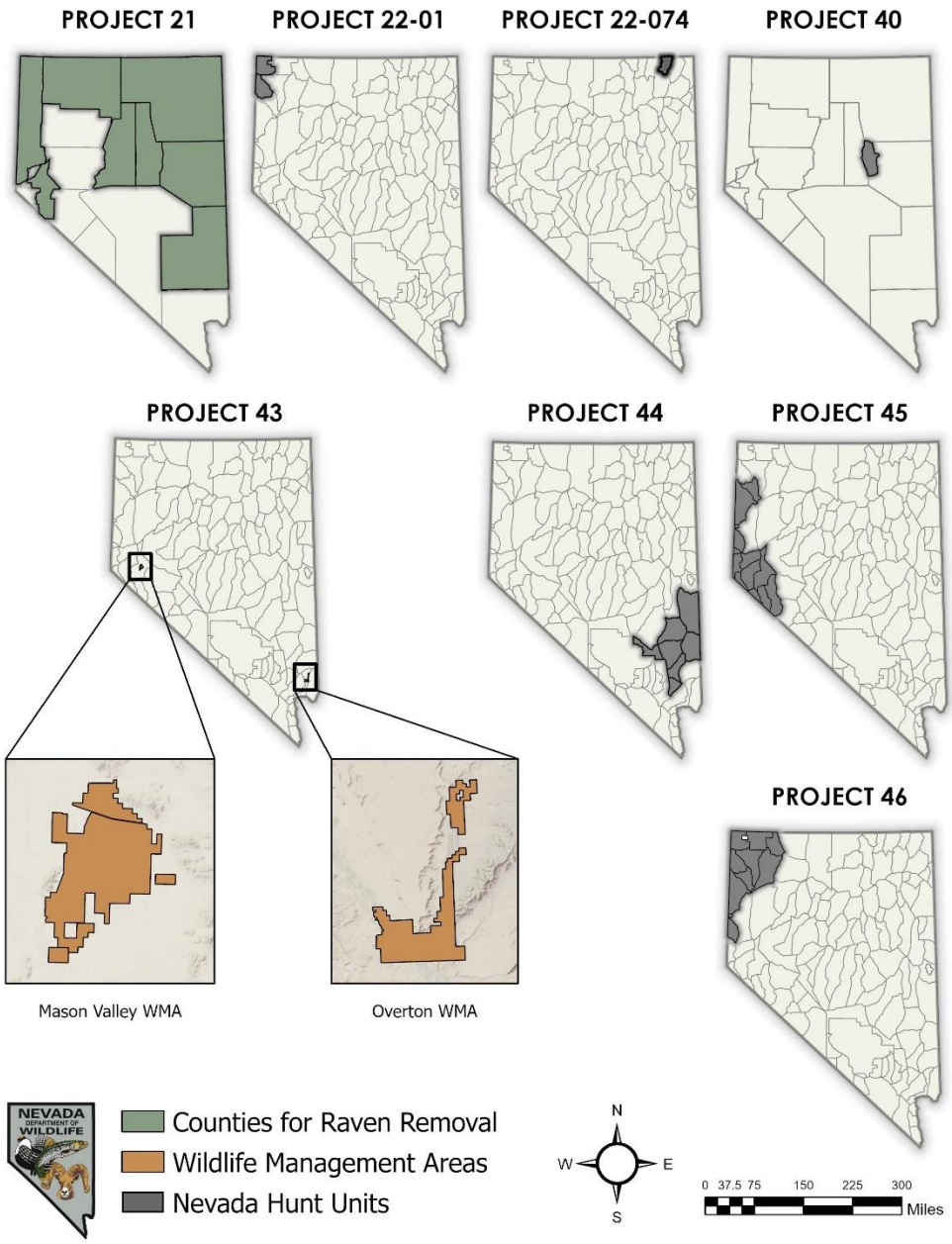
Appendix

http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Conservation/Nevada_Predator_Management/


PROJECT 21
PROJECT 22-01
PROJECT 22-074
PROJECT 40
PROJECT 43
PROJECT 44
PROJECT 45
PROJECT 46
Mason Valley WMA
Overton WMA
NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF
WILDLIFE
Counties for Raven Removal
Wildlife Management Areas
Nevada Hunt Units
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STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Game Division
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120 • Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM: **February 23, 2022**

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Cody McKee, Wildlife Staff Specialist, Game Division

Title: **Approval for Elk Damage Payment Exceeding $10,000 – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will review and approve an assessment of damage occurring on irrigated cropland operated as the Granite Peak Ranch in White Pine County.

Summary:

In June 2021, Department personnel were notified of substantial elk use occurring on several irrigated alfalfa fields comprising the Granite Peak Ranch (GPR) in White Pine County. Despite efforts by the Department and the claimant to minimize damage, over 100 elk frequented the fields through the remainder of 2021. Due to alfalfa consumption, trampling, and wallowing behavior, significant monetary loss was incurred.

An assessment of elk damage totaling $19,170 was completed by Department personnel and submitted for reimbursement by Bruce Hubbard, agent for the property. Per NAC 504.421 Section 1 (f), "A loss on one site must be limited to $10,000, unless the Commission determines that a claimant may be paid more, and there is sufficient money to pay him or her." The Commission will need to approve the payment for elk damage on GPR so the Department can process the reimbursement.

As of December 2021, the account balance for Elk Damage was $1,984,900. While sufficient funding exists to fully reimburse the claimant, the Department is implementing a new Antlerless Elk Depredation Hunt for the upcoming Big Game Hunting Season to further discourage elk from visiting GPR.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends the Commission vote to approve the payment for elk damage on GPR as presented.

ELK DEPREDATION DAMAGE OR LOSS REPORT

Bruce Hubbard- agent
(Name of Claimant)

4272 North High Noon Street Enoch, UT 84721
(Mailing Address

(435) 681-0557
(Telephone Number)

Granite Peak Ranch
(Location of Damaged Property)

White Pine County
(County)

Dates damage occurs: From 6/5/2021 To 12/4/2021

When was damage first discovered: June 5th

When was NDOW notified of damage: Late June

If not within five days of the initial discovery of damage, why?
Agent does not live in the immediate area and is unfamilar with the program.

Date of NDOW investigation 7/14/2021

Persons Interviewed None

Description of Investigation:
Daylight count.

Have there been previous reports of damage caused by elk? Yes ☐ No ☑
If yes, the date(s):

Has the claimant refused to accept, use or maintain damage prevention materials provided by the Department? Yes ☐ No ☑ If yes, explain:

Are the damages caused by elk eligible for reimbursement pursuant to any policy of insurance? Yes ☐ No ☑

TYPE(S) OF DAMAGE:

Number of elk causing damage 65-140

Check all that apply

Pasture or meadow ☐ Standing Crop ☑ Stored Crop ☐

Number of acres involved in damage 3,100

If pasture or meadow, was it grazed by livestock? Yes ☐ No ☑ If so,

Type Number

Season of use

If stored crop, type? Total acres Acres damaged

Other property damage (e.g., fencing) ☐ Type of property

What measures were taken to protect meadow/crops/property?

Hazing

Calculation of Damage Values

Pasture or meadow					
Avg # elk/month	# of months	% time elk on field/day	AUM elk conversion	Cost of 1 AUM	**Damage Value**
			2.1		$0

Standing crop				
Avg # elk/ day	# days	lbs/elk/day consumed	Market value/ton	**Damage Value**
100	180	7.1	$300	$19,170

Stored crops		
Amount damaged (tons, bales, lbs)	market value/unit	**Damage Value**
		$0

Other property damaged		
Amount damaged (units, e.g., feet of fencing)	market value/unit	**Damage Value**
		$0
	TOTAL VALUE	**$19,170**

DAMAGE PAYMENT AGREED TO BY CLAIMANT AND NDOW INVESTIGATOR

$ $19,170 Date 2/8/2022

I agree the above information is true to the best of my knowledge:

Claimant's Signature _____ Date _____

Department Investigator _____ Date _____

Supervisor Approval _____ Date _____

The Department approves the aforementioned claim for the amount identified:

Deputy Director,
Nevada Department of Wildlife _____ Date _____

2021 Granite Peak Ranch Elk Observations

7-14-21
Daylight count. 12 bulls moving east out of fields. Worked closer to the powerline road and saw 23 more bulls behind the original bulls. 4 bulls on the south end of the fields. 2 cows heading east out of the south end. 18 cows at the stackyard. Probably missed some elk in the topography. 3 calves seen in the fields, but tall hay probably hid some calves. 62 total elk.

8-3-2021
Daylight count. 94 cows/calves on fields. 20 bulls on the east (UT) bench. 19 bulls going of south end of the fields. Cows still on the property at 6:00 am. 133 total elk.

8-9-2021
Daylight count with Bruce. The big cow group of 90+ coming off fields to west. Didn't get a great count because hitting fences. No other elk seen, but glassing was difficult with smoke.

9-9-2021
Daylight count. 1 bull in the stackyard. 18 bulls on the south end. 2 bulls on the Utah bench. At least 60-70 cows/calves in the middle, but difficult to count because Bruce and others are hazing. 6 more elk on north end that I missed early. 96 total elk.

10-4-2021
Daylight count. 27 below stackyard. 53 west of road at stackyard. 15 on pivot west of house. 25 on the middle of the main fields. 3 bulls on south end. 123 total elk.

10-11-2021
Afternoon count while doing landowner deer count. 99 elk bedded below stackyard on fields. 17 south of the house. 116 total elk.

11-3-2021
Daylight count. Didn't glass the north end much because 2 hunters were parked there. 8 bulls in pivot west of road. The big cow group was on south end. Hard to count because Bruce was hazing but looked like 90+ elk. 17 bulls on far south end. 115 total elk.

12-21-2021
Talked to Bruce. He said most elk left on 12/4.

#14B

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Chief of Staff

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Solicitor General

STATE OF NEVADA

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

MEMORANDUM

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Tony Wasley, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

From: Craig Burkett, Senior Deputy Attorney General

Date: March 2, 2022

Subject: Litigation Update

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1. United States, et al. v. Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, et al. (9th Circuit, San Francisco). An appeal of a judgment against the TCID for excess diversions of water. NDOW appealed to protect its water rights and interests. The 9th Circuit dismissed NDOW from the case: "[NDOW was] not injured or affected in any way by the judgment on remand from *Bell*, and thus do not have standing on appeal." In a subsequent appeal the 9th Circuit ruled that the "Tribe is entitled to recoup a total of 8,300 acre-feet of water for the years 1985 and 1986." *U.S. v. Truckee-Carson Irrigation Dist*., 708 Fed.Appx. 898, 902 (9th Cir. Sept. 13, 2017). TCID recently filed a Motion for Reconsideration based on *Kokesh v. Securities and Exchange Commission*, 137 S.Ct.1635 (2017). Argument on the Motion was heard February 4, 2019 and TCID's Motion was denied. Since then, the parties have begun debating the calculations for satisfaction of the prior judgment. The parties submitted briefs explaining their view of the respective calculations and had a hearing on September 29, 2020 before Judge Miranda Du.

2. United States and Walker River Paiute Tribe v. Walker River Irrigation Dist., et al. (Walker River Litigation), (USDC, Reno). This action involves federal, tribal and Mineral County claims for additional water from Walker River, in addition to those already established by the Walker River Decree. NDOW and others moved to dismiss certain claims against groundwater rights by the United States.

Subfile 3:73-CV-00127-RCJ-WGC (federal reserved rights)

This case involves claims by the United States for federal reserved water rights for all federal lands on the Walker River system. All claims are stayed except those concerning the Walker River Indian Reservation.

Currently, this case is before the District Court on remand from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' May 22, 2018, decision. *The United States and the Tribe filed Amended Counterclaims on May 3, 2019. Answers to the Counterclaims were filed on August 1, 2019.* The next deadline is February 19, 2020 for the principle defendants and the United States to agree to a discovery plan. This deadline was extended from November 22, 2019.

On May 28, 2015, the District Court ruled that the United States' action to acquire federal reserved water rights for the Walker River Paiute Tribe and several smaller tribes within the Walker River watershed were to be dismissed on "preclusion"; a doctrine that means the U.S. had its chance to make claims at the time of the original decree but failed to do so and thus cannot make them now.

On May 22, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court's decision mostly based on the fact that the United States and the Tribe had not been given a chance to brief the issue before the District Court. In fact, the District Court specifically requested that the issue of preclusion should not be briefed.

Subfile 3:73-CV-00128-RCJ-WGC (public trust doctrine)

This case involves a claim filed by Mineral County for the court to recognize a public trust duty to provide water to Walker Lake to support the fishery therein.

On May 28, 2015, the District Court held that Mineral County did not have standing to pursue the public trust claims. Mineral County filed an appeal of this issue. The Court expounded on the issue of whether the shift of water from irrigators to the lake under the public trust law would be a taking of property under the 5th Amendment. The Court held that it would be a taking and that the State would have to pay compensation to each water right holder that is displaced by water that would have to be sent to Walker Lake. Finally, the Court went on to hold that decision whether to take the water was a non-justiciable political question.

On May 22, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court holding that Mineral County did not have standing to pursue the public trust claim. However, rather than ruling on the substantive issues, the

Court held that the Public Trust Doctrine is a state-law issue that has not been squarely decided in Nevada. The Appeals Court sent one Certified Question to the Nevada Supreme Court. On August 22, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals amended its order and added a second Certified Question. Those two questions are as follows.

> Does the public trust doctrine apply to rights already adjudicated and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation and, if so, to what extent?'
>
> If the public trust doctrine applies and allows for reallocation of rights settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation, does the abrogation of such adjudicated or vested rights constitute a "taking" under the Nevada Constitution requiring payment of just compensation?

The Nevada Supreme Court accepted both Certified Questions and briefing is *complete*. Oral argument was completed Tuesday, March 3, 2020. After the Nevada Supreme Court issues its opinion, the case will return to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

On September 18, 2020, the Nevada Supreme Court rendered its Decision answering the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Certified Questions. The Nevada Supreme Court held that: (1) the public trust doctrine applies to rights already adjudicated and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation; (2) the public trust doctrine applies to all waters within the state; and (3) the public trust doctrine does not permit reallocating water rights already adjudicated and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation. Because the Court held the public trust doctrine does not allow for a reallocation of rights, there was no need to answer the second question.

The case has returned to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Court asked parties to file Supplemental Briefs to address what effect the Nevada Supreme Court's decision has on the case. NDOW filed its Supplemental Brief on October 16, 2020 arguing that the effect of the decision precludes Mineral County's claims and that the District Court's decision dismissing the case must be affirmed. We await the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' further instruction or final decision.

On January 28, 2021, the Ninth Circuit Court issued its Opinion. The panel affirmed in part, and vacated in part, the district court's dismissal of Mineral County's complaint:

> In light of the Nevada Supreme Court's Decision, the panel held that the district court properly dismissed the County's public trust claim to the extent it sough a reallocation of water rights adjudicated under the Decree and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation. The panel vacated the judgment of the district court and remanded with instruction to consider the county's public trust doctrine claim to the extent it sought remedies that would not involved a reallocation of adjudicated water rights. The panel remanded to the district court to consider in the first instance the County's arguments that were not properly addressed by the district court. The panel rejected as untimely the County's challenge to the 1936 Decree itself.

On April 21, 2021, the Department of Wildlife and other Principal Defendants filed a Joint Status Report submitted pursuant to the court's Minute Order of March 23, 2021. The Status Conference took place on April 28, 2021.

On September 21, 2021 Plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment (ECF No. [2638]) was granted. Plaintiffs are entitled to judgment as a matter of law in their favor as to Defendants' Third, Seventh, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Affirmative Defenses. Nevertheless, Principal Defendants retain all other affirmative defenses and litigation remains ongoing.

Principal Defendants have filed status reports regarding the status of access to tribal archives for discovery purposes. These archives remain closed due to the pandemic.

Mineral County v. Lyon County, 136 Nev. Adv. Op. 58 (2020)

Subfile 3:73-CV-00125-RCJ-WGC (main adjudication docket)

This subfile is not a case in the traditional sense, but rather constitutes the ongoing court-managed administration of the Walker River Decree. Decreed rights must be adjusted and administered consistent with the Court's decisions documented in the court's docket.

Water Master's Budget: Every year the Water Master is required to submit an administration budget for the court's approval. For the year 2021 to 2022, the Water Master did not request, as it did for the year 2020 to 2021, that special assessments be levied against any users seeking to modify decreed rights for instream flow purposes. NDOW has no reason to oppose the Budget as requested for the years 2021 to 2022.

Walker Basin Conservancy's Permit Approvals: On February 25, 2021, NDOW filed a Petition for the Temporary Modification of the Walker River Decree in accordance with Permit No. 89964-T, for the benefit of Walker Lake. This is a matter of course for any change in the Decreed water rights. NDOW is awaiting the Court's order.

3. *Smith v. Wakeling*, Second Judicial District, CV18-01389, Dept. 7. Smith brings an action for Defamation based on statements of certain NDOW employees. The principal basis for Smith's claim is a slide included in a presentation to Truckee law enforcement addressing concerns with wildlife advocates, and questioning whether their actions solicit harassment or engage in domestic terrorism. Smith alleges that purported misrepresentations about him have damaged his reputation.

Smith also claims his rights under the First Amendment were infringed when he was blocked from commenting on an NDOW Facebook page. Smith was blocked in 2012 for multiple violation of the rules governing use of the page. Smith moved for a preliminary injunction. A hearing on the Motion was held on July 27, 2018. The Court denied the Injunction, but ordered NDOW to allow Smith access to the Facebook page and at the same time admonished Smith to follow the terms of use.

Smith filed an Amended Complaint, adding the entities named as Plaintiffs in the Ridgetop Holdings LLC v. Wakeling case in California, as Plaintiffs in this case. NDOW and the individually named Defendants Answered Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint on August 29, 2018. The parties have conducted extensive discovery. Defendants filed a Motion for Summary Judgment, and a Motion for Dismissal as Sanction for Discovery Abuses.

The motion for Sanctions was granted in part and denied in part by the Discovery Commissioner. He granted the Defendants the right to conduct another deposition of Mark Smith, and name an expert witness, but denied dismissal.

The Summary Judgment motion filed by the Defendants' was denied.

The parties attended a mediation before Robert Enzenberger on June 25, 2021. The mediation was unsuccessful.

A week long trial was completed beginning February 8, and concluding February 14. The trial Judge dismissed multiple claims and defendants after

conclusion of the Plaintiff's case. A single claim was submitted to the jury as to whether the Nevada Department of Wildlife defamed the Plaintiff in libel. The jury returned a defense verdict on the remaining claim. An additional claim will be submitted directly to the Judge. That claim seeks public records related to the Plaintiff's removal from the NDOW Facebook page in 2012. Briefing on that issue will initiate March 16.

**Indicates the matter is resolved and will not appear on future litigation updates.*

Italicized material, if any, (other than case name) is updated information since the last litigation update.

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Data and Technology Services Division
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MEMORANDUM: **February 23, 2022**

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Kailey Musso, Management Analyst 3, Director's Office

Title: **Commission Policies**

Description: The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee will be reviewing all Commission Policies throughout the next year. They will be forwarded to the Commission for approval after Committee review.

Summary:

*The formatting of every policy will be updated, as they are passed, so that it is consistent in each policy.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 10 at their September meeting. Commission Policy 10 was updated to clarify the meeting date and provide for an explanation of online auctions. Commission Policy 10 was also considered for a first reading at the November Commission Meeting and a second reading at the January Commission Meeting. There was public comment regarding flexibility for vendors but that was subsequently dealt with through Commission Regulation (CR). It will now be considered for a third reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 31 at their November meeting. Commission Policy 31 was updated to reflect grammatical changes and management practices. Commission Policy 31 was also considered for a first reading at the January Commission Meeting. It will now be considered for a second reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 33 at their November meeting. Commission Policy 33 was updated to updated to reflect grammatical changes and management practices. Commission Policy 33 was also considered for a first reading at the January Commission Meeting. It will now be considered for a second reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 40 at their November meeting. Commission Policy 40 was updated to reflect grammatical changes and management practices. The term "boating" was changed to "watercraft" in order to support the Department's efforts on educating the public about paddle craft safety and the importance of wearing life vests on all watercraft. Policy 40 will be considered for a first reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 63 at their November meeting where it was determined that Commission Policy 63 did not need any changes. Commission Policy 63 was also considered for a first reading at the January Commission Meeting. It will now be considered for a second reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 64 at their November meeting where it was determined that Commission Policy 64 did not need any changes. Commission Policy 64 was also considered for a first reading at the January Commission Meeting. It will now be considered for a second reading.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 67 at their September and November meeting. Commission Policy 67 was updated in coordination with the Coalition For Healthy Nevada Lands, Wildlife and Free-Roaming Horses to reflect the Department and Commission needs in regards to wild horse and burro management. Commission Policy 67 was also considered for a first reading at the January Commission Meeting. It will now be considered for a second reading.

Recommendation:

Adopt
Commission Policy 10

Commission Policy 31
Commission Policy 33
Commission Policy 63
Commission Policy 64
Commission Policy 67

Move to Second Reading Commission Policy 40

Kailey Musso, Management Analyst, 775-688-1510

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 10

Number: P-10
Title: Wildlife Heritage Tags and Vendors
Reference: NRS 502.250
Effective Date: April 1, 2006
Amended Date: September 23, 2016

POLICY

It is the policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to provide guidelines for the equitable distribution of Wildlife Heritage Tags to vendors to be auctioned at fundraisers for the benefit of game species.

The intent of offering Wildlife Heritage Tags is to provide for a unique hunting opportunity and for generating revenue in the Wildlife Heritage Account. This will be accomplished without deleterious impacts to Nevada's wildlife populations. To this end, it is the Commission's intention to integrate public comment with sound biological practices in the authorization of seasons and special regulations for Wildlife Heritage Tags annually.

PURPOSE

To inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) in administering the disbursement, through an auction or sealed bid process, of not more than 15 big game tags and 5 wild turkey tags annually, to be known as "Wildlife Heritage Tags," as authorized by NRS 502.250.

"Wildlife Heritage Tag" is defined to mean a big game or wild turkey tag auctioned or awarded by sealed bid for the purpose of providing a unique hunting opportunity and for generating revenue to be deposited in the Wildlife Heritage Account.

PROCEDURE

1. The Commission, at the meeting which establishes big game seasons or the first scheduled ~~February~~ Commission meeting of the calendar year, whichever occurs first, may authorize seasons, quotas, and special regulations, including regulations that outline procedures for the auctioning or sealed bidding of the Wildlife Heritage Tags.

2. Except for applicable administrative costs, license, Habitat Conservation Fee, application, Predator Management Fee, and tag fees, all monies derived from Wildlife Heritage Tags will be deposited into the Wildlife Heritage Account.

3. By the first Monday in March, the Department will email, mail and post on the Department website vendor solicitation packets which will include, this policy, the annual regulation regarding species, season, quotas and special regulations, vendor proposal requirements, and proposal deadline information.

4. Proposals submitted to the Department by the third Monday in April of each year will be considered. Proposals received after the deadline may be considered for award of Wildlife Heritage Tags by the Commission after the Commission has considered all other proposals received and when necessary to fulfill the purpose of this policy.

5. A vendor proposal to auction Wildlife Heritage Tag(s) must provide the following information:

   (a) Date, time and place of auction. If the proposed date, time and place of the auction changes due to circumstances beyond the vendor's control, it is the vendor's responsibility to notify the Department in order to post the updated information.
   (b) Type of function (banquet, convention, or other event.)

(c) Estimated attendance.
(d) Proposed advertising and marketing strategy.
(e) An explanation of any "packaging" of the game hunt; i.e., other services to be provided in addition to the authorized tag, such as guide or taxidermy services, etc.
(f) Except for subsection (a), no changes or alterations may occur to the proposal after the deadline for receipt of the proposals
~~(f)~~(g) An explanation of if or how the auction will take place online or via phone.

~~6. A vendor may not allow a Wildlife Heritage tag to be auctioned, resold, bartered, or traded at another fundraising event without the approval of the Commission.~~

7. The Commission will review all proposals and select vendors to auction the respective tags. If no proposals are received, the Commission may authorize other organizations within or outside Nevada to auction the tag. If no acceptable organization can be found to administer an auction, the tag may be sold by sealed bid.

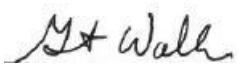
8. The Commission reserves the right to refuse any proposal received for auctioning Wildlife Heritage Tags annually.

9. All vendors who submit proposals will be notified in writing of the results by the Department.

10. By the deadline established in annual regulation, all vendors must provide the successful bidder information on an application provided by the Department and the Wildlife Heritage donation.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, September 23, 2016.



Grant Wallace, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 31

Number: P-31
Title: Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Management Guidelines
Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.181
Effective Date: March 22, 1996
Reviewed Date: 2002, 2022
Amended Date: November 18, 2016, March 2022

PURPOSE

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) establishes policies necessary to preserve, protect, manage, and restore wildlife and its habitat. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout is one of six native salmonids currently found in Nevada. Historically, this fish existed in eleven lacustrine populations and an estimated 400 to 600 streams and rivers. Currently it exists in about 159 streams and 6 lakes and reservoirs in Nevada, California and Oregon. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout was federally listed as "threatened" in 1975 under the Endangered Species Act. In Nevada, the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout is classified as a "game fish" by action of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

POLICY

The Commission does hereby establish the following policy to provide for the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

1. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan approved in January 1995 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the associated Updated Goals and Objectives for the Conservation of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (2019), in combination with guidelines developed in cooperation with individual species Geographic Management Unit (GMU) implementation teams, will be used as the guidance for the Nevada Department of Wildlife's species management planning and implementation with the objective of recovery and delisting of the species as rapidly as is biologically possible.
2. Distinguishable races of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) will be managed separately within the major drainage basins of historic Lake Lahontan. The three basin population segments include the Western Lahontan basin GMU, Northwest Lahontan basin GMU, and the Upper Humboldt River basin GMU.
3. In order to accomplish recovery objectives, the Department will participate in cooperative efforts with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; all land management agencies; other state agencies; willing private landowners and local/tribal governments that are working toward the recovery of LCT and their habitat.
4. Stream habitat restoration and management is a necessity on many waters before reintroductions can take place. On some streams, competing and/or hybridizing nonnative trout will need to be controlled or eliminated and/or physical barriers constructed to prevent competition or introgression with LCT.
5. Private landowner cooperation is essential to the development of connected populations needed to ensure the survival and recovery of LCT within the Northwest Lahontan basin and Upper Humboldt GMUs. To protect private landowners who currently have LCT on their property, or who through conservation efforts may attract LCT to their property, there are two Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreements (SHA) available (Northwest Lahontan basin and Upper Humboldt SHAs). The Department will actively work to enroll willing private landowners into Cooperative Agreements under the SHAs which will provide regulatory assurances that future property use restrictions will not be imposed if they improve, restore, create or maintain habitat for LCT.
6. Currently occupied and potential habitats as identified in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan

are to be dedicated to cutthroat recovery efforts. No competing salmonids will be stocked into occupied LCT recovery waters. Sterile (triploid) rainbow trout and / or Tiger Trout may be used on a short-term basis in potential LCT recovery waters to address angler use and demand until LCT reintroductions are deemed appropriate.

7. Where deemed necessary to assist in the recovery of the species, specific waters or specific areas within individual waters may be subject to restrictions or closed to angling by the Wildlife Commission. In most cases, sportfishing for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout has no negative impact on recovery progress.
8. The Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers and Lake Tahoe are important salmonid recreational fisheries for rainbow and brown trout, both in Nevada and California. These waters support extensive angler use and are stocked annually with hatchery salmonids to support the high angler use and demand. Experimental releases of catchable size Lahontan Cutthroat Trout are encouraged to evaluate their contribution tothe sport fishery and encourage angler interest and opportunity for catching native trout.
9. Because of social, economic, and environmental constraints, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners considers it impractical to fully recover in the near future, the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the main stems of the Truckee, Carson, Walker River systems, and Lake Tahoe, thus annual stockings of other salmonids are authorized. The use of sterile (triploid) rainbow trout is encouraged in all historic and potential recovery LCT waters. In the Truckee River, only sterile (triploid) rainbow trout and hatchery-reared LCT will be used for recreational stocking, and the use of hatchery reared LCT will be emphasized to the extent they are available for stocking in the size, quality and timing needed to maintain recreational fishing objectives.
10. The Department of Wildlife will actively pursue potential options for reestablishing suitable water levels and waterquality in Walker Lake in order to restore this important Lahontan Cutthroat Trout sport fishery. Only solutions consistent with the final decree entered in United States of America, Plaintiff vs. Walker River Irrigation District, et al., Defendants in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada (C-125) will be pursued. Any proposed redistribution of water shall be on a voluntary basis.
11. The Department of Wildlife may maintain brood stocks of pure strain Lahontan Cutthroat Trout both for use as recreational sport fish and, if needed, recovery stocks of selected races of cutthroat for reintroduction into recovery waters.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION,

Tiffany East, ChairwomanNevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 33

Number: P-33
Title: Fisheries Management Program
References: NRS 501.105, 501.181
Effective Date: July 24, 1999
Reviewed Date: 2002, 2022
Amended Date: November 18, 2016, March ? 2022

PURPOSE

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) is charged in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) to provide broad level policy guidance to programs of the Department of Wildlife. This policy is designed to provide that broad policy for programs and projects of the Fisheries Division.

JUSTIFICATION

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 501.105 states that "the commission shall establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat." NRS 501.181 further defines commission duties to "establish broad policies" for the "protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this state." In addition, the commission shall "establish policies for areas of interest including…the management of…game fish and protected and unprotected…fish…and amphibians", including "the introduction, transplanting or exporting of wildlife."

BACKGROUND

Fish are important to the State of Nevada. They play a vital role in the economic stability of the State. As of 2016, approximately 120,000 people fish in Nevada, expending about 1.4 million angler days of effort each year. The 2011 National survey found that each Nevada angler spends approximately $99 per day to pursue their sport for an economic impact to the State of about $138 million per year.

The value of fishing as a psychological and sociological therapy extends far beyond its economic benefits and has been documented in numerous studies. Fishing is a quality-of-life issue for many Nevadans in rural and urban communities alike. Fish in a desert environment are also a valuable indicator of ecological health and the persistence of native aquatic species across our arid landscape is an important part of Nevada's natural heritage. Their presence or absence portends the existing condition of aquatic resources as well as the long-term trend. The Nevada landscape is home to 26 Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed threatened and endangered fishes, more than any other state. Climatic changes as well as human environmental impacts are seen in the extirpation of native species, as the plight of Nevada's endemic fishes documents. The Commissionsupports programs to manage all fishes and aquatic wildlife with the ultimate goals of species perpetuation, improvements in status leading to eventual delisting of federally protected species, and the prevention of future Federal listing of species through proactive management strategies.

The management of Nevada's fishery resources is a valuable endeavor and of great importance to the State. This policy direction will help guide that undertaking.

POLICIES

Aquaculture

The propagation, cultivation, and harvest of aquatic organisms for commercial or private use are considered legitimate and valuable uses of Nevada's water resources. However, the paucity of water in the State limits the distribution of aquaculture pursuits, and often forces them to compete directly with native fauna and flora.

- Aquaculture activities and the commercial collection of unprotected fish and aquatic wildlife will not be permitted where they will adversely affect native fauna and flora or nonnative fisheries of significant public value.
- The possession of prohibited species and species of potential adverse impact will be permitted only in closed water systems.
- All aquaculture pursuits will conform to regulatory requirements for fish disease certification, inspection and permitting including NAC 503.560 – 503.565.

Angler Access

Even though approximately 87 percent of Nevada is comprised of public land, access to many, if not most, of the fishable waters of the State is controlled by private land. In addition, many of the publicly accessible fishing waters of the State are in need of access facilities. To perpetuate the recreational, educational, and aesthetic value of Nevada's water resources, a proactive program to guarantee access and improve access facilities is desirable.

- Angler access, including land acquisitions, easements, conservation pools, and access agreements will be sought from willing providers using Sport Fish Restoration, wildlife, and other funding sources as appropriate.
- Angler access facilities will be developed at appropriate locations where public access is already assured when such facilities will enhance angler use and encourage the use of fishery resources. Locations owned or controlled by the State of Nevada will receive priority consideration for facility development and funding.
- Access to fishery resources will be actively publicized through signage, maps, the Internet, social media, angler guides, and other Department outreach programs.
- New access facilities and improvements to existing facilities will incorporate ADA compliant access provisions to the extent practical.
- The identification and development of new urban ponds and fisheries will be actively pursued to increase angler opportunity and reduce barriers to participation
- All management prescriptions for fisheries controlled by private interests will be developed cooperatively with affected landowners.

Biological Control of Aquatic Vegetation

The use of the triploid form of the grass carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*, also known as the White Amur, as a biological method to control aquatic vegetation in specific, closed aquatic environments is a tested and proven technique. Other less prevalent methods of biological control of aquatic vegetation require diligent scrutiny relative to potential impacts to the State's aquatic and fishery resources.

- Certified triploid grass carp may be approved for stocking only into waters where appropriate containment measures have been taken to prevent escapement or unauthorized removal and transfer of grass carp.
- Approval for the importation and possession of any aquatic vegetation control organism will be given only where it can be demonstrated that they pose no harm to existing public aquatic or fishery resources.

Boating Access

The Sport Fish Restoration Program of Federal Aid requires the expenditure of at least 15 percent of the annual appropriation on boating access related facility development. The opportunities afforded by this program are great but challenging, due to the limited water-based recreational opportunities in the state.

- Fifteen percent of the annual Sport Fish Restoration appropriation will be obligated and expended for development, maintenance, and repair of motorboat access facilities within the state.
- Close cooperation with the National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Nevada Division of State Parks will be maintained to provide direct project support for development, repair, and maintenance of boating facilities under their immediate administration.
- Department owned or administered boating access facilities will receive primary consideration for use of annual appropriations.

Fisheries Management Planning

Fisheries and Species Management Plans are a primary vehicle to make management prescriptions for Nevada's waters. Plans can present a logical and scientific argument for specific management direction, as well as serve as an informational document for the public.

- Management plans will be developed to provide guidance and direction for the management of major fisheries in the state, and species management plans may be developed for important sport fish species when their populations can be managed collectively.
- All planning processes and management prescriptions for waters of the State will give due consideration to the immediate and residual effects on resident native and endemic fishes, with special attention for protected species.
- Draft fisheries and species management plans will be subjected to public review prior to being adopted, as outlined in the Fisheries Management Planning Program and Procedure.

Fishery Rehabilitation

The use of fish toxicants to control fish populations is an important fisheries management tool to control and remove undesirable nonnative fish species, for the conservation and recovery of native fish species including native sportfish, and similar management needs. Nevada Revised Statutes prohibit entities other than the Department of Wildlife from conducting fish eradication projects on waters of the State.

Environmental concerns are addressable through adequate project planning and public information.

- All fishery rehabilitation projects will comply with appropriate regulatory requirements and scoping including the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) as appropriate.
- Potential impacts to native aquatic species will be evaluated, justified, and/or mitigated prior to any fishery rehabilitation project.
- Prior to a fishery rehabilitation project, the harvest and/or salvage of desirable fish species may be encouraged through liberalization of regulations.
- Supervisory and technical assistance may be provided to private and public entities desiring to complete fishery rehabilitation projects if such projects benefit public purposes, however, project cost and regulatory compliance will remain the responsibility of the initiating party.

Fishing Regulations

A primary tool in fisheries management is the development of general and site-specific regulations. The regulatory authority of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners extends to setting regular and special fishing seasons, daily and possession limits, manner and means of take, emergency closing or extending of a season, emergency reductions or increases of bag or possession limits, and area closures (NRS 501.181).

- Fishing regulation recommendations will be developed to meet specific goals and objectives for various management programs and will be closely coordinated with county advisory boards to manage wildlife.

The simplification of fishing regulations is encouraged where effective implementation can still be insured, to reduce confusion, increase compliance by existing anglers, and reduce barriers to participation by newanglers.

Management of Native Nongame Aquatic Species

Nevada's native fishes and other native aquatic organisms are important indicators of ecological health and are integral components of properly functioning aquatic ecosystems. Many of these species have also been severely impacted over time by modifications to and abuse of aquatic systems. The Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (2012) identifies numerous native nongame aquatic species as Species of Conservation Priority while NAC 503.065 and 503.075, and 503.076 recognize the need for special management emphasis for threatened, endangered, and protected fish, amphibian, and mollusk species. Proactive conservation of all native aquatic wildlife including fishes, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans ensures the preservation of Nevada's biodiversity and is a necessary tool to preclude future species listings under the ESA.

- Programs will be emphasized which assure the security of protected native aquatic species and preclude further ESA listings.
- The use of proactive, collaborative conservation approaches such as multi-party Conservation Agreements and Strategies is encouraged to insure effective, broad-based conservation of native aquatic species.
- Native fish management plans may be developed for major drainage basins, species complexes, or individual species as needed to supplement existing Recovery Plans and other management guidance.
- All planning processes and management prescriptions for waters of the State will insure the persistence of resident native and endemic fishes and amphibians.
- Commercial exploitation of amphibians shall be closely regulated and only allowed when species viability, persistence, and maintenance of historic distribution are assured.
- Due consideration will be given to the persistence of native crustaceans and mollusks in the development of management prescriptions for native and sport fish.

Native Trout Management

Six species of salmonids are native inhabitants of the State of Nevada: Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Bull Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Mountain Whitefish, Redband Trout and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout.
With the exception of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, each has only a limited distribution in Nevada, but all are unique and deserving of special management. Given the level of environmental and anthropogenic threats, these species need active long term species management programs implemented in coordination with Federal recovery plans, rangewide conservation agreements, the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan and other conservation planning guidance.

- Native trout persistence will receive priority in management prescriptions for appropriate waters within historic distributions.
- Waters in historic ranges which support native trout populations should be designated and managed as "wild" or "native" fisheries.
- Waters or reaches or waters managed as "wild" or "native" will not be stocked with hatchery trout.
- The use of sterile (triploid) Rainbow Trout and / or Tiger Trout is encouraged for stocking in historic and potential native trout waters that are currently unoccupied by native trout species.
- Special regulatory protections such as harvest or gear restrictions may be considered for waters managed for native trout if biological information indicates such actions would assure species viability and contribute to conservation or recovery.
- Species management planning and interagency cooperation will focus on species perpetuation, improvements in status, and eventual delisting of federally protected species, and the prevention of future listing of other native trout species through proactive management strategies.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are aquatic species which are exotic and not native to Nevada and which the Commission has determined to be detrimental to aquatic life, water resources, or infrastructure for providing water in the State. Injurious aquatic species are aquatic species which the Commission has determined to be a threat to sensitive, threatened, or endangered aquatic species or game fish or to the habitat of sensitive, threatened, or endangered aquatic species or game fish. Aquatic invasive species may be introduced or spread into waterbodies by activities such as boating, fishing, hatchery releases, and the liberation of aquarium pets.

The Commission supports programs to identify the introduction pathways and threats of aquatic invasive species and to develop strategies which will preclude or limit the introduction, impact, and spread of aquatic invasive species, including:

- Establishment and operation of watercraft inspection and decontamination stations;
- Implementation of hatchery fish release vehicle decontamination and hatchery inspections for aquatic invasive species;
- Promotion of Clean, Drain and Dry methodologies for watercraft, fishing gear, and other conveyance vectors,including the development of appropriate regulations as needed to implement those methodologies;
- Development of strategies to prevent the introduction and dumping of aquarium aquatic invasive species;
- New potential aquatic invasive species will be evaluated and incorporated into existing prohibited aquatic invasive species and/or injurious aquatic invasive species regulations;
- Evaluation of all live aquatic species importation requests will incorporate consideration of aquatic invasive species; and
- Development of strategies to provide public education to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULARSESSION, MARCH 2022.

Tiffany East, ChairwomanNevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 40

Number: **P-40**
Title: Statewide Boating Safety
Reference: Nevada Boating Act
Effective Date: January 23, 1981
Amended Date: December 2, 1995
Reviewed Date: 2002

PURPOSE

To guide the Department of Wildlife in the development and implementation of a statewide boating safety program.

POLICY

1. The boating safety program shall include public boating and paddle craft safety education, boating law enforcement, boating accident investigations, administration, access facilities, marine pollution prevention, navigational aids, registration and titling.

2. The State shall endeavor to conform its laws and regulations with Federal law to the extent practicable. Uniformity of laws and regulations with adjacent states is a priority, particularly on boundary waters.

3. Establishment of mutual assistance agreements between the state and other governmental agencies having some boating safety responsibility are encouraged and should be implemented when necessary to ensure the most efficient utilization of resources.

4. Collision with another vessel is the most reported type of accident. The vast majority of ~~boating~~ watercraft accidents are caused by the ~~boat~~ operator and not by the ~~boat~~ watercraft or environmental factors. Wearing life jackets could have saved the lives of the majority of Nevada boating fatalities. Alcohol involvement is estimated to contribute to many of Nevada's boating accidents and over half of the nation's fatalities. The timely and accurate identification of boating accident trends plays an important role in developing boating education, law enforcement work programs and budgets. Consequently, the Department must pursue public boating accident reporting and conduct investigations of all serious boating accidents.

5. The Department recognizes that ~~boating~~ watercraft safety education is essential. Further, that there exists a wide variety of needs from operating a yacht to safely handling a canoe. Nevertheless, some degree of uniformity is essential and

~~boating~~ watercraft safety education will be provided to as many persons as possible. This should be accomplished by concentration on common factors such as respect for the marine environment, learning and observing rules of the road, knowing equipment requirements, and learning to share Nevada waters safely and courteously.

6. An effective vessel titling and registration system is a vital part of the boating program. The goal is to provide convenient, efficient service to the public while maintaining the absolute integrity of title and registration documents. Every effort should be made to minimize vessel theft.

7. Whenever possible and necessary for public safety, the Department should place and maintain appropriate aids to navigation.

8. Consideration will be given to the acquisition and development of public access sites in order to reduce congestion or other unsafe conditions. The Department will coordinate with other governmental agencies to secure such sites.

9. The Commission continues to support the Department's efforts to provide education on the importance of life vests/jackets as a life-saving measure for all boating and paddle craft users.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, JANUARY 20~~0, 1999~~8, 2022.

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~~B. Mahlon Brown,~~Tiffany East Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 63

Number: P-63
Title: Protecting Wildlife from Toxic Ponds
Reference: NRS 501.181, 502.390, 502.475
Effective Date: September 22, 1989
Reviewed Date: 2022
Amended Date: December 2, 1995 and September 22, 2017

POLICY

Policy statement pertaining to programs necessary to ensure the protection of wildlife from industrial operations using or creating chemicals or other potentially lethal substances.

AUTHORITY

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 501.181 provides that the Commission shall adopt regulations governing the provisions for a permit which is required for any person who develops or maintains an artificial or man-made body of water, other than a body of water maintained for agricultural or recreational purposes, containing chemicals or substances in quantities which, with the normal use of the body of water, causes the death of any wildlife.

INTENT

The intent of the legislation was and will continue to be focused specifically on the development and implementation of protective measures to ensure that wildlife mortalities do not occur as a result of cyanide or other substance poisoning in industrial ponds. The legislation was not intended to address other equally important environmental matters or to replace or usurp the legislative authorities of other agencies.

BACKGROUND

During the 1980s, the advancement of mining technology coupled with favorable economic conditions for mining created significant problems related to direct wildlife loss caused by cyanide poisoning. As a result, the statute referenced above was developed by the Department of Wildlife in cooperation with the Nevada Mining Association and other permitting agencies to address problems associated with the development and maintenance of ponds containing cyanide or other chemicals that are potentially lethal or harmful to wildlife.

The creation of the Departments' Industrial Artificial Pond (IAP) program established agency direction and developed potential solutions for reducing or eliminating direct wildlife mortalities at mining projects. The program is based on a permitting process that requires permittees to either exclude wildlife from accessing potentially toxic solutions through fencing and pond covering or by neutralizing solutions to ensure they are non-lethal to wildlife. Monitoring is accomplished through periodic site inspections and mandatory quarterly reporting of wildlife mortalities. Cooperation and coordination with permittees to develop site-specific solutions is integral to the success of the program.

Since the development of the IAP program, the Department has increased its understanding of

how to apply both proactive and reactive measures to preclude wildlife from accessing potentially toxic ponds and minimize wildlife mortality associated with those ponds. Additionally, the increased use of potentially toxic ponds in other industrial development projects has led to a modernized permitting program that also incorporates the energy (coal, natural gas, solar, and geothermal) and manufacturing industries where wildlife is at risk of contacting toxic solutions.

The Department continues to move forward under the legislatively authorized regulatory process to ensure that wildlife receive adequate protection from direct losses associated with industrial activity in Nevada.

POLICIES

In order to ensure that the Commission's role and direction in developing regulations pertaining to this issue are fully understood, the following policies are hereby established:

1. It shall be the policy of the Commission to maintain a zero mortality objective by implementing protective measures based on the latest technology; recognizing, however, that incidental mortality may occur notwithstanding this objective.

2. It shall be the policy of the Commission to implement necessary wildlife protective measures through the regulation process in a reasonable and prudent and yet prompt and effective manner.

3. It shall be the continuing policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to work cooperatively with industry and environmental interest groups as a means of identifying and resolving problems relating to wildlife which are of mutual interest and concern.

4. It shall be the policy of the Commission to continue working in a cooperative fashion with other regulatory agencies as a means of avoiding duplication of efforts and to ensure that permit requirements are consistent among individual permits.

5. It shall be the policy of the Commission to support agency efforts in distributing information and acting as a clearinghouse for wildlife mortality data collected via mandatory reporting, as well as, a conduit of technology transfer, passing along successful protective measure techniques, materials and all other matters pertaining industrial artificial ponds.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, SEPTEMBER 22, 2017.

Grant Wallace, Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 64

Number: P-64
Title: Input on Land, Sales, Transfers, and Exchanges
Reference: NRS 501.181
Effective Date: March 23, 1990
Reviewed Date: 2002, 2022
Amended Date: December 2, 1995, March ? 2022

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Department of Wildlife in matters relating to the sale, transfer and/or exchange of public lands in Nevada

BACKGROUND

Although the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 specifically states that "The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that (1) The public lands be retained in Federal ownership…," there are numerous Congressional Acts and attendant Federal programs that provide for land transaction activities. These land transactions often have implications for resident wildlife species and attendant public use. Examples of such activities include direct land sales, land withdrawals, land exchanges, desert land entries, land acquired for recreation and public purposes, land attendant to the Mining Law of 1872, and easements as provided for in the Food Securities Act of 1985. State agency involvement in these activities is provided for under the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and attendant land use planning processes.

Since Nevada is compromised of some 87% Federal land, much of which supports a wide variety of wildlife and attendant outdoor public recreational use, and in view of the Commission's responsibilities under state law to establish policies for the acquisition of lands, water rights and easements and other property for the management, propagation, protection and restoration of wildlife…this policy is intended to provide policy guidance to the Department for commenting on public land transactions through the NEPA process.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) to support those land transactions or other activities attendant to public land which will either directly or indirectly preserve, protect and/or enhance wildlife habitat in addition to maintaining and/or improving public access to the public lands. In order to accomplish these objectives, the Department should consider the following listed criteria in providing written or verbal comment on public land transactions:

1. Public lands providing high wildlife values should remain in public ownership to insure the future protection of these values unless higher values for wildlife can be attained through a sale, transfer, or exchange.

2. Land exchanges should be supported only when the wildlife values on selected lands are equal to or greater than those wildlife values or potential wildlife values on offered lands.

3. Input on all public land transactions should consider the need for public access to and through both the offered and selected lands.

4. All land transactions must be in the public interest from a wildlife habitat protection and wildlife use standpoint.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, MARCH 2022 .

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Tiffany East, Chairwoman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 65

Number: P-65
Title: Designation of Wildlife Management Areas
Reference: NRS 504.140 and 504.143
Effective Date: March 28, 1980
Amended Date: July 29, 2000 ~~and November 3,~~ 2017 and 2022

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the designation of cooperative wildlife management areas and state-owned or controlled wildlife management areas and to list same.

POLICY

Cooperative Wildlife Management Areas

Any area shall be so designated when the Department, subject to the approval by the Commission, enters into an agreement to establish areas and to enforce regulations thereby providing a greater opportunity for the public to hunt, fish, camp, boat or participate in other compatible recreational activity on private lands and to protect the landowner or lessee from damage due to trespass or excessive pressure. The following areas have been designated:

1. Fort Churchill Cooling Pond Cooperative Wildlife Management Area.

Wildlife Management Areas

Any areas shall be designated when the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) acquires lands and waters to effectuate a coordinated and balanced program resulting in the maximum revival of fish and wildlife and in the maximum recreational advantages to the people of the State. The following areas have been so designated and are identified by NDOW administrative region:

Western Region

1. Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area.
2. Scripps Wildlife Management Area.
3. Fernley Wildlife Management Area.
4. Humboldt Wildlife Management Area.
5. Alkali Lake Wildlife Management Area.
6. Carson Lake and Pasture

Eastern Region

1. Franklin Lake Wildlife Management Area.
2. Bruneau River Wildlife Management Area.
3. Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area.

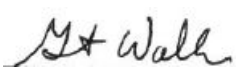
Southern Region

1. Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2. Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area.
3. Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area.

The lands and waters designated as wildlife management areas under the provisions of this policy are subject to any Commission regulations established pursuant to Chapter 504 of the Nevada Revised Statues.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, ~~-~~JANUARY 28, 2022~~NOVEMBER 3, 2017~~.



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~~Grant Wallace~~Tiffany East, Chair~~woman~~~~man~~
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

January 2022 – Commission Proposed Revisions from 1st Reading

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 67

Number: P-67
Title: Feral Horses and Burros
References: NRS 561.025, 561.218, 569.008, 504.030, 533.367, 533.695, 533.460, NRS 321, Public Law 92-195(1971) Presidential Executive Order: 12630.
Effective Date:
Reviewed Date: 2002, 2022
Amended Date: November 18, 2016, March ? 2022

BACKGROUND

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC) shall establish and implement policies necessary for the preservation, protection, restoration and management of Nevada's wildlife.

Wild horses and burros are managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) according to the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971(Act), as amended by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, and the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act. (https://westgov.org/resolutions/article/wga-policy-resolution-202105-wild-horse-and-burro-management)

Expanding populations of free-roaming horses and burros (FRHB) on private, public, federal, state, and military lands are impacting the future of Nevada's wildlife. Additionally, increasing numbers of fires, expansion of exotic grasses, tree encroachment into sagebrush habitats, loss of riparian functions and a warming climate all impact water sources and plant survival. These ever-increasing threats not only challenge populations of FRHB but also the multitude of wildlife species that depend upon healthy Nevada landscapes to survive.

As of March 2021, the nationwide total estimated FRHB population on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands was 86,189 with 53,741 residing in Nevada (including Nevada Herd Management Areas managed out of California BLM offices), representing approximately **62%** of the total FRHB BLM manages. These current numbers exceed the nationwide Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 26,770 by 310 percent and Nevada's AML of 14,331 by 375 percent. These population estimates do not include another 2,100 FRHB reside on U.S. Forest Service lands, 3,000 (check) on private lands (managed by Nevada Department of Agriculture), and over 1,000 on Department of Energy and Department of Defense lands, or any horses found on Nevada tribal lands.

The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, as amended, (Public Law 92-195)

requires the BLM to protect wild horses and burros from harassment and be managed as components of the public lands. The 1971 Act also requires multiple use management including wildlife and wildlife habitat, recognizing the jurisdiction and authority of State Law and requires consultation and coordination with State agencies such as the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the NBWC (PL92-195 Section 1333 (a)).

Congress declared in 1971 that Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros (WFRHB) would be kept at the level to achieve "thriving natural ecological balance" within the areas in which they would exist. Failure to limit WFRHB numbers to thriving natural ecological balance must trigger specific actions to reduce herd numbers in accordance with the law (PL92-195 1332(f)(2)).

The tools available to federal agencies are limited for removing excess FRHB. Agencies are restricted to the tools of adoption, short and long-term care, and fertility control. In areas where sufficient forage and water exists, these FRHB populations can double every three to five years. For these and a variety of other reasons, BLM has been unable to achieve Appropriate Management Level (AML) of 14,331 in Nevada necessary to sustain the thriving natural ecological balance, set by the Act of '71.

The result has been exponential growth, doubling FRHB populations every 3 to 5 years, with Nevada's current population of 53,741 being 375 percent above AML. FRHB graze rangelands 365 days a year, can dominate and exhaust water sources, overgraze rangelands and degrade riparian habitat and springs all at fish and wildlife's expense. This current reality is unsustainable for horses, rangeland ecosystems, wildlife and habitats.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and direction ~~and guidance for the~~ to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to see FRHB properly managed to ensure that Nevada's diversity of 895 species of wildlife continue to thrive within our vulnerable Great Basin desert ecosystems with their extremely limited water sources.

POLICY

1. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC) recognizes that the exponential growth of free-roaming horse and burro (FRHB) populations in Nevada pose a problem for the current and future health and viability of wildlife and FRHB.

2. The NBWC supports compliance with the Act of 1971, as amended, and the policies established by BLM for ensuring healthy landscapes and humane management of FRHB.

3. The NBWC supports the intent of the Path Forward (https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/0869B02B-E9C5-4F0B-9AE8-9A8A1C85293E) developed and approved in April 2019 by humane, livestock, and range management interests, acknowledging that increasing population of FRHB requires immediate management actions. The NBWC supports the Path Forward's for three main precepts

of targeted gathers and removals, increased adoptions, leased pastures, and use of fertility inhibitors based on efficacy. The NBWC believes that the 20-year time frame to reach AML as specified in the Path Forward will allow the continued degradation of wildlife habitat. The NBWC supports any opportunities for a FRHB gather program to achieve AML in a much shorter time frame.

4. The NBWC supports management actions based on scientific research: on FRHB, on use of public land resources and on development of best management practices.

5. The NBWC supports collaboration of stakeholders and agency managers to develop best practices in managing FRHB within a thriving natural ecological balance with wildlife, plants, and pollinators.

6. The NBWC and NDOW shall provide letters of support for projects or plans proposed by BLM or other agencies managing FRHB that propose actions to achieve AML in agreement with objectives of this policy.

7. NDOW shall provide to NBWC, on an annual basis and in concert with the BLM and other agencies managing free-roaming horses and burros, a listing of those areas where FRHB are having the most significant negative impact on wildlife habitat. Prioritization is focused on those habitats critical for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Sage Grouse and other threatened or sensitive wildlife. Upon NBWC approval, the report will accompany a NBWC request to those agencies for the removal of excess horses and burros to AML on HMA lands and be totally removed from non HMA lands.

8. The NBWC supports and recognizes the urgency of removal of FRHB outside HMA's and reduction of horses within HMA's to their AML ~~Appropriate Management Level~~ to provide critical resources to wildlife in maintaining a "thriving natural ecological balance".

9. Because of Nevada's limited water sources, the NBWC asks NDOW, together with BLM, The Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, other public land agencies and water right holders, to identify and invest in efforts to ensure that these water sources remain available to wildlife, fish and invertebrates and to keep or restore riparian functions, while ensuring the water remains available to holders of the water right.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, January, ?? 2022

Chairwoman, Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Tiffany East

STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

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(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM

February 23, 2022

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Russell Woolstenhulme, Staff Specialist, Game Division

Title: **Commission Regulation 22-10, Migratory Game Bird Seasons, Bag Limits, and Special Regulations for Waterfowl and Webless Migratory Game Birds; Public hunting limited on Wildlife Management Areas and Designated State Lands – 2022–2023 Season – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will consider recommendations for seasons, bag limits, and special regulations for migratory game birds for the 2022–2023 season and adopt regulations consistent with the proposed regulations framework for the 2022–2023 hunting seasons on certain migratory game birds established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission Regulation will become final pending adoption of federal frameworks. The Commission will also consider rules regulating public hunting on Wildlife Management Areas and designated state lands.

Presenter: Wildlife Staff Specialist Russell Woolstenhulme

Summary:

Season regulations for hunting migratory waterfowl, doves, and crows differ from some other common species, like mule deer, that are not governed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with the states within designated flyways, and Nevada resides within the Pacific Flyway. Collectively, the Pacific Flyway develops regulatory sideboards known as the Federal Frameworks within which each state may promulgate seasons for hunting. Although the Federal Frameworks are generally established by the time the Commission acts on the Migratory Game Bird Commission Regulation, the federal government suffered delays this year and the proposed frameworks are still draft. Should the final approved frameworks require amendment to this CR, the Department will bring this CR back to the Commission before seasons are published.

The Department is recommending some changes to waterfowl and migratory bird seasons from those adopted by the Commission last year in March. The Department recommends the

Commission reinstate the draw system for the Nevada Swan hunt. A draw would allow individuals to apply for a single tag during the draw period. Any remaining permits would be available after the main draw on a first come first serve basis. Second permits would be available for purchase during this period. The Department is also recommending an increase in the daily bag limits for Canada Geese and Brants from 4 to 5 daily. The Department also recommends a change to daily bag limits for hen Mallard include the Mexican Duck as limited take in the aggregate.

Continental and Flyway Conditions

Due to the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) pandemic, most migratory breeding surveys (e.g., the Breeding Waterfowl Population and Habitat Survey, Breeding Bird Survey, and others) conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, as well as state and provincial agencies were canceled in spring 2021. We therefore present no status information on any duck species as all the estimates or indices for ducks rely on these surveys. Western Canada Geese numbers continue to increase and are currently over population objectives as are Pacific Greater White-fronted Geese and Western Canadian Arctic Snow Geese.

The predicted abundance of mourning doves for September 2021 in the Western Management Unit were 33.7 million, which results in a standard regulatory alternative as prescribed by the harvest strategy.

Nevada

Similar to Federal and international efforts, Nevada suspended all surveys during 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. No data are available.

Habitat

In Nevada, 2020-2021 winter precipitation and run-off was below normal, following below normal precipitation the previous year. Most wetlands in northern Nevada including the Carson Sink area (Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area) entered the breeding season with residual waters.

As of February, 2022, year-to-date precipitation (Oct 1 – Feb 22) is slightly above average for Nevada. Lake Tahoe Basin precipitation was reported at 114% of normal, Walker River and Carson River Basins (including Lahontan Basin) were reported at 109% and 115% of normal respectively, and Eastern Nevada (Ruby Marshes) was reported at 93% of normal. Many Nevada marshes have water. Reservoir storage at Lahontan Reservoir is at 27% of capacity, while Rye patch is currently at 44 percent.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO APPROVE CR 22-10 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR WATERFOWL AND WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS; PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS – 2022–2023 SEASON AS PRESENTED.**

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of Section 501.181, 503.090, 503.140 and 503.245 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, does hereby adopt the following regulations for the management of migratory game birds.

CR 22-10
2022-2023
SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

MOURNING & WHITE-WINGED DOVE	
OPEN AREAS:	**Statewide**
2022 SEASON:	September 1 – October 30, 2022
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 15 Possession 45
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limits for mourning dove and white-winged dove are singly or in the aggregate.

AMERICAN CROW	
OPEN AREAS:	**Statewide**
2022 FALL SEASON:	September 1 – November 17, 2022
2023 SPRING SEASON	March 1 – April 15, 2023
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	May be hunted by archery, shotguns and falconry. All crows must be retrieved and removed from the field. Season closed on ravens

Note regarding Waterfowl Zone designations:
NORTHEAST ZONE: Elko, Eureka, Lander & White Pine Counties
NORTHWEST ZONE: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Humboldt, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey & Washoe Counties
SOUTH ZONE: Esmeralda, Lincoln, Nye & Clark Counties

DUCKS AND MERGANSERS	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
LIMITS (daily / possession)	
General Duck Limits:	7 / 21
Included within the general duck limit, but not to include more than:	
Pintail:	1 / 3
Hen Mallard/ Mexican duck	2 hen mallards or Mexican ducks.
Redhead:	2 / 6
Canvasback:	2 / 6
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

SCAUP (Lesser and Greater)	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – December 27, 2022
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	November 3, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	November 5, 2022 – January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	November 5, 2022 – January 29, 2023
LIMITS (daily/possession):	2 / 6 (Included within general duck limit, not in addition to)
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 17 & 18, 2022
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 1, 2022 & February 11, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE (including the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area)**
2022-23 SEASON:	February 11 & 12, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 22, 2022
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit is the same as that for the general season for ducks, mergansers, scaup, snipe, geese, coots and moorhens. Youth hunters possessing a valid Nevada Swan Permit may hunt swans in open swan areas (see swan regulation), provided the trumpeter swan quota has not been reached. Limits singly or in the aggregate for Canada geese and Brant. Limits singly or in the aggregate for Snow and Ross' geese. Snow and Ross' geese are closed in Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties.
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Open to hunters 17 years of age or younger. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a federal duck stamp. Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. Adults are not allowed to hunt during this season. Open to Nonresidents.

COOTS AND GALLINULES	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
LIMITS (daily/possession):	25 / 75
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

SNIPE	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 1, 2023 January 4, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
LIMITS (daily/possession):	8 / 24
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

CANADA GEESE AND BRANT	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
Limits (daily/possession)	5 / 15
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

WHITE-FRONTED GEESE	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
Limits (daily/possession)	10 /30
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	November 5, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023 February 18, 2023 – March 10, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
Limits (daily/possession)	20 / 60
Shooting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents CLOSED: Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties CLOSED: The following WMAs are closed during the February 18, 2023 – March 10, 2023 season: Mason Valley and Scripps/ Washoe State Park.
Special Regulations:	Restrictions on three shotshell capacity and recorded or amplified bird calls do not apply during the light goose season from February 19, 2022 until March 9, 2022 (Three shotshell capacity remains in effect on open Nevada Wildlife Management Areas)

FALCONRY SEASONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS	
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHEAST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	September 24, 2022 – October 12, 2022 October 22, 2022 – January 15, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**NORTHWEST ZONE**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – (except the Moapa Valley)**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – October 23, 2022 October 26, 2022– January 29, 2023
OPEN AREAS:	**SOUTH ZONE – Moapa Valley to the confluence of the Muddy and Virgin Rivers**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 29, 2022 – January 29, 2023
Limits (daily/possession)	3 / 9
Hunting hours:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Migratory birds allowed for take include: geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, common moorhens and common snipe. Limits for all permitted migratory birds are singly or in the aggregate. Open to Nonresidents.

SWAN	
OPEN AREAS:	**Churchill, Lyon and Pershing counties**
2022-23 SEASON:	October 15, 2022 – January 8, 2023 January 11, 2023– January 29, 2023
LIMITS:	One swan per swan hunt permit, Maximum two swan hunt permits per season One swan per day
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ hour before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Persons may apply to draw one of the 650 swan hunt permits to be awarded during the application process. Beginning on Monday, August 22, 2022 applications may be submitted online through nevada.licensing.kalkomey.com. Hand delivered applications will not be accepted. Permits are to be awarded through an initial drawing. Only one application per individual will be allowed for draw of swan permits. Deadline: Applications must be received by 11:00 p.m. Friday September 9, 2022. The release date of draw results will be on or before Friday, September 16, 2022. Beginning on Friday, September 23, 2022 any remaining swan hunt permits will be available on a first come, first served basis, online at https://nevada.licensing.kalkomey.com. During the first come, first serve period individuals may purchase a second swan permit for as long as permits remain available or until the swan hunt closes. **Successful swan hunters are required to validate their permit pursuant to NAC 502.380, and then present at least the head and neck of their swan to an NDOW agent at selected sites for species verification within three (3) days of harvest. Mandatory inspection sites and requirements will be provided with the swan hunt permits.** **If a total harvest of ten (10) trumpeter swans is reached, the swan season is closed for the remainder of the season.** Open to Non-residents. Residents must possess a valid Nevada hunting or combination license, a Nevada HIP number and a current Federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Stamp, when required, to hunt swan in Nevada. Nonresidents must possess a valid Nevada Combination license or a Nonresident 1-day Combination license, a Nevada HIP number and a Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, when required, to hunt swan in Nevada.

PUBLIC HUNTING LIMITED ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND DESIGNATED STATE LANDS

ALKALI LAKE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA), BRUNEAU RIVER WMA, CARSON LAKE & PASTURE, FERNLEY WMA, FRANKLIN LAKE WMA, HUMBOLDT WMA, SCRIPPS WMA, STEPTOE VALLEY WMA and WAYNE E. KIRCH WMA

1. Hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established open season

MASON VALLEY WMA

1. Before or after any waterfowl season, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established open season.

2. During any waterfowl season open within the hunt zone, hunting is permitted only on:
   a) Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays,
   b) the following legal State holidays: Nevada Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Family Day (day after Thanksgiving), Christmas, New Year's Day, and Martin Luther King Day,
   c) during any youth waterfowl hunt.
   d) Hunters with a valid turkey tag for the Mason Valley WMA may hunt each day of the established turkey season.

FT. CHURCHILL COOLING POND COOPERATIVE WMA

1. The Ft. Churchill Cooperative Cooling Pond Wildlife Cooperative WMA is closed year-round to all hunting.

2. From October 1, through the Friday preceding the second Saturday of February, the area shall be closed to trespass.

OVERTON WMA

1. Before or after any waterfowl season, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established season.

2. Waterfowl hunting is permitted on the Moapa Valley portion of the area on:
   a) the opening day of the earliest opening waterfowl season,
   b) even days thereafter through the end of regular duck and goose seasons,
   c) the final two days of the second duck and goose season, and
   d) during any youth waterfowl hunt.

3. Upland game bird and rabbit hunting is prohibited during the regular duck and goose seasons, except for persons possessing a valid wild turkey tag to hunt turkeys in the Moapa Valley of Clark County. These persons may hunt turkeys every day for which the tag is valid. These persons are prohibited from pursuing any other upland game birds or rabbits during such time that the fall turkey season is concurrent with the waterfowl season.

4. During the waterfowl season on the Moapa Valley portion of the area, hunters must hunt from assigned hunt locations (blinds) constructed by the Department of Wildlife. A maximum of up to four hunters are permitted at each hunt location. Assigned hunt locations are marked by numbered stakes. Hunters shall hunt only within their assigned hunt location and moving to vacant locations is prohibited. The only exception involves reasonable accommodation of the disabled.

5. During the opening day and the first weekend of the dove season, the maximum capacity for the Moapa Valley portion of the area is 60 hunters by reservation. Vacancies will be filled by stand-by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.

6. On Overton Hunt days, only persons authorized to hunt waterfowl may use vessels on the portion of the area inundated by Lake Mead.

KEY PITTMAN WMA

1. Before or after any waterfowl season, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established season.

2. Waterfowl hunting is permitted on:
   a) the opening weekend of the earliest opening waterfowl season within the hunt zone,
   b) odd-numbered days thereafter through the end of regular duck and goose seasons,
   c) the final two days of the second duck and goose season, and
   d) during any youth waterfowl hunt.

3. The maximum hunter capacity during the opening day of duck season and the opening day of goose season will be 55 at any time.

4. All hunters will check-in and out at the main entrance and will park in designated parking areas only. No vehicles are allowed on the area during the hunting season.

5. The area is closed to fishing during the waterfowl season.

6. No motorized boats are allowed on the area during the waterfowl season.

OVERTON-KEY PITTMAN HUNTER RESERVATION SYSTEM

1. To guarantee an opportunity to hunt, reservations must be made for the following specified days of each hunt listed:

   The Key Pittman WMA
   a) The earliest opening day of the general duck and goose seasons.

   The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton WMA
   a) Opening day and the first weekend of the dove season.
   b) The entirety of any open waterfowl season.

   Special Regulation for the Moapa Valley Portion of the Overton WMA: A person or their representative applying for reservations for group hunting will be limited to up to four hunters per party.

2. Dove Reservation Process:

Hunters wishing to make reservations for opening day and the first weekend of the dove season at the Overton WMA will do so via an online application process detailed on the NDOW web site at www.ndow.org. Unless their privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to have their name included on one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required. A person whose name appears on more than one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required will ***not be accepted***. Hunters will be permitted to draw only one reservation during this application process unless there are less than 60 applicants on a day for which reservations are required. The Department will accept applications received for the dove hunt at the Overton WMA through the internet at www.ndowlicensing.com beginning July 1 through July 21. The results of the draw will be posted on or before the last Friday in July. Draw results information will not be provided in any way before the draw results are posted online. Successful applicants will receive a reservation confirmation by email. Successful reservation holders will be allowed to substitute one person of a hunt party, but that substitute must not have been an applicant in the application process or part of a stand-by group.

3. Waterfowl Opening Day/Weekend Reservation Process:

Hunters wishing to make reservations for the first two hunt days of the earliest opening duck and goose seasons at the Overton WMA and the opening day of the duck and goose seasons at the Key Pittman WMA will do so via an application process detailed on the NDOW web site at www.ndow.org. Unless their privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to have their name included on one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required. A person whose name appears on more than one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required will be rejected from the drawing. For the Overton WMA, hunters will be permitted to draw only one reservation through the mail-in application process unless there are available blinds on a day for which mail-in reservations are required. Applications for these waterfowl hunt days shall be received at the Headquarters Office in Reno (through a postal service only) no later than the second Wednesday

in September. A public drawing will be held at the Headquarters Office in Reno at 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday in September. Successful applicants will receive a reservation confirmation by return mail. Successful reservation holders will be allowed to substitute one person of a hunt party but that substitute must not have been included in an application of the mail-in process or part of a stand-by group.

4. Waterfowl Remainder of Season Reservation Process:
   Reservations for the remainder of the waterfowl hunting season at the Overton WMA will be available the Monday prior to the opening of the waterfowl season and can be made by calling 1-855-542-6369 Monday through Friday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM pacific time. Hunters that are successful during the mail-in application process for the first two hunt days must use those reservations before making reservations for the remainder of the season. An individual may reserve no more than one assigned hunt location on the Moapa Valley portion of the area for no more than four individuals to hunt as a party and this reservation must be utilized prior to reserving another hunt day. The reservations must be in the hunter's possession and be shown to the check station attendant to constitute a valid reservation for the day specified. At the Key Pittman WMA, reservations for hunting will be required only on the earliest opening day of the regular duck season and goose seasons. All hunters will check in at the main entrance on the opening day of waterfowl season. For the remainder of the waterfowl season, hunters will complete a reservation card obtained from the Frenchy Lake or Nesbitt Lake check station box and deposit the card in an appropriate drop box for each day hunted. Failure to turn in a completed card at the Key Pittman WMA or failure to check out at the Overton WMA may result in a citation being issued, and the loss of hunting privileges for the remainder of the season. No vehicles are allowed on the areas during the hunting season.

5. During the waterfowl season at the Overton WMA, an assigned hunt location program will be in effect. Hunters will make a reservation for one of three types of hunt locations (field, pond or bulrush plot) and the specific hunt location will be determined by a drawing at the check station prior to each day's hunt. NDOW reserves the right to adjust blind availability and blind assignments based on the conditions present on the day of the hunt.

6. A hunter with a reservation will be considered as a "no-show" if they do not present themselves at the check station by one full hour before shooting time, except that at the Overton WMA, a hunter with a reservation will be considered a "no-show" if they do not present themselves at the checking station one and one-half hours before shooting time during the waterfowl season.

7. Standby hunters must register at the check station upon arrival.

8. All reservations, permits and assigned hunting locations are nontransferable.