

FALL WILDLIFE ALMANAC

Fall Fishing Forecast

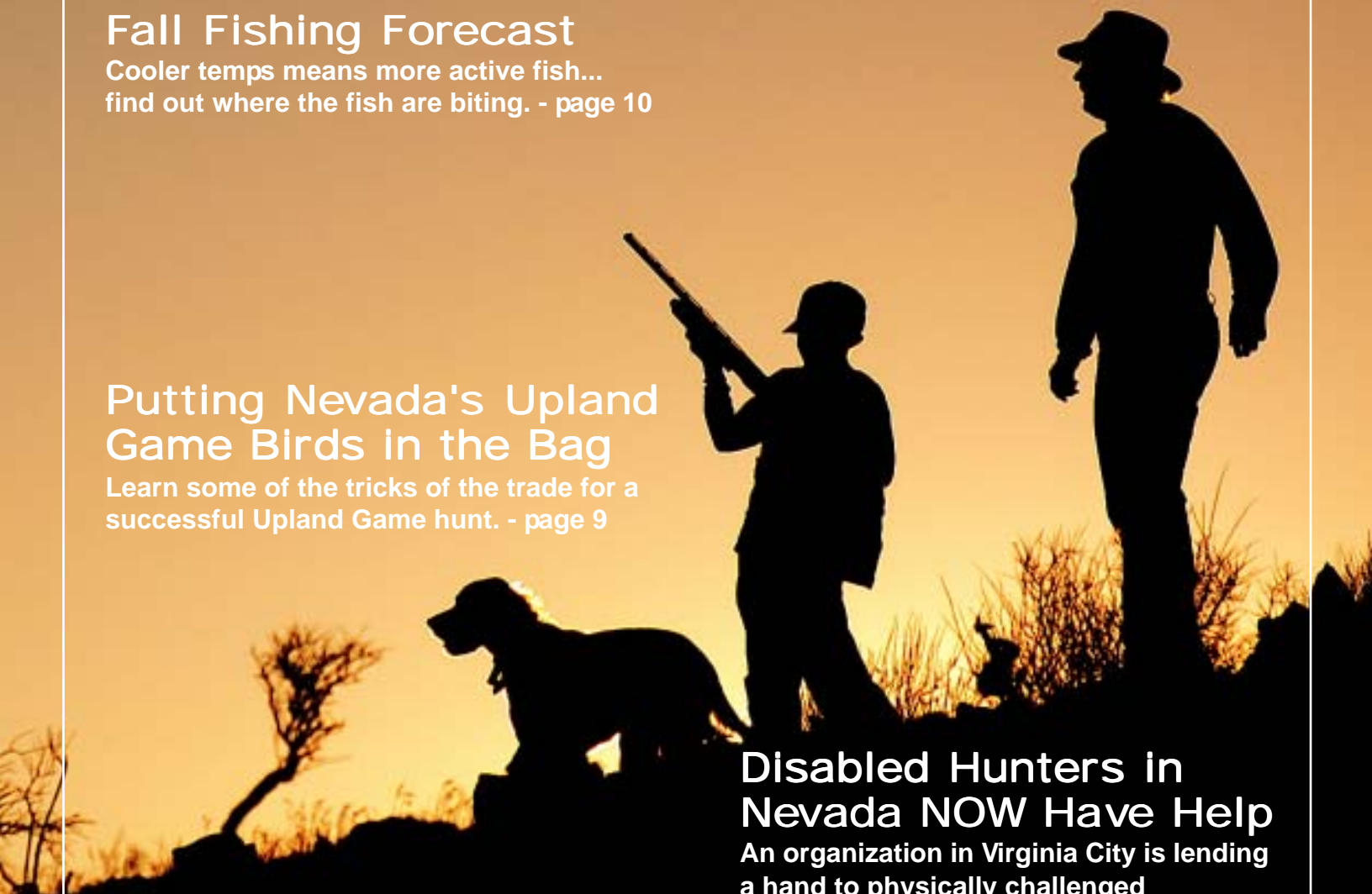
Cooler temps means more active fish...
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Putting Nevada's Upland Game Birds in the Bag

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Nuisance Problem Becoming Bearable

By Aaron Meier

What would you call having to deal with nearly 300 reports of bears encroaching on urban areas? Carl Lackey, Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist, calls it a slow year, but he's not complaining.

Last year, Nevada's bears roaming into urban areas searching for food became national news with bears showing up at fast food restaurants and in people's kitchens on a consistent basis. NDOW personnel handled 1,531 bear complaints in 2007 alone. This year, however, those complaints have dropped off dramatically.

"The number of calls have decreased considerably this year, by 1,200 or more," said Lackey. "We point to two main reasons for the decline. First, the May rains we received were at the perfect time for producing grasses, forbs and berries. There is simply much more available in the way of natural foods for bears than last year. Second, Douglas County passed their ordinance county wide and Incline Village instituted their ordinance on trash, both of which were highly publicized. Incline's ordinance has proven to be very effective."

It appears human-bear conflicts will continue to be a growing concern as bear populations occupy habitat that is being encroached upon by human development. There were no major issues regarding black bears or significant human-bear interactions in Nevada until 1987. A severe drought ending that year caused bears to begin frequenting urbanized areas in search of food. The result has created problems. All aspects of black bear ecology have been altered by human food-conditioning, such as how long bears spend in their dens and where they live throughout the year. Additionally, reports of human/bear conflicts have risen dramatically. Lackey explains that bear complaints have risen sharply in the last ten years, due in part to the

increase in people living in bear habitat.

"People don't recognize a lot of the times that they live in wildland habitat, but anywhere along the Carson Front, from Reno to Gardnerville, including the Tahoe Basin and associated mountain ranges, is bear habitat. Areas like Galena Forest on the Mt. Rose Hwy were historically good wildlife habitat for bears. People assume that because they build a house there that the wildlife automatically leaves," explains Lackey. "When you look at it from the wildlife's point of view, the area is now better for them than it was before people encroached. We are talking about a year-round supply of food that is replenished every week on garbage night."

While new county ordinances and educating the public have helped, Lackey believes that the problem will continue to grow until there is 100 percent compliance with removing all human food sources, a public that is educated on how to live carefully alongside bears, and tolerance of wildlife when you are living in the forest.

"We caught a break this year," said Lackey, "we can only prepare better for next year to see what Mother Nature brings."

"Because of the ordinances in place this year we have had a lot more "previously conditioned"



Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist Carl Lackey reports a drop-off of bear nuisance calls by more than 1,200 from last year .

Jim Nelson Photography

bears, that have become accustomed to certain behaviors, breaking into homes and garages looking for the food that they have been eating for years. Although we had fewer recaptures as well as fewer overall captures, the number of bears euthanized for behavior deemed hazardous increased,” reports Lackey.

Under NDOW policy, bears that cause damage or are a threat to human safety must be humanely euthanized.

“It’s a shame when we are forced to put down a food-conditioned bear, but if the new ordinances work, we can reduce the number overall long term, making both people and bears safer.

When a bear is released back into the wild, NDOW uses specially trained Karelian Bear Dogs in combination with aversive conditioning tools and structured learning situations to teach

Nevada Department of Wildlife Biologist Carl Lackey draws blood from a captured bear.



bears to recognize and avoid human territory.

“It has good short term effectiveness in keeping bears away, but remember, it is designed to modify their behavior (avoiding humans) and is not intended to make them leave an area. This can mean simply reverting to nocturnal behavior when humans aren’t around as much.”

Fowl Play!

By Joe Doucette

It was a beautiful fall day for the 25 youngsters and parents from around Elko County who showed up for the 6th annual Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Youth Waterfowl Expo. The event, hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) and Ducks Unlimited (DU), 4-H Shooting Sports and Safari Club International is held every year in September to introduce youth to the waterfowl and hunting opportunities that can be found at Ruby Lake NWR and surrounding areas.

According to Jeff Mackay, USFWS biologist, “While Nevada is the driest state in the country, areas like Ruby Lake NWR provide excellent waterfowl hunting opportunities that few hunters take advantage of.”

Mackay adds that the goal of the Expo is to not only introduce young people to the Refuge and its opportunities, but to start giving them the skills needed to take advantage of them.

“Activities the kids participated in on Saturday included duck banding, learning how to put out decoys, and duck calling,” stated Mackay. Other activities included hunter ethics, a trap range, an air rifle range and LaserShot, an interactive



Michael Timm of Spring Creek practices his "call back" call.

computer game that helps beginning hunters on shooting skills and making judgment calls.

The activity that seemed to garner the most interest was the duck banding and identification, conducted by Mackay. He selected ducks and coots he trapped the night before and allowed youngsters to hold the ducks as he banded their legs with an identification tag for future data collection. The kids then took them to the waters edge and released the ducks back into the wild.

Participants were treated to a free hotdog and chili lunch as well as a free drawing for prizes including duck decoys, duck calls, hats, and a single shot shotgun provided by the Elko chapter of Ducks Unlimited won by Michael Timm of Spring Creek.

Timm had been out earlier in the morning with his father, Mike, and grandfather, Charles, taking advantage of the Youth Waterfowl Hunt Day that allows young hunters the opportunity to hunt before the regular season.

“He’s really interested in wildlife biology,” Mike said of his son. “It’s due in part to stuff like this. He’s way into waterfowl.”

At the end of the day, prizes were given for the duck calling contest, Laser-Shot and trap shooting high scores. Then every child received prizes and goodie bags with gifts and informational handouts provided by Ruby Lake NWR, NDOW and Ducks Unlimited.

“We have this wonderful resource here in Elko County, yet many residents are unaware of the

Lewis Mendive of Elko holds a duck while USFWS biologist Jeff Mackay puts a band on its leg.



waterfowl opportunities in Nevada,” explains Mackay. “This gives the youth in our area, and their parents, an introduction to the waterfowl found here.”



Meet Hedwig, the teaching owl

Hedwig, a great horned owl, has educated almost 10,000 students and adults across Nevada about raptors and wildlife with the help of Nevada Department of Wildlife Conservation Educator Joe Doucette of Elko. Hedwig, who is missing a wing, acts as an ambassador to schools, civic groups and even to the Nevada State Legislature where he appeared at a legislative breakfast to help promote Nevada’s Wildlife Action Plan.



Disabled Hunters in Nevada NOW Have Help

By John McKay

Life for anyone who has a severe disability is full of questions. Can I do that, can I go there, can I... Questions that often concern the simple, mundane tasks in daily life that most of us take for granted, let alone the fun things that give our lives quality, meaning and happiness. Until recently, the question for disabled hunters in Nevada was whether they could get into the field and enjoy their sport. N.O.W. they have an answer.

Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs (N.O.W.) is the work of Virginia City residents Rob & Darcy McMillin. A life-long outdoorsman and avid hunter, Rob never gave much thought to having the ability to do the things he loved. But after Rob was involved in a serious motorcycle accident and lost his right leg below the knee, he struggled mightily for three years to get himself back to where he could hunt again. "After suffering my own disability, I was blessed with a new understanding of the value of my hunting experiences not only to my physical recovery, but to my emotional and spiritual healing as well," Rob said.

The drive to get outdoors and go hunting was one of Rob's strongest motivations during his recovery. It was then that Rob realized how

fortunate he was in comparison to hunters with more severe disabilities; knowing that a wheelchair, a temporary part of his recovery, was a constant consideration for others. After recovering from the accident he began looking for a way to help others with physical challenges.

The idea for N.O.W. came after Ron watched a television show highlighting a program that provides hunting experiences to severely disabled people. Ron searched Nevada for a similar program and finding none, N.O.W. was born.

Ron chose pronghorn antelope for the inaugural hunt and early this summer signed up the first participant. With their hunter on board, Ron and Darcy immediately got to work to make the hunt happen. A wall tent and cots were donated by two area businesses and word of N.O.W. quickly spread throughout northern Nevada and donations and pledges of support started to pour in. The puzzle was coming together, but one big piece still remained to be put in place; securing an antelope tag.

The vast majority of Nevada big game tags are allotted through a computerized draw conducted in the spring and the draw had already passed so Ron would have to find a tag by some



The Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs (NOW) provides hunting experiences for severely disabled sportsmen.

other means. After a couple of early dead ends, Ron was able to secure not one, but two landowner compensation tags with the help of Chad Bliss, chairman of the Eureka County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife.

After adding another hunter for the second antelope tag, the hunt was officially on.

Ron, Darcy, Chad, hunters, friends and family headed into the field in late August elated that the dream of N.O.W. had so quickly become a reality. The hunt was a huge success with both disabled hunters successfully harvesting their antelope and as a final bit of icing on the cake, Rob McMillin, owner of Captured Moments Taxidermy is donating the mounts.

While N.O.W. is off to a great start, lessons were learned and much work remains to build off of this year's success and secure the program's future. Gaining non-profit status, purchasing an off-road wheelchair and securing sources of long-term, stable funding and big game tags are just a few of the challenges facing Ron and Darcy. But if their accomplishments thus far are any indication



N.O.W. members after a successful antelope hunt.

of what the future holds, disabled hunters in Nevada have every reason to believe N.O.W. will be around to lend them a hand.

You can make a donation, read the full story and view a video of this year's antelope hunt or find out more about Nevada Outdoorsmen in Wheelchairs by visiting their website at www.nvoutdoorsmen.com.

67 Years of Hunting...and Counting

By Aaron Meier

When Nevada Department of Wildlife game biologist Mike Dobel first met Roger Iveson, the then 70-year-old hunter was cleaning his ducks after a successful day of waterfowl hunting in Northern Nevada.

"I had seen him around several times before, so I went up and introduced myself. When he said his name was Iveson, I mentioned that I knew several Ivesons in the area. He smiled and half joking-half serious replied 'Well, I'm the Iveson that hunts.' Even though anyone who knows the Ivesons knows that they are all avid hunters, he wanted to make sure I knew who the serious hunter was," said Dobel.

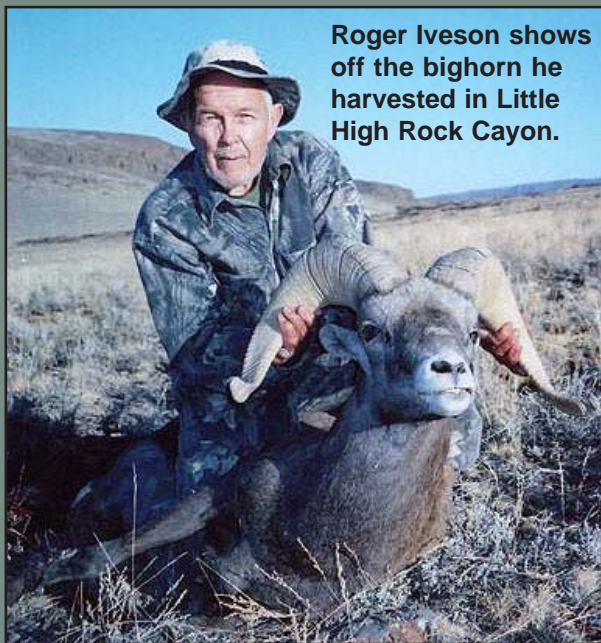
The now 75-year-old native Nevadan got his chance to prove that

fact like never before this season as he defied the odds and drew antelope, deer, elk and bighorn sheep tags all in the same year. Dobel estimates the odds of drawing all four hunts at more than 2,000 to one.

"I started scouting in July, since then, I've only been home a couple of times to stock up



Roger Iveson after a successful elk hunt. The 75-year-old sportsman drew antelope, elk, deer, and bighorn sheep tags this year.



Roger Iveson shows off the bighorn he harvested in Little High Rock Canyon.

on my supplies,” said Iveson after harvesting his bighorn in late September. “At one point I had three seasons going on at the same time.”

He reports that his antelope hunt took longer than expected, leaving him behind on his elk and deer hunt. Iveson still harvested everything but a deer. His bighorn, however, proved to be the most challenging. Hunting in the high elevation of Little High Rock Canyon, about 80 miles north of Gerlach, Iveson dug a hole just deep enough for him to lie down near where he knew the sheep would pass.

“I got into that hole about five in the morning, and I didn’t harvest my sheep until around 3:30 in the afternoon. After a while, that hole was like a torture chamber. I tell you what else, that air is thin up there” said Iveson.

Despite everyone in his hunting party pushing him to use a rifle, Iveson chose to use

his weapon of choice...a bow; after all, he’s been bow hunting for longer than most of the people in his hunt party have been alive. “I started shooting with a bow around 1957,” he stated.

With the kill, Iveson has now completed his grand slam, harvesting a Dall, Stone, California and Bighorn Sheep. Although his success should not come as much of a surprise; he has been hunting since he was eight.

Iveson was born and raised in Gerlach. As a young boy, he reports that his real hunter education came at the hands of the older sportsmen in the area. “I did a lot of hunting during the war (World War II). With all the young men off fighting, there were only old men and young kids out there, but I got a real education from those older guys,” said Iveson.

When asked how his wife Sherry handled him being out hunting for months at a time, Iveson simply smiles and states “she’s a ranch girl from Battle Mountain, she’s used to it.”

Dobel reports that from time to time he might see a hunter in his 70s out in the field, and he says that he can remember maybe two other men in their 70s bringing a bighorn into the NDOW office in Reno, but to have a man dig a hole and lay in it for hours, and then spring up and harvest a bighorn with a bow is nothing short of remarkable.

“I tell you what, I’ve seen him in the field hunting waterfowl and that man never seems to slow down. That stuff wears me out, but he just tears through it. He is one tough character,” said Dobel. “If I am half as sharp and physically strong as he is when I’m in my 60s, I’ll consider myself lucky.”



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is always looking for volunteers. Wildlife volunteers are involved in projects such as fish stocking, fish sampling, nesting surveys, check station assistance, angler education, hunter education, data entry, and office assistance.

Volunteers are needed throughout the year. For more information or to register as a volunteer, visit the NDOW website at www.ndow.org.

Volunteers Rescue Aspen Trees

By Norv Dallin

Personnel from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and local volunteers recently constructed pipe rail fences around some aspen stands in the Stag Mountain area destroyed by the 2006 Charleston fire.

The fire burned more than 148,000 acres in central Elko County and destroyed most of the mature aspen trees in the area. When aspen trees burn, new shoots are quick to sprout, but the tender new growth attracts grazing livestock, which prevents replacement of mature trees.

Volunteers met on Saturday morning in late July and made the two-hour trip to the Stag Mountain area 40 miles north of Deeth. Assembly of the three-rail steel fence commenced upon arrival of the 19 people and was completed by evening. Over 1,000 screws were driven to ensure the fence will stand the pressure of wind, snow load and livestock. The three-rail fence made of pipe, excludes livestock from the critical regenerating areas, but still allows them access to water and forage near the

enclosures. The fence is constructed so that it can be easily removed once management reaches a point where domestic livestock grazing is brought into balance with the environment. Over 1,200 feet of fence was constructed and another, larger enclosure was finished. Materials for a third project were hauled to the construction site.

"I'm pleasantly surprised at how much work we got done" said NDOW biologist Pete Bradley. Before turning in for the night, Bradley gave the volunteers an informative presentation on the importance of aspen stands and spoke of the day when the aspen sprouts grow into mature trees and the fence can be removed.

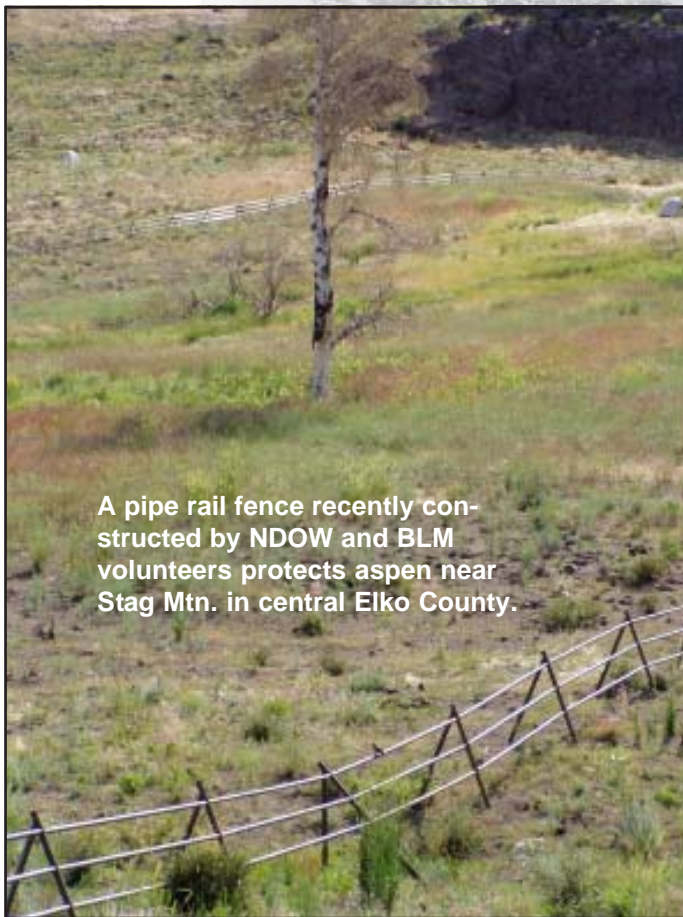
He explained that survival of quaking aspen stands in Nevada and throughout the west is a serious concern for foresters and wildlife managers because of the diverse wildlife using these unique habitats.

Bradley noted that, "Easily over 150 species of Nevada's wildlife use quaking aspen and associated understory habitats during portions of their life cycles. Some, like the Swainson's thrush, ruffed grouse and rubber boa are found almost exclusively in these environments." he said. "In this 'tree-challenged' landscape of the Bruneau River headwaters, these aspen stands surrounding Stag Mountain provide the only cavity and canopy nesting habitat in over 100 square miles. If we lose these stands, our wildlife heritage will suffer. It's essentially their last refuge."

Marcial Evertsen, from Crescent Valley, who regularly volunteers on NDOW habitat projects, says, "These projects are fun. You get dead tired, but the food is good and it gives you a good reason to camp out."

In addition to providing habitat for Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer, quaking aspen stands in Nevada are home to many species of birds, small mammals and reptiles.

Thanks to a generous donation from Elko Bighorns Unlimited, three delicious hearty meals were provided to all workers. Those interested in volunteering in the effort to conserve and improve wildlife habitat in the local area, should contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife at 775-688-1500.



A pipe rail fence recently constructed by NDOW and BLM volunteers protects aspen near Stag Mtn. in central Elko County.

Q1 Bond Money Put to Good Use

By Joe Doucette

In November of 2002, Nevada voters approved Question 1, an initiative spearheaded by The Nature Conservancy with support from numerous state agencies, county governments, and conservation organizations; to provide monies for parks, clean water and wildlife habitat.

The passage of Question 1 authorized the state to issue up to \$200 million in general obligation bonds for projects to protect and preserve natural resources across Nevada. The Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) portion was \$27.5 million and is extremely important for Nevada's wildlife resources and has been used to support wildlife related projects, as well as to enhance state-owned wildlife facilities, which will ultimately benefit all Nevadans.

"As of the summer of 2008, \$21 million worth of Q1 bonds have been sold with most of the proceeds having already been spent or allocated for projects around the state," explains Laura Richards, NDOW Diversity Division Chief and coordinator of Q1 projects for NDOW. "Projects funded by the bond include fencing to protect riparian areas, acquisition of crucial mule deer winter range, restoration of wildland fire damaged sagebrush habitat, bat gates on abandoned mines, hatchery refurbishment and many more, too numerous to list."

Recently, NDOW completed acquisition of 4,161 acres of the Izzenhood property in Elko and Lander counties using Q1 bond funds combined with mining mitigation money. "The Izzenhood is the most critical mule deer winter range in Area 6 that will benefit not only the Area 6 mule deer herd, but pronghorn antelope, pygmy rabbits, sage sparrows and other sage brush dependent species," says Ken Gray, NDOW Big Game Biologist. "We have lost more than 80% of the Area 6 winter range and ensuring that this piece of property is available for mule deer is critical to the herd."

In a joint acquisition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, NDOW partnered to acquire 40 acres of water rights to be transferred to Carson Lake Wetlands in Churchill County. This project will protect and enhance important habitat for fish and wildlife, particularly habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. Carson Lake is an internationally important area for shorebird migration and is a nationally important area for numerous species of waterfowl and wading birds.

The Lockes Ranch in Nye County which is one of only two locations supporting endemic populations of springfish, was recently purchased by NDOW to help conserve the threatened Railroad Valley springfish. NDOW purchased the 430 acres that make up the ranch in 2005 and is currently working with federal and state partners to implement restoration actions at several of the spring systems to maximize conservation benefits for the springfish and other endemic wildlife species, using State Wildlife Grant funds, USFWS Section 6 Endangered Species Act Grant funds and Question 1 Bond funds.

"These are examples of how NDOW has made the most of its Q1 money by partnering with other agencies and organizations to give wildlife and Nevada residents the best value for the money spent," says Richards. "By partnering, we can combine Q1 funds with other available grants and private money, allowing us to acquire, improve and rehabilitate even more habitat for wildlife."

These are just a few of the more than 40 major projects that have been or are being funded using Question 1 money. With the help of dedicated biologists and employees, input from the public and hard work by volunteers, the state's Question 1 Bond Fund is successfully being used to help Nevada's wildlife.



Putting Nevada's Upland Game Birds in the Bag

By Doug Nielsen

Ask hunters who have been around for more than a couple of years and most will tell you that simply being in the outdoors is perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of the hunting experience. That said, they will also tell you that bagging their game of choice is a bonus they all hope to enjoy. After all, you can't savor the taste of quail baked on a bed of rice and cream of chicken soup if you don't first put a few birds in your bag.

While Nevada is well known for the quality of its big game, the state also boasts some excellent upland game bird hunting opportunities. Hunters can pursue three species of quail, three species of grouse and the chukar partridge. And for the hardy soul, Nevada offers the country's only population of the elusive Himalayan Snowcock which makes its home at about 10,000 feet in the Ruby Mountains of Elko County. But the most popular of Nevada's upland game birds are chukar and quail.

Chukar and quail are both tied to water and can be found near small streams, springs and even manmade water sources. The chukar partridge prefers arid to semi-arid habitat consisting of steep rugged canyons with talus slopes and rocky outcrops. Quail favor low, brushy country and areas where mesquite is common, but they are also found in areas with steep rocky slopes.

A good, sturdy pair of broken-in boots is recommended when hunting either bird. These will protect your feet while walking or hiking in rugged terrain. Bad feet equal a bad hunt. The same is true for your dog, especially in Southern Nevada where several species of cholla cactus lie in wait to sabotage your hunt. Even then you should be sure to carry a multi-tool with a pair of pliers for pulling cactus spines from your dog's paws.

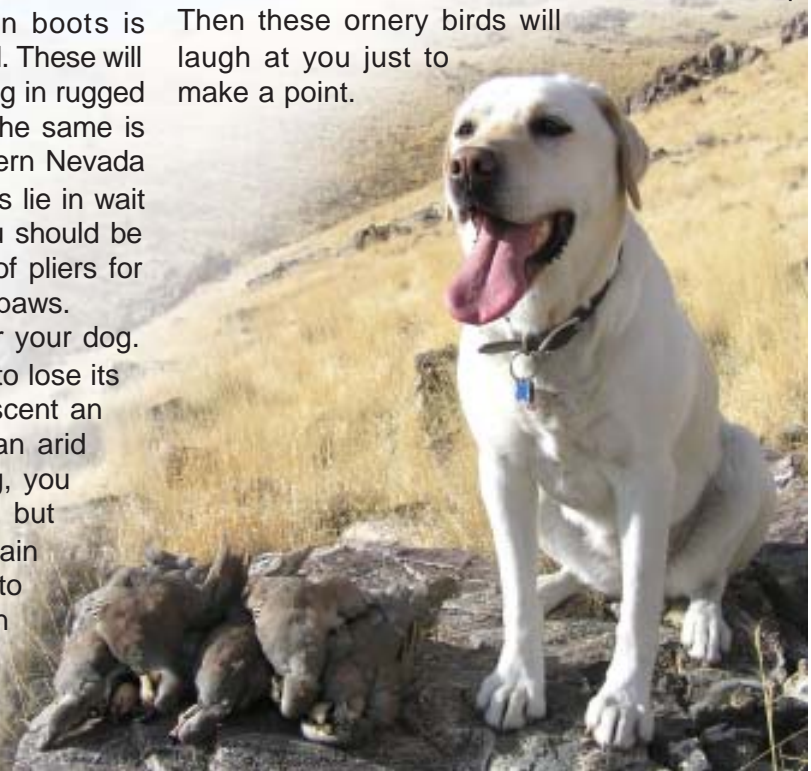
Don't forget water for you and for your dog. The nose of a dehydrated dog tends to lose its ability to smell the small amount of scent an upland game bird leaves behind in an arid environment. If you don't have a dog, you may want to think about getting one, but only do so if you have the time to train the dog yourself or to pay someone to do it for you. An untrained dog is an award winning episode of Funniest Home Videos waiting to happen.

For upland game birds the firearm of choice is a 12, 16, 20

or 28 gauge shotgun with a modified choke. A low base shot shell with 7 to 7 1/2 shot is ideal for quail, but insufficient for all but the most inexperienced chukar. For chukar, a high-base number 6 shot shell is recommended. Keep in mind that when hunting on state Wildlife Management Areas and National Wildlife Refuges non-toxic shot is required.

While some people seem content to hunt with their back side in the saddle of an ATV or pickup truck seat, you will always find more birds if you are willing to burn some shoe leather. For quail, walk along the washes and brush lines near water sources and be prepared for flushing birds, but keep an eye out for running birds as well. If you jump an entire covey, watch where the birds land and be quick to jump them a second time. When you do so, many of the birds will hold tight and you can go back through the area and pick up singles.

For chukar, be prepared to climb in rugged country then walk back and forth along the side hill while working your way up the hill or back down. Once these birds are flushed they will often hold where they land so don't waste time getting there. A word of caution: these birds are notorious for leading hunters up the hill only to fly back down to the bottom once the hunter reaches the top. Then these ornery birds will laugh at you just to make a point.



Fall Fishing: The “Best Bet” Waters

By Chris Vasey & Joe Doucette

Fall fishing has always been the sure bet for the seasoned angler. Summer’s heat is gone and the fish are on the bite!

Fall always provides perfect temperatures: the air is just right, and the water temperatures are perfect. Less traffic on the water and hungry fish building their reserves for winter mean more productive fishing for the angler.

Some species of trout are spawning. Their search for food pre and post-spawn equates to high catch rates for the elusive brown trout.

Because of how fish use the water, fall fishing offers advantages. In reservoirs, summer’s heat keeps trout deep in the water column where they’re hard to reach. Fall’s cooler air temperatures chill the water and bring the fish to the surface. In streams and rivers, summer’s high flows have subsided; now the fish are more concentrated in holding areas.

So whether you’re a beginner or seasoned angler, your best bet to catch is fall. Here are some “best bet” waters and suggestions on how to catch. For specific water-by-water information and directions, check out NDOW’s Angler Information Guides on the web at www.ndow.org.

FALL FISHING IN WESTERN NEVADA

SPARKS MARINA

The Sparks Marina is under-fished in fall...so it’s a great time to hit this water. It’s better fished from a canoe or float tube due to the structure of the lake. Although the majority of trout are planter-sized, some 18 to 20 inch fish have been pulled from this water.

If you’re targeting trout, once on the water, troll deep with a Repala® Castmaster or your favorite spinner. Fly anglers should try beaded crystal woolly buggers in brown, root beer or black. Shore anglers using Power Bait® and eggs have had the best results. Use a Type 3 or 4 line.

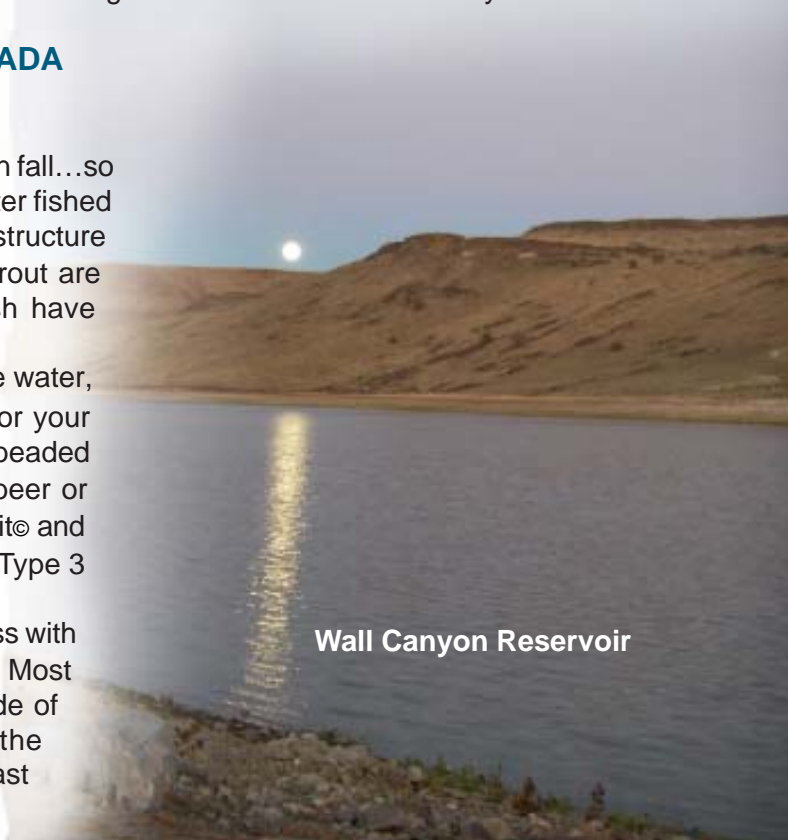
Some anglers target the spotted bass with deep jigs, bass plugs and spinner baits. Most spotted bass are found on the east side of the lake. An under-utilized fish in the Sparks Marina is channel catfish. The last record set in this water for catfish was

over 12 pounds, with most in the 14 to 16 inch range.

WALL CANYON RESERVOIR

If you’re looking for a little adventure and you are up for some desert travel, Wall Canyon Reservoir could be your next fall fishing experience. Upon arrival there is no cover from the elements, and the water conditions are moderately low, so come prepared. The fishing can be good with some carry over trout and some opportunity for small mouth. In addition to the reservoir, the stream has some great brown trout fishing. The past has produced some very large fish in this fishery but does change from year to year. The fly anglers and spin fishermen keep to dark colors due to the clarity of the water. There are no services, or facilities, so make sure your tackle box is well stocked.

To get there from Reno, travel 30 miles east on Interstate 80. Turn North onto Highway 447 at Wadsworth. Travel 135 miles through Gerlach, turn right onto a dirt road marked by a windmill just north of Duck Flat. Continue 8 miles along this dirt road to Wall Canyon Reservoir.



Wall Canyon Reservoir

KNOTT CREEK RESERVOIR

Knott Creek is one of those special places. This place is what you picture in your mind when you think of fishing in Nevada. It has a picturesque view of rock formations and a mountain backdrop. Many anglers think of Knott Creek when the quaking aspens turn. This is a great time to fish this reservoir and recently has been a very productive fishery with fish often reaching averages of 18 inches plus. The current water record is seven pounds caught in 2004 but many people have reported catching equal sizes recently. This is a special regulation water with a limit of one fish over 18 inches and only artificial lures with single barbless hooks. Fly anglers are successful with leach patterns in blood red to maroon color, damsel patterns, blood midges, and simulators. Woolly buggers work in black and olive. Recommended line is intermediate to type three. Species of trout include rainbow trout and bowcutts, but there is also a bonus hybrid species of tiger trout which have a very aggressive strike. It does take some fuel and determination to get to Knott Creek.

Travel north out of Winnemucca 33 miles on US 95, turning left onto SR 140 and on to Denio Junction (100 miles from Winnemucca) before turning left and traveling 9 miles before turning south in to the Knott Creek Road. Follow the road for seven miles to the junction and Sand Pass Road, then another seven miles into Knott Creek Reservoir. Be prepared for rough and slippery roads. Vehicles with 4x4 are advised, high clearance is recommended. Towed trailers, cabover campers and tent trailers are not recommended.



Knott Creek

TRUCKEE RIVER

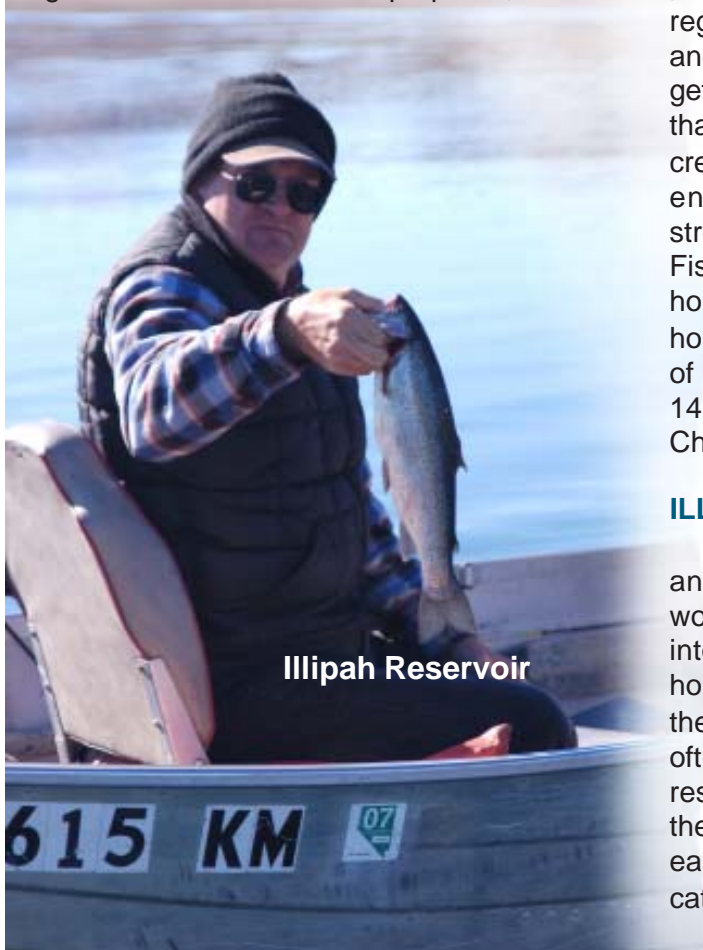
If you are familiar with the Truckee River you know of the summer inner tube hatch and rafter hatch. Which translates to loads of people floating down the river. Fall means this is over and you will have the river back to yourself. Fall offers the best time of year to fish the Truckee. Fall fishing on the Truckee has great opportunity for brown, rainbow, cutthroat, and white fish. The Truckee is stocked regularly with triploid rainbow, which is a sterile trout and Lahontan cutthroat trout, which are native to this water. The great thing about the Truckee is its location. If you live near or in Reno there no reason to burn gas to get to a California water, great trophy-size fish are right here in town. Last year alone, we had five trophy entries of brown trout in the eight-pound range and many reaching five pounds plus. This time of year is great for targeting brown trout but keep in mind it is spawning time so if you see grouping of fish or freshly scoured gravel, it's probably a redd, which is where a female deposited her eggs. Leave these areas alone and avoid wading through them. If you are flyfishing, the best tactics for Truckee fall fishing are big streamers and crayfish patterns. Other tactics include heavy stones trailed by a gold ribbed hare's ear or copper John and Kyle stone, October caddis pupa and emergers. Spin fishermen use large spinners, Rapala's® broken back black and gold, and black silver J-11 or drift bait through deep holes, and undercuts of structure.

EAST WALKER RIVER

The East Walker, like the Truckee, has some great brown trout fishing as well as great rainbow trout fishing. If not familiar with this water, fishing the East Walker in the Special Regulation water can be both rewarding and frustrating. The fish here have been well educated so be prepared to change your tactics often. The flows on this river drop after the irrigation season ends and it becomes easier to fish. If you try to fish this water during irrigation season, wading is next to impossible. Good flows on the river are from 115 cfs to 65 cfs. Make sure to check out the USGS web link for flows on East Walker as well as others. There is a great number of brown trout in the East Walker but few have the ability to target

them. If you're into just catching some nice 12 to 14 inch rainbow, try using San Juan worms and prince nymphs but this tactic usually does not work for targeting the elusive brown trout. To target the brown trout expect to catch less but what you do catch will be larger. Use large streamers, but be aware this tactic can be hard to fish due to algae in the water.

There is a special regulation water on this section which includes portions of the river from Sweetwater Creek downstream to ½ mile below the confluence of East Walker River and Red Wash Creek which is catch and release fishing only. Only artificial lures with single barbless hooks may be used. Getting there: from Wellington on Hwy 208, travel south on the Wellington Cutoff to Hwy 338. Continue south on Hwy 338 for about 23.5 miles, turning east on Sweetwater Road. This is a County maintained dirt road and about the first three miles is Rosaschi Ranch. Many anglers park near the County Bridge within 1.5 miles of Highway 338 turnoff. From this bridge, continue east about four miles to reach the Elbow, directly adjacent to the road. Below this section is no longer catch and release. Be prepared, there are



Illipah Reservoir

no facilities or services after leaving Wellington.

FALL FISHING IN EASTERN NEVADA

Fall fishing in eastern Nevada is some of the best fishing of the year, with both brown trout and brook trout heading into the spawn with absolutely brilliant colors that match the autumn leaves. Other fish are getting ready for winter by putting on the feedbag in preparation for ice-covered waters as evidenced by the official state record smallmouth bass being taken out of South Fork Reservoir in November of 2001. At our area reservoirs the secret is to think big and go slow. While many bait anglers swear by PowerBait®, worms do appear to be more effective and they should be floated off of the bottom either with something like a marshmallow or by inflating them. Presentation of lures, spinners and flies should be slowed down just a bit, especially if targeting warm water species. Here are some of the waters that NDOW biologists are recommending in eastern Nevada this fall.

CAVE LAKE

This White Pine County reservoir is very popular with Las Vegas and Ely anglers and regularly produces limits of 9 to 12-inch brookies and rainbows throughout the year. However, it gets especially good in the fall as the large browns that inhabit the depths of this lake move into the creek above the reservoir to spawn. Target this end of the lake with rapalas, spinners and streamer flies if you want to pursue these browns. Fishing right at dawn or dusk and into the darker hours of the evening can be very productive. But hold onto your rod because the state record brown of 27 lbs 5 oz. came out of this lake as well as a 14 pounder that was surveyed by NDOW biologist Chris Crookshanks just a couple of years ago.

ILLIPAH RESERVOIR

This lake also carries some nice browns and anglers should chase them here just like they would at Cave Lake. But don't forget to head up into the creek above the lake hitting the small holes and pools for browns. Unlike Cave Lake, the rainbows here get much larger than 12 inches, often pushing 17 to 18 inches. This irrigation reservoir has a relatively small pool of water in the fall, allowing anglers to target these fish much easier. Use worms, rapalas or woolly buggers to catch both the rainbows and the browns.

WHITE PINE COUNTY STREAMS

Creeks in White Pine County to fish include Cleve, Steptoe, Cave and White River. Dead drifting grasshoppers or worms through the pools and runs is often very effective. Small spinners where there is enough flow can be used. As for flies, start with terrestrials and then switch to nymphs such as zug bugs, PT's, Prince and hare's ears. Where there is enough water, nymph droppers below a hopper or a beetle is a good way to keep the nymph off of the bottom.

SOUTH FORK RESERVOIR

Many anglers save fall for their fishing trips to South Fork Reservoir as the fishing can be excellent here from about the end of September into the middle or end of November. Recently anglers have been producing limits of 16 to 20-inch fish with the occasional 23 or 24-inch fish being taken. Nightcrawlers floated off of the bottom are the ticket for shore anglers, while rapala type lures or flashers tipped with a worm produce for trollers. Flyrodders should use woolly buggie or leach patterns fished on an intermediate sink line from a float tube or canoe. Blood or brown appear to be the best colors in the fall, followed by olive, purple and black. Don't forget to add streamer type patterns such as muddler minnows or clousers to your fly box when heading here. Black bass are on structure and crankbaits as well as swim baits should be effective. Many of the bass fishermen in the local area like to use darker patterns and colors.

WILDHORSE RESERVOIR

This water has been underfished this year due to the fish die-off in August of 2007 and the price of fuel. However, there are still quality fish to be taken here as anglers regularly catch trout up to 20-inches. Like South Fork, rapala type lures and flashers tipped with worms are working for trollers, while gold spoons and spinners as well as worms floated off of the bottom are working for shore fisherman. Flyrodders should use much the same arsenal as South Fork. The perch are doing well and many fish are in the 10 to 12 inch class. The secret is finding them. If you don't get perch within a half hour of fishing, move. Most fish can be caught with a small jig tipped with a worm or just a worm on a red hook. Jigs should be brightly colored with chartreuse or fluorescent orange being popular. Flyrodders can catch them with small flies like zug bugs, prince nymphs or small crystal buggers.

WILSON RESERVOIR

This out of the way reservoir is another good body of water to hit, though fishing tends to slow down earlier than some of the others. The upside is that you can hunt chukar in the area and have a weekend of cast and blast. This water should be fished much the same way and with the same gear as at South Fork.

ELKO COUNTY STREAMS

Many Elko County streams are very fishable this time of year. The falling of leaves is a catch 22. It makes it easier to get into the streams through the riparian brush, but sometimes there are mats of leaves covering very productive water. Most streams that hold fish will produce until the water temperatures dip too low, generally by the end of October or the beginning of November depending upon the location. Popular streams include Lamoille Creek, Tabor Creek, Owyhee River, Bruneau River and the Jarbidge River. If any terrestrials are present, start with these, otherwise any nymph made with peacock herl should be productive. Using a real hopper or worm without any weight through the runs or riffles is another good technique. In the larger runs or in the pools, small spinners can be effective.



South Fork Reservoir