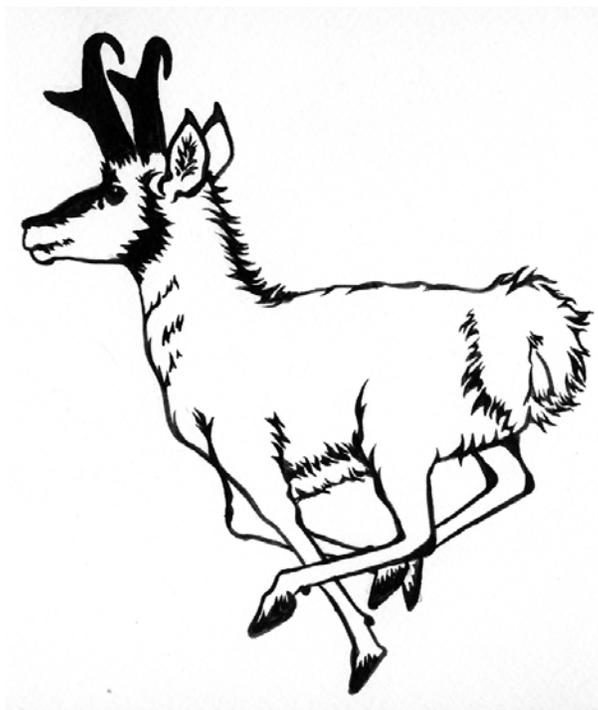


**NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE  
COMMISSIONERS**

**POLICY FOR THE  
MANAGEMENT OF  
PRONGHORN  
ANTELOPE**



This document is the result of studies undertaken with Federal Aid in Fish and Wildlife Restoration funds under Pittman-Robertson Projects.

**2003**

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
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**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document was prepared to provide the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) policy direction for the management of pronghorn antelope in the state of Nevada. Following a collaborative process involving the input of the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW), the 17 County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABs), various conservation organizations, other agencies and the general public, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners has established these policies to define the intent of management planning. Within this document the Commission has also determined those desired goals to be reached through the implementation of management actions. Specific objectives and strategies are described in order to direct those management applications.

In 1983, George K. Tsukamoto of the Department of Wildlife prepared a document titled *Pronghorn Antelope Species Management Plan*. That manuscript provided a detailed description of this unique animal and its habitat. His paper also defined those values applied to pronghorn by humans and the influences that mankind has had upon the species. As the original title implies, the 1983 document also served as a plan for the future management of pronghorn by the Department and later, NDOW.

This policy document serves as a companion document to the Nevada Division of Wildlife's biological bulletin entitled *Nevada's Pronghorn Antelope Ecology, Management and Conservation*. Both publications will be in print simultaneously. Together, these documents are contemporary revisions of the original 1983 Plan

The original *Plan's* objectives were to:

1. Provide guidelines and direction for sound management and utilization of pronghorn in Nevada,
2. Maintain pronghorn for aesthetic, economic, scientific, educational, and recreational uses
3. Enhance pronghorn and its habitat through the implementation of select programs for development and management.

Under the guidance of the original *Plan*, along with the assistance of conservation organizations and the cooperation of land management agencies, NDOW was able to accomplish these objectives during the past 20 years.



## COMMISSION POLICIES

1. The Nevada Division of Wildlife will manage pronghorn for the protection and conservation of the species.
2. Pronghorn will be managed so as to allow both consumptive and non-consumptive use of the species.
3. The Nevada Division of Wildlife shall aggressively undertake management actions in order to establish and maintain sustainable populations of pronghorn wherever suitable habitat exists within the state, and to manage populations in proper balance with the available habitat.
4. The Nevada Division of Wildlife shall, in cooperation with land management agencies, utilize appropriate management tools, including artificial water development and trapping and relocation, in order to expand the range and distribution of the species in the state.
5. Where it is demonstrated that terrestrial predators adversely impact pronghorn populations, predator management actions shall be employed to increase population levels.
6. Pronghorn research shall be encouraged.
7. Public education regarding pronghorn in Nevada shall be promoted, and the Nevada Division of Wildlife shall assume a leadership role in furthering public education regarding the species.
8. The Nevada Division of Wildlife shall aggressively pursue prosecution of those individuals who unlawfully take pronghorn.



## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

### **GOAL: More Pronghorn in More Places**

**Objective:** Manage Nevada's Pronghorn herds to achieve a minimum statewide population goal of 25,000 by 2013.

**Strategy:** Utilizing both in-state and out-of-state sources for procuring transplant stock, the Division shall endeavor to establish/re-establish/augment one or more populations per year.

**Strategy:** When population reductions are necessary to maintain balance between pronghorn and their habitat, utilize trapping and relocation as the primary means to do so.

**Strategy:** Utilize predator management actions when it is demonstrated that predator control can be a timely and cost effective means of enhancing herd growth. Utilize the Commission's predator management process to propose projects.

**Objective:** Maintain and enhance 55,000 square miles of Pronghorn habitat in Nevada through 2013.

**Strategy:** Utilize habitat improvement projects, cooperatively with land management agencies and private landowners, in order to improve habitat conditions so that pronghorn populations may increase in numbers and distribution as delineated by site-specific assessments of habitat conditions, risks, and assessments.

**Strategy:** Cooperate and coordinate with land management agencies and private landowners to improve the quality and quantity of pronghorn habitat in Nevada through land use activities and planning that provide for both improved range management practices and range rehabilitation projects based on site specific assessment of need.

**Strategy:** Work with federal and state agencies to support active management of wild horse and burro populations so as to achieve a level of no impact to pronghorn.



**GOAL: Landowners Adequately Compensated for Damage and Satisfied with Division Efforts to Alleviate Damage Caused by Pronghorn**

*Objective:* Division employees shall adhere to current regulation attendant to wildlife depredation to address complaints of agricultural damage caused by pronghorn.

**Strategy:** Utilize the Landowner Damage Compensation Program as the primary means of compensation for agricultural damage caused by pronghorn. This strategy shall be used in conjunction with other strategies to reduce or eliminate problems over the long term.

**Strategy:** Educate private landowners on how to minimize or eliminate damage caused by pronghorn to private agricultural lands or stored crops.

**Strategy:** Utilize strategically timed depredation hunts to reduce or eliminate agricultural damage caused by pronghorn.

**GOAL: Healthy Pronghorn Populations**

*Objective:* Investigate pronghorn condition and health and design and implement a new program to monitor herd health.

**Strategy:** Consult with State Veterinarian and other experts in order to develop health monitoring program.

**Strategy:** Seek funding assistance through government and non-profit organizations in order to implement the statewide pronghorn herd health monitoring program.

**GOAL: Increase Pronghorn Hunting Opportunity**

*Objective:* Increase hunting opportunity by 25 percent over 2002 levels by 2013.

**Strategy:** Manage buck harvest by unit or unit group to achieve a post-season buck ratio objective of between 20-30 bucks per 100 does.

**Strategy:** Recommend harvest management strategies that are designed to increase hunting opportunity while maintaining a quality hunting experience.



**GOAL: Nevada’s Pronghorn Herd Recognized as Valuable Elements of Nevada’s Natural Heritage**

*Objective:* Develop pronghorn viewing opportunities.

**Strategy:** Work with private, state and federal entities to provide pronghorn viewing and interpretive opportunities. Solicit partnerships from agencies and non-profit organizations.

**Strategy:** Develop educational materials that focus on pronghorn as a primary featured species.

*Objective:* Provide pronghorn educational information to the public.

**Strategy:** Maintain the annual pronghorn hunter indoctrination sessions.

**GOAL: Adequate Funding for Enhancement and Management of Nevada’s Pronghorn Resource**

*Objective:* Generate adequate funding and actively solicit donations from non-profit wildlife conservation organizations (estimated to be a minimum of \$100,000 per year) in order to carry out strategies in the Pronghorn Species Management Plan.

**Strategy:** Utilize grants from the Heritage Trust Account to fund pronghorn trapping, transplanting, and monitoring projects.

**Strategy:** Solicit federal, state and private grants and donations to fund wildlife viewing, interpretive, and educational programs.

**Strategy:** Encourage the development of a new program to fund new herd establishment by “naming” new herds on behalf of a donor.



## CONCLUSION

This policy shall guide NDOW programs for the protection, use and enjoyment of this unique resource by the people of the State. Pronghorn are a distinct and integral part of the wildlife scene in Nevada. They have played an important role in Nevada history and have survived the changes brought about by man's ever increasing activities. The prospects for the future look encouraging so long as advancements in wildlife management technology keep pace with a rapidly changing society that will hopefully continue to be sympathetic to the welfare of the species.

These policies, like the plan itself, are neither static nor rigid in purpose and from time to time may require revision and updating. Therefore, it is imperative that a continuous vigil be maintained to keep the plan current and viable for implementation of management goals. To this end pronghorn managers will remain committed in their stewardship responsibilities.

