

Jeff Mackay
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November 17, 2009

Dr. Gerald Lent, Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
1100 Valley Road
Reno NV 89523

Re: December 4, 2009 Nevada Wildlife Commission Meeting Agenda Item 9c

Dear Chairman Lent and Members of the Nevada Wildlife Commission,

I wish to bring to your attention my dedicated support for a proposal by the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to increase waterfowl hunting opportunities in Elko and White Pine Countys. As you may know, the NDOW proposal was prepared in response to objections by waterfowl hunters (myself included) in Elko County to the 2009-10 waterfowl season dates and at the request of the Elko County Wildlife Advisory Board at the August 2009 meeting of the Nevada Wildlife Commission. This is an important beginning to an issue that I have committed to assisting towards its resolution.

The NDOW proposed a waterfowl season for 2009-10 that opened one week later than in previous recent years (and now two weeks later than in the 1990's). I objected to the later opening date because it further limited an already short waterfowl season in northeast Nevada. Realistic waterfowl hunting opportunity in this part of the state is influenced by loss of marsh habitat, due to freezing conditions, that results in a departure of waterfowl in mid-November typically. It is my hope that a waterfowl season will be established for northeast Nevada that provides reasonable hunting opportunity for local waterfowl hunters as well as that for all Nevada waterfowlers. Such a season would start in late September or early October at a time when realistic huntable numbers of waterfowl are present in northeast Nevada.

As a serious and passionate waterfowl hunter, among other hunting pursuits, I strongly support the NDOW's desire to enhance waterfowl hunting opportunities within the state but especially in northeast Nevada due to limited hunting opportunities as resulting from the recent change to the hunting season. Having long enjoyed both abundant and less than abundant waterfowling experiences in northeast Nevada, I welcome the opportunity to work with the Commission, the County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and other interested organizations and individuals during the next two years in our efforts to achieve desirable and positive results.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
/s/ Jeff Mackay
Jeff Mackay
Ruby Valley

cc: Nevada Department of Wildlife
Elko County Wildlife Advisory Board
White Pine County Wildlife Advisory Board
Nevada Waterfowl Association
Interested Waterfowl Hunters