

**STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**Commission Policy Number 64**

Number: **P-64**  
Title: Input on Land, Sales, Transfers,  
and Exchanges  
Reference: NRS 501.181  
Effective Date: March 23, 1990  
Amended Date: December 2, 1995  
Reviewed Date: 2002

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Department of Wildlife in matters relating to the sale, transfer and/or exchange of public lands in Nevada

**BACKGROUND**

Although the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 specifically states that "The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that (1) The public lands be retained in Federal ownership...", there are numerous Congressional Acts and attendant Federal programs that provide for land transaction activities. These land transactions often have implications for resident wildlife species and attendant public use. Examples of such activities include direct land sales, land withdrawals, land exchanges, desert land entries, land acquired for recreation and public purposes, land attendant to the Mining Law of 1872, and easements as provided for in the Food Securities Act of 1985. State agency involvement in these activities is provided for under the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and attendant land use planning processes.

Since Nevada is comprised of some 87% Federal land, much of which supports a wide variety of wildlife and attendant outdoor public recreational use, and in view of the Commission's responsibilities under state law to establish policies for the acquisition of lands, water rights and easements and other property for the management, propagation, protection and restoration of wildlife...this policy is intended to provide policy guidance to the Department for commenting on public land transactions through the NEPA process.

**POLICY**

It shall be the policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to support those land transactions or other activities attendant to public land which will either directly or indirectly preserve, protect and/or enhance wildlife habitat in addition to maintaining and/or improving public access to the public lands. In order to accomplish these objectives, the Department should consider the following listed criteria in providing written or verbal comment on public land transactions:

1. Public lands providing high wildlife values should remain in public ownership to insure the future protection of these values unless higher values for wildlife can be attained through a sale, transfer, or exchange.
2. Land exchanges should be supported only when the wildlife values on selected lands are equal to or greater than those wildlife values or potential wildlife values on offered lands.
3. In put on all public land transactions should consider the need for public access to and through both the offered and selected lands.
4. All land transactions must be in the public interest from a wildlife habitat protection and wildlife use standpoint.

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, DECEMBER 2, 1995.

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B. Mahlon Brown, Chairman  
Board of Wildlife Commissioners