



State of Nevada
Department of Wildlife
Game Division

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MEMORANDUM

December 29, 2021

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

From: Mike Scott, Administrator, Game Division

Title: **Commission Regulation 21-03 Amendment #1 - Changes to 2022-23 Big Game Seasons – For Possible Action**

Description: The Commission will consider adopting recommended changes to the 2022-23 hunting season dates for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goats, including limits, hunting hours, special hunt eligibility, animal sex, and physical characteristics.

Presenter: Wildlife Staff Specialists Cody Schroeder, Cody McKee, and Mike Cox

Summary:

The Department is presenting the proposed recommended changes for mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, bighorn sheep, and mountain goat for the 2022-23 hunting seasons. All seasons not listed in the following Commission Regulation are recommended to remain consistent with the Wildlife Commission approved 2021-22 seasons. Proposed changes including units, season dates, season closures, and footnotes are displayed in blue color and bolded. In general, proposed seasons are recommended to follow traditional season dates, to accommodate interstate herds or herds that occupy lands administered by the Department of Defense, to facilitate hunter access to seasonal movement of big game animals among administrative boundaries, to attempt to follow management plans, address non-resident seasons, or to facilitate varied success rates based on timing of seasons. Specific rationales for changes will be provided.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO ADOPT COMMISSION REGULATION 21-03 AMENDMENT #1, BIG GAME SEASON CHANGES FOR THE 2022-23 SEASONS AS PRESENTED**

Amendment 1 to CR 21-03 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 BIG GAME HUNTING SEASONS

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of sections 501.181, 502.140, 503.120, and 503.140 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, and 502.4205 of the Nevada Administrative Code, does hereby adopt the following regulation for the big game resource.

Note: The limit is one animal per tag and the hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset for all big game hunts, unless otherwise specified.

Resident Antelope - Horns shorter than ears Any Legal Weapon Hunt 2181

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
031	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
032, 034	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
035	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
041 - 042	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
078, 105 - 107, 121	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
111 - 114	Sept 8 - Sept 24	CLOSED
114 ^C , 115 ^C Baker Ranch	Sept 10 - Sept 16	CLOSED

^C Within 1 mile of the Baker Ranch Properties, non-standard hunt.

Resident Elk - Antlered Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4102

Special Regulations: Eligibility restrictions concerning successive years' hunts as stated in NAC 502.361 do not apply to this hunt.

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
115 ^A 1st	Aug 1 - Aug 15	CLOSED
115 ^A 2nd	Aug 16 - Aug 31	CLOSED
115 ^A 3rd	Sept 1 - Sept 30	CLOSED
115 ^A 4th	Oct 1 - Oct 31	CLOSED
115 ^A 5th	Nov 1 - Nov 30	CLOSED
115 ^A Antler Pt. Limit [†] - 1st	-	Aug 1 - Aug 15
115 ^A Antler Pt. Limit [†] - 2nd	-	Aug 16 - Aug 31
115 ^A Antler Pt. Limit [†] - 3rd	-	Sept 1 - Sept 30
115 ^A Antler Pt. Limit [†] - 4th	-	Oct 1 - Oct 31
115 ^A Antler Pt. Limit [†] - 5th	-	Nov 1 - Nov 30

^A Within 1 mile of Great Basin Ranch Properties (Approved Definition for "A" in CR 21-03)

^A Within 2 miles of Great Basin Ranch Properties (Proposed Definition for "A" in Amendment #1 to CR 21-03)

† Hunters may only take an antlered elk with no more than 5 points on either antler including the first point on the main beam. An antler point is defined in Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 502.006) as any antler projection which is at least 1-inch in length with the length exceeding the width of its base.

**Resident Elk - Antlerless
Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4181**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
062, 064, 066 - 068	Sept 17 - Oct 4	CLOSED
062	-	Sept 17 - Oct 4

**Nonresident Elk - Antlerless
Any Legal Weapon Hunt 4281**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
062, 064, 066 - 068	Sept 17 - Oct 4	CLOSED
062	-	Sept 17 - Oct 4

**Resident Elk - Antlerless
Archery Hunt 4111**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
062, 064, 066 - 068	Aug 1 - Aug 15	CLOSED
062	-	Aug 1 - Aug 15

**Nonresident Elk - Antlerless
Archery Hunt 4211**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
062, 064, 066 - 068	Aug 1 - Aug 15	CLOSED
062	-	Aug 1 - Aug 15

**Resident Elk - Antlerless
Any Legal Weapon Depredation Hunt 4107**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
115 ^B 1st	Aug 1 - Aug 15	CLOSED
115 ^B 2nd	Aug 16 - Aug 31	CLOSED
115 ^B 3rd	Sept 1 - Sept 30	CLOSED
115 ^B 4th	Oct 1 - Oct 31	CLOSED
115 ^B 5th	Nov 1 - Nov 30	CLOSED
114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 1st	-	Aug 1 - Aug 15
114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 2nd	-	Aug 16 - Aug 31
114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 3rd	-	Sept 1 - Sept 30
114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 4th	-	Oct 1 - Oct 31
114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 5th	-	Nov 1 - Nov 30

114^B, 115^B - Ag Lands - 5th - **Nov 1 - Nov 30**

^B Within 1 mile of Great Basin Ranch Properties (Approved Definition for "B" in CR 21-03)

^B Within 2 miles of designated Granite Peak Ranch and Great Basin Ranch Properties in Hunt Unit 115 and within 2 miles of designated Baker Ranch Properties in Hunt Units 114 and 115. Hunt boundaries terminate at the Nevada state line where applicable. (Proposed Definition for "B" in Amendment #1 to CR 21-03)

**Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep
Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3151**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
131*, 132, 164*		Nov 20 - Jan 1
132 North ^A	Nov 20 - Jan 1	CLOSED
132 South ^B	Sept 15 - Oct 15	CLOSED

* Hunter may harvest a Nelson, Rocky Mountain, or hybrid subspecies; for purposes of complying with NAC 502.345, a harvested animal will be considered a Nelson bighorn; hunter is required to provide tissue sample from harvested ram for DNA tests; harvested rams may not be accepted into formal trophy record books.

^A ~~That portion of Unit 132 north and east of the Cherry Creek/Ox Springs Wash Road – Forest Service Route #59410~~

^B ~~That portion of Unit 132 south and west of the Cherry Creek/Ox Springs Wash Road – Forest Service Route #59410~~

**Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep
Any Ram - Archery Hunt 3161**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
202, 204	Oct 20 - Nov 14	Oct 20 - Nov 14

**Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep
Management Ram - One Horn* - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3171**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
241, 243, 271		Jan 5 - Feb 20
223, 245, 133		Jan 5 - Feb 20
253, 254, 261		Jan 5 - Feb 20
262, 263, 264, 265, 266		Jan 5 - Feb 20
267, 268		Jan 5 - Feb 20
283, 284, 286		Jan 5 - Feb 20

*The shortest horn must be less than half the length of the longest horn.

See separate page for proposed eligibility, hunt category, waiting period, bonus points, draw order, and additional regulations for management ram hunt.

**Resident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep
Any Ewe - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3181**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
213	Oct 1 - Oct 19	CLOSED

**Nonresident Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep
Any Ewe - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 3281**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
213	Oct 1 - Oct 19	CLOSED

**Resident California Bighorn Sheep
Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8151**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
066	Sept 1 - Oct 31	CLOSED

^A This unit excludes that portion of Unit 032 west of the Craine Creek/Knott Creek Ranch Road and south of State Route No. ~~291~~ 140.

^A This unit excludes that portion of Unit 032 west of the Craine Creek/Knott Creek Ranch Road and south of State Route No. ~~291~~ 140.

**Nonresident California Bighorn Sheep
Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 8251**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
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^B This unit includes that portion of Unit 032 west of the Craine Creek/Knott Creek Ranch Road and south of State Route No. ~~291~~ 140.

**Resident Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
Any Ram - Any Legal Weapon Hunt 9151**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
074	Sept 1 - Oct 31	CLOSED
102		Sept 1 - Oct 31

**Resident Mountain Goat - Any Goat
Any Legal Weapon Hunt 7151**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
102, 121	Sept 1 - Oct 31	Sept 1 - Oct 31

**Resident Mule Deer - Antlerless
Any Legal Weapon Hunt 1181**

Unit Group	2021-2022 Season	2022-2023 Season
114 ^A , 115 ^A Baker Ranch, Early	Dec 1 - Dec 15	CLOSED
114 ^A , 115 ^A Baker Ranch, Late	Dec 16 - Dec 24	CLOSED

^A Within 1 mile of the Baker Ranch Properties.

Proposed Management Desert Bighorn One-Horn Ram Hunt

As part of Amendment 1 to CR 21-03

Species: Desert (Nelson) Bighorn

Background: Sinusitis is a general medical term that involves an upper nasal cavity infection. In the case of bighorn rams, particularly in desert bighorn rams, it may be caused by bot flies in the upper nasal cavity and horn core. The bot fly larvae feed off the nutrients of the horn's bony core flesh and along with an associated bacterial infection, will lead to a condition called osteomyelitis. This ultimately weakens the bone tissue and the outer horn sheath, which is keratin (same material as your fingernails), causing the horn to fall off.

Justification: Mature rams that only have one full horn are not contributing to the breeding of ewes and are not desirable to be harvested in standard ram hunts. Harvesting of these one-horn rams will have no impact on the productivity of the herd and may benefit to bighorn herd where resources are limited. The number of one-horn rams of the total mature ram population is not well quantified but guides, tagholders and biologists do observe them on occasion in some herds. It is felt that a limited harvest opportunity exists to offer this one-horn ram management hunt in select desert bighorn hunt units.

Definition of one-horn ram: The shortest horn must be less than half the length of the longest horn.

Eligibility, waiting period and Bonus Points: This management hunt is proposed to be a once-in-a-lifetime hunt and therefore would not require any waiting period eligibility. As stated in NAC 502.4187, Sec. 5 – The Department shall not award bonus points for depredation hunts or management hunts; Sec. 6 – As used in this section, “management hunt” means a hunt established to seek harvest of additional wildlife within a population. Consequently, bonus points will not be employed for this hunt.

Hunt Category and Draw Order: This one-horn ram management hunt is a separate hunt category and therefore will not preclude an applicant applying for this hunt if they are restricted in applying for another bighorn hunt (i.e., if an applicant is in the waiting period for a standard bighorn ram tag, they are eligible to apply for this management hunt). Suggested draw order is after the standard ram hunts (any legal weapon and archery) and PIW hunt, but before the ewe hunt.

Hunt Units: Individual hunt units will be recommended for this management hunt where one-horn rams have been known to exist. Hunt Unit groups may also be recommended for this management hunt where limited information is known of one-horn rams, to provide greater opportunity for tagholder to search for a one-horn ram.

Season: It is recommended this management hunt be established at the January 2022 Big Game Season Setting Process. Season dates are recommended to be a 45 to 60-day season length and occurring after all bighorn ram hunts have ended in a particular unit or unit group (i.e., likely January and February).

Additional Regulation Consideration: All rams harvested in this hunt are required to be checked in the same manner as general ram hunts. Consider an additional regulation - If a successful tagholder harvests a ram that does not comply with the one-horn ram definition, they will no longer be eligible for any future bighorn sheep hunt in Nevada. They would also forfeit the skull and hide.