

**STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**Commission Policy Number 31**

Number: **P-31**  
Title: Lahontan Cutthroat Trout  
Management Guidelines  
Reference: NRS 501.105,  
501.181  
Effective Date: March 22, 1996  
Reviewed Date: 2002

**PURPOSE**

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners establishes policies necessary to preserve, protect, manage, and restore wildlife and its habitat. The Lahontan cutthroat trout is one of five native salmonids currently found in Nevada. Historically, this fish existed in eleven lucustrine populations and an estimated 400 to 600 streams and rivers. Currently it exists in about 155 streams and 6 lakes and reservoirs in Nevada, California and Oregon. The Lahontan cutthroat trout was federally listed as “threatened” in 1975 under the Endangered Species Act. In Nevada, the Lahontan cutthroat trout is classified as a “game fish” by action of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

**POLICY**

The Board of Wildlife Commissioner does hereby establish the following policy to provide for the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of the Lahontan cutthroat trout.

1. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan approved in January 1990 by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be used as the guideline for the Nevada Department of Wildlife’s species management planning and implementation with the objective of recovery and delisting the species as rapidly as is biologically possible.
2. Distinguishable races of Lahontan cutthroat trout will be managed separately within the major drainage basins of historic Lake Lahontan. The three basin population segments include the Western Lahontan basin population segment, Northwestern Lahontan basin population segment, and the Humboldt River basin population segment.
3. In order to accomplish the recovery objectives, the Department will participate in cooperative efforts with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, all land management agencies, other state agencies, willing private land owners and local governments that are working toward the

recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout and their habitat.

4. Stream habitat restoration and management is a necessity on many waters before reintroductions can take place. On some streams, competing nonnative trout will have to be controlled or eliminated and/or physical barriers constructed to prevent competition or hybridization with Lahontan cutthroat trout.
5. Currently occupied and potential habitats as identified in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan are to be dedicated to cutthroat recovery efforts. No competing salmonids will be stocked in those waters.
6. Where deemed necessary to assist in the recovery of the species, specific waters or specific areas within individual waters may be closed to angling by the Wildlife Commission. In most cases, sportfishing for Lahontan cutthroat trout has no negative impact on the recovery program.
7. The Truckee, Carson, and Walker rivers are important salmonids recreational fisheries for rainbow and brown trout, both in Nevada and California. These streams support extensive angler use and are stocked annually with hatchery salmonids to support the high angler use and demand. Experimental releases of catchable size Lahontan cutthroat trout can be made to evaluate their contribution to the fishery.
8. Because of social, economic and environmental constraints, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners considers it impractical to reestablish in the near future, the Lahontan cutthroat trout in the main stems of the Truckee, Carson, and Walker River systems, thus annual stockings of other salmonids are authorized.
9. The Department of Wildlife will actively pursue solutions to maintaining suitable water levels and water quality in Walker Lake in order to enhance this important Lahontan cutthroat trout sport fishery. Only solutions consistent with the final decree entered in United States of America, Plaintiff vs. Walker River Irrigation District, et al., Defendants in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada (C-125) will be pursued. Any proposed redistribution of water shall be on a voluntary basis.
10. The Department of Wildlife will maintain brood stocks of pure strain Lahontan cutthroat trout both for use as recreational sport fish and, if needed, recovery stocks of selected races of cutthroat for reintroduction into recovery streams.
11. As the recovery objectives for maintenance of populations by basin

segments are met, the Department of Wildlife will petition the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for delisting of the species in that portion of its range.

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, MARCH 22, 1996.

---

B. Mahlon Brown, Chairman  
Board of Wildlife Commissioners