



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Habitat Division**

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MEMORANDUM

AUGUST 22, 2023

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

From: Mark Freese, Habitat Division Administrator

Title: **Wildlife Management Area Regulations NAC 504**

Purpose: The Commission will review Wildlife Management Area Regulations NAC 504 and may make any necessary changes and may advance the proposed changes to a second reading.

Summary

The Commission has recently designated the Argenta Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and are in the process of designating the Pole Canyon as a cooperative WMA. Additionally, the Department will be incorporating the Blue Diamond properties into the Steptoe WMA. Restrictions on the use of firearms and ammunition, campfires, camping, trapping, access, guiding, and predator hunting are recommended by the Department with some items stipulated as part of the Pole Canyon access easement. In order to regulate and enforce access easement stipulations and Department recommendations the Commission must modify and update WMA Regulations NAC 504.

Brief Explanation of Proposed Guidance

Restrictions on the use of firearms and ammunition, campfires, camping, trapping, access, guiding, and predator hunting are proposed to protect wildlife resources, ensure WMA's are safe for the public to recreate, and comply with stipulations as part of the Pole Canyon access easement.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission review and adopt attached WMA regulation updates.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

NAC 504.135 Restrictions on use of firearms and ammunition. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#), [503.150](#), [504.140](#), [504.143](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the discharging of a rifle or pistol is prohibited on the following wildlife management areas:

- (a) Overton in Clark County.
- (b) Key Pittman in Lincoln County.
- (c) Wayne E. Kirch in Nye County.
- (d) Scripps in Washoe County.
- (e) Mason Valley in Lyon County.
- (f) Argenta in Lander County.*

2. Deer may be hunted on the Mason Valley, **and** Wayne E. Kirch *and Argenta* Wildlife Management Areas only by persons using:

- (a) Shotguns and rifled shotgun slugs or shotgun rounds with sabots that contain a single expanding projectile; or
- (b) Bows and arrows.

Ê A shotgun that is used to hunt deer pursuant to this subsection may be equipped with a smoothbore barrel or a barrel that is partially or fully rifled.

3. The use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this State unless the shotgun is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells. *The use of a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells is permissible on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this State during the Snow and Ross' Geese season during such time as all other waterfowl seasons are closed.*

4. The use or possession of shells for a shotgun containing shot that is toxic or larger than standard-size T is prohibited on the following wildlife management areas:

- (a) Overton in Clark County.
- (b) Key Pittman in Lincoln County.
- (c) Wayne E. Kirch in Nye County.
- (d) Scripps in Washoe County.
- (e) Mason Valley in Lyon County.
- (f) Fernley in Lyon County.
- (g) Alkali Lake in Lyon County.
- (h) Humboldt in Churchill and Pershing Counties.
- (i) Steptoe Valley in White Pine County.
- (j) Franklin Lake in Elko County.
- (k) Carson Lake in Churchill County*
- (l) Argenta in Lander County*

5. The use or possession of shotgun rounds with sabots that contain other than rifled slugs or a single expanding projectile is prohibited on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this State.

6. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to persons authorized by the Department to use rifles and pistols for the control of predatory animals and rodents.

7. For the purposes of this section, all shot shall be deemed toxic unless it has been approved as nontoxic by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 20.134.

[Bd. of Fish & Game Comm'rs, No. 9 § 23.01-9, eff. 12-29-66; A 10-1-73; 9-1-78; 9-1-80] — (NAC A by Bd. of Wildlife Comm'rs, 1-2-86; 8-22-86, eff. 9-15-86; 10-16-87; 9-13-91; R054-02, 11-19-2002, eff. 3-1-2003; R185-05, 2-23-2006; R107-14, 12-22-2014)

NAC 504.140 Campfires and bonfires prohibited; exceptions. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#), [504.140](#), [504.143](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, campfires and bonfires are prohibited in wildlife management areas.

2. Campfires are permitted in the:

(a) Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area within the Dave Deacon Campground.

(b) Humboldt Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.

(c) Fernley Wildlife Management Area.

(d) Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.

(e) Overton Wildlife Management Area within the rest and trails area.

(f) Bruneau Wildlife Management Area.

(g) Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.

[Bd. of Fish & Game Comm'rs, No. 9 § 23.01-11, eff. 12-29-66; A 9-1-78] — (NAC A by Bd. of Wildlife Comm'rs, 11-5-81; 4-27-84, eff. 5-25-84; 8-22-86, eff. 9-15-86; R030-00, 4-3-2000; R054-02, 11-19-2002, eff. 3-1-2003)

NAC 504.145 Restrictions on camping; building prohibited; restrictions on operation of certain devices. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#), [504.140](#), [504.143](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, camping is prohibited in wildlife management areas.

2. Camping is permitted in the:

(a) Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.

(b) Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area within the Dave Deacon Campground.

(c) Humboldt Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.

(d) Fernley Wildlife Management Area.

(e) Overton Wildlife Management Area within the rest and trails area.

(f) Bruneau Wildlife Management Area, except that camping is not permitted in any building or other structure located within that wildlife management area.

(g) Steptoe Valley Wildlife Management area in those sites designated for camping.

3. Camping facilities, including, without limitation, house trailers, must not be stored, parked or maintained in a wildlife management area for more than 8 days, or left in a wildlife management area for occasional occupancy by a person or group of persons associated with the facility.

4. The erection, fabrication or maintenance of a permanent dwelling or building in a wildlife management area is prohibited.

5. A person camping in a site, campground or area within a wildlife management area designated for camping pursuant to subsection 2 shall not operate a television, radio or any other device, including, without limitation, a generator, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. if the device produces sound that is audible beyond the campsite in which it is operated.

[Bd. of Fish & Game Comm'rs Gen. Reg. No. 9 part § 23.01-15, eff. 12-29-66; A 4-1-73; 9-1-78; A by Bd. of Wildlife Comm'rs, 9-1-80] — (NAC A 4-27-84, eff. 5-25-84; 8-22-86, eff. 9-15-86; R030-00, 4-3-2000; R054-02, 11-19-2002, eff. 3-1-2003)

NAC 504.160 Construction and use of hunting blinds; use of decoys. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#), [504.140](#), [504.143](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person may construct a hunting blind on any wildlife management area if the Department has no obligation to protect a privately constructed blind or to arbitrate the use or priority of use of such a blind. A blind to be constructed must:

(a) Be temporary and portable;

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), be constructed of lumber, screen, fabric, synthetic material or native vegetation; and

(c) In the Kirch, Steptoe Valley and Mason Valley Wildlife Management Areas, be constructed of native vegetation, removable fabric, or a synthetic material that is of a temporary nature.

(d) In the Argenta Wildlife Management Area, turkey tag holders are limited to use of one portable blind on the WMA.

2. A group of persons may construct a blind only after the supervisor of the wildlife management area has approved the plans for the blind.

3. Sunken blinds, and barrels and boxes used as sunken blinds, must be covered when not in use to prevent the entrapment of animals.

4. The use of a sink box is prohibited.

5. A blind may not be locked or reserved for the use of a particular person or group of persons.

6. The Department may:

(a) Prohibit the construction of a hunting blind if it is detrimental to a wildlife management area or portion thereof.

(b) Designate a hunting blind on a wildlife management area as intended for the use of persons with physical disabilities pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 to 12213, inclusive, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

7. A person may use decoys on a wildlife management area so long as the decoys are not left set up in the field between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

[Bd. of Fish & Game Comm'rs Gen. Reg. No. 9 §§ 23.01-17 and 23.01-19, eff. 12-29-66; A 4-1-73; 9-1-78; A by Bd. of Wildlife Comm'rs, 8-29-80] — (NAC A by R054-02, 11-19-2002, eff. 3-1-2003)

NAC 504.320 Pole Canyon Cooperative Wildlife Management Area (NRS 501.105, 501.181)

Pole Canyon is a Wildlife Management Area established in cooperation with Ecotrust Forests III, LLC. The following activities are prohibited on this area:

- 1. Overnight camping including the parking area;*
- 2. Motorized vehicles, electric or battery-assisted vehicles, or bicycles, and bicycles, except in the Franklin River Access parking area and only on the 1,340 feet of existing 2-track dirt road in the Horse Canyon (Horse Creek) Public Right of Way.*
- 3. Animal assisted access, except for horses and mules.*
- 4. Commercial guiding*
- 5. Predator Hunting*
- 6. Trapping*
- 7. Campfires*

~~Towing a person on water skis, a surfboard, an inflatable device or any similar device.~~

~~— 2. — Overnight camping.~~

~~— 3. — Entering land posted as off-limits above the crossfence at the upper end of Crittenden Reservoir. Vehicles may be parked only in areas designated by the Department.~~