



STATE OF NEVADA

#10

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

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MEMORANDUM**July 29, 2016**

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife, and Interested Publics

From: Brian Wakeling, Administrator, Game Division 

Title: **Commission Policy, Wildlife Contests, First Reading – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will have a first reading of a draft Commission Wildlife Contest Policy for review and change. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting.

Presenter: Commissioner and APRPC Chairman David McNinch and Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling

Agenda No: 10

Summary:

The Commission adopts policies and policy statements to clarify their position on specific issues when timely and pertinent. These policy statements, while generally not regulatory in nature, provide the Department, CABs, and publics with perspectives collectively held by the Commission that may guide future decisions that may be regulatory. The policy statements also assist the Department, CABs, and publics with guidance on why a particular policy is adopted, what factors may influence that policy, and provide insight into how similar issues may be considered in the future. These statements are necessarily broad to provide policy direction that may be used to guide decisions when relevant until such policies are amended or rescinded by another Commission.

The Commission has had several issues brought before it when a contest involving wildlife harvests are involved. In some instances, the regulatory authority of the Commission to deal with specific challenges has been in question. Yet the Commission has requested that the

Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy Committee (APRPC) develop a draft policy that addresses the philosophical perspective of the Commission in regards to wildlife contests. The APRPC discussed a draft policy on wildlife contests (attached) at the June 13, 2016 committee meeting. The APRPC believed it was fitting that the entire Commission discuss this draft policy because the diversity of opinion and perspectives on the Commission should be represented in the development of the final policy.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **DISCUSS AND DEVELOP A FINAL DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT ON WILDLIFE CONTESTS IN NEVADA.**

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number**Number:****Title:** Wildlife Contests**Reference:** NRS 501.100, 501.105**Effective Date:**

PURPOSE

This policy is to inform the public about the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) perspective regarding organized contests and the take of wildlife. The purpose, scope, and means of wildlife contests in general vary greatly, but the wildlife management profession does not generally recognize the use of contests as a tool with substantial wildlife management effect. Contests traditionally are used to encourage participation, recruit new participants, and provide a social contest in wildlife recreation. The Commission recognizes that it is the responsibility of the contest organizers and participants to follow all pertinent laws, regulations, and ordinances. Further, the Commission recognizes that contest organizers and contestants are responsible for exercising good judgment and respect for all wildlife, contestants, the general public, and outdoor traditions that oftentimes cannot be regulated. Contests can involve lethal take, observation, or photographs, but the effect of all must be considered when balancing sound judgement, ethics and competition.

THE COMMISSION SUPPORTS CONTESTS THAT

- Focus on the ethical, personal skill necessary to the contest;
- Encourage participation in wildlife-related activities and outdoor traditions;
- Follow all relevant wildlife laws, regulations, and ordinances;
- Adhere to the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation; and
- Encourage respect for the wildlife pursued, attention to the traditions exercised, and enjoyment of wildlife resources.

THE COMMISSION DOES NOT SUPPORT CONTESTS THAT

- Glorify the death of wildlife through insensitive photographs, inappropriate behaviors, or contests that simply enumerate take;
- Intentionally violate wildlife laws or intentionally conceal inadvertent violations of wildlife law;
- Do not use all parts and edible portions of the wildlife taken; and
- Are blatantly disrespectful to the wildlife being pursued.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners to encourage all organizers of and participants in wildlife contests to follow all wildlife laws; show respect for the wildlife pursued, taken, or photographed; and to exercise sound personal

judgement and high ethical standards.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the Commission.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION,
Month , Year.**

**Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

DRAFT