

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Number: **P-25**

Title: Wildlife Damage Management

Commission Policy Number 25 Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.110,
503.470, 503.595, 567.010-567.090,
CGR No. 1(8) and No. 4 (2)

Effective Date: September 19, 1980

Amended Date: 2002

PURPOSE

To inform the public and guide the Department of Wildlife in actions relating to wildlife damage management. In accordance with NRS 501.181, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall establish policies for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this state. Further, the Commission shall establish policies for areas of interest including wildlife damage management.

POLICY

1. Wildlife damage management shall be undertaken to minimize wildlife related losses to private property or natural resources without endangering the existence or natural role of offending wildlife species in the ecosystem.
2. Extension and educational efforts will be encouraged to assist private citizens in animal husbandry practices, property protection or human activities to minimize the vulnerability of loss, damage, or injury to livestock, pets, private property, or human health and safety.
3. The Commission supports continued federal leadership in wildlife damage management because of the national need for the development and use of more efficient and humane wildlife control methods.
4. The Commission recognizes the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, as the authority for predatory and nuisance wildlife damage management under cooperative agreement with the Department of Wildlife, where the Department of Wildlife is an active participant in documenting the need for wildlife damage management programs, in planning and execution of those programs, and in enhancing public understanding of those programs. The Department shall prepare an annual wildlife damage management plan outlining proposed actions needed for the management of wildlife and, upon approval of the Commission, recommend that a sufficient amount of funding annually be forwarded from the Wildlife Account in the State General Fund to the state Division of Resource Protection for wildlife damage management work as provided for in Chapter 567 of NRS.
5. The Department shall conduct an evaluation of the potential needs for wildlife damage management activities in conjunction with preparing release proposals for big game, upland game, and migratory birds. Those evaluations shall be included in each site-specific release proposal in the draft biennial big game and upland game-migratory bird release plans.

6. Initiate wildlife damage management efforts using the best scientific and biological information available.
7. Direct wildlife damage management efforts including sport hunting and trapping, whenever possible, to prevent damage to resources or threats to human health and safety before it occurs in specific areas known to be recurring problem areas, or to alleviate damage as soon as possible after it occurs.
8. Direct wildlife damage management efforts at the offending animal or localized offending species population insofar as possible, and feasible.
9. Wildlife damage management of major mammalian predators including coyotes, bobcats, mountain lion, and black bears, shall be directed towards specific geographic areas of the state where a predation problem has been documented by the Department of Wildlife or Wildlife Services. Within those documented areas, management and control efforts shall be undertaken to minimize livestock, pets, or natural resource losses that may or are about to occur through predation. In the event that any of the aforementioned major mammalian predators pose a legitimate and immediate threat to human health and safety, based on the professional judgment of Department of Wildlife or Wildlife Service's personnel, those animals shall be killed.
10. Employ wildlife damage management methods which are selected on the basis of the species involved, utilizing currently approved methods in the proper mix according to the needs. These methods may include aerial hunting, M-44 devices, trapping, snares, denning and registered pesticides.
 - a. Pesticides must be federally and state registered, applied only by certified applicators, and should only be used in those damage management operations where its use and delivery system represent a selective, effective and efficient method of control.
 - b. Aerial hunting will be conducted only under authorization of the Department of Wildlife through issuance of an aerial depredation permit, and will be limited to bobcats, coyotes and ravens. Such permits shall be issued only to Wildlife Services or to landowners or tenants for use on land or property that is being damaged by wildlife.
11. Department of Wildlife, upon issuance of a depredation permit and with the aid and cooperation of the complainant, may take all available professional and economically feasible measures to alleviate or lessen the depredation or safety problem.

PROCEDURE

NRS 503.595 provides that after the owner or tenant of any land or property has made a report to the Department of Wildlife indicating that such land or property is being damaged or destroyed, or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed by wildlife, the Department may, after thorough investigation and pursuant to such regulations as the Commission may promulgate, cause such action to be taken as it may deem necessary, desirable and practical to prevent or alleviate such damage or threatened damage to such land or property.

The Commission has adopted regulations authorizing the Director or his designee to issue wildlife depredation permits. Specific permit programs include:

1. A wildlife depredation permit may be issued to the State Supervisor, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services or other qualified entity approved by the Department of Wildlife (permittee), to kill mountain lion, black bear and/or bobcat

causing or potentially causing a loss of private property, natural resources, or representing a threat to human health and safety.

a. Any report of natural resource damage to livestock, or pet loss, or threat to human health or safety received by the Department of Wildlife shall be forwarded immediately to Wildlife Services for action in accordance with subsection (b) of this section. If Wildlife Service's is unable to provide a reasonably immediate response when one is required, other local houndsmen may be contacted.

b. Upon receipt of a report from a property owner or the Department indicating that a mountain lion, black bear, or bobcat is causing or about to cause damage to private property or pose a threat to human health and safety, the permittee shall conduct an on-site investigation. If the results of the investigation support the complaint, the permittee may kill the animal. If the permittee cannot determine if the complaint is valid, he shall notify a representative of the Department of Wildlife, who shall conduct a joint investigation with the permittee to make the final determination.

c. The permittee shall salvage and give the hide and skull of mountain lion, black bear or bobcat killed under the authority of a depredation permit, to the Department within 72 hours.

2. A wildlife depredation permit may be issued to State Supervisor, Wildlife Services to kill the minimum number of game, furbearers, protected or unprotected wildlife species as necessary to control threat or damage to and property or to human health and safety.

3. Upon receipt of a valid mountain lion, black bear or bobcat complaint from an individual landowner or tenant, the Department may issue a limited permit to the owner to pursue and kill an animal that is in the act of killing his livestock.

a. The permittee shall notify a Department representative within 72-hours of killing a mountain lion, black bear or bobcat and shall salvage the hide and skull and give same to the Department of Wildlife.

4. The Department may issue permits authorizing the hunting or killing of coyotes and bobcats from an aircraft.

5. Furbearers may be taken or killed at any time in any manner, provided an individual or entity first obtains a permit from the Department of Wildlife. The Department of Wildlife or its' agents are authorized to enter upon the lands of a landowner and remove beaver or otter for the relief of other landowners and the protection of the public welfare.

6. The Department may issue permits consistent with federal law to take bald eagles, golden eagles, ravens, or other birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, whenever it determines that they have become seriously injurious to wildlife or agriculture or other interests that the injury can only be abated by killing some of the offending birds.

7. The State Division of Resource Protection shall enter into agreements with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, covering cooperative control of crop-destroying birds in addition to predatory animals and rodents to assure maximum protection against losses of livestock, poultry, game birds, animals and crops on a statewide basis. The State Department of Agriculture in accordance with NRS 555.010 and 555.021 responds to complaints involving vertebrate pests that are injurious to agriculture or public health.

8. The Department may issue a wildlife depredation permit to a landowner if needed for the prevention or alleviation of damage to standing or stored agriculture crops. This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, June 17, 2000.