



## STATE OF NEVADA

#27

## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

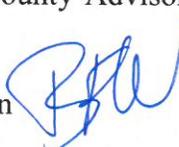
## Game Division

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste 120 • Reno, Nevada 89511  
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

## MEMORANDUM

September 2, 2016

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

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

**Title:** **2016 Fire Related Emergency Antlerless Deer Hunts for Portions of Units 067 and 068 — For Possible Action**

**Description:** The Department will brief the Commission on the effects of the Hot Pot Fire in portions of Units 067 and 068 north of Battle Mountain and provide a description of conditions on critical mule deer winter range in the area. The Department plans to use antlerless deer hunts during fall 2016 to reduce deer abundance and subsequent deer mortality on the winter range and also lessen potential impacts to the remaining habitat. The Commission may vote to support the Department's action.

**Presenter:** Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling and Eastern Region Game Division Supervisor Tom Donham

**Agenda No:** 27

Summary:

On July 2, 2016, the Hot Pot Fire ignited in northwest Elko County near the mining town of Midas, Nevada. The Hot Pot Fire burned about 122,300 acres (191 square miles) of important winter range for mule deer. About 30% of the Management Area 6 deer herd migrates through Hunt Unit 067 into the northwest portion of Unit 068 during December and April of a typical year. This area is known as the Izzenhood winter range. The Hot Pot Fire burned a majority of the remaining intact sage-steppe habitat in addition to previously burned areas that had been successfully restored using aggressive re-seeding projects and rehabilitation efforts. The

Department anticipates authorizing an emergency antlerless (doe) hunt for mule deer as a management tool to reduce the density of mule deer that occupy this region during winter.

The emergency management hunt is intended to reduce competition for forage and to lessen the amount of winter mortality that is expected to occur due to the fire. The Department does not expect that the emergency hunt will eliminate all mortality or competition that the mule deer herd will experience, but the reduction in numbers trying to survive on the affected range is expected to reduce the magnitude of the problems the herd will experience.

The Department intends to authorize 2 seasons for 500 tags each valid to take antlerless deer. These emergency seasons are structured to avoid overlapping with existing deer and elk seasons already scheduled within the units. The intended seasons are:

Seasons:

*Hunt 1 – Nov. 21 – Dec. 4 (14 days) – 500 Tags – antlerless deer*

*Hunt 2 – Dec. 5 – Dec. 18 (14 days) – 500 Tags – antlerless deer*

Open area:

*All of hunt unit 067 and that portion of hunt unit 068 incorporating the Santa Renia Mountains bounded on the west by the Rock Creek Drainage south from where Rock Creek passes under the Midas-Tuscarora Road to where Rock Creek passes over the Antelope Creek Road, the Antelope Creek Road east to the intersection of the Soldier Creek Road, and the Soldier Creek Road north to the intersection with the Midas-Tuscarora Road.*

Proposed application schedule:

*Thursday, September 29, 2016 – Application period opens*

*Thursday, October 20, 2016 – Application period closes*

*Friday, October 28, 2016 – Results posted*

*Friday, November 11, 2016 – Tags in the mail*

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED EMERGENCY ANTLERLESS DEER HUNT IN UNITS 067 AND 068 AS PRESENTED.**