



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Law Enforcement Division

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MEMORANDUM

November 3, 2017

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

From: Tyler Turnipseed, Chief Game Warden

Title: **Regulation Changes: Commission General Regulation 475**

Description: The Commission will consider an NAC change to establish season dates for the field collection of shed antlers.

CGR 475: Shed Antlers. This proposed change would add a new section to NAC 503.

The proposed regulation change would place a seasonal closure on the field collection of deer and elk shed antlers. The change would establish a season open from April 15th to December 31st of each year. The antler collection season would be closed from January 1st through April 14th of each year.

Deer and elk annually shed their antlers. The cast off antlers or “sheds” have significant value as decorations, art media, or construction materials for items such as chandeliers, coat racks, wine racks, etc. As the value of shed antlers has increased, so have the interest, methods, and effort expended in shed antler collection. This proposed regulation is designed to protect deer and elk by preventing their harassment by shed antler collectors. When people search for shed antlers on occupied big game winter ranges during mid-winter animal concentrations, it can have negative effects on the animals’ nutritional condition, disrupt energy budgets, interrupt foraging activity, or cause animals to expend energy avoiding disruptions as they move from critical high quality winter range habitat onto lesser quality habitat.

This regulation was passed by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners in 2014, but then failed to pass its final round of approval at the Nevada Legislative Commission.

**DRAFT REGULATION OF THE BOARD
OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

LCB File No. TBD

Commission General Regulation 475

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted-material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 501.105, 501.181 and 503.655.

A REGULATION relating to shed antlers; prohibiting a person from collecting shed antlers under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations for the taking of shed antlers. "Shed antlers" means any antlers which have been naturally shed by any big game animal in this State. (NRS 503.655) This regulation prohibits a person from collecting shed antlers at any time during a year unless the shed antlers are collected by the person from the field from April 15 to December 31, inclusive, of that year.

Section 1. Chapter 503 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

A person shall not collect shed antlers at any time during a year unless the shed antlers are collected by the person from the field from April 15 to December 31, inclusive, of that year.

