

**NEVADA BIGHORNS  
UNLIMITED**

Non-Profit Tax Exempt

ID 88-0180276



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May 3, 2011

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing this correspondence in regards to the proposed changes to Commission Policy #10 recommended by the Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy Committee. Comments were made by the chair of that committee at the last Commission meeting that the proposed changes were necessary to prevent “a black market or scalping” of a Heritage tag. It was also mentioned that “somebody” had recently resold one of the tags and made a huge profit. For the record NBU was that “somebody”.

One of our supporters approached us soon after buying the California Bighorn Heritage Tag at the Mid-West Wild Sheep Foundation’s auction. He told us the only reason he got in the auction was to prevent the tag from going too cheap and ended up paying \$37,000.00 as the high bidder. He felt this particular tag should be sold in Nevada by a Nevada organization and asked if we would be interested in accepting it as a donation and re-selling it at our annual fundraising banquet. After checking with legal counsel and several advisors we accepted his offer and subsequently re-sold the tag at our auction for \$55,000.00, a difference of \$18,000.00. NBU has advertised and has pledged that all the proceeds from the resale of this tag would be dedicated to Bighorn Sheep trap and transplant efforts or Water Development projects in Nevada. These are projects which NDOW normally requests funding assistance from NBU. In this case the only beneficiaries from selling this tag twice will be NDOW and Nevada’s wildlife which will receive \$92,000.00, \$37,000.00 to the Heritage Fund on the original sale, and \$55,000.00 for NDOW requested projects on the re-sale. This was an extraordinary series of events leading to this that to our knowledge has never occurred before. To recap the events:

1. The tag was awarded to a vendor that only has about 400 people attend their auction. For the record NBU has one of the largest single night fundraisers to benefit wildlife in the country with over 2000 attendees.
2. The tag was legally purchased at that auction and the Heritage fund has received the proceeds, \$37,000.00, from the vendor. Our donor reported to us that in his opinion had he not been in the auction the tag would have sold for much less.
3. The tag was donated to NBU for resale at our auction.
4. The tag was resold at our auction for \$55,000.00. We also sold two other Heritage tags at that event, the Mule Deer for \$70,000.00 and Elk for \$50,000.00
5. The tag donor in no way profited from this and in fact made one of the largest donations in the history of NBU.
6. All \$55,000.00 will be donated to NDOW proposed projects in 2011-2012.

We agree the resale, barter, or trade of any Nevada Heritage tag for personal financial gain should not be tolerated. We also agree that the wording in Policy 10 could be changed to prevent that from happening. We would urge you to consider that in this case the resale of the California Bighorn Heritage tag was a win-win for Nevada's wildlife and perhaps make an exception allowing these tags to be donated to a Nevada non-profit NGO for resale to raise money for wildlife. With a wording change such as adding "After sale by the designated vendor this tag shall not be resold, bartered, or traded for personal financial gain but may be donated in part or whole to a Nevada non-profit NGO for the sole purpose of raising money for wildlife" there should be no need to further modify the policy. As a vendor that has auctioned many Nevada Heritage tags we do not name the hunter until we have collected all the money and when dealing with people out of state that can take every bit of three weeks. We feel that the current 30 days is fair and reasonable. Obtaining permission from the commission may not always be possible and should not be necessary with the proper wording added.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated. Should any of you have any questions regarding this correspondence please contact us.

Sincerely,

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited



Michael J. Bertoldi  
President

cc: County Advisory Board Chairs  
Ken Mayer, NDOW-Acting Director