



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Data and Technology Services Division

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120 • Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM:

August 29, 2022

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

From: Kailey Musso, Management Analyst 3, Director's Office

Title: **Commission Policies**

Description: The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee will be reviewing all Commission Policies throughout the next year. They will be forwarded to the Commission for approval after Committee review.

Summary:

*The formatting of every policy will be updated, as they are passed, so that it is consistent in each policy.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 24 at their May committee meeting after the TAAHC Committee reviewed the policy. The Committees made various changes to sections 2 and 3 regarding junior mule deer hunts. The Commission will hear the policy for the second time.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 25 at their March meeting. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. At the May Commission Meeting, it was decided that the policy needed more work. The Department attempted to address Commission concerns and it will now be considered for a third reading.

Recommendation:

Adopt

Commission Policy 25

Move to a Third Reading

Commission Policy 24

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 24

Title : Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapons Classes and Hunter Groups

Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.181

Effective Date: May 13, 2006

Amended Date:

PURPOSE

To establish hunting opportunities for the various weapon classes and hunter groups.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to approve the harvest levels for big game species based on the various weapons classes and hunter groups relative demand for hunting opportunity and hunter success rates.

FINDINGS

After due deliberation and consideration of the relevant information presented, the Commission makes the following findings:

1. The Commission has a duty to provide hunting opportunity in Nevada.
2. Hunting in Nevada is an important activity for its citizens for many reasons, including but not limited to the following values that hunting provides:
 - A lean, healthy source of protein.
 - Family and other social interaction.
 - A link to Nevada's outdoor history, culture, and traditions.
 - A source of physical exercise important for maintaining health and fitness.
 - Appreciation for the natural habitat and scenic landscape, which is a major component of Nevada's quality of life.
 - Public support for Nevada's wildlife management programs.
 - One of the principal sources of wildlife management funding in Nevada.
3. The Commission takes administrative notice of Nevada's wildlife-limiting climatic and habitat conditions. These include precipitation averages that make Nevada the driest state in the nation, and Great Basin and Mojave Desert vegetation and geography types that provide limited forage and cover. These limiting conditions prevent Nevada's wildlife populations from reaching numbers comparable to those of other states, including other western states.

4. Due to Nevada's relatively low wildlife numbers and its increasing human population, it is necessary to manage ~~limit~~ big game hunting opportunities in the State.

5. Nevada's already-limited resident hunting opportunities would be significantly lowered if nonresidents competed equally with residents for big game tags or were given a greater advantage. Such a change would be against the public interest.

6. Given the geographic and climatic constraints of Nevada's natural environment, the Commission — with the support of both resident and nonresident hunters — has elected to emphasize a sustained quality hunting experience rather than attempt to match the quantity of hunting opportunities available in other states. To do so, the Commission has consistently applied a conservative strategy that, compared to other states, maintains a high male to female ratio among big game populations.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Antelope With Horns Shorter Than Ears: In accordance with NAC 502.003, any pronghorn antelope without horns or with both horns that are shorter than its ears. Generally considered to be a doe (female), fawn, or young male antelope.

Antelope With Horns Longer Than Ears: In accordance with NAC 502.002, "antelope with horns longer than its ears," any pronghorn antelope having at least one horn that is longer than either ear of the antelope. Generally considered to be a mature male antelope.

Antlered Deer: In accordance with NAC 502.007, "antlered deer," any deer having at least one antler that is visible above the hairline of the deer. Generally considered to be a buck (male) deer.

Antlered Elk: In accordance with NAC 502.0074, "antlered elk" means any elk having at least one antler that is visible above the hairline of the elk. Generally considered to be a bull (male) elk.

Antlered Moose: Any moose having at least one antler that is visible above the hairline of the moose. Generally considered to be a bull (male) moose.

Antlerless Deer: In accordance with NAC 502.008, "antlerless deer," any deer without antlers. Generally considered to be a doe (female) or fawn deer.

Antlerless Elk: In accordance with NAC 502.009, any elk without antlers. Generally considered to be a cow (female) or calf.

Antlerless Moose: Any moose without antlers. Generally considered to be a cow (female) or calf.

Big Game: For this policy, big game means all big game mammals except mountain lion.

Billy: Any male mountain goat.

Boar: Any male black bear.

Demand: Demand is defined as the measure of interest that a particular hunter group has in attaining a big game tag based on applications from previous years for a given hunter group and unit group. Demand is defined as the First Choice of unsuccessful applicants combined with successful applicants for all choices.

Ewe: In accordance with NAC 502.345, any female bighorn sheep having a horn or horns of at least 5 inches in length each as measured on the outside curve of the horn from the skull to the tip.

Expand: Taking a projected number of harvested animals and dividing by the expected hunter success rate to generate a tag allocation.

Hunter Groups: Residents of Nevada, resident juniors, and people who are not residents of Nevada.

Harvest Objectives: The numbers of male and female big game animals that the Department has determined can be safely removed from a population through harvest without causing detrimental impacts to that population.

Hunter Success: Percentage of tag holders reporting they hunted and harvested a big game animal. Hunter success calculations omit those tag holders that did not hunt. Hunter success is a valuable metric for understanding the experience of hunters in the field.

Junior Hunter: In accordance with NAC 502.063, generally a person between 12 years and 18 years.

Management Ram Hunt: Ram hunts that seek to achieve a specific population management objective beyond a standard hunt and may vary for the type of ram targeted. These may include broken-horn hunts, young ram hunts, hunts in areas where rams are extremely difficult to locate, or hunts designed to remove rams due to disease or rams found in undesirable areas.

Nanny: Any female mountain goat.

Nonresident: Anyone who does not meet the requirements for residents set in NRS 502.015.

Projected Male Harvest: A projected number of males reported to be harvested that will result in a desired post-hunt male to female ratio objective.

Projected Female (*antlerless deer, antlerless elk, antelope with horns shorter than ears, or bighorn ewe*) **Harvest:** A projected number of females reported to be harvested to achieve various management objectives; maintaining population numbers in balance with habitat conditions, optimal levels for a given species, or below a level set in local management plans; optimum sustained yield during periods of average to exceptional environmental conditions; and/or providing for recreational opportunity.

Ram: Any male bighorn sheep.

Resident: In accordance with NRS 502.015, a person is a resident of the State of Nevada if they are a United States citizen who has maintained his or her principal and permanent residence in Nevada for six months next preceding the application and has not purchased or applied for any resident hunting, fishing, or trapping privileges in another state, country, or province.

Sow: Any female black bear.

Spike Elk: In accordance with NAC 502.104, ~~any antlered elk having not more than two points above the top of the ear on either antler.~~ Spike-only elk hunts are intended to target yearling-young bulls (males).

Tag Success: Percentage of tag holders responding to their hunt questionnaire and subsequently harvesting a big game animal. Tag success calculations include those tag holders that did not hunt. Tag success, used in the Demand-Tag Success formula, will be primarily based on tag success rates from previous years for a given hunter group and unit group. A long-term or statewide average may be used to moderate erratic variations in tag success rates.

Unit Groups: A defined geographic area within Nevada where separate or conjoined population assessments, harvest objectives, and other management actions are applied.

Weapons Groups: Any legal weapon, muzzleloader, and archery.

GENERAL RULES — ALL SPECIES

Population estimates of males and females (one year-old or older) for each unit group at the pre-hunt period (late summer) will be the basis for determining projected harvest levels for each species class.

The Commission approves the projected male and female harvest levels among those weapons and hunter groups that are identified for each unit group through the public scoping process involving the County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife and interested publics and approved by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

FIRST COME FIRST SERVED

Any tag remaining after the big game draws, returned to the Department with no eligible alternate, or returned to the Department with less than 14 days before the season opener may be offered for purchase to both residents and nonresidents in the First Come, First Served program. Returned resident tags will be designated for residents and returned nonresident tags will be designated for nonresidents beginning in 2023-2024.

DEMAND-TAG SUCCESS

A Demand-Tag Success formula will be used to allocate tags to various weapon classes for deer, elk, and antelope.

Demand is defined as the measure of interest that a particular hunter group has in attaining a big game tag based on applications from previous years for a given hunter group and unit group. Demand is defined as the First Choice of unsuccessful applicants combined with successful applicants for all choices.

Tag Success is defined as the percentage of tag holders responding to their hunt questionnaire and subsequently harvesting a big game animal. Tag success calculations include those tag holders that did not hunt. Tag success, used in the Demand-Tag Success formula, will be primarily based on tag success rates from previous years for a given hunter group and unit group. A long-term or statewide average may be used to moderate erratic variations in tag success rates. Tag success must be used in the Demand-Tag Success Formula to achieve projected harvest while accommodating tag holders that do not hunt.

RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT TAG ALLOCATION

The Commission strives to allocate approximately 90 percent of available quota to resident hunters and 10 percent of available quota to nonresident hunters for males of each big game species in the Main Draw.

PARTY HUNT QUOTA MINIMUM

For deer, antlerless elk, and horns shorter than ears antelope hunts, the minimum tag quota will be two to allow applicants who wish to apply as a party of two applicants to apply and have a chance of drawing those tags.

SPECIFIC RULES — BY SPECIES

MULE DEER

Allocation of Projected Harvest by Weapon Group

The Demand-Tag Success process for determining antlered mule deer hunting quotas

will be as follows:

For Standard and Alternative Hunt Units (see Game Division Big Game Management Objectives)

1. Determine the desired animal harvest for each unit group based on the pre-hunt population estimate and desired male to female ratio (typically 30 bucks per 100 does).

2. Apportion the desired harvest into the various weapon classes based on demand from previous years for standard hunt units.

3. Apportion the desired harvest of 25% to Junior Hunters (Juniors).

a. Junior hunts may be divided into Any Legal Weapon class and Archery/Muzzleloader combination to allow for increased Junior participation.

b. Junior deer tags will be considered antlered deer tags except in areas that have open antlerless deer hunts, where they will be considered either-sex tags.

c. Juniors can apply for five years and be awarded three tags before the age of 18.

4. For alternative and non-standard hunt units, the demand will be based on the number of first choice applicants for each weapon type from the previous years.

5. Determine final quota for each unit group and weapon type by dividing the desired harvest by the previous 3-year average tag success rate.

A long-term or statewide average may be used to moderate erratic variations in demand and tag success rates.

ELK

Allocation of Projected Harvest by Weapon Group

Modeled changes in population size, bull-cow ratios, and percent of main beams \geq 50-inch reported by hunters from previous years will be assessed to determine desired elk harvest. Using calculated demand, the projected antlered, antlerless, and spike harvest will then be distributed among the various weapon groups identified for a given elk class and unit group. The projected harvest, once allocated among the weapon groups, will be divided by hunter success for the appropriate weapon group to determine the recommended tag quota.

ANTELOPE

Allocation of Projected Harvest by Weapon Group

The projected buck harvest will be divided among the various weapon groups identified for a given antelope class and unit group. The projected harvest, once divided among the weapon groups, will be expanded to hunting opportunities.

Horns shorter than ears harvest will be based on the tag success of previous years for a given hunter group and unit group hunter success. A long-term or statewide average may be used to moderate erratic variations in tag success rates.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Weapon, Hunter Groups, and Animal Classes

Bighorn ram and ewe hunting opportunities will involve any legal weapon and archery weapon groups. Management ram hunts may be implemented in unit groups where broken-horned rams may exist, where reduced ram densities are desired, and where consistently low ram tag success occurs.

Allocation of Projected Harvest by Hunter Group

Tag success rates will not be used to expand either the projected ram or ewe harvest.

MOUNTAIN GOAT

Weapon, Hunter Groups, and Animal Classes

Mountain goat hunting opportunities may consist of any mountain goat (male or female), or billy only. Hunts are any legal weapon only.

Allocation of Projected Harvest by Hunter Group

Tag success rates will not be used to expand the projected mountain goat harvest.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

*BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, **Date**.*

**Chairwoman Tiffany East
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy 25

Number: P-25

Title: Wildlife Damage Management

Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.110, 503.470, 503.595, 567.010-567.090, CGR No. 1(8) and No. 4 (2)

Effective Date: September 19, 1980

Amended Date: June 17, 2000

Last Reviewed Date: 2007

PURPOSE

To inform the public and guide the Department of Wildlife in actions relating to Wildlife Damage Management.

In accordance with NRS 501.181, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall establish policies for the protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this state. Further, the Commission shall establish policies for areas of interest including wildlife damage management.

POLICY

1. Wildlife damage management shall be undertaken to minimize wildlife related losses to private or natural resources without endangering the existence or natural role of offending wildlife species in the ecosystem.
- ~~1. Extension and educational efforts will be encouraged to assist private citizens in animal husbandry practices, property protection or human activities to minimize the vulnerability of loss, damage, or injury to livestock, pets, private property, or human health and safety.~~
2. The Commission supports continued federal leadership in wildlife damage management because of the national need for development and use of more efficient and humane control methods.
3. The Commission recognizes the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services, as the authority for predatory and nuisance wildlife damage management under cooperative agreement with the Department of Wildlife, where the Department of Wildlife is an active participant in documenting the need for wildlife damage management programs, in planning and execution of those programs, and in enhancing public understanding of those programs.

~~The Department shall prepare an annual wildlife damage management plan~~

~~outlining proposed actions needed for the management of wildlife and, upon approval of the Commission, recommend that a sufficient amount of funding annually be forwarded from the Wildlife Account in the State General Fund to the state predator animal and rodent committee (PARC) for wildlife damage management work as provided in Chapter 567 of NRS.~~

~~2. The Department shall conduct an evaluation of the potential needs for wildlife damage management activities in conjunction with preparing release proposal for big game, upland game, and migratory birds. Those evaluations shall be included in each site-specific release proposal in the draft biennial big game and upland game-migratory bird release plans.~~

4. Initiate wildlife damage management efforts using the best scientific and biological information available.

5. Direct wildlife damage management efforts including sport hunting and trapping, whenever possible, to prevent damage to resources or threats to human health and safety before it occurs in specific areas known to be recurring problem areas, or to alleviate damage as soon as possible after it occurs.

6. Direct wildlife damage management efforts at the offending animal or localized offending species population insofar as possible, and feasible.

~~3. Wildlife damage management of major mammalian predators including coyotes, bobcats, mountain lion, and black bears, shall be directed towards specific geographic areas of the state where a predation problem has been documented by the Department of Wildlife or Wildlife Services. Within those documented areas, management and control efforts shall be undertaken to minimize livestock, pets, or natural resource losses that may or are about to occur through predation. In the event that any of the aforementioned major mammalian predators poses a legitimate immediate threat to human health and safety, based on the professional judgment of Department of Wildlife or Wildlife Services personnel, those animals shall be killed.~~

7. Employ wildlife damage management methods which are selected on the basis of the species involved, utilizing currently approved methods in the proper mix according to the needs. ~~These methods may include aerial hunting, M-44 devices, trapping, snares, denning and registered pesticides.~~

a. Pesticides must be federally and state registered, applied only by certified applicators, and should only be used in those proactive or reactive preventative damage management operations where its use and delivery system represent a selective, effective and efficient method of control.

b. Aerial hunting will be conducted only under authorization of the Department of Wildlife through issuance of an aerial depredation

permit, limited to bobcats, coyotes and ravens. Such permits shall be issued only to Wildlife Services or to landowners or tenants land or property that are being damaged by wildlife.

~~4. Department, upon issuance of a depredation permit and with the aid and cooperation of the complainant, may take all available professional and economically feasible measures to alleviate or lessen the depredation or safety problem.~~

PROCEDURE

~~NRS 503.595 provides that after the owner or tenant of any land or property has made a report to the Department indicating that such land or property is being damaged or destroyed, or is in danger of being damaged or destroyed, by wildlife, the Department may, after thorough investigation and pursuant to such regulations as the Commission may promulgate, cause such action to be taken as it may deem necessary, desirable and practical to prevent or alleviate such damage or threatened damage to such land or property.~~

~~The Commission has adopted regulations authorizing the Director or his designee to issue wildlife depredation permits. Specific permit programs include:~~

8. An annual wildlife depredation permit may be issued to the State Supervisor, U. S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, to kill mountain lion, common raven, black bear, and/or bobcat or others as needed causing or potentially causing a loss of private property, natural resources, or representing a threat to human health and safety.

a. Any report of natural resource, livestock, ~~or~~ pet loss, or threat to human health or safety received by the Department shall be forwarded immediately to Wildlife Services for action in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

b. Upon receipt of a report from a property owner or the Department indicating that a mountain lion, common raven, black bear, ~~or~~ bobcat or other is causing or about to cause damage to private property or poses ~~oppose~~ a threat to human health and safety, the permittee shall conduct an on-site investigation. If the results of the investigation support the complaint, the permittee may kill the animal. If the permittee cannot determine if the complaint is valid, he shall notify a representative of the Department, who shall conduct a joint investigation to make the final determination.

~~a. The permittee shall salvage and give the hide and skull of mountain lion, black bear or bobcat killed under the authority of a permit, to the Department within 72 hours.~~

~~1. An annual wildlife depredation permit may be issued to State Supervisor, Wildlife Services to kill the minimum number of game, furbearers, protected or unprotected wildlife species as necessary to control threat or~~

~~damage to and property or to human health and safety.~~

c. Upon receipt of a valid mountain lion, black bear or bobcat complaint from an individual landowner or tenant, the Department may issue a limited permit to the owner to pursue and kill an animal that is in the act of killing his livestock.

1. The permittee shall notify a Department representative within 72 hours after killing a mountain lion, common raven, black bear, ~~or bobcat~~ or other predator, and shall salvage the hide and skull and give same to the Department of Wildlife.

~~2. The Department may issue permits authorizing the hunting or killing of coyotes and bobcats from an aircraft.~~

d. Furbearers may be taken or killed at any time in any manner, provided an individual or entity first obtains a permit from the Department. The Department or their agents are authorized to enter upon the lands of a landowner and remove beaver or otter for the relief of other landowners and the protection of the public welfare.

~~3. The Department may issue permits consistent with federal law to take bald eagles, golden eagles, ravens, or other birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, whenever it determines that they have become seriously injurious to wildlife or agriculture or other interests that the injury can only be abated by killing some of the offending birds.~~

~~4. The State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee shall enter into agreements with the U. S. Department of Agriculture covering cooperative control of crop destroying birds in addition to predatory animals and rodents to assure maximum protection against losses of livestock, poultry, game birds, animals and crops on a statewide basis. The State Department of Agriculture in accordance with NRS 555.010 and 555.021 responds to complaints involving vertebrate pests that are injurious to agriculture or public health.~~

e. The Department may issue a wildlife depredation permit to a landowner if needed for the prevention or alleviation of damage to standing or stored agriculture crops.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, ~~June 17, 2000.~~

Chairman Bill Bradley
Board of Wildlife Commissioners