

**Nevada Department of Wildlife
Mule Deer Enhancement Program
Oversight Committee Charter**

I. Purpose

In response to decades of downward trending mule deer numbers and degradation of mule deer habitat, the Nevada Department of Wildlife has initiated the Mule Deer Enhancement Program (MDEP), a collaborative effort to conserve and improve mule deer habitat and minimize factors limiting healthy mule deer populations. A strategic effort to assess, research, and identify limiting factors may ultimately assist in achieving the goal of improving mule deer populations and lead to more broad scale prescriptions for managing this important game species for Nevada. The goal of having more mule deer on the landscape is consistent with NDOW's mission "To protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational and economic benefits to the citizens of Nevada and the United States....," A purpose-driven endeavor to collaborate with the State Wildlife Action Plan, Nevada's Habitat Conservation Framework, U.S. Department of Interior's Secretarial Order 3362, and other conservation efforts to enact positive changes for wildlife in Nevada. This effort seeks to build partnerships with land management agencies, non-governmental (sportsman's) organizations, sportsmen, industry partners, private landowners, conservationists, and others to plan, pursue funding for, and complete conservation and enhancement actions in mule deer habitat in Nevada.

Under the authority of the Wildlife Commission and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, specific objectives include but are not limited to:

1. Creation of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee, consisting of Wildlife Commissioners, representatives of Sportsman's organizations, environmental experts, and Land Management Agency representatives.
2. Creation of local Mule Deer subcommittees (Local Area Teams) consisting of NDOW game and habitat biologists, County Wildlife Advisory Board members, local sportsmen and sportswomen, representatives of sportsman's organizations, members of industry including livestock, farming, mining, and Land Management Agency (Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service) personnel.
3. Mule Deer subcommittees will evaluate limiting factors for mule deer in their local and regional areas of Nevada.
4. Mule Deer subcommittees will develop and submit habitat enhancement and non-habitat project proposals to the Oversight Committee for evaluation and consideration.
5. The Oversight Committee will prioritize projects and make recommendations for potential funding and implementation to the Nevada Department of Wildlife based on the merits of each project proposal.

II. Location

The principal office of the Mule Deer Enhancement Oversight Committee will be the Nevada Department of Wildlife Office at 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120, Reno, NV 89511. The principal office will house the records associated with the Mule Deer subcommittees and the Oversight Committee (e.g., agendas, meeting minutes, project plans, etc.).

III. Oversight Committee Members

Initial members of the Oversight Committee will consist of the following:

1. Wildlife Commissioner Casey Kiel – Chair
2. Wildlife Commission Vice Chair Tom Barnes
3. Wildlife Commissioner Shane Rogers

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4. Wildlife Commissioner Jon Almberg
5. Jim Rackley – Nevada Muley’s Association
6. Jeremy Drew – Resource Specialist (former Wildlife Commission Chair)
7. Charlie Clements – USDA Rangeland Scientist
8. Josh Vittori – Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
9. Cory Lytle – Meadow Valley Wildlife Unlimited
10. Alan Shepherd – BLM Deputy State Director for Resources
11. Kris Boatner - US Forest Service Wildlife Program Manager/Forest Wildlife Biologist
12. NDOW Staff to Oversight Committee – Cody Schroeder, Mike Scott, Alan Jenne

Additional or replacement members may be added by the Chair of the Wildlife Commission.

IV. Local Area Subcommittee Members – suggested, but not limited to the following:

1. NDOW Game Biologists
2. NDOW Habitat Biologists
3. County Wildlife Advisory Board Chair or designees
4. Local Land Management Agency representatives
5. Local sportsman or sportsman’s group representatives
6. Local industry representatives
7. Local private landowners
8. Local guide representatives
9. Local political representatives

V. Meeting Frequency

Oversight Committee meeting frequency will be at the discretion of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Chair of the Oversight Committee to determine. The need for meetings may change, as necessary. Additional meetings may be held based on need.

Subcommittee (Local Area Team) meetings will be held at a minimum of quarterly, unless otherwise scheduled. Some of these meetings should be held as field trips to allow members to see projects in various stages of completion. Field trips will serve as educational experiences and stimulate conversation among participants.

VI. Code of Conduct

Although most of the meetings have conducted remotely using Zoom, we are expecting to transition to in-person meetings. We expect participants to act professionally and respectfully to move in a positive direction. Since the Mule Deer subcommittees and Oversight Committee include participants with different education, training, and experiences, a code of conduct for both remote and in-person meetings is necessary. The following are a few simple rules for both virtual and in-person meetings:

1. All meetings associated with the Mule Deer Enhancement Program are subject to the Open Meeting Law; minutes will be kept, agendas posted, etc.
 - a. Virtual meetings will be recorded.
2. Be on time – if you cannot attend or will be late, try to let the host or another attendee know, so attendees are not left waiting for you.
3. Wear suitable clothing.
 - a. Anything visible in your virtual background should be appropriate.
4. Language should be professional and appropriate.

- a. Noises in virtual backgrounds during remote meetings should be minimal and appropriate.
5. Avoid drinking alcohol or using other substances during meetings.
6. Respect other participants. Anyone displaying erratic or unprofessional behavior, showing hostility toward, or disrespecting other participants, or undermining the intent of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program will be asked to leave the meeting.
7. Use accepted meeting protocols when interacting; do not interrupt others when speaking.
 - a. Any instances of “Zoom-bombing” will result in an immediate cancellation of the meeting.
8. When disagreements occur, please disagree respectfully.

VII. Participation Expectations (Oversight and Subcommittee Membership)

1. Members for both local Mule Deer subcommittees and Oversight Committee should come prepared and ready to engage in virtual or in-person meetings.
2. Members should make a good faith effort to attend all subcommittee or Committee meetings. If a member must miss a meeting, a designated substitute should attend the meeting and represent the member’s position.
3. CAB members may serve as substitutes for absent subcommittee members.
4. Members that miss three or more consecutive virtual or in-person meetings may be asked to resign from the Subcommittee or Committee and a replacement assigned by the governing authority.
5. Members are expected to be responsive to fellow members by returning communication in a timely manner.
6. Members are expected to carry out assigned tasks in a timely manner and within the allotted time frame agreed upon.
7. All Mule Deer subcommittees and Oversight Committee meetings are subject to the Open Meeting Law and will be noticed and recorded as such. Minutes of all meetings will be made available to the public.
8. Public participation is encouraged, and public input will be considered, however, only Mule Deer Subcommittee members or designated substitutes will be allowed to fill in the various forms assigned to each subcommittee.

VIII. Officers

NDOW Game biologist will be considered the Mule Deer Subcommittee Leaders unless the Game Division Administrator makes other assignments. This ensures that NDOW is responsible for adhering to the Open Meeting Law, including properly posting agendas and noticing meetings, taking minutes, or recording meetings, and running individual Subcommittee meetings.

The Chair of the MDEP Oversight Committee will be responsible for approving the agenda and running Committee meetings.

Staff to the Oversight Committee include the Game Division Mule Deer Staff Specialist, the Chief of the Game Division, and the Chief of the Habitat Division.

IX. Schedule

On an annual basis, subcommittees will provide a maximum of three project proposals to the Oversight Committee by August 1st of each year. The Oversight Committee will meet during August to evaluate project proposals.

X. Process

The Oversight Committee will score project proposals through the approved project scoring matrix and provide the Department with a prioritized list of projects.

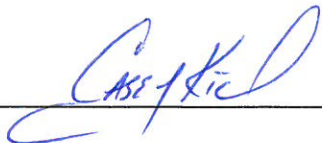
1. The Department will submit appropriate projects to the Heritage Committee for consideration.
2. Projects appropriate for submission through the Predator Plan will be submitted to the NDOW Staff Predator Biologist to be included in the following year's draft Predator Plan. Predator projects proposed by subcommittees will be evaluated to determine if funding is available as well as for feasibility.
3. Projects appropriate for Game Division implementation will be submitted to the Mule Deer Staff Biologist for consideration.
4. High-ranking projects that are neither Habitat- or Predator-related will be evaluated by NDOW staff to determine the best course of action to seek approval and funding to implement those projects.

Any projects suggested and approved that may be impossible to implement due to political, social, economic, or other constraints will be retained for consideration later.

XI. Dissolution

The utility of the Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee and local area subcommittees will be evaluated by the Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Chair of the Wildlife Commission for effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity. Local subcommittees and jurisdictions may be altered if subcommittees fail to meet or to be productive. The Mule Deer Enhancement Program Oversight Committee and sub-committees may be dissolved if recommended by the Director of NDOW and the Chair of the Nevada Wildlife Commission.

XII. Signed or concurred by the following:

Chair, Oversight Committee:  Date: 11/22/21