



LINCOLN COUNTY

ADVISORY BOARD to MANAGE WILDLIFE

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RE: Statewide Tags-Call for County Input

TO: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and County Wildlife Advisory Board Chairmen and Members

STATEWIDE TAG OVER-HARVEST

The Lincoln CAB appreciates the opportunity to address this important issue. We would like to express our great concern over the potential to diminish the quality resources of big game species because of the statewide tag programs' possibility of "over-harvest."

First of all, there is no debating the monetary benefits that these programs bring to Nevada's Wildlife. However, questions must be raised regarding the long-term sustainability of the programs and the quality wildlife resources themselves. With pressure to increase tag allocations for the various statewide programs it is imperative that a proactive plan or approach be developed to avoid the potential of "over-harvest." It can easily be pointed out that you must have the quality resource, (i.e. trophy animal) in order to have the continued and successful statewide programs.

The primary concerns for Lincoln County are the Mule Deer and Elk Statewide Tag harvests. One example with regard to Mule Deer is since 2003 there have been 19 Heritage and PIW deer harvested in hunt units located within or partially within Lincoln County, (this includes 2 "heritage" deer harvested in 2009). Also, since 2003 there have been 10 Heritage and PIW elk harvested in hunt units located within or partially within Lincoln County, (this does not include 2009 results).

As you are well aware the animals taken on these hunts most often represent the "best of the best" in terms of trophy quality and status. With the continued annual harvest of these particular animals it seems reasonable to assume that at some point, the overall quality and availability of the resource will diminish. This is especially true if the harvest continually occurs within one or two hunt units or regional herd areas.

The Lincoln CAB would recommend the following:

1. Develop a plan to address the potential issues with statewide tags.
2. Tag quotas currently allocated Per NAC 502.428 PIW Tags, should not be increased.
3. Maintain a 15 tag "cap" for big game species, (NRS 502.250), with regard to "Heritage," "Silver State," and possible "Dream Tag" allocations.
4. Consider "unit quotas" and "unit closures" for species falling under the statewide hunts.
5. Consider "unit moratoriums" where species have been proven to be negatively affected by "over-harvest."
6. Allocate a percentage of Heritage Funding for wildlife projects specifically within hunt units where statewide tag harvest has taken place.

The Lincoln CAB would like to assist the Heritage Committee in any way possible to help with this issue.

Thank you
Lincoln County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife