MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR BIG GAME QUOTA SETTING

ANNUAL TARGETED ENDPOINT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Biologically appropriate
  - Target a measure of maturity and age class
- Credible data available
  - Surveys and harvest
- Based on historical performance
  - Decreased liberal take
- Socially acceptable

- Multiple safeguards

OBJECTIVES FOR MOUNTAIN GOAT

- Allow the harvest of 2–5% of total estimated population.
- Small population, limited in distribution, similarities between sexes, mandatory harvest check.

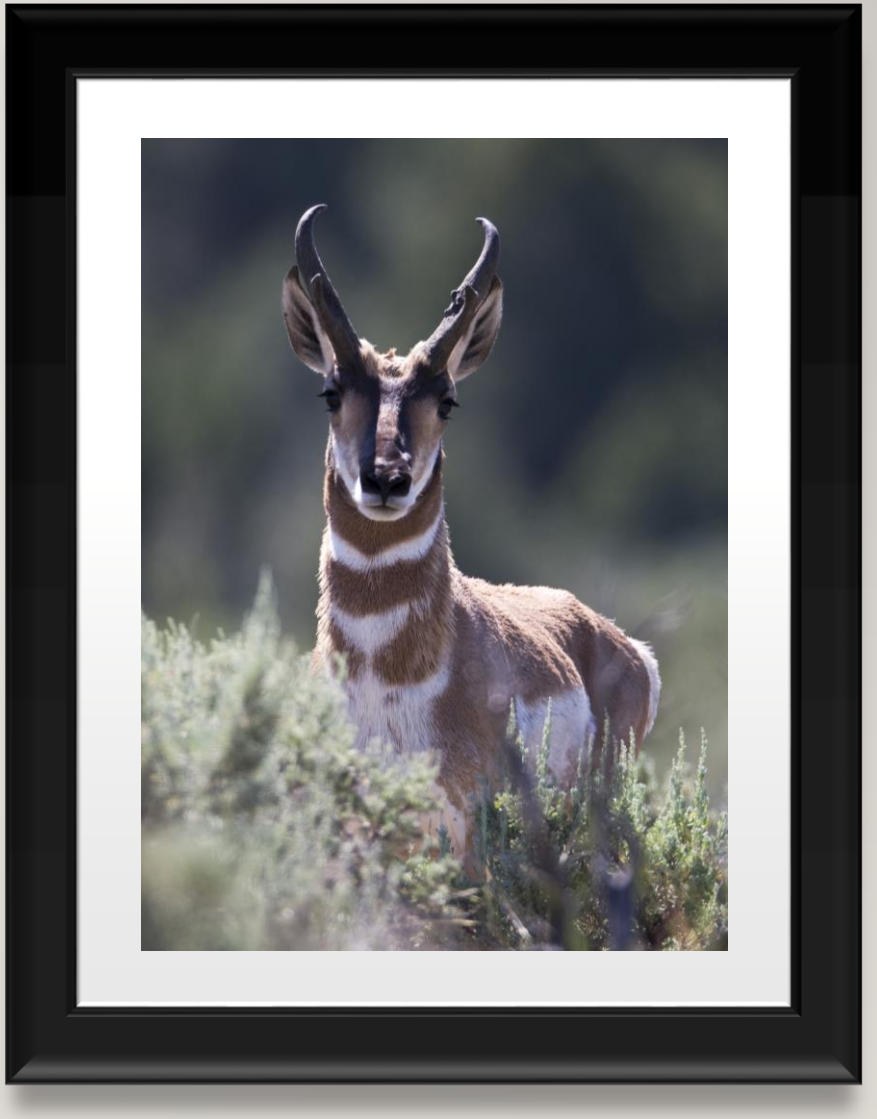
OBJECTIVES FOR BIGHORN SHEEP

- 8% of total rams (<half of population).
- Not to exceed 50% of modeled rams ≥6 years of age.

- Mandatory harvest check.
- Average age of harvested rams should exceed 6 years.

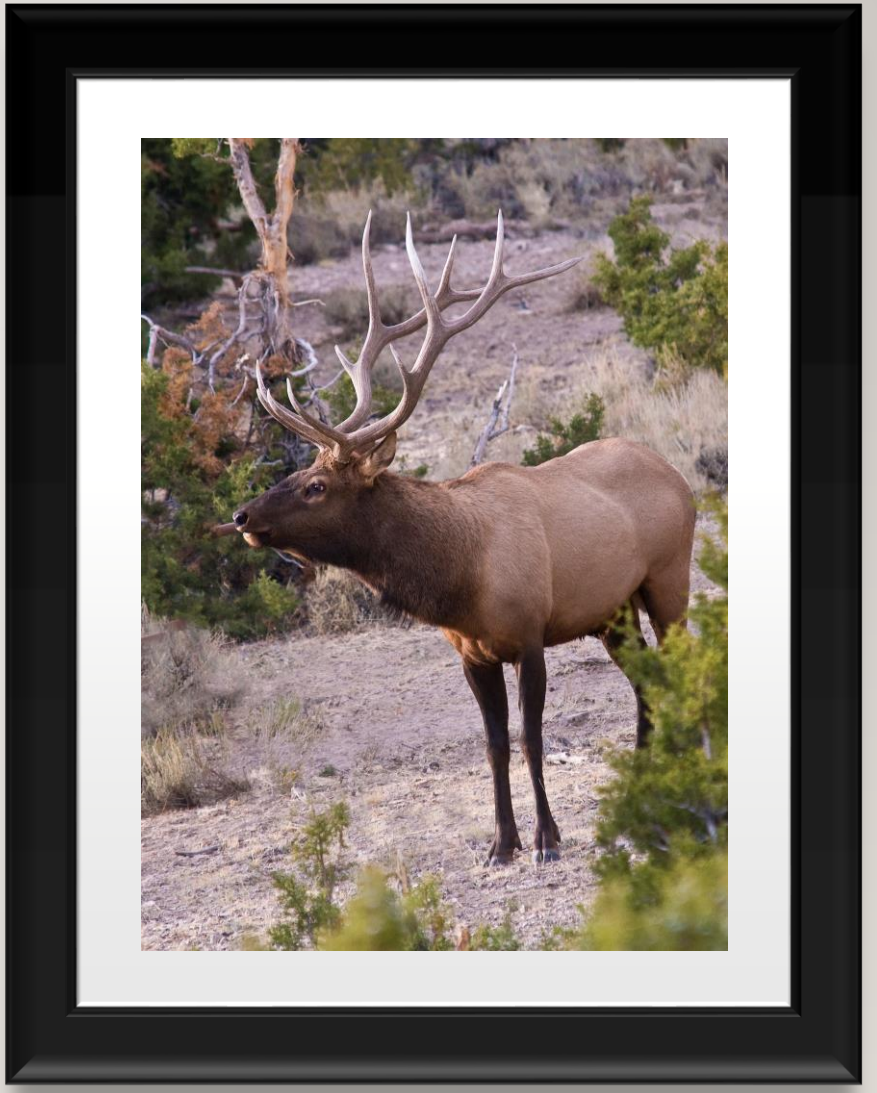
OBJECTIVES FOR PRONGHORN

- Modeled adult (≥2-year-old) 30 bucks to 100 does post-hunt.
- Pronghorn achieve greatest horn length and mass at much younger ages (2–3 years) and begin declining with age sooner than many other ungulates.



OBJECTIVES FOR ELK

- Elk management plan 15–40 bulls: 100 cows; in reality much higher.
- **Standard**: 25–35% of the bull harvest will have a main beam length of ≥50 inches.
- **Alternative**: 35–45% of harvest ≥50 inches.
  - 078, 105–107, and 109; 091; and 111–115.
- Based on elk age data, elk achieve maximum antler growth from 8–12 years of age. Antler growth objectives maintain older age classes.



OTHER OBJECTIVES FOR ELK

- **Non-Standard**: Stable harvest and modeled bull to cow ratios.
  - 051, 065, 075, 241, 242, and 262.
- **Depredation**: 101–103 and 144–145

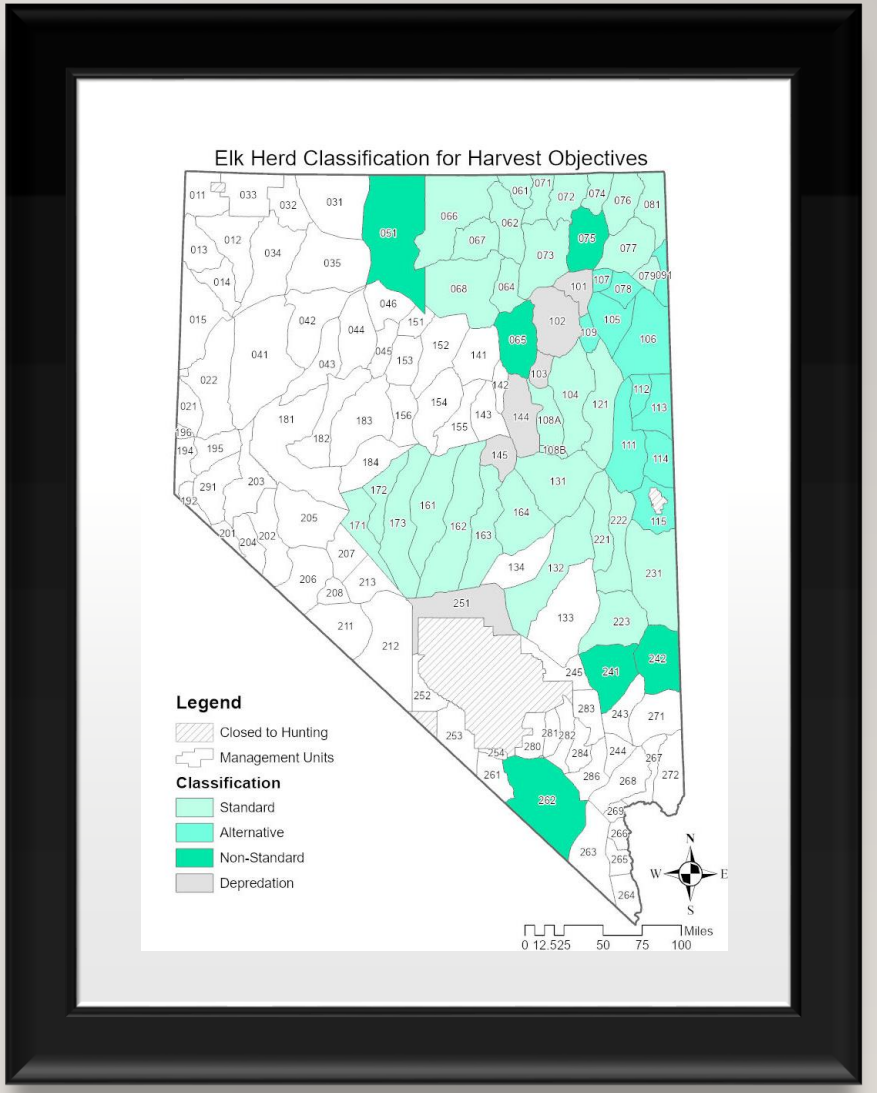
DISTRIBUTION OF ELK UNITS

Standard: 25–35 % 50 inch main beam.

Alternative: 35–45 inch main beam.

Non-Standard

Depredation



OTHER CRITTERS

- Moose: Nothing yet!
- Bears: Light harvest based on age of harvested females (>6 years), age of harvested males (>4 years), and proportion of females in harvest (<30%).
- Mountain lions: Three-year average of proportion of adult females (<35%) and all females (<50%) in harvest.
- Turkeys and other upland game
  - E.g., sage-grouse

OBJECTIVES FOR MULE DEER

- **Standard units**: Modeled post-hunt buck to doe ratio 30:100.
- **Alternative units**: Modeled post-hunt buck to doe ratio 35:100.
  - 014; 194, 196; 065; 081; 114–115; 131–134; 221–223; 241–245.
- Standard buck to doe ratio results in an older age class structure and greater hunt success. Relationship of buck to doe ratio with fawn to doe ratio and recruitment.

OTHER OBJECTIVES FOR MULE DEER

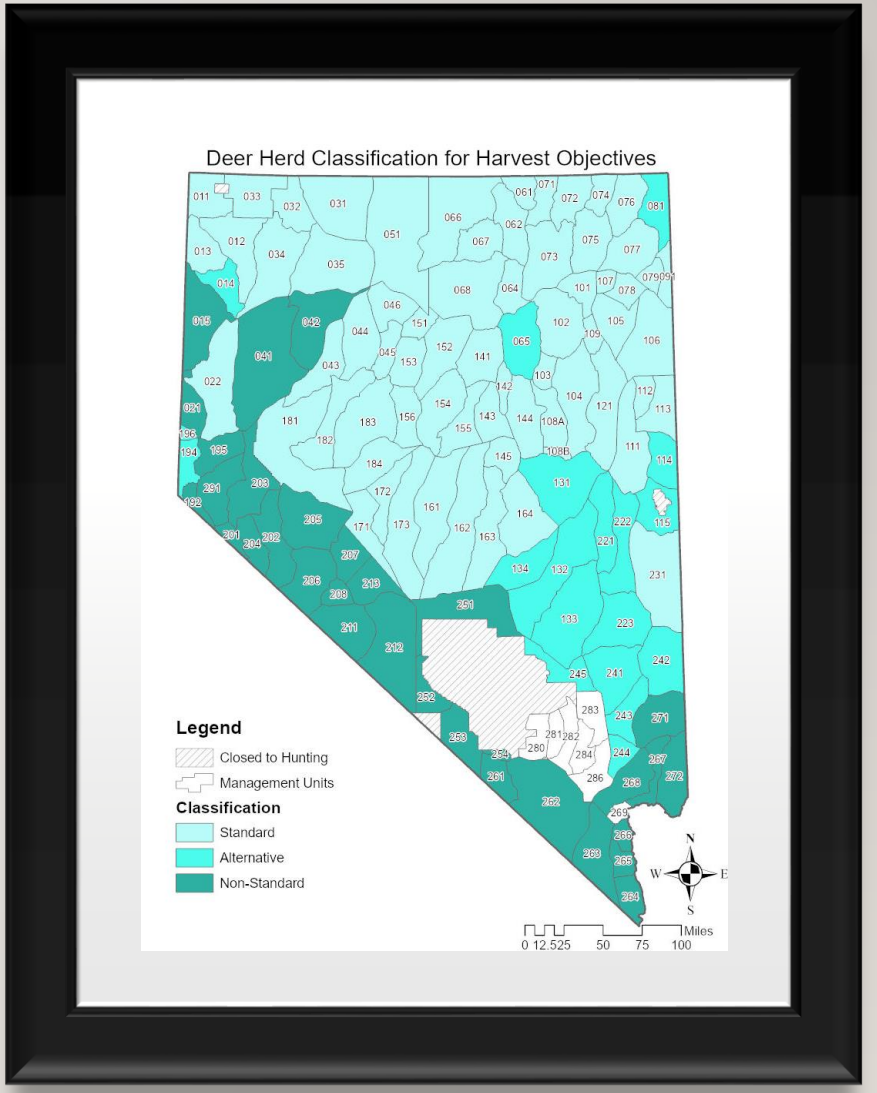
- **Non-Standard**: Manage for hunt success >35%.
  - 015; 021; 195; 203; 211–213; 251–254;192; 201, 204; 202, 205–208; 291; 041–042; 261–268; 271–272.
- Harvest characteristics are a substantial data source, greatest CPUE (catch per unit effort).

DISTRIBUTION OF DEER UNITS

Standard: 30 bucks per 100 does.

Alternative: 35 bucks per 100 does.

Non-Standard: <35% hunt success.



QUESTIONS?