

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS



Agency Overview

**Senate & Assembly
Natural Resources**

February 12, 2015

Wildlife as Public Trust Resource

- Several key landmark Supreme Court rulings have made it clear the wildlife belong to no one but are to be held in trust by government for the benefit of present and future generations. This Public Trust Doctrine has become the legal bedrock for government to establish regulatory authority over wildlife.
- Federal agencies recognize that **“the states possess broad trustee and police powers over fish and wildlife within their borders, including fish and wildlife found on federal lands within a state.”** 43 C.F.R. § 24.3.
- Through federally levied excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment, states are able to leverage non-federal funds at a ratio of 3:1 (\$3 federal dollars/\$1 state dollar) in the name of fish and wildlife management.
- Nevada Department of Wildlife’s statutory authorities and responsibilities are outlined in NRS 501-506 (wildlife) and 488 (boating).

North American Model of Wildlife Conservation

Seven Principles:

- Wildlife is held in the public trust
- Regulated commerce in wildlife
- Hunting & fishing laws created through public process
- Hunting & fishing opportunities for all
- Non-frivolous use of wildlife
- Wildlife is an international resource
- Scientific management of wildlife

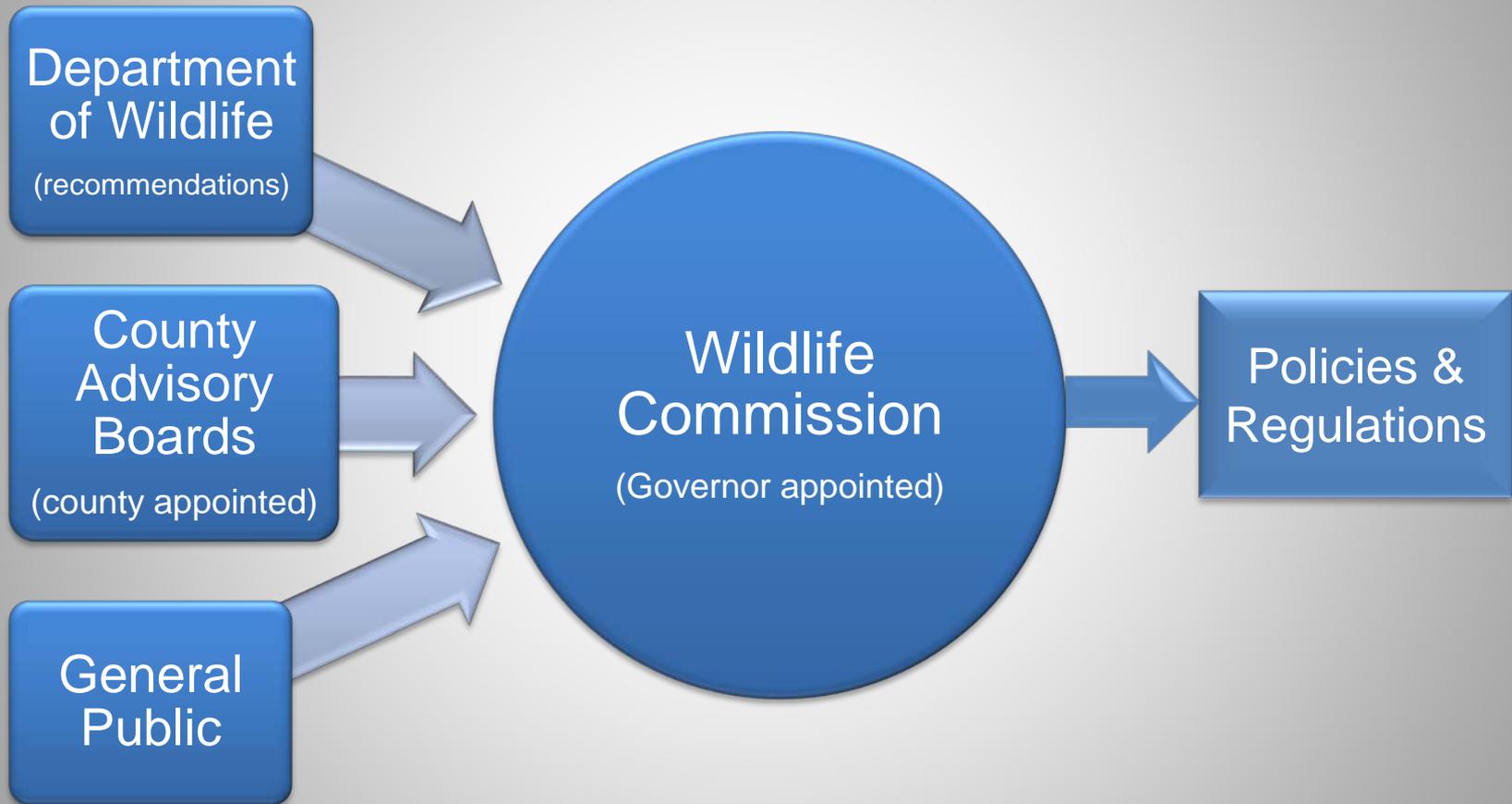
Importance of Wildlife & Boating Related Recreation To Nevada's Economy



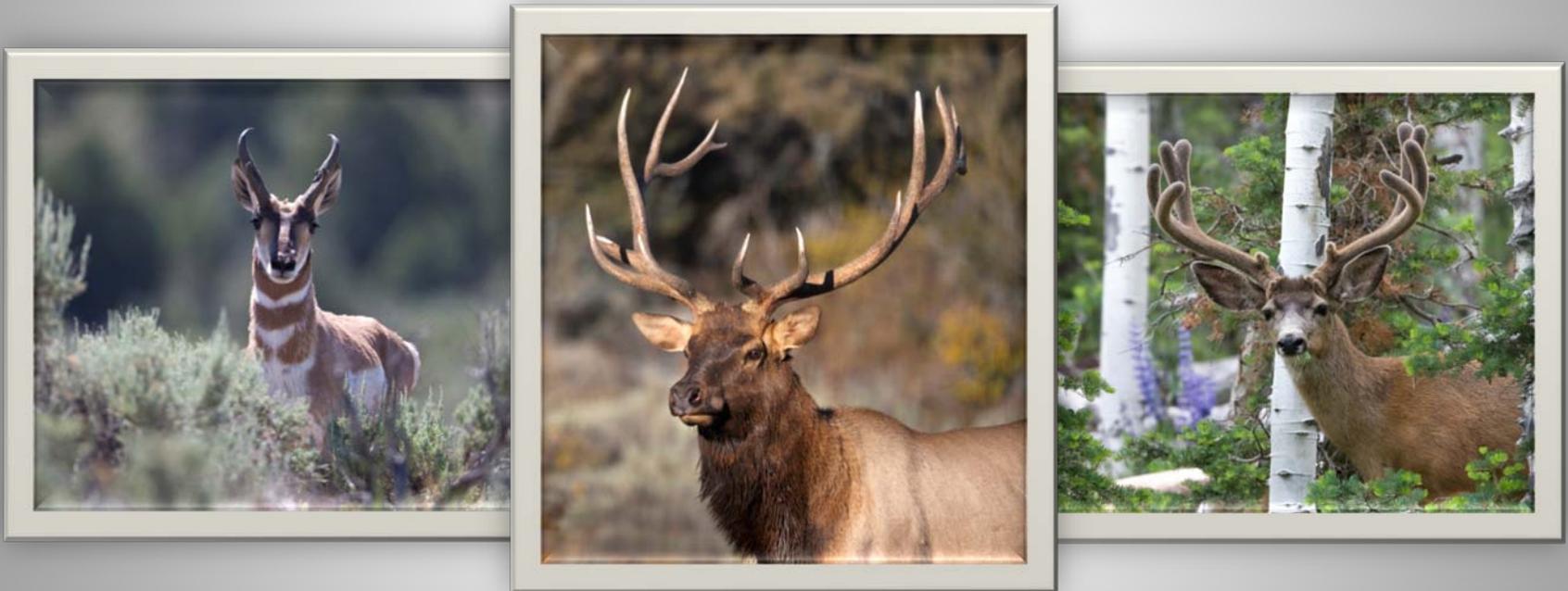
Total estimated value of wildlife & boating to Nevada's economy is **\$1,631,231,451** each year

*Sportfishing data from Southwick Associates, "Sportfishing in America An Economic Engine and Conservation Powerhouse." Hunting data from Southwick and Associates, "Hunting in America An Economic Engine and Conservation Powerhouse." Wildlife Watching data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Wildlife Watching in the U.S.: The Economic Impacts on National and State Economies in 2011" Addendum to the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation. *Boating data from survey conducted in 2011 by the Recreational Marine Research Center at Michigan State University for the National Marine Manufacturers Association. Tax revenue estimates at 7%.*

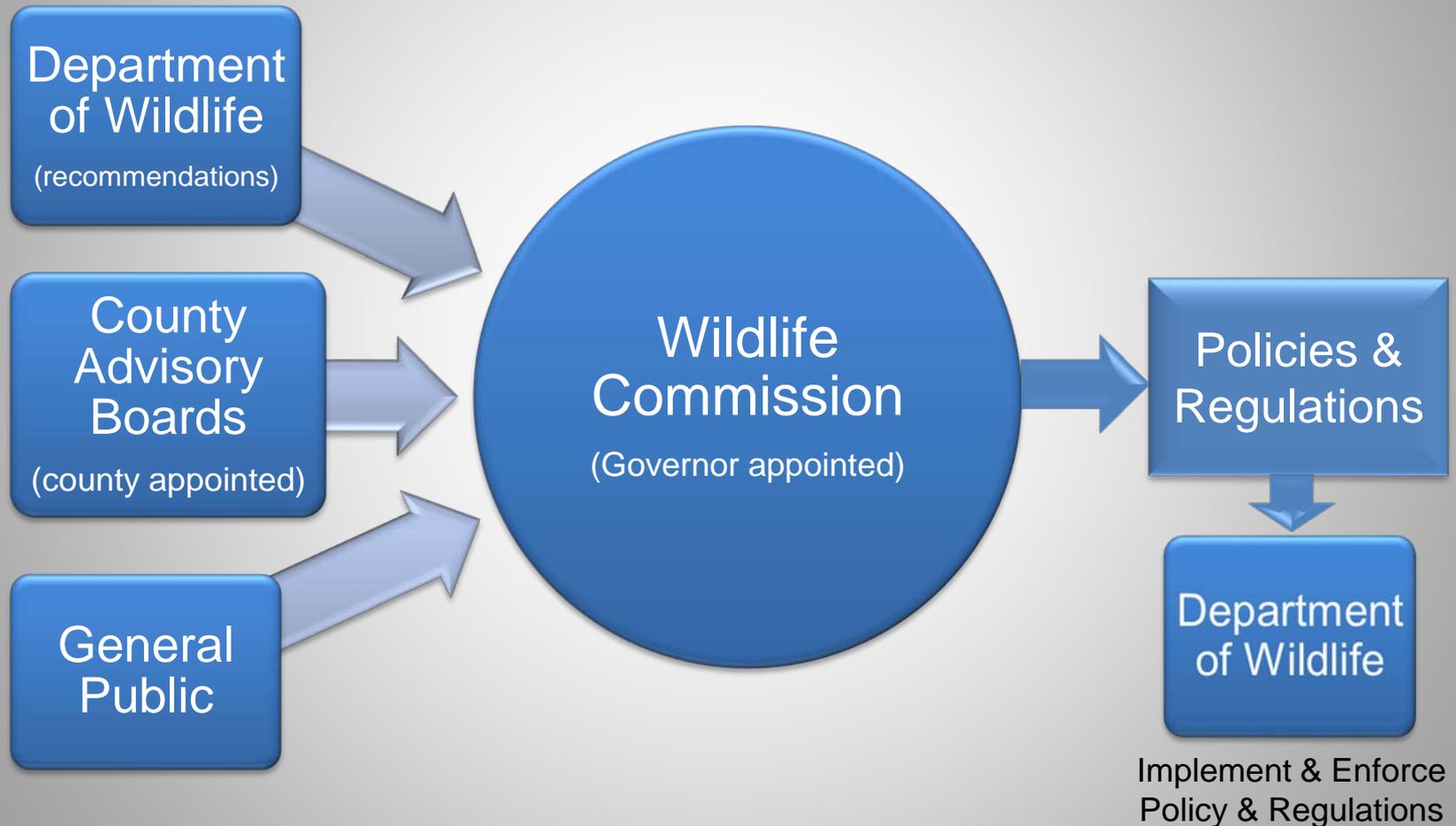
The Public Process



Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners



The Public Process



Wildlife Commission Members

Name	Qualification	County
Jeremy Drew, Chair	Sportsman	Douglas
Grant Wallace, Vice Chair	Agriculture	Esmeralda
Karen Layne	General Public	Clark
David McNinch	Conservation	Washoe
Peter Mori	Ranching	Elko
Bill Young	Sportsman	Clark
Chad Bliss	Sportsman	Eureka
Brad Johnston	Sportsman	Lyon
Paul Valentine	Sportsman	Clark

Wildlife Commission Duties

NRS 501.181:

- Establish broad policies for wildlife management and boating safety
- Provide guidance to NDOW
- Adopt regulations for wildlife management and boating safety
- Adopt regulations specific to hunting, trapping, and fishing
 - Considering NDOW recommendations, County Advisory Boards and public views at an open meeting

2013 Session Follow-up

- Black Bear Hunt (S.B. 82)
 - Comprehensive Review of Bear Hunt
 - completed and accepted by Commission

- Trapping Regulations (S.B. 213)
 - Trap Registration – regulation completed
 - deferred until after 2015 Session by Legislative Commission
 - Visitation Requirements – regulation completed
 - deferred until after 2015 Session by Legislative Commission

Nevada Department of Wildlife

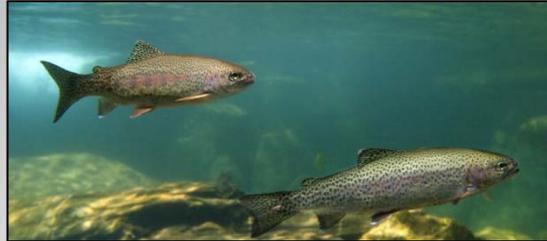


NDOW Mission Statement

To protect, preserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for its aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefit to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of this state.

NRS: 501-506 (wildlife), 488 (boating), 701 (energy)

Nevada's Wildlife Responsibilities



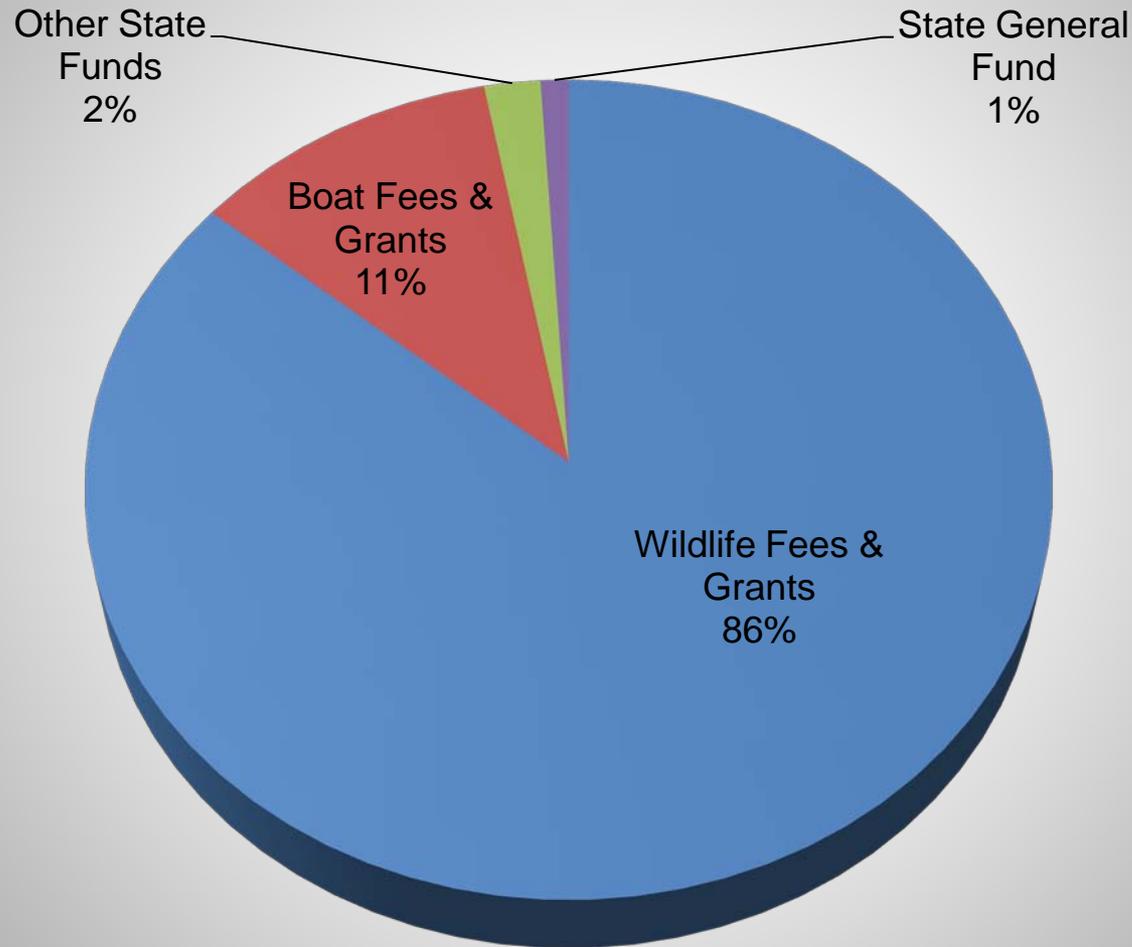
- 892 different species regularly occurring in Nevada
 - 456 species of birds
 - 173 species of fish
 - 161 species of mammals
 - 78 species of reptiles
 - 24 amphibian species



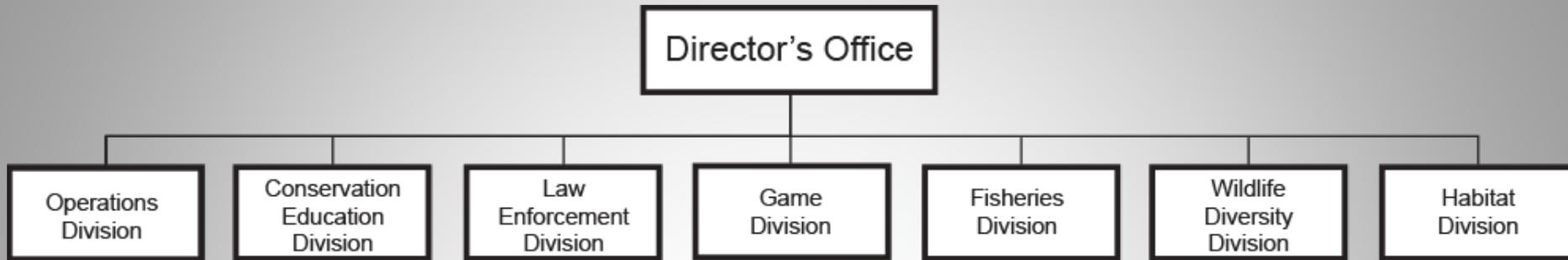
ESA – Listing Activities

- **Candidates(3) Threatened(10) Endangered(22)**

FY 2014 NDOW Operations Funding By Source



Department Structure

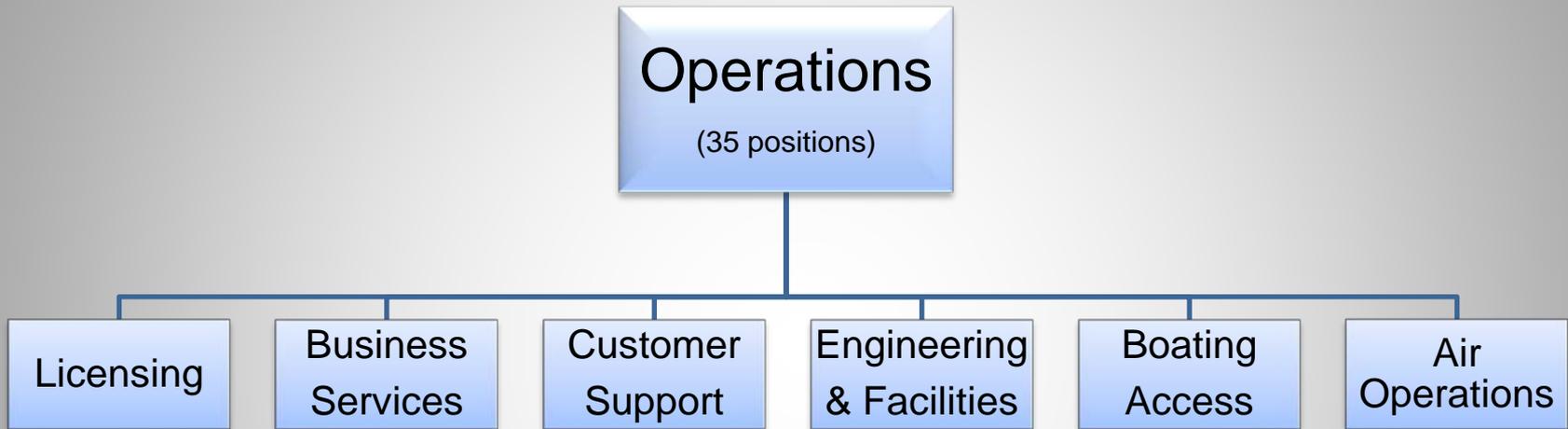


- 247 Full-time Employees
- 120 Buildings
- 32 Radio Towers
- 11 Wildlife Management Areas (120,000 ac.)
- 8 Major Facilities
- 7 Unique Divisions
- 4 Fish Hatcheries
- 3 Regions

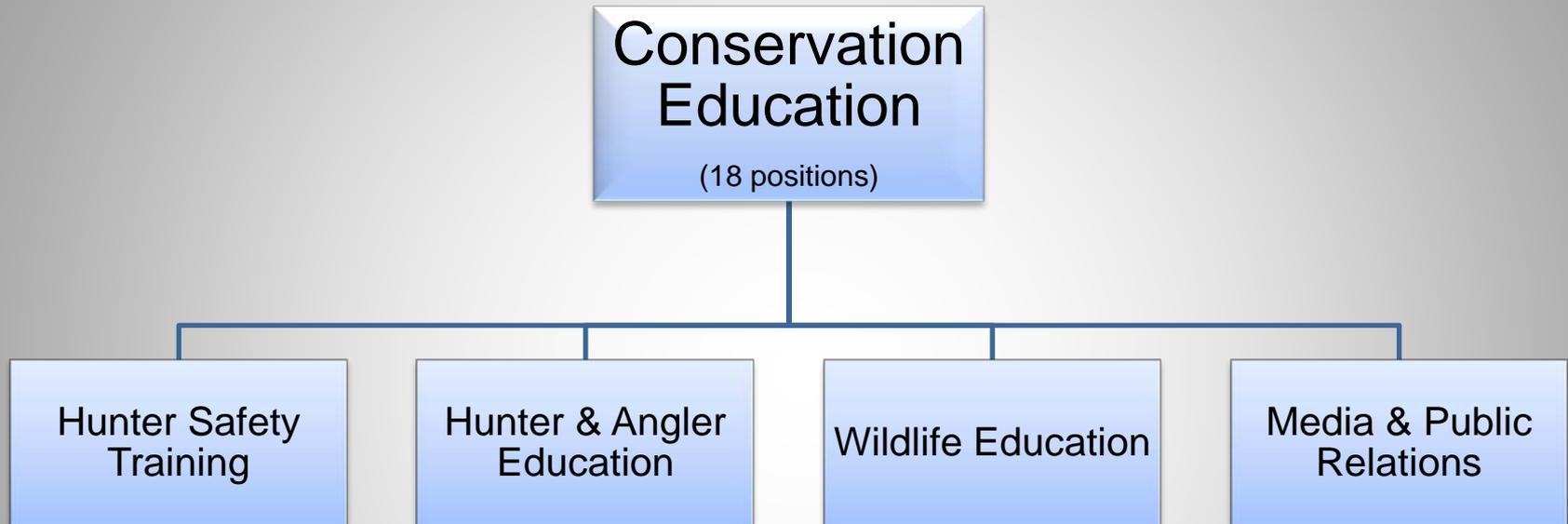
Director's Office (Administration)



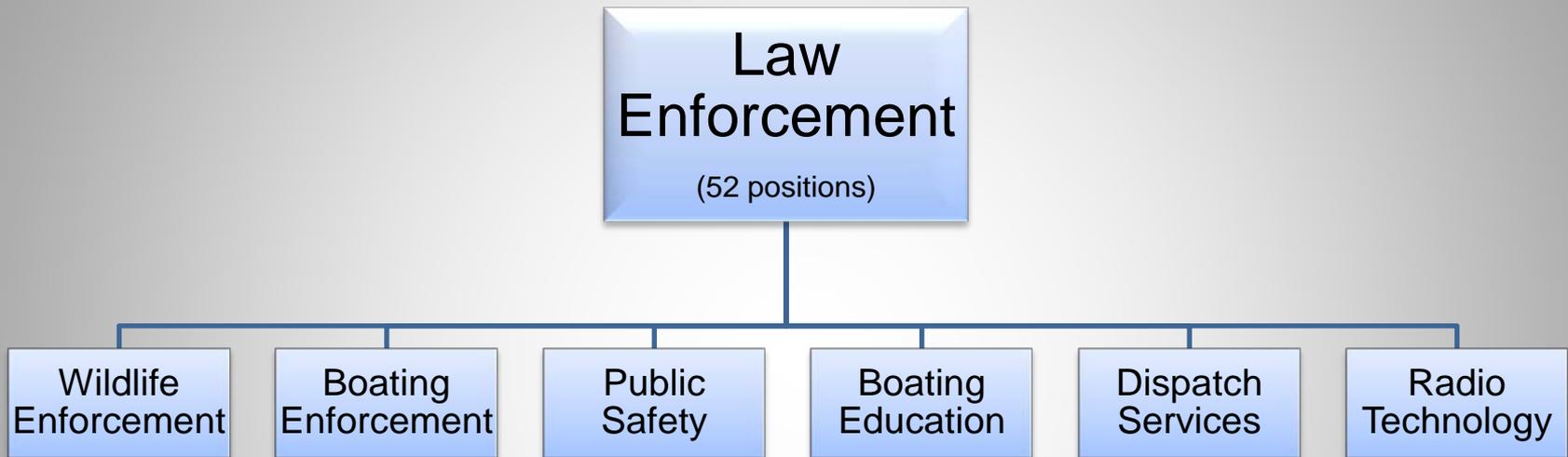
Operations Division



Conservation Education Division



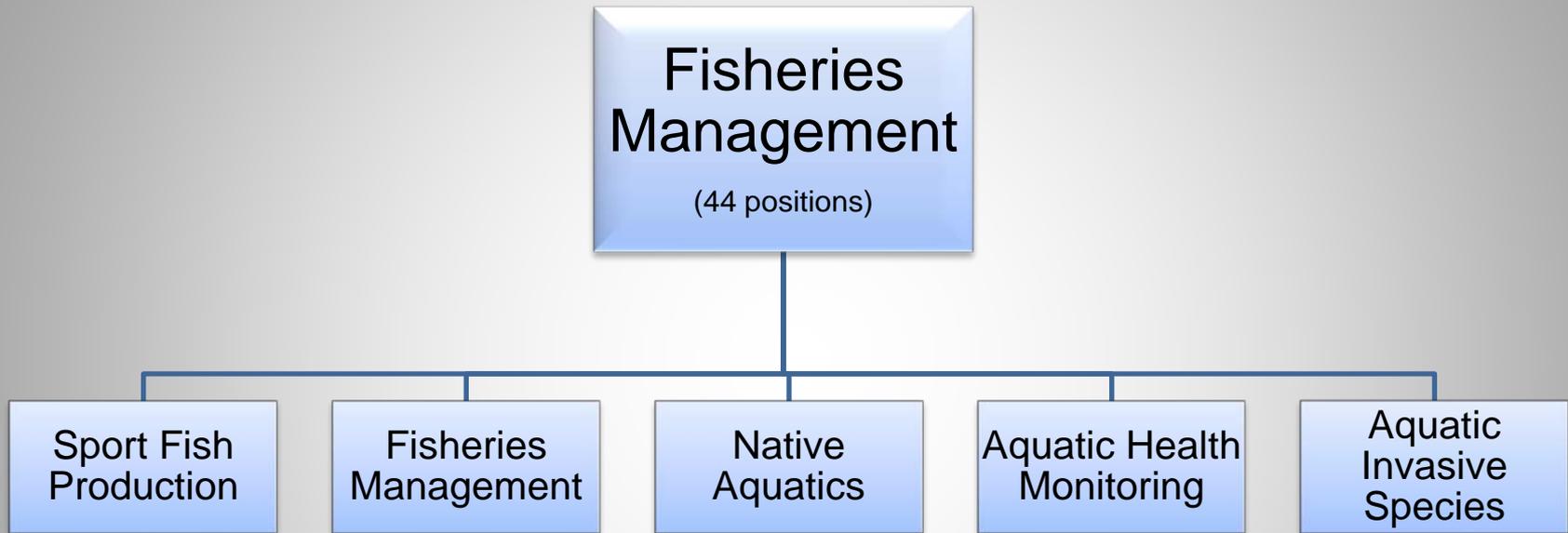
Law Enforcement Division



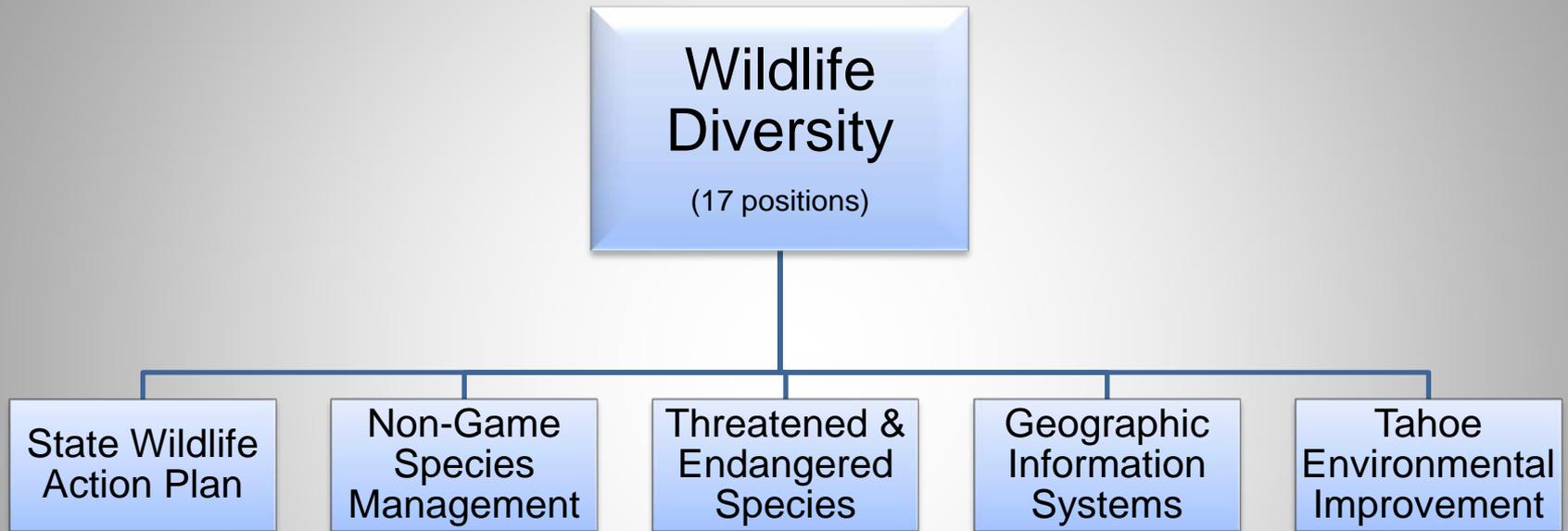
Game Management Division



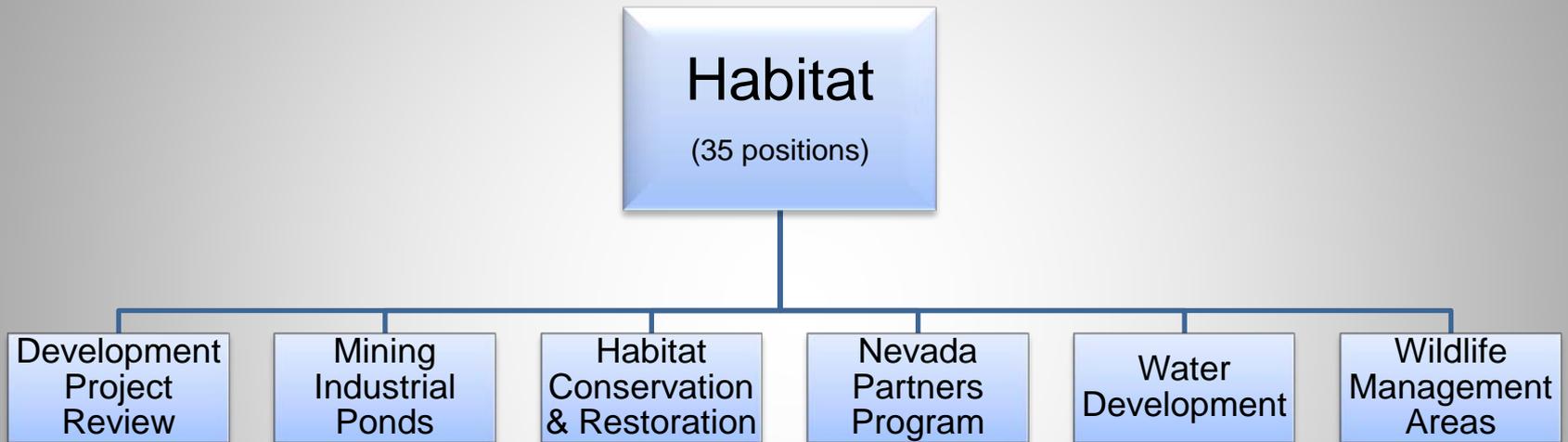
Fisheries Management Division



Wildlife Diversity Division



Habitat Division



Major Priorities Next Biennium

- Sage-grouse Conservation
- Habitat Restoration – Wildfire Rehabilitation
- Game Management
- Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- Energy and Other Development Reviews
- Urban Wildlife Conflicts
- Public Safety in the Water and on the Land
- Provide Equipment, Support and Training for Personnel Success

Sage-grouse Status Update

- Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT)
 - NDOW is an integral part of developing & implementing the state's plan
- Greater Sage-grouse conservation
 - continued coordination with local, state, and federal partners
 - leadership in habitat improvement and protection
 - providing the best science for informed decisions
- Bi-State Action Plan
 - discreet population of Sage-grouse
 - NDOW leadership in implementation of plan
 - leading to reconsideration of listing decision



Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update

- AB 167 – 2011 Session – Authorized Program
 - AIS decal fee for every boater on Nevada waters
 - \$445,000 in revenue FY14 – match for federal AIS grants
 - \$689,000 spent in FY 14
- State Parks Partnership
 - Inspection/ Decontamination/ Education Stations at Lahontan, Rye Patch, and Wild Horse Reservoirs
- Department Resources
 - Three statewide roving & three Lake Mead NRA inspection/ decontamination/ education stations
 - Game warden outreach & enforcement
 - Public information campaigns – Clean, Drain, & Dry
 - Early detection monitoring for Quagga & Zebra Mussels statewide

Major Budget Initiative: Urban Wildlife Management

General Fund Appropriation

FY16-FY17: \$450,000

Sportsmen Revenue Savings

FY16-FY17: <\$174,184>

- Emphasis on urban bear and urban coyote issues
- Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife grants do not allow funding of urban wildlife or human/wildlife conflict activities
 - Urban development issue, not a hunting or wildlife management issue
 - Current activity is limited to response to public safety threats
- Education and outreach
 - Information campaigns & seasonal positions
- Equipment and supplies
 - Tools for wardens and biologists
- Fund staff time spent on urban wildlife



Other Budget Initiatives

- Question 1 Bond Sales
- Big Game Scientific Database
- Personnel Training & Development
- Web Tools & Videography
- Spanish Outreach & Marketing
- Fiscal Services Personnel
- Consolidation of NDOW Headquarters
- Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Advanced Planning
 - Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area and NDOW HQ
- Vehicles & Equipment
- CIP – Las Vegas Office HVAC

Question 1

- Approved by Nevada Legislature 2001 and voters in 2002
- \$27.5 million authorized for NDOW
- Purpose – habitat improvements, property acquisitions, facilities
- Current Status:
 - \$24.5 million bonds sold
 - \$22.2 million spent since FY 2004
 - \$2.3 million projected to be spent in FY 2015
 - \$1 million request to sell additional bonds for FY 2016-2017



Ruby Pipeline Funds

- \$8.8 million received from Ruby Pipeline LLC in 2010
- Purpose – Sage-grouse and Pygmy Rabbit Conservation
- Cooperative Conservation Agreement signed by BLM, NDOW, and Ruby Pipeline LLC
 - Applies to three regional BLM districts (Surprise, Winnemucca and Elko) impacted by Ruby Project
 - Includes portions of Elko, Humboldt, and Washoe Counties
 - To be used only for habitat protection, habitat enhancement, research, or property acquisitions and easements
- Project proposals approved jointly by BLM and NDOW
 - Anyone can propose a project, most come from BLM and NDOW
 - Project review by committee of two agencies
 - NDOW administers funds through sub-grants and contracts
- \$5.5 million spent, \$3.3 million remaining
 - Funds are being matched approximately 2 to 1 from other sources

Department Bills

- AB 78 – Elk Damage Fee
- SB 41 – Electronic Duck Stamp
- AB 35 – Vessel Hull Numbering
- AB 82 – Fiscal Clean-up



Thank you for your time!

Contact:

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