



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

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MEMORANDUM

January 17, 2017

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

**From:** Brian Wakeling, Administrator, Game Division 

**Title:** **First Reading, Commission Policy 26A, Transparency – For Possible Action**

**Description:** The Commission will conduct a first reading of Commission Policy 26A, Transparency, and may take action to amend or repeal. The policy is outdated and unnecessary.

**Presenter:** Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling

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Summary:

Commission Policy 26A was developed to establish a practice of transparency for the Commission and Department, particularly regarding development of harvest quotas for ungulates from survey through population estimation. Since adoption of this policy, subsequent legislation (Senate Bill 417) in the 2015 Legislature amended NRS 503.010 to preclude the release of specific locational information for 1 year after collection. This legislation was designed to protect specific locations of wildlife to reduce the likelihood that unscrupulous individuals would use information from radiotelemetry or survey to target or harass individual animals. This legislation is in conflict with portions of Commission Policy 26A.

Further, the Department publishes annual population estimates and survey totals in the *Big Game Status* reports associated with the quota setting meeting in May. This is a summary compilation of all data used to formulate season and quota recommendations. Information on detailed aspects of any summary data may be obtained by the public through a simple request, and all information (excepting specific locations for 1 year after collection) will be provided.

The existing policy is in conflict with statute and is unnecessary because the Department routinely provides summary data, this policy is deemed obsolete. Repealing Commission Policy 26A will not alter the transparency displayed by the Department.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **DISCUSS THE MERITS OF AMENDING OR REPEALING COMMISSION POLICY 26A AND VOTE TO FORWARD THE POLICY TO A SECOND READING AT A SUBSEQUENT COMMISSION MEETING.**

**STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**Commission Policy Number 26A**

**Number:** P-26A

**Title:** Transparency

**Reference:** NRS 501.181, 501.303, and 501.337.

**Effective Date:** April 16, 2011

**PURPOSE**

To develop a transparency of information provided to the public concerning methods of determining huntable populations and quotas for ungulates.

**POLICY**

It is the policy of this Commission to provide to the public and County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife all scientific information relied upon by the Department of Wildlife to enable them to submit recommendations to the commission for the establishment of regulations.

**PROCEDURE**

The Department will post on their website:

- a) All survey data from each biologist for their specific units,
- b) All adjustments/modifications made to the data by biologists,
- c) All carrying capacity data biologists have gathered, and
- d) All population models used by the biologists to determine ungulate populations and quotas, including explanations of all variables and inputs used.

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 April 16, 2011.



Chairman Scott Raine  
Board of Wildlife Commissioners