

2009-08-10 Ira Hansen comments - Lent as Chairman.txt

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Subject: Lent as Chairman

#### OVERLOOKED FACTS ABOUT WILDLIFE CHAIRMAN DR. GERALD LENT

A smear effort has been directed at Wildlife Chairman Dr. Gerald Lent. The effort is being orchestrated by the same tiny group, as always claiming to represent all sportsmen. Yet as I will show it is the same handful of malcontents who have allowed their personal hatred towards Dr. Lent to seriously cloud their judgment.

Here are some observations from one who has been involved at the Commission level since 1983.

Dr. Lent has been a tough public watchdog, protecting Sportsmens interests, despite ostracism and public ridicule, for at least three decades. I do not think I have ever attended a Commission meeting without him there. And he gets absolutely no credit for his excellent accomplishments for the Sportsmen of this state.

Who got legislation passed to add two additional sportsmen representatives to the Wildlife Commission?

Dr. Gerald Lent.

Who insured the "sportsmen reps" actually were sportsmen who owned hunting or fishing licenses?

Dr. Gerald Lent.

Who tirelessly exposed the illegal and fraudulent abuse of our old big game tag draw?

Dr. Gerald Lent.

Today, thanks to his efforts, Nevada's tag draw system is a model for the nation in

efficiency, fairness and integrity.

Who was instrumental in getting the Predator Management fee passed?

Dr. Gerald Lent.

Who wrote the bill to privatize the big game tag draw system for Sportsmen?

Dr. Gerald Lent.

When the Clark County Advisory Board requested a two week later season opener for waterfowl and the Commission voted 4-4, who sided with Clark County and broke the tie?

Chairman Gerald Lent.

When a spike bull Elk season was requested by the Lander County Advisory Board and voted down by the Commission, who asked for reconsideration and got it passed?

Chairman Gerald Lent.

Who insured ALL big game recommendations from the County Advisory Boards were approved by the Commission?

Chairman Gerald Lent.

Some have criticized Chairman Lent for chastising NDOW director Ken Mayer, without telling the facts. The Commission voted to oppose the "Dream Tag" proposed law and support the "Silver State" tag bill proposed by Chad Bliss of the Eureka County Advisory Board. Mayer in blatant defiance of the Commission's action testified at the Legislature in favor of the "Dream Tag" bill, deliberately deceiving the legislators. I know, I was there and sat in amazement when Mayer, who of course is also the Executive Secretary of the Commission, testified in favor of the "Dream Tag" bill. When I testified that the State Wildlife Commission had in fact voted against it, several legislators asked the audience, including Mayer, what action the Commission had in fact taken. Mayer said nothing, and was quite correctly, at the next Commission meeting, reminded publicly by Chairman Lent that his first duty as Director by law is to follow the policies established by the Commission.

You will note the anti-Lent group is composed of the exact same people every time.

You can simply look at the sign-in sheets at every meeting and see for yourself.

While claiming to represent thousands, you will see: Mel Belding, Larry Johnson, Joel Blakeslee, Tom Smith and Bob Brunner. Add one or two here and there, but pretty much its the same group, singing the same tired song, every meeting, all attacking Lent with monotonous regularity.

I was a founding member of "The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife" and was for three years on the steering committee. I left precisely over the deliberate exclusion of any group or opinion that varied from Larry Johnson's. There was no effort to build a true coalition and Lent bashing was a favorite pastime in this tiny good old boys club.

As far as representing the will of the sportsmen as they love to claim, a few facts will show that to be a dubious claim at best. Governor Jim Gibbons won with overwhelming sportsmen support and has his finger on the public pulse, and his appointments show his concern for the well being of all 200,000 Nevada Sportsmen, not merely the elitists. After all you do not get elected to the U. S. Congress and the Governor's office by defying the will of the people. One of his pledges was to break up good old boy networks and his appointments reflect this well, which is also the real issue behind the smear attack on Chairman Lent.

The group attacking Lent has also been busy smearing Republican Gibbons, even snubbing him at their banquets.

By contrast, they cannot praise Democrat Harry Reid enough. Reid has singlehandedly locked up millions of acres in "wilderness". He has failed to exercise any public leadership about the wild horse mess. And he has made it clear he would outlaw trapping if given the chance.

Lent's opponents claim to be working for harmony. Clearly their definition of harmony is getting everything they want, including control of the chairmanship of the Wildlife Commission. Lent has earned his term as chairman and his fellow commissioners should look beyond the hysteria being whipped up by a handful angry about the breakup of what they see as their exclusive domain to rule. Dr. Gerald Lent should be retained as Chairman of the Nevada State Wildlife Commission.