

Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Elk Species Management Plan Committee

Elk Sub-Plan Initiation and Elk Sub-Plan Revision Process

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Background:

Historically, federal agencies, counties and the State Board of Wildlife Commissioners through the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) have initiated the elk sub-planning process. In the past 5 years the Western Elko County Elk Sub-plan, the Central Nevada Elk Plan, and current revision of the White Pine and Lincoln County elk sub-plans have been ongoing. Public participation in these elk planning processes has stimulated discussion and resulted in the identification of planning process concerns by various interested parties including private individuals, the Nevada Wildlife Federation, and elk enthusiasts many of whom are members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commission in order to increase the knowledge, interest and participation in elk planning responded to this input by establishing an Elk Species Management Plan Sub-Committee to develop a Commission Policy that would guide future elk planning efforts in accordance with the *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan* (ESMP).

Participation in the sub-committee planning process included sportsmen, Nevada Wildlife Federation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Nevada Wildlife Commissioners and Nevada Department of Wildlife staff with expertise in elk management and planning. Below are their recommendations for the two elk planning processes, i.e., 1) A new elk sub-plan, and 2) An elk sub-plan revision.

Policy:

This Commission Policy for new or revised elk sub-plans will be developed in accordance with the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* Goal on Page 59, “*To make the ESMP a dynamic working document that is responsive to new data, new ideas and changing environmental or political considerations*” by following the stated strategy in the ESMP as follows: “*Keep the ESMP open for evaluation and/or modification by any interested party through interaction with the Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners by submission of a request to evaluate or modify the ESMP as an agenda item for discussion and action at regularly scheduled Wildlife Commission meetings....*”

New Elk Sub-Plan:

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will initiate a new elk sub-planning process in accordance with the *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan* (Goal and Strategy page 57) through the following actions:

A. The Director will apprise the Commission when the Nevada Department of Wildlife documents the need for a new elk sub-plan either because elk have become established or an opportunity has been identified to establish elk in a previously unoccupied area of the state.

B. The Commission will then appoint a Steering Committee chairman within 3 months and invite participation on a Steering Committee from all interested groups in accordance with the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* (Goals/strategies pages 56 & 57). Any person nominated and/or appointed to the Steering Committee shall have the authority to represent their organization and shall be appointed from the following list of potential participants:

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
Local Sportsmen's Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation (NvWF)
County Wildlife Advisory Boards (CWAB)
Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Guides/Outfitters
Mule Deer Foundation
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Woolgrower's Association
Farm Bureau
Affected Permittees
Sierra Club
Wild Horse Organizations
Audubon Society
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
County Government
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
United States Forest Service (USFS)
Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)
Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA)
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
National Park Service (NPS)
Tribes

C. The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners will appoint a Steering Committee from the list of volunteers and assigned agency personnel submitted by the above list of contacts for consideration at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and NDOW will provide Steering Committee members with copies of the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* and elk sub-plans as needed.

D. Elk planning meetings will be initiated in the community closest to the new elk sub-plan area.

E. The Steering Committee will appoint a Technical Review Team to gather historical information and data to be used to develop a draft elk sub-plan. The TRT shall be comprised of natural resource professionals representing NDOW,

applicable land managing agencies, permittees, tribes, and other affected interests. The NDOW representative will be responsible for compilation and preparation of the elk sub-plan draft.

F. Within 6 months of the first meeting, the steering committee will prepare and distribute the first draft for additional public comment as follows:

- a. The Commission.
- b. The Director for posting on the NDOW Website/news release.
- c. At scheduled public meetings in both Reno and Las Vegas to present a summary of the draft and solicit public comments which shall be considered by the TRT and the Steering Committee before preparation of the final draft.

G. Monitor progress of elk planning groups and make necessary adjustments to the planning team as needed to facilitate progress.

H. Ensure that new elk sub-plans are submitted in accordance with the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* (Goal page 56).

Elk Sub-Plan Revisions

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will initiate an elk sub-planning process in accordance with the *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan* (Goal and Strategy page 57) through the following actions:

A. When the Nevada Department of Wildlife documents the need for an elk sub-plan revision to address changing conditions or documented concerns, NDOW shall collaborate with federal land managers to verify the need to initiate an elk sub-plan revision process and advise the Director.

B. The Director shall apprise the Wildlife Commission.

C. The Wildlife Commission will appoint a Steering Committee chairman within 3 months and invite participation from previous members of the Steering Committee and make sure all interested groups are included in accordance with the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* (Goals/strategies pages 56 & 57). Any person nominated and/or appointed to the Steering Committee shall have the authority to represent their organization and shall be appointed from the following list of potential participants:

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)
Local Sportsmen's Association
Nevada Wildlife Federation (NvWF)
Local County Wildlife Advisory Boards (CWAB)
Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
Guides/Outfitters
Mule Deer Foundation

Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Nevada Woolgrower's Association
Farm Bureau
Affected Permittees
Sierra Club
Wild Horse Organizations
Audubon Society
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
County Government
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
United States Forest Service (USFS)
Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)
Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA)
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
National Park Service (NPS)
Tribes

D. The Nevada State Board of Wildlife Commissioners will appoint a Steering Committee from the list of volunteers and assigned agency personnel submitted by the above list of contacts for consideration at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and NDOW will provide Steering Committee members with copies of the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* and elk sub-plans as needed.

E. Elk planning meetings will be initiated in the community closest to the elk sub-plan area.

F. The Steering Committee will appoint a Technical Review Team to gather historical information and data to be used to develop a draft elk sub-plan. The TRT shall be comprised of natural resource professionals representing NDOW, applicable land managing agencies, permittees, tribes, and other affected interests.

G. Existing plans will be in electronic format and the NDOW representative will make actual revisions to the sub-plan document with notations in "parentheses" or (brackets) explaining changes in order to keep track of the TRT and/or Steering Committee decisions/actions.

H. Provide TRT members with copies (hard or electronic) of the State Elk Species Management Plan and/or other pertinent sub-plans and elk planning information to facilitate the planning process.

I. Within 3 months of the first meeting, the steering committee will prepare and distribute a first draft of the revised sub-plan for additional public comment as follows:

- a. The Commission.
- b. The Director for posting on the NDOW Website/news releases.
- c. At scheduled public meetings in both Reno and Las Vegas to present a summary of the draft and solicit public comments which shall be

considered by the TRT and the Steering Committee before preparation of the final draft.

J. Monitor progress of elk planning groups and make necessary adjustments to the planning team as needed to facilitate progress.

K. Ensure that Sub-plan revisions are submitted in accordance with the *Nevada State Elk Species Management Plan* (Goal page 56).

The Wildlife Commission approves this policy “Elk Sub-Plan Initiation and Elk Sub-Plan Revision Process” as Addendum 1 to the Nevada Elk Species Management Plan, at their Regularly scheduled meeting on February 10-11, 2006.

Chris MacKenzie, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Date