

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 23

Number: P-23
Title: Predation Management
Reference: NRS 501.100, 501.105,
501.181, 502.253
Effective Date: December 7, 2013

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and guide the Department of Wildlife (Department) in actions relating to Predation Management ~~by establishing an informed Predation Management Program which incorporates the tools of predation management for protection of nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species, research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife, and the use of proven and emerging science-based techniques of predator population management and control. This policy specifically seeks to establish an informed Predation Management program which incorporates the tools of public education, habitat restoration, the study of predator-prey relationships, and the use of present and proven, as well as emerging, state-of-the-art, science-based techniques of predator population control.~~

DEFINITION OF "PREDATION MANAGEMENT"

~~Predation Management is herein defined as selective reduction and/or management of carnivore or corvid (common raven, American crow and black-billed magpie) populations when and where predation is identified by the Department as a limiting factor negatively affecting another wildlife population. This includes monitoring and modeling of select carnivore populations, maintaining and/or managing viable carnivore populations and studying select predator-prey relationships to better understand ecosystem function. It may also include the enhancement of various wildlife habitats according to the best available science as it relates directly to predator-prey relationships. Finally, it may include providing educational opportunities to all Stakeholders to encourage wise, informed and responsible management of predators and their habitats in Nevada.~~

AUTHORITY FOR PREDATION MANAGEMENT

~~Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 501.100 the Legislature has declared "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. The preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife within the State contribute immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational, and economic aspects of these natural resources."~~

~~In accordance with NRS 501.105 and 501.181, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) shall establish policies necessary to the preservation, protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction, and management of wildlife and its habitat in this state.~~

~~Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) a fee of \$3 is charged for processing each application for a game tag to be used by the Department for costs related to:~~

- ~~(a) Programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife;~~
- ~~(b) Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of non-predatory game animals, sensitive wildlife species and related wildlife habitat;~~
- ~~(c) Conducting research, as needed, to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife, including studies necessary to insure effective programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife; and~~
- ~~(d) Programs for the education of the general public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife.~~

~~Pursuant to NRS 502.253(2) the Department is hereby authorized to expend a portion of the money collected pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 502.253 to enable the State Department of Agriculture to develop and carry out programs described in subsection 1 of NRS 502.253.~~

~~Pursuant to NRS 502.253(3) any program developed or wildlife management activity or research so conducted must be developed or conducted under the guidance of the Commission pursuant to NRS 501.181(2). Pursuant to NRS 501.181(2) the Commission shall guide the Department in its administration and enforcement of provisions of Title 45, Wildlife (Chapters 501-506) of NRS by establishment of broad policies for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this State.~~

~~Pursuant to NRS 502.253(1) the revenue from the \$3 fee must be accounted for separately and deposited in the Wildlife Fund Account.~~

PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES POLICY:

A. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE

- ~~1. Conduct Pprojects in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible, with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, and with an emphasis on identifying and refining prescriptive measures of Predation Management for use in the future. Lethal and/or nonlethal predator control efforts will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to minimize specific wildlife-related losses to wildlife populations without endangering long term health, vigor and/or ecological services provided by balanced and viable carnivore and/or corvid wildlife populations. Priority will be given to act in areas where other efforts are completed, underway, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations.~~
- ~~2. Geographical locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to provide synergy in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.~~
- ~~3. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife~~

populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.

4. If needed to assess Project viability, statewide and Project area estimates of carnivore and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
5. The Commission recognizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services), as a cooperating agency in lethal predatory wildlife control. The Commission also recognizes qualified contractors and cooperators may be available for predator population management, habitat management, predator-prey research, conservation education and carnivore population monitoring efforts.
6. In terms of lethal control, Wildlife Services personnel or other contractors shall salvage (when practicable) and give the hide and skull of any mountain lion, black bear and bobcat removed under authority of a contract with the Department within 96 hours of the removal.

~~B. POLICY FOR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF NONPREDATORY ANIMALS AND RELATED WILDLIFE HABITAT~~

1. Wildlife management activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to minimize specific wildlife losses including, but not limited to, enhancing habitat conditions to better provide adequate forage, water, or cover or remove naturally occurring habitat or corvid and raptor perches that increases the susceptibility to predation. Such wildlife management activities will be conducted in accordance with existing land use agreements.
2. Geographical locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area. Priority will be given to provide synergy in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.
3. Wildlife management activities will be conducted in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible with clear goals, objectives and timelines defined at the onset, with an emphasis on improving wildlife populations and their habitats.
4. If needed to assess Project viability, statewide and Project area estimates of carnivore and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
5. Habitat restoration efforts such as selective piñon-juniper removal, riparian zone improvement or habitat rehabilitation after fire will be promoted that provide wildlife habitats wherein game and nongame species alike can find suitable nesting, brood-rearing, fawning, transition and wintering habitats, complete with ample security cover for the purpose of eluding predators and limiting corvid and raptor perching that facilitates predation.
6. Habitat Projects may be considered after all necessary state and federal Project clearances have been completed and documentation has been provided to the Wildlife Damage Management Committee of the Commission (Committee)/Commission prior to the February meeting of the Committee/Commission.

~~C. POLICY FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH FOR MANAGING AND CONTROLLING PREDATORY WILDLIFE~~

- ~~1. Wildlife research activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to address questions regarding predator-prey relationships including improved control techniques, predator-prey responses to habitat restoration activities and influences of large and medium-sized carnivores on ecosystems.~~
- ~~2. Geographical locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations and habitats in the area, as well as the need for objective science on subjects related to Predation Management. Priority will be given to provide synergy in areas where other efforts are completed, under way, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations to provide the best data possible.~~
- ~~3. Wildlife research efforts will be promoted that: a) provide wildlife managers with objective scientific analysis for making sound decisions regarding future wildlife population and habitat management; and b) provide insights into the role predators play in maintaining vigorous and healthy ecosystems.~~
- ~~4. If needed to assess Project viability, statewide and Project area estimates of carnivore and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.~~

~~D. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC CONCERNING THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE~~

- ~~1. Conservation education efforts will be encouraged to: a) educate the public on the purpose of Predation Management; and b) produce an informed citizenry as to the essential role that predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem.~~
- ~~2. Geographical locations for conservation education Project areas will be determined based on statewide and individual community needs for public education relative to predators and Predation Management.~~

PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

~~Pursuant to the above Commission policies, the Department, in coordination with and under the guidance of the Committee shall prepare a Predation Management Plan. The Predation Management Plan shall identify and implement (a) programs for the management and control of predatory wildlife for the benefit of other species of wildlife ("Control Program"), (b) wildlife management activities for the protection of non-predatory animals and related wildlife habitat ("Management Activity"), (c) research relating to predatory wildlife and research to determine successful techniques and effective programs for managing and/or controlling predatory wildlife and related habitats ("Research Program"), and (d) programs for education of the public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife and the role predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem ("Education Program"), all to be conducted for the fiscal period beginning July 1 and ending June 30 of each year (Fiscal Year).~~

~~Whenever possible, Control Programs, Management Activities, Research Programs and Education Programs should be integrated on the landscape to provide the best possible outcome in terms of healthy functioning ecosystems and the furthering of wildlife management science.~~

2. The Predation Management Plan shall be developed each Fiscal Year according to the following procedure:

1. The Department shall prepare a Draft Predation Management Plan (Draft Plan) outlining proposed actions needed for the protection, preservation, management and restoration of wildlife populations and their habitats. Descriptions of Control Programs, Management Activities, Research Programs and/or Education Programs, collectively referred to as "Project(s)," shall include specific Project goals, a detailed description of anticipated results, predator and prey wildlife species that may be impacted, whether or not the Project will span more than one Fiscal Year, and if the Project is for a Control Program, ~~a statement of why the Department believes that the predatory wildlife is a limiting factor in the growth and or maintenance of a target prey population.~~ A description of the Project area should be provided including a map, as well as an assessment of the habitat conditions ~~and whether such habitat is a migratory corridor, summer range, winter range, fawning, calving, nesting or brood-rearing habitat or a combination of any of the above.~~ ~~Regarding all Projects proposed to be continued from the prior Fiscal Year,~~ the Draft Plan shall address the Department's comments from the prior Fiscal Year's Status Report.

2. A Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Predator Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) and Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) during January of every calendar year. Incorporating feedback from both groups, the Draft Plan will be presented to the Commission at the March meeting. The Commission may elect to approve the Draft Plan at that time, or provide additional feedback. The Draft Plan would then be presented one final time at the May Commission meeting.

2. Commission during the February Commission meeting. In so doing, the Draft Plan will be made available to all "Stakeholders," including but not limited to contractors (including Wildlife Services), County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMWs), conservation organizations, and the general public. This Draft Plan shall serve as a vehicle to elicit suggestions for changes, adjustments, new ideas and input from all Stakeholders.

3. The Committee shall set a meeting in conjunction with the March meeting of the Commission to review all comments received on the Draft Plan. After consideration of findings and recommendations of the Department, and with respect to lethal Control Programs, recommendations of Wildlife Services and other contractors, as well as all comments and recommendations received, the Chairman of the Committee shall make a preliminary report to the Commission on which Projects should be funded in the subsequent Fiscal Year. At the March meeting, the Commission shall review the report of the Committee and may vote to make a recommendation to the Department on the ranking of all Projects. If the Commission determines that more Projects are proposed than funding is available for the subsequent Fiscal Year, this will factor into their deliberations and recommendations to the Department.

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4. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft Plan) and present it to the Committee and Commission at their May Meeting. The Final Draft Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made available to the public and distributed to CABMWs. The Commission shall review the Final Draft Plan and shall take further comments from the Department, Stakeholders, and with respect to lethal Control Programs, from Wildlife Services and other contractors. After consideration of such comments, the Commission shall make its final recommendations to the Department on the Final Draft Plan.

5. On or before June 30, ~~after consideration of all comments, the Department shall finalize the Predation Management Plan for the next Fiscal Year.~~ The Final Predation Management Plan shall be posted on the Department's website ~~and made available to the public and distributed to members of the Commission and CABMWs and to all contractors and cooperators.~~

6. If, at any other time of the year, the Department, in consultation with the Committee, identifies additional or changing Predation Management needs and determines that money is available to fund additional Projects, the Department may approve Projects which are urgent in nature or which present unique opportunities.

~~7. Contracts or grants will be finalized and/or amended as soon as possible after the finalization of the Predation Management Plan.~~

~~8.7.~~ Any time after June 30 but no later than August 1, each contractor or grantee of a Project from the previous Fiscal Year shall submit a report to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Department and which has been developed in consultation with the Committee. Such reports may include a summary of predators removed and habitat conditions (if applicable), work conducted, and viability of project moving forward.:

~~(a) For a Control Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) for lethal Control Programs, required quarterly removal reports; (3) for lethal and nonlethal Control Programs, a detailed description of results may include: a) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Control Program area; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; c) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Control Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years;~~

~~(b) For a Management Activity, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of acreages treated and habitat enhancement responses to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment in the Management Activity area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas; d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of Management Activities (i.e. sport harvest~~

~~data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years;~~

~~(c) For a Research Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a detailed description of results may include: a) a complete analysis of research results and conclusions to date; b) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices before and after treatment (if applicable) in the Research Program area; c) estimated predator and prey population and demographic indices in treatment and other areas within designated Project areas (if applicable); d) any other data sets pertinent to the analysis and interpretation of the Research Program (i.e. sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey dynamics and their habitats, etc); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years; and,~~

~~(d) For an Education Program, (1) all of the information set forth in Section 1, above; (2) a complete analysis of Education Program efforts to date including but not limited to how many citizens, schools and/or civic groups benefited directly to date; and (3) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years.~~

~~9. The Department shall review reports in cooperation with all contractors and cooperators for Projects and shall submit copies of the reports and comments of the Department to the Committee and Stakeholders on or before September 1. The extent to which the Project achieved goals and required results will be the focus of these comments. The Committee will review such comments at the September meeting of the Committee. After consideration of all comments from the Department, as well as comments from all Stakeholders, the Chairman of the Committee will provide a report to the Commission at the September Commission meeting.~~

~~10.8.~~ The Department shall prepare an annual Predation Management Status Report (Status Report) detailing results of the previous Fiscal Year's Projects. This report will include a summary of all lethal removal reports, excluding any sensitive data, proprietary information, or time-sensitive locational information. This Status Report shall be presented at the last Commission meeting of each calendar year.

~~11.9.~~ This Status Report will be used in Department and Commission deliberations in subsequent years and in future Predation Management planning efforts.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the Commission.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION,
December 7, 2013.**

**Chairman Jack Robb
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Robb", written in a cursive style.