



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

Game Division

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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2017

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

From: Brian Wakeling, Game Division Administrator

Title: Commission Policy 27, Commission Policy 27, Protection of Nevada Wildlife Resources – First Reading

Description: The Commission will conduct a first reading of Commission Policy 27, Commission Policy 27, Protection of Nevada Wildlife Resources, and may take action to revise the policy. The Commission may advance the policy to a second reading for possible adoption at a future meeting.

Summary:

The Department has updated Commission Policy 27.

The Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy (APRP) Committee reviewed the revisions to Commission Policy 27 on August 10, 2017. The Committee voted to approve the revisions to Commission Policy 27 as presented by the Department with one change; renumber the stricken section 7 to section 9 and modify it to read, “9. It is the policy of the Commission and the Department of wildlife to oppose a permanent population of wolves in Nevada.”

The APRP Committee had a long detailed discussion on the revisions of this policy and ultimately agreed on the revisions being presented today in order to advance it to the Commission for more discussion.

The Department would like to recommend to the Commission to remove, “and the Department of Wildlife” under the new section 9, as this is a Commission Policy, not a Department policy.

Recommendation:

The Department and APRP Committee recommend that the Commission **DISCUSS COMMISSION POLICY 27 AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND APRP COMMITTEE AND POSSIBLY MOVE IT TO A SECOND READING AT THE NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING.**

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 27

Number: P-27

Title: Protection of Nevada Wildlife Resources

Reference: NRS 501.100, 501.105, and 501.181.

Effective Date: April 16, 2011

Revised: November 3, 2017

PURPOSE

It is the duty of the [Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners](#) (Commission) and the [Nevada Department of Wildlife](#) (Department) ~~of Wildlife~~ to establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife and its habitat.

POLICY

1. ~~All wildlife, including, all wild animals, wild birds, and fish within the State of Nevada are hereby declared to be the property of~~ held in the public trust by the State of Nevada and shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. (NRS 501.100, #1 "Wildlife in this state not domesticated and in its natural habitat is part of the natural resources belonging to the people of the State of Nevada.")
2. Nevada's law and policy includes providing Nevada citizens (and others permitted by law) accessibility to wildlife for their shared recreations.
3. The ~~Nevada Department of Wildlife~~ in conjunction with the ~~Wildlife~~ Commission has the authority, power, and duty to administer and carry out the State of Nevada's wildlife policy consistent with state law.
4. Wildlife management under this policy includes, but is not limited to: maintaining healthy populations, balancing predator and prey relationships, providing hunting and recreational opportunities for game species, and addressing conflicts between wildlife, people, and businesses.
5. The federal government retains public trust and management authority for specific types of wildlife, such as certain migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act.
6. Native and introduced wildlife species generally benefit from the diligent protection, management and research provided by the Department. State management responsibility, through collaboration among other states and the federal government, generally provides local communities with a greater voice while considering the biological implications for the species management.
7. To the extent practicable, the Commission will work with the Department to obtain and maintain state management authority of those species that reside within Nevada. Further, the Commission and Department will collaborate with the federal government to ensure that the social and biological concerns unique to Nevada are considered as part of any wildlife management activity for those species under federal management authority.
- 4.8. The Commission and Department will work collaboratively with private, local, state and federal partners to obtain and maintain state management authority of those species that reside within Nevada.

- ~~5. Scientific data shows gray wolf predation is a major cause of mortality in wildlife ungulate populations where wolves are present.~~
- ~~6. There are no data to suggest that historically there ever was a resident wolf population in the State, along with none or very limited wolf habitat in the State.~~
- ~~7.~~ 9. It is the policy of the Commission and the Department of Wildlife to oppose a permanent population of wolves in Nevada, and since in 1974 the gray wolf was listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and protected as an endangered species, it is the objective and intent of the Commission to pursue all legal options to restore full state authority and control over the management of wolves in Nevada.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the [Nevada](#) Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE [NEVADA](#) BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, ~~April 16, 2014~~ [November 3, 2017](#).

[Grant Wallace](#), Chairman [Scott Raine](#)
[Nevada](#) Board of Wildlife Commissioners