

December 3, 2009

Gerald Lent, Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
C/O Suzanne Scourby
1100 Valley Road
Reno, Nevada 89512

Dear Chairman Lent;

I am an avid waterfowl hunter in Northeastern Nevada. I have hunted waterfowl in Elko, Eureka, and Lander counties for approximately 20 years. During this time period, I have noticed a significant decline in both the number of waterfowl and the quality of the waterfowl hunting experience. I believe several factors contribute to this decline- loss of habitat due to drought, decreased access to private lands, increased hunting pressure due to population increases in the area, and most recently, the later season opening date. While some of these issues are beyond your control, I would like to request that the Commission consider establishment of a separate waterfowl hunt zone for Elko, White Pine, Lander, and Eureka Counties to take advantage of an earlier season when birds are in the area.

Typically, weather patterns in this area cause most water bodies to freeze sooner than other areas of the state. This creates a compressed hunting season for waterfowl due to lack of habitat. Coupled with the other factors above, the push back of the season opening dates this year significantly decreased the waterfowl hunting opportunities in our area. The few birds that were in the area this year moved out sooner because of the freezing temperatures, and with significantly less time to hunt at the beginning of the season, I feel that the Commission did a great disservice to the waterfowl hunters of Nevada.

I understand that NDOW's waterfowl biologist has issued a report congruent with a request to create a northeastern Nevada hunt zone (Elko and White Pine Counties), which would enable the zone to have independent season dates that fit our regional conditions (if the flyway committee council accepts the proposal). Regional conditions typically freeze birds out of the area one month into the season, and the establishment of this new hunt zone would allow the Commission to define separate season dates for our area to maximize waterfowl hunting opportunities and license/stamp revenues.

I fully support the proposal to establish a separate hunt zone for northeast Nevada to maximize revenues and provide a longer and higher quality waterfowl hunting experience. I request that the Commission consider this matter seriously, and I thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

Jeff Arnberger
562 Spring Valley Parkway
Spring Creek, NV 89815