

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy 22

Number: P-22

Title: Introduction, Reintroduction, Transplanting, and Exportation of Wildlife

Reference: NRS 501.181

Effective Date: February 20, 1981

Amended Dates: October 21, 2000, June 26, 2009, December 5, 2009, August 2022

Reviewed: 2022

PURPOSE

To establish policy on the introduction and reintroduction of wildlife into the State and exportation of same out of the State as guided by NRS 501.181.

DEFINITIONS

Exotic Wildlife: Includes all wildlife species of mammals, birds, reptiles, or their progeny or eggs, not historically found in the 48 contiguous states and Alaska.

Endemic Species: Those wildlife species presently or historically occurring naturally within the 48 contiguous states and/or Alaska.

Native Wildlife: Endemic wildlife species historically found in Nevada.

Non-Native Wildlife: Endemic wildlife species not historically found within Nevada. For example, ruffed grouse or mountain goats are endemic non-native species in Nevada.

Introduction: The act of releasing exotic or endemic non-native wildlife for the purpose of increasing self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Reintroduction: The act of releasing native wildlife into suitable habitat in Nevada for the purpose of creating self-sustaining wildlife populations.

Transplant: The act of releasing endemic wildlife species into habitat not currently occupied by the species for the purpose or intent of creating self-sustaining populations in the wild state.

Stocking: The act of releasing any wildlife for “put and take” purposes.

Exportation: The act of removing any live wildlife from the State of Nevada.

Augmentation: The act of supplementing existing wildlife populations of terrestrial wildlife species.

PROCEDURE

Due to the relative low densities of terrestrial wildlife populations and limited diversity of faunal species in Nevada, the Department shall administer sound wildlife management and restoration programs by:

Reintroduction of native wildlife onto former or historic areas of distribution within the State, when the habitat requirements of such species are adequate.

Introduction of endemic non-native wildlife where suitable vacant habitat may exist, and where conflicts with native or existing endemic non-native wildlife would not occur or have only a minimal effect.

Augmenting native endemic, non-native, or exotic wildlife when it is determined that populations are at low density, or in the event of a die-off, augmentations can support the recovery of a population.

Stocking native, endemic non-native and exotic terrestrial wildlife species for the appropriate use and aesthetic enjoyment of the people of the state if conflicts with existing native or endemic non-native would not occur or have only a minimal effect.

The Department shall prepare a two-year plan to coincide with biennial work program periods for big game reintroductions, introductions, and augmentations. This plan shall be prepared in close cooperation with the appropriate land management agencies and private partners. This plan will be presented to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) for approval.

The Department shall prepare a two-year plan to coincide with biennial work program periods for upland game, migratory game birds, or furbearer reintroductions, introductions, or augmentations. This plan will be presented to the Commission for approval.

Once approved by the Commission, big game releases will occur as soon as practical considering budget, manpower and animal availability. Sites will not be re-submitted for public review and Commission approval unless the Commission specifically finds that compelling circumstances have arisen and requests that the site(s) be reevaluated, or unless a release has not been accomplished after two biennial periods (four years).

Once approved by the Commission, any material changes in the Big Game Release Plan must be presented to and approved by the Wildlife Commission.

Prior to transplants, the Department will determine if predator control is necessary. If it has been determined that predator control is necessary, it will be accomplished by Wildlife Services or another appropriate entity before and after a transplant occurs.

The Department will seek concurrence of the appropriate land management agency or private partner when necessary and may enter into a cooperative agreement to define the action to be taken.

The Department will cooperate with other states, countries and First Nations, within their respective constraints, to meet their objectives to re-introduce or introduce wildlife by providing animals from Nevada for export whenever it is in the best interest of the resource and the people of the State.

The Department will comply with all existing importation and exportation regulations.

Any introduction or reintroduction of wildlife into Nevada, or exportation of wildlife from Nevada by persons or entities, public or private, other than the Department shall comply with Commission regulations and must receive the written consent and approval by the Department prior to the attempt.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, modified, or repealed.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION, AUGUST 20, 2022.

Chairman Tommy Caviglia
Board of Wildlife Commissioners