



THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
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January 21, 2011

Mr. Scott Raine, Chairman  
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Chairman Raine:

More than a decade ago, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) established a Mule Deer Working Group (MDWG) consisting of a representative from each of the 23 member states and Canadian provinces. The purpose of the MDWG was to: 1) Begin to develop strategies to assist in management of declining mule deer populations throughout the West; 2) Improve communication among mule deer biologists throughout the West; 3) Provide a forum to respond to information needs from agency administration. Since its inception, the MDWG has been very successful in assembling the most recent mule deer information into products that can be used by agency administrators and deer managers.

The MDWG, and their network of colleagues, represent a collection of the best professional mule deer biologists in North America with an enormous amount of hands-on mule deer management experience. Because of this, the MDWG is uniquely qualified to provide professional technical information and insights on mule deer management practices. The MDWG reviewed and evaluated the information and ideas contained in the December 2010 document titled: "*Findings of the Mule Deer Restoration Committee of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.*" We wanted to take this opportunity to provide you with our comments to help you make the best-informed and data-driven decisions possible.

We would like to request that this letter and our attached comments be read into the record for the related upcoming Commission agenda item and also provided to the County Wildlife Advisory Boards. If you would like clarification or more details that are not contained in the sources we cite, feel free to contact me. The WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group was established for this very purpose and we stand ready to help you in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Jim Heffelfinger, Chair  
WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group  
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