

Committee Members: Commissioner Bliss (Chair),
Commissioner Mori, Commissioner Hubbs,
Commissioner Johnston, Tom Cassinelli

Staff to the Committee: Pat Jackson

**Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Wildlife Damage Management Committee
Nevada Department of Wildlife
4747 Vegas Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89108**

Thursday, January 28, 2016 / 6:00 p.m.

Draft Minutes

1. **Call to Order – Chairman Bliss**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Commissioner Chad Bliss
Commissioner Brad Johnston
Commissioner Pete Mori
Commissioner Kerstan Hubbs
Brian Wakeling, Game Division, NDOW
Pat Jackson, Game Division, NDOW

Absent:

Committee Member Tom Cassinelli

Others Present:

Connie Howard
Caron Tayloe
Stehanie Myers
Annoula Wylderich
Michael Reese
Jana Wright
Karen Layne
Lynn Cullens

Chairman Bliss noted that, by the action of Commission Chair Drew, Commissioner Hubbs replaced Commissioner Layne on the Committee.

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Jana Wright asked to confirm that the FY 2017 Predator Plan was not being discussed. Committee Chair Bliss noted this was correct, although the Commission would be hearing the FY2017 Predator Plan DRAFT and that review and possible suggested revision to Commission Policy 23 would be heard by the Committee. The FY2017 Predator Plan DRAFT would be reviewed by the Committee at its March 2016 meeting.

Commissioner Johnston moved to approve agenda. Commissioner Mori seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. **Approval of Minutes (May 14, 2015 and September 24, 2015)**

Commissioner Johnston noted that the September minutes may not have accurately captured Stephanie Myers' question about policy regarding who makes decisions on engaging predator control for the benefit of other species like mule deer. Commissioner Johnston also noted that he had replied to this question by identifying that recent legislation mandated specific levels of effort at predator removal, which took much of the discretion away from the Committee, the Commission, and the Department.

Stephanie Myers confirmed the inaccuracy.

Commissioner Johnston moved to approve the May and September minutes with a recommended adjustment in the September minutes that accurately reflected Stephanie Myers' question. Commissioner Mori seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Commissioner Hubbs arrived during this agenda item and voted on this motion.

4. **Discuss Potential Revisions to Commission Policy 23 Pertaining to Wildlife Damage Management – Pat Jackson and Brian Wakeling**

The Department prepared a revision to Policy 23 with suggested changes (submitted to the Committee as support material). The proposed revisions were intended to bring Commission Policy 23 into compliance with the provisions of AB 78 (submitted to the Committee as support material), update grammar and application of policy as observed in practice since it had been applied throughout the last year. Administrator Wakeling led the discussion of the recommended amendments and the Committee chose to review Policy 23 in segments. The amendments were added to the draft provided by the Department. (See attachment A-1, showing Department suggested revisions with Committee revisions added, and attachment A-2, showing revisions added only by the Committee).

Within the purpose, the Committee chose to clarify compliance with specific statute and added language consistent with AB 78.

There were no suggested additions within the Definition of Predation Management or Authority for Predation Management, except for a spacing deletion.

The Committee opened these sections to public comment:

Karen Layne expressed concerns that the policy is intended to be broad and many changes are specific to recent legislative changes and that those changes may need to be changed every time legislation does.

Constance Howard expressed concerns that the Department was not being allowed to use biology in the efforts to comply with AB 78.

Jana Wright questioned whether the reference to "complete information" in AB 78 actually applied to biological data or only to financial data.

Stephanie Myers agreed with previous speaker, and then reiterated her question about who is given the authority to make decisions on whether a mountain lion's life is more valuable or if cattle or wild prey lives' are more valuable.

The Committee continued their deliberations. Commissioner Johnston read the reference to the "complete information" in AB 78 and expressed his rationale for why this was intended to reference the financial data. The Committee also noted that whenever statute is amended, we need to amend policy.

Administrator Wakeling continued to lead the discussion through suggested changes to the section on Predation Management Policies. The Committee added specific language clarifying that statewide and regional projects are necessary to allow the Department to respond as needed to protect nonpredatory game and sensitive wildlife species as noted in the legislation. This language was added in sections A, B, and C. Further, the heading in section B was amended to similarly address nonpredatory game and sensitive wildlife species. Section C.1. was amended to clarify that investigations into predator communities was within the scope of what the Committee intended.

The Committee opened the section on Predation Management Policies to public comment.

Karen Layne noted that the plan, once adopted, should not be altered without having it readdressed through the Commission. It is important to note that it is a plan.

Mike Reese stated that the policy revision was on the right track, but needed to have a provision that allowed for emergency responses (such as when a fire might put a particular portion of the sage-grouse population in jeopardy).

The Committee reconvened deliberations on the section on Predation Management Plan. Administrator Wakeling led the discussion on the Departments proposed amendments. The Committee noted a location within the header of this section where education had been inadvertently retained. The Committee noted that the Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) needed to be added within section 7.

Substantial discussion ensued about the suggested elimination of the September meeting, and the opportunity for the public to have access to the reports submitted by the contractors and cooperators. The issues surrounding aspects of sensitive data release was of paramount concern.

The Committee opened the section on the Predation Management Plan to public comment.

Jana Wright expressed concern that reports were not included in the following year's plan.

Wildlife Staff Specialist Pat Jackson provided an explanation that all of the data included in the contractor and cooperator reports are included in the final Predator Report from the prior fiscal year, but the data is not included in the subsequent Predator Plan. The two documents are separate, but both are available on the Department's website.

Caron Tayloe wanted to be sure that no information was being withheld regarding take of public trust resources.

Connie Howard wanted to be sure the enumeration of animals taken lethally is included in the report.

Lynn Cullens of the Mountain Lion Foundation stated that reporting needed to be as complete as possible to help everyone evaluate if the objectives were being achieved.

The Committee further deliberated on the process forward. Commissioner Bliss described the intent to share this draft with the Commission in March for their consideration and action.

Commissioner Johnston moved that the policy be forwarded as edited to the Commission, while simultaneously seeking guidance from legal counsel on disclosure of contractor and cooperator reports. Commissioner Hubbs seconded the motion. The motion passed.

5. **Public Comment Period**

Mike Reese stated that the predation fee should be expanded as currently it is only charged for big game hunters, but small game hunters also benefit. This information should be shared publicly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

DRAFT

Attachment 1 (A-1)

STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

Commission Policy Number 23

Number: P-23
Title: Predation Management
Reference: NRS 501.100, 501.105,
501.181, 502.253
Effective Date: ~~December 7, 2013~~

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) in actions relating to Predation Management. This policy specifically seeks to establish an informed Predation Management ~~p~~Program, ~~a portion of which is primarily governed by the Predator Management Plan, which complies with NRS 502.253 and other applicable laws and~~ incorporates the tools of ~~public education,~~ habitat restoration ~~for protection of nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species, the study of research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife, predator-prey relationships,~~ and the use of ~~present and~~ proven, ~~as well as and~~ emerging, ~~state-of-the-art,~~ science-based techniques of predator population ~~control~~management and control.

DEFINITION OF "PREDATION MANAGEMENT"

Predation Management is herein defined as selective reduction ~~(i.e., limited lethal removal)~~ and/or management ~~(i.e., nonlethal actions)~~ of ~~carnivore predator~~ or corvid (common raven, American crow and black-billed magpie) populations ~~(i.e., nonlethal actions)~~ when and where predation is identified by the Department as a limiting factor negatively affecting another wildlife population. This includes monitoring and modeling of select ~~carnivore predator~~ populations, maintaining and/or managing viable ~~carnivore predator~~ populations, and studying select predator-prey relationships to better understand ecosystem function. It may also include the enhancement of various wildlife habitats according to the best available science as it relates directly to predator-prey relationships. ~~Finally, it may include providing educational opportunities to all Stakeholders to encourage wise, informed and responsible management of predators and their habitats in Nevada.~~

AUTHORITY FOR PREDATION MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 501.100 the Legislature has declared "wildlife in this State not domesticated and in its natural habitat is part of the natural resources belonging to the people of the State of Nevada. The preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife within the State contribute immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of these natural resources."

In accordance with NRS 501.105 and 501.181, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) shall establish policies necessary to the preservation, protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction, and management of wildlife and its habitat in this state.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) a fee of \$3 is charged for processing each application for a game tag to be used by the Department for costs related to:

- (a) ~~Developing and implementing an annual program for the management and control of predatory wildlife~~ Programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife;
- (b) Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of non-predatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species, sensitive wildlife species, and related wildlife habitat; and
- ~~(e)~~ Conducting research, as needed, necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife, including studies necessary to insure effective programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife; and
- ~~(d)~~ (c) Programs for the education of the general public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(2) the Department is hereby authorized to expend a portion of the money collected pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 502.253 to enable the State Department of Agriculture to develop and carry out programs described in subsection 1 of NRS 502.253.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(3) any program developed or wildlife management activity or research so conducted must be developed or conducted under the guidance of the Commission pursuant to NRS 501.181(2). Pursuant to NRS 501.181(2) the Commission shall guide the Department in its administration and enforcement of provisions of Title 45, Wildlife (Chapters 501–506) of NRS by establishment of broad policies for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this State.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) the revenue from the \$3 fee must be accounted for separately and deposited in the Wildlife Fund Account, of which 80% of the revenues from the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information must be spent for limited-lethal removal projects management and control of predatory wildlife in accordance with NRS 502.253(4)(b).

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(4)(a), the Department will first consider the recommendations of the Commission and the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) before adopting any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE

1. Conduct projects in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, and with an emphasis on identifying and refining prescriptive measures of Predation Management for use in the future. Lethal and/or nonlethal predator control efforts will be

undertaken in a targeted fashion to ~~minimize-reduce~~ specific wildlife-related losses to wildlife populations without endangering long-term health, vigor and/or ecological services provided by balanced and viable ~~carnivorepredator~~ and/or corvid wildlife populations.

2. Geographical locations for ~~p~~Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to ~~provide-synergy~~act in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.
3. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.
4. If needed to assess ~~p~~Project viability, statewide and ~~p~~Project area estimates of ~~carnivorepredator~~ and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
- 4.5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in predator management programs as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.
- 5.6. The Commission recognizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services), as a cooperating agency in lethal predatory wildlife control. The Commission also recognizes qualified contractors and cooperators may be available for predator population management, ~~habitat-management,~~ predator-prey research, ~~conservation-education~~ and ~~carnivorepredator~~ population monitoring efforts.
- 6.7. In terms of lethal control, Wildlife Services personnel or other contractors shall salvage (when practicable) and give the hide and skull of any mountain lion, black bear, and bobcat removed under authority of a contract with the Department within 96 hours of the removal.

B. POLICY FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NONPREDATORY GAME ANIMALS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIESRELATED WILDLIFE HABITAT

1. Wildlife management activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to ~~minimize-reduce~~ specific wildlife losses including, but not limited to, enhancing habitat conditions to better provide adequate forage, water, or cover or remove naturally occurring habitat or corvid and raptor perches that increases the susceptibility to predation. Such wildlife management activities will be conducted in accordance with existing land use agreements.
2. Geographical locations for ~~p~~Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to ~~actprovide-synergy~~ in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.
3. Wildlife management activities will be conducted in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, with an emphasis on improving wildlife populations and their habitats.
4. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife management activities as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.

4.5. If needed to assess pProject viability, statewide and pProject area estimates of carnivorepredator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

5.6. Habitat restoration efforts such as selective piñon-juniper removal, riparian zone improvement or habitat rehabilitation after fire will be promoted that provide wildlife habitats wherein game and nongame species alike can find suitable nesting, brood-rearing, fawning, transition and wintering habitats, complete with ample security cover for the purpose of eluding predators and limiting corvid and raptor perching that facilitates predation.

6.7. Habitat pProjects may be considered after all necessary state and federal pProject clearances have been completed and documentation has been provided to the Wildlife Damage Management Committee of the Commission (CommitteeWDMC)/Commission prior to the February meeting of the CommitteeWDMC/ Commission.

C. POLICY FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR MANAGING AND CONTROLLING PREDATORY WILDLIFE

1. Wildlife research activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to address questions regarding predator-prey or predator community relationships including improved control techniques, predator-prey responses to habitat restoration activities and influences of large and medium-sized carnivorepredators on ecosystems.

2. Geographical locations for pProject areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations and habitats in the area, as well as the need for objective science on subjects related to Predation Management. Priority will be given to actprovide synergy in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.

3. Wildlife research efforts will be promoted that: a) provide wildlife managers with objective scientific analysis for making sound decisions regarding future wildlife population and habitat management; and b) provide insights into the role predators play in maintaining vigorous and healthy ecosystems.

4. If needed to assess Pproject viability, statewide and pProject area estimates of carnivorepredator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife research efforts as needed to identify better techniques for predator control and management.

~~D. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE~~

~~1. Conservation education efforts will be encouraged to: a) educate the public on the purpose of Predation Management; and b) produce an informed citizenry as to the essential role that predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem.~~

~~2. Geographical locations for conservation education Project areas will be determined based on statewide and individual community needs for public~~

~~education relative to predators and Predation Management.~~

PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the above Commission policies, the Department, in coordination with and under the guidance of the ~~Committee-WDMC~~, shall prepare a Predation Management Plan. The Predation Management Plan shall identify and implement (a) programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife for the benefit of other species of wildlife ("Control Program"), (b) wildlife management activities for the protection of non-predatory animals and related wildlife habitat ("Management Activity"), and (c) research relating to predatory wildlife and research to determine successful techniques and effective programs for managing and/or controlling predatory wildlife and related habitats ("Research Program"), ~~and (d) programs for education of the public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife and the role predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem ("Education Program")~~, all to be conducted for the fiscal period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of each year (Fiscal Year).

Whenever possible, Control Programs, Management Activities, and Research Programs ~~and Education Programs~~ should be integrated on the landscape to provide the best possible outcome in terms of healthy functioning ecosystems and the furthering of wildlife management science.

The Predation Management Plan shall be developed each Fiscal Year according to the following procedure:

1. The Department shall prepare a Draft Predation Management Plan (Draft Plan) outlining proposed actions needed for the protection, preservation, management and restoration of wildlife populations and their habitats. Descriptions of Control Programs, Management Activities, and Research Programs ~~and/or Education Programs~~, collectively referred to as "pProject(s)," shall include specific pProject goals, a detailed description of anticipated results, predator and prey wildlife species that may be ~~impacted~~affected, whether or not the pProject will span more than one Fiscal Year, and if the pProject is for a Control Program, a statement of why the Department believes that the predatory wildlife is a limiting factor in the growth and or maintenance of a target prey population. A description of the pProject area should be provided, including a map, ~~as well as~~ an assessment of the habitat conditions, and identification if ~~whether~~ such habitat is a migratory corridor, summer range, winter range, fawning, calving, nesting or brood-rearing habitat or a combination of any of the above. Regarding all pProjects proposed to be continued from the prior Fiscal Year, the Draft Plan shall address the Department's comments from the prior Fiscal Year's Status Report.
2. A Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Commission during its first meeting of the calendar year~~the February Commission meeting (typically February)~~. In so doing, the Draft Plan will be made available to all "Stakeholders," including but not limited to contractors (including Wildlife Services), County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMWs), PARC, conservation organizations, and the general public. This Draft Plan shall serve as a vehicle to elicit suggestions for changes, adjustments, new ideas and input from all Stakeholders.

2-3. The Department shall attend a meeting of the PARC between the Commission's first meeting of the year and the Commission's March meeting to present and discuss the Draft Plan.

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3-4. The CommitteeWDMC shall set a meeting in conjunction with the March meeting of the Commission to review all comments received on the Draft Plan. After consideration of findings and recommendations of the Department, and with respect to lethal cControl Programsprojects, recommendations of Wildlife Services and other contractors, PARC, as well as all comments and recommendations received, the Chairman of the CommitteeWDMC shall make a preliminary report to the Commission on which pProjects should be funded in the subsequent Fiscal Year. At the March meeting, the Commission shall review the report of the CommitteeWDMC and may vote to make a recommendation to the Department on the ranking of all pProjects. If the Commission determines that more pProjects are proposed than funding is available for the subsequent Fiscal Year, this will factor into their deliberations and recommendations to the Department.

4-5. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft Plan) and present it to the CommitteeWDMC and/or Commission at their May Meeting. The Final Draft Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made available to the public and distributed to CABMWs and PARC. The Commission shall review the Final Draft Plan and shall take further comments from the Department, Stakeholders, PARC, and with respect to lethal Control Programs, from Wildlife Services and other contractors. After consideration of such comments, the Commission shall make its final recommendations to the Department on the Final Draft Plan.

5-6. On or before June 30, after consideration of all comments, the Department shall finalize the Predation Management Plan for the next Fiscal Year. The Final Predation Management Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made available to the public and distributed to members of the Commission and CABMWs and to all contractors and cooperators.

6-7. If, at any other time of the year, the Department, in consultation with the CommitteeWDMC and PARC, identifies additional or changing Predation Management needs and determines that money is available to fund additional pProjects, the Department may approve pProjects which are urgent in nature or which present unique opportunities.

7-8. Contracts or grants will be finalized and/or amended as soon as possible after the finalization of the Predation Management Plan.

8-9. Any time after June 30 but no later than August 1, each contractor or grantee of a pProject from the previous Fiscal Year shall submit a report to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Department and which has been developed in consultation with the CommitteeWDMC. Such reports may include:

- (a) For a Control Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) for lethal Control Programs, required quarterly removal reports, (3) for lethal and nonlethal Control Programs, a detailed description of results may include: a) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Control Program area; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; c) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Control Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years;
- (b) For a Management Activity, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of acreages treated and habitat enhancement responses to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Management Activity area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of Management Activities (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years; and
- ~~(c)~~ (e) For a Research Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of research results and conclusions to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment (if applicable) in the Research Program area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas within designated pProject areas (if applicable); d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Research Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey dynamics and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years; and.
- ~~(c)~~ (d) For an Education Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a complete analysis of Education Program efforts to date including but not limited to how many citizens, schools and/or civic groups benefited directly to date; and (3) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years.

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~~9. The Department shall review reports in cooperation with all contractors and cooperators for Projects and shall submit copies of the reports and comments of the Department to the Committee and Stakeholders on or before September 1. The extent to which the Project achieved goals and required results will be the focus of these comments. The Committee will review such comments at the September meeting of the Committee. After consideration of all comments from the Department, as well as comments from all Stakeholders, the Chairman of the Committee will provide a report to the Commission at the September Commission meeting.~~

10. The Department shall prepare an annual Predation Management Status Report (Status Report) detailing results of the previous Fiscal Year's pProjects. This report will include a summary of all lethal removal reports, excluding any sensitive data, proprietary information, or time-sensitive locational information. This Status Report shall be presented at the last Commission meeting of each calendar year.

11. This Status Report will be used in Department and Commission deliberations in subsequent years and in future Predation Management planning efforts.

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

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION,-
December 7, 2013.**



**Chairman Jack Robb
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 23

Number: P-23
Title: Predation Management
Reference: NRS 501.100, 501.105,
501.181, 502.253
Effective Date:

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) in actions relating to Predation Management. This policy specifically seeks to establish an informed Predation Management Program, primarily governed by the Predator Management Plan, which [complies with NRS 502.253 and other applicable laws and](#) incorporates the tools of habitat restoration, ~~the study for protection of predator-prey relationships~~ [nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species, research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife](#), and the use of proven and emerging, science-based techniques of predator population management [and control](#).

DEFINITION OF “PREDATION MANAGEMENT”

Predation Management is herein defined as selective reduction (i.e., limited lethal removal) and/or management (i.e., nonlethal actions) of predator or corvid (common raven, American crow and black-billed magpie) populations when and where predation is identified by the Department as a limiting factor negatively affecting another wildlife population. This includes monitoring and modeling of select predator populations, maintaining and/or managing viable predator populations, and studying select predator-prey relationships to better understand ecosystem function. It may also include the enhancement of various wildlife habitats according to the best available science as it relates directly to predator-prey relationships.

AUTHORITY FOR PREDATION MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 501.100 the Legislature has declared “wildlife in this State not domesticated and in its natural habitat is part of the natural resources belonging to the people of the State of Nevada. The preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife within the State contribute immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of these natural resources.”

In accordance with NRS 501.105 and 501.181, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) shall establish policies necessary to the preservation, protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction, and management of wildlife and its habitat in this state.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) a fee of \$3 is charged for processing each application for a game tag to be used by the Department for costs related to:

- (a) Developing and implementing an annual program for the management and control of predatory wildlife;
- (b) Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of non-predatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species ; and
- (c) Conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(2) the Department is hereby authorized to expend a portion of the money collected pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 502.253 to enable the State Department of Agriculture to develop and carry out programs described in subsection 1 of NRS 502.253-

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(3) any program developed or wildlife management activity or research so conducted must be developed or conducted under the guidance of the Commission pursuant to NRS 501.181(2). Pursuant to NRS 501.181(2) the Commission shall guide the Department in its administration and enforcement of provisions of Title 45, Wildlife (Chapters 501–506) of NRS by establishment of broad policies for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this State.

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) the revenue from the \$3 fee must be accounted for separately and deposited in the Wildlife Fund Account, of which 80% of the revenues from the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information must be spent for lethal management and control of predatory wildlife in accordance with NRS 502.253(4)(b).

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(4)(a), the Department will first consider the recommendations of the Commission and the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) before adopting any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

A. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE

1. Conduct projects in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, and with an emphasis on identifying and refining prescriptive measures of Predation Management for use in the future. Lethal and/or nonlethal predator control efforts will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to reduce specific wildlife-related losses to wildlife populations without endangering long-term health, vigor and/or ecological services provided by balanced and viable predator and/or corvid wildlife populations.
2. Geographical locations for project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to act in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.
3. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife

populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.

4. If needed to assess project viability, statewide and project area estimates of predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in predator management programs as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.

~~5-6.~~ The Commission recognizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services), as a cooperating agency in lethal predatory wildlife control. The Commission also recognizes qualified contractors and cooperators may be available for predator population management, predator-prey research, and predator population monitoring efforts.

~~6-7.~~ In terms of lethal control, Wildlife Services personnel or other contractors shall salvage (when practicable) and give the hide and skull of any mountain lion, black bear, and bobcat removed under authority of a contract with the Department within 96 hours of the removal.

B. POLICY FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NONPREDATORY GAME ANIMALS AND RELATED SENSITIVE WILDLIFE HABITAT SPECIES

1. Wildlife management activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to reduce specific wildlife losses including, but not limited to, enhancing habitat conditions to better provide adequate forage, water, or cover or remove naturally occurring habitat or corvid and raptor perches that increases the susceptibility to predation. Such wildlife management activities will be conducted in accordance with existing land use agreements.

2. Geographical locations for project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to act in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.

3. -Wildlife management activities will be conducted in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, with an emphasis on improving wildlife populations and their habitats.

4. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife management activities as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.

~~4-5.~~ If needed to assess project viability, statewide and project area estimates of predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

~~5-6.~~ Habitat restoration efforts such as selective piñon-juniper removal, riparian zone improvement or habitat rehabilitation after fire will be promoted that provide wildlife habitats wherein game and nongame species alike can find suitable nesting, brood-rearing, fawning, transition and wintering habitats, complete with ample security cover for the purpose of eluding predators and limiting corvid and raptor perching that facilitates predation.

~~6-7.~~ Habitat projects may be considered after all necessary state and federal

project clearances have been completed and documentation has been provided to the Wildlife Damage Management Committee of the Commission (WDMC)/Commission prior to the February meeting of the WDMC/Commission.

C. POLICY FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR MANAGING AND CONTROLLING PREDATORY WILDLIFE

1. Wildlife research activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to address questions regarding predator-prey or predator community relationships including improved control techniques, predator-prey responses to habitat restoration activities and influences of large and medium-sized predators on ecosystems.
2. Geographical locations for Projectproject areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations and habitats in the area, as well as the need for objective science on subjects related to Predation Management. Priority will be given to act in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.
3. Wildlife research efforts will be promoted that: a) provide wildlife managers with objective scientific analysis for making sound decisions regarding future wildlife population and habitat management; and b) provide insights into the role predators play in maintaining vigorous and healthy ecosystems.
4. If needed to assess Projectproject viability, statewide and Projectproject area estimates of predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife research efforts as needed to identify better techniques for predator control and management.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the above Commission policies, the Department, in coordination with and under the guidance of the WDMC shall prepare a Predation Management Plan. The Predation Management Plan shall identify and implement (a) programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife for the benefit of other species of wildlife ("Control Program"), (b) wildlife management activities for the protection of non-predatory animals and related wildlife habitat ("Management Activity"), and (c) research relating to predatory wildlife and research to determine successful techniques and effective programs for managing and/or controlling predatory wildlife and related habitats ("Research Program"), and (d) programs for education of the public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife and the role predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem ("Education Program"), all to be conducted for the fiscal period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of each year (Fiscal Year).

Whenever possible, Control Programs, Management Activities, and Research Programs should be integrated on the landscape to provide the best possible outcome in terms of healthy functioning ecosystems and the furthering of wildlife management science.

The Predation Management Plan shall be developed each Fiscal Year according to the following procedure:

1. The Department shall prepare a Draft Predation Management Plan (Draft Plan) outlining proposed actions needed for the protection, preservation, management and restoration of wildlife populations and their habitats. Descriptions of Control Programs, Management Activities, and Research Programs, collectively referred to as "[Projectproject\(s\)](#)," shall include specific [Projectproject](#) goals, a detailed description of anticipated results, predator and prey wildlife species that may be affected, whether or not the [Projectproject](#) will span more than one Fiscal Year, and if the [Projectproject](#) is for a Control Program, a statement of why the Department believes that the predatory wildlife is a limiting factor in the growth and or maintenance of a target prey population. A description of the [Projectproject](#) area should be provided, including a map, an assessment of the habitat conditions, and identification if such habitat is a migratory corridor, summer range, winter range, fawning, calving, nesting or brood-rearing habitat or a combination of any of the above. Regarding all [Projectsprojects](#) proposed to be continued from the prior Fiscal Year, the Draft Plan shall address the Department's comments from the prior Fiscal Year's Status Report.
2. A Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Commission during its first meeting of the calendar year (typically February). In so doing, the Draft Plan will be made available to all "Stakeholders," including but not limited to contractors (including Wildlife Services), County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMWs), PARC, conservation organizations, and the general public. This Draft Plan shall serve as a vehicle to elicit suggestions for changes, adjustments, new ideas and input from all Stakeholders.
3. The Department shall attend a meeting of the PARC between the Commission's first meeting of the year and the Commission's March meeting to present and discuss the Draft Plan.
4. The WDMC shall set a meeting in conjunction with the March meeting of the Commission to review all comments received on the Draft Plan. After consideration of findings and recommendations of the Department, and with respect to lethal control [Projectsprojects](#), recommendations of Wildlife Services and other contractors, PARC, as well as all comments and recommendations received, the Chairman of the WDMC shall make a preliminary report to the Commission on which [Projectsprojects](#) should be funded in the subsequent Fiscal Year. At the March meeting, the Commission shall review the report of the WDMC and may vote to make a recommendation to the Department on the ranking of all [Projectsprojects](#). If the Commission determines that more [Projectsprojects](#) are proposed than funding is available for the subsequent Fiscal Year, this will factor into their deliberations and recommendations to the Department.
5. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft Plan) and present it to the WDMC and/or Commission at their May Meeting. The Final Draft Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made

available to the public and distributed to CABMWs and PARC. The Commission shall review the Final Draft Plan and shall take further comments from the Department, Stakeholders, PARC, and with respect to lethal Control Programs, from Wildlife Services and other contractors. After consideration of such comments, the Commission shall make its final recommendations to the Department on the Final Draft Plan.

6. On or before June 30, after consideration of all comments, the Department shall finalize the Predation Management Plan for the next Fiscal Year. The Final Predation Management Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made available to the public and distributed to members of the Commission and CABMWs and to all contractors and cooperators.
7. If, at any other time of the year, the Department, in consultation with the WDMC [and PARC](#), identifies additional or changing Predation Management needs and determines that money is available to fund additional [Projectsprojects](#), the Department may approve [Projectsprojects](#) which are urgent in nature or which present unique opportunities.
8. Contracts or grants will be finalized and/or amended as soon as possible after the finalization of the Predation Management Plan.
9. Any time after June 30 but no later than August 1, each contractor or grantee of a [Projectproject](#) from the previous Fiscal Year shall submit a report to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Department and which has been developed in consultation with the WDMC. Such reports may include:
 - (a) For a Control Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) for lethal Control Programs, required quarterly removal reports, (3) for lethal and nonlethal Control Programs, a detailed description of results may include: a) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Control Program area; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; c) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Control Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years;
 - (b) For a Management Activity, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of acreages treated and habitat enhancement responses to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Management Activity area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of Management Activities (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years; and

(c) For a Research Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of research results and conclusions to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment (if applicable) in the Research Program area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas within designated ~~Project~~project areas (if applicable); d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Research Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey dynamics and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years.

10. The Department shall prepare an annual Predation Management Status Report (Status Report) detailing results of the previous Fiscal Year's ~~Projects~~projects. This report will include a summary of all lethal removal reports, excluding any sensitive data, proprietary information, or time-sensitive locational information. This Status Report shall be presented at the last Commission meeting of each calendar year.

11. This Status Report will be used in Department and Commission deliberations in subsequent years and in future Predation Management planning efforts.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION,.

**Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**