

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 22

Number: P-22

Title: Introduction, Transplanting
and Exportation of Wildlife

Reference: NRS 501.181

Effective Date: February 20, 1981

Amended Dates: October 21, 2000
June 26, 2009

PURPOSE

To establish policy on the introduction, transplanting, or release and re-establishment of wildlife into the State and exportation of same out of the State as guided by NRS 501.181.

DEFINITIONS

Exotic Wildlife: Includes all species of mammals, birds, reptiles, or their progeny or eggs, not historically found in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska, and normally found in a wild state.

Endemic Species: Those species presently or historically occurring naturally within the 48 contiguous states and/or Alaska, and normally found in a wild state.

- a. Native Wildlife: Endemic wildlife species historically found in Nevada.
- b. Non-Native Wildlife: Endemic wildlife species not historically found within Nevada. For example, ruffed grouse are an endemic non-native species in Nevada.

Introduction: The act of releasing exotic or endemic non-native wildlife for the purpose or intent of increasing self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Re-establishment: The act of releasing native wildlife into habitat formerly occupied by that species for the purpose or intent of creating self-sustaining populations in a wildlife state.

Release: The act of releasing any wildlife species for the purpose or intent of creating self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Transplant: The act of releasing endemic wildlife species into habitat not ~~previously~~ **currently** occupied by the species for the purpose or intent of creating self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Stocking: The act of releasing any wildlife for “put and take” purposes.

Exportation: The act of removing any live wildlife from the State of Nevada.

Augmentation: The act of supplementing existing wildlife populations of terrestrial wildlife species.

PROCEDURE

1. Due to the relative low densities of terrestrial wildlife populations and limited diversity of faunal species in Nevada, the Department shall administer sound wildlife management and restoration programs by:
 - a. Re-establishing: Native wildlife onto former or historic areas of distribution within the State, when the habitat requirements of such species are again provided in such areas and a vacancy exists.
 - b. Introduction: Endemic non-native wildlife where suitable vacant habitat may exist, and where conflicts with native or existing endemic non-native wildlife would not occur or have only a minimal effect.
 - c. Releasing, Transplanting or Augmenting: Native endemic, non-native, or exotic wildlife when it is determined that a vacancy exists in suitable habitat and a self-sustaining population can be established, or in the event of recurring natural die-offs, transplants can be made to speed the recovery of a population.
 - d. Stocking: Native, endemic non-native and exotic terrestrial wildlife species for the appropriate use and aesthetic enjoyment of the people of the state if conflicts with existing native or endemic non-native would not occur or have only a minimal effect.
2. The Department shall prepare a two-year plan to coincide with biennial work program periods for big game re-establishment, introductions, and augmentations. This plan shall be prepared in close cooperation with the appropriate land management agencies. This plan will be presented to the Commission for approval.
3. The Department shall prepare a two-year plan to coincide with biennial work program periods for upland game, migratory game birds, or furbearer re-establishment, introductions, or augmentations. This plan will be presented to the Commission for approval.
4. Once approved by the Commission, big game releases will occur as soon as practical considering budget, manpower and animal availability. Sites will not be

re-submitted for public review and Commission approval unless the Commission specifically finds that compelling circumstances have arisen and requests that the site be re-submitted to it, or unless a release has not been accomplished after two biennial periods (four years).

5. Once approved by the Commission, any changes in the Big Game Release Plan must be presented and approved by the Wildlife Commission.

6. The Big Game Release plan must include source population of animals to be released.

7. To give transplanted or translocated animals a better chance of establishment, predator control must be accomplished by Wildlife Services or another appropriate entity before and after any transplants or translocations can occur.

~~5.~~**8.** The Department will seek concurrence of the appropriate land management agency when necessary and may enter into a cooperative agreement to define the action to be taken.

~~6.~~**9.** The Department will cooperate with other states and countries, within federal and state constraints, to meet their objectives or re-establishment and introduction of wildlife by providing stock for export whenever it is in the best interest of the resource and the people of the State.

~~7.~~**10.** The Department will comply with all existing importation regulations.

~~8.~~**11.** Any introduction, release, stocking, or transplanting of wildlife into, or exportation of wildlife from Nevada by persons or entities, public or private, other than the Department shall comply with Commission regulations and must receive the written consent and approval by the Department prior to the attempt.

12. To protect property rights, all businesses, groups, or individuals that have a direct pecuniary interest that may be infringed upon or resources that may be utilized by the transplanted or translocated animals must be contacted by NDOW and given opportunity to give testimony in a public hearing before any action, transplant, translocation, or augmentation may take place.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or repealed.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION June 26, 2009.

Chairman. Dr. Gerald A. Lent, O.D.
Board of Wildlife Commissioners