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Public
Comment

*Presented to Nevada Wildlife Commission
By Bud Sonnentag
November 22, 2008*

My name is Bud Sonnentag. I testified in the last legislative session in favor of Assembly Bill 259, a bill which would have harvested more mountain lions. A very concerned sportsman also testified, stating that ranchers, trappers and hunters are using the three "s" method when it comes to mountain lions. When asked to explain what he meant by the three "s" method, he stated that when you see a lion, you shoot, you shovel and you shut up about it. Immediately a rancher shouted, "I don't use a shovel." In addition a trapper testified that he didn't like the idea that when he killed a lion in his trap, he could become a felon. I know of other hunters who have shot lions when they saw them. The concerned sportsman was right on target with his assessment.

Director Ken Mayer was opposed to AB 259 because there was no money generated nor data collected with this bill. I would remind Mr. Mayer that there is no data collected or revenue derived either, when ranchers, trappers and hunters are using the three "s" method of lion removal. It is for this reason and others that I wholeheartedly recommend Assemblyman Jerry Claborn's proposal. Hunters should be grateful for what he is doing. After all, his proposal is merely providing a way to achieve the objective harvest which the biologists and the Wildlife Commission have agreed to.

The decline of our deer should never have reached such a low point and have remained there for so many years. The people responsible for this were the leadership in the Nevada Department of Wildlife and many former Wildlife Commissioners. They provided no ideas or suggestions to bring back our deer, in fact when suggestions were presented to them, they were rejected for reasons that were absurd. For the sake of our deer, future deer hunters and the millions in lost revenue, changes must be implemented. This proposal of Assemblyman Claborn's is long overdue and I am glad we now have a Wildlife Commission which will listen and hopefully act, unlike previous commissioners, upon such proposals.

I request that this information be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

