



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

Director's Office

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MEMORANDUM

October 1, 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**

Purpose: 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 policies to be reviewed and amended include Commission Policy 11, 23, 24, 60, 61, 62, and 66.

Brief Explanation of Proposed Policies

*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 11 in June and will have reviewed it again at their November Committee Meeting. The policy was updated to reflect the selection for Heritage Grants. This policy will now be considered for a first reading by the Commission.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 23 at their March 2022 and November 2022 meetings. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. One meeting of the year was removed, taking the number of Predator Plan Readings from eight meetings per year to seven. The policy will now be considered for a first reading by the Commission. Both the clean version of the new policy and the clean version of the old policy were noticed to avoid too much confusion with tracked changes.

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 made various changes regarding FCFS and Party Hunts. The Commission will hear the policy for the third time.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 60 at their April 2022 meeting. The Commission heard the policy for the first time at the August 2022 meeting. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. The policy will now be considered for a second reading by the Commission.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 61 at their April 2022 meeting. The Commission heard the policy for the first time at the August 2022 meeting. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. The policy will now be considered for a second reading by the Commission.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 62 at their November 2022 meeting. The Commission heard the policy for the first time at their November 2022 meeting. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. The policy will also be considered for a first reading by the Commission.

The Administrative Policies, Regulations and Procedures (APRP) Committee reviewed Commission Policy 66 at their April 2022 meeting. The Commission heard the policy for the first time at the August 2022 meeting. The policy was simplified and removed repetitive language. The policy will now be considered for a second reading by the Commission.

Recommendation

Adopt

Commission Policy 24
Commission Policy 60
Commission Policy 61
Commission Policy 66

Move to Second Reading

Commission Policy 11
Commission Policy 23
Commission Policy 62

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 11

Number: P-11

Title: Wildlife Heritage Grants

References: NRS 502.3575, NAC 501.300-340

Effective Date: July 1, 2012

Amended Date: September 23, 2016

PURPOSE

To inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) in actions relating to the Board of Wildlife Commissioners' (the Commission) review and approval of expenditures from the Wildlife Heritage Account in accordance with NRS 501.3575.

POLICY

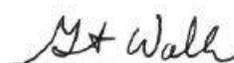
It is the policy of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) to make awards from the Wildlife Heritage Account to project proposals in conformance with NAC 501.300-340. Furthermore, all awards shall be made in the form of grant awards as prescribed by the Department's Heritage Program Grant Manual. The Department will rank and score project proposals based on project viability and resource enhancement potential. As a condition for accepting any award, project proponents must agree to the terms and conditions of the Heritage Program Grant Manual.

PROCEDURE

The Department shall administer the Heritage Program Grant Manual and ensure its compliance with all applicable state rules and regulations. Furthermore, the Manual shall be posted on the Department's website as part of the Wildlife Heritage Program and shall otherwise be made available for public inspection.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION, September 23, 2016.



Grant Wallace, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

**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
Amended Date: May 13, 2016

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and guide the Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) in actions relating to Predation Management. This policy specifically seeks to establish an informed Predation Management Program, primarily governed by the Predator Management Plan, which complies with NRS 502.253 and other applicable laws and incorporates the tools of habitat restoration 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.

DEFINITION OF “PREDATION MANAGEMENT”

Predation Management is herein defined as selective reduction (i.e., limited lethal removal) and/or management (i.e., nonlethal actions) of predator 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 predator populations, maintaining and/or managing viable predator 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.

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) Developing and implementing an annual program for the management and control of predatory wildlife;
- (b) Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of non-predatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species; and
- (c) Conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling 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, of which 80% of the revenues from the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information must be spent for lethal management and control of predatory wildlife in accordance with NRS 502.253(4)(b).

Pursuant to NRS 502.253(4)(a), the Department will first consider the recommendations of the Commission and the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) before adopting any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

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

1. Conduct projects 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 reduce specific wildlife-related losses to wildlife populations without endangering long-term health, vigor and/or ecological services provided by balanced and viable predator and/or corvid 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 act in areas where other efforts are completed, underway, 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 predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in predator management programs as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.
6. 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, predator-prey research, and predator population monitoring efforts.
7. 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 GAME ANIMALS AND SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES

1. Wildlife management activities will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to reduce 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 act 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. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife management activities as needed to protect game and sensitive wildlife populations.
5. If needed to assess project viability, statewide and project area estimates of predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

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 or predator community relationships including improved control techniques, predator-prey responses to habitat restoration activities, and influences of large and medium-sized predators 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 act in areas where other efforts are completed, underway, 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 predator and corvid populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
5. Statewide and regional projects that allow the Department to engage in wildlife research efforts as needed to identify better techniques for predator control and management.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the above Commission policies, the Department, in coordination with and under the guidance of the Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC), 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”), and (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”), 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, and Research 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.

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, and Research 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 affected,

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, an assessment of the habitat conditions, and identification if 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 Commission during its first meeting of the calendar year (typically February). 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), PARC, 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 Department shall attend a meeting of the PARC between the Commission's first meeting of the year and the Commission's March meeting to present and discuss the Draft Plan.
4. The WDMC 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 projects, recommendations of Wildlife Services and other contractors, PARC, as well as all comments and recommendations received, the Chairman of the WDMC 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 WDMC 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.
5. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft Plan) and present it to the WDMC and/or 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 and PARC. The Commission shall review the Final Draft Plan and shall take further comments from the Department, Stakeholders, PARC, 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.
6. 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.

7. If, at any other time of the year, the Department, in consultation with the WDMC and PARC, 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.
8. Contracts or grants will be finalized and/or amended as soon as possible after the finalization of the Predation Management Plan.
9. 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 WDMC. Such reports may include:
 - (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 (e.g., sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, or other related items); 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 (e.g., sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey populations and their habitats, or other related items); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years; and
 - (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 (e.g., sport harvest data, climate patterns, fire regime, nonnative floral and/or faunal influences on predator and prey dynamics and their habitats, or other related items); and (4) all itemized costs incurred during previous Fiscal Years.

10. 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. 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,
May 13, 2016.**

**Chairman Jeremy Drew
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

**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

Amended Date:

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) and the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) recognize the need to effectively manage predators in Nevada. Predation Management actions are a viable and legitimate wildlife management tool that must be available to wildlife professionals when necessary. The Predation Management Program will incorporate the tools of predation management for the protection of nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species and conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife, including the use of proven and emerging science-based techniques of predator population management.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform the public and guide the Department in actions related to Predation Management. Should the Department make the decision to implement predation management actions, the management actions will be directed by the Predation Management Plan.

NEED

Where wildlife populations are failing to reach Department population management objectives, public expectations, or where evidence suggests that predation may be a significant factor inhibiting the ability of a prey population to reach expected population levels, the Department may consider implementing predation management actions. The Department will consider acting if declining population trends cannot be explained by habitat conditions, weather or climatic events, disease, or other factors. The Commission is aware of the diverse public opinions concerning predation issues and recognizes the need to increase public education to facilitate a better understanding of predation management, including the effects of not managing predators.

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

A. POLICY FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE

1. Management decisions will be based on the best available scientific information.
2. Projects will be conducted in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Clear goals, measurable objectives and limited timelines will be defined at the onset, with an emphasis of identifying and refining prescriptive measures of Predation Management for use in the future.
3. Lethal and/or nonlethal predator control efforts will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to minimize specific predator-caused losses to wildlife populations.
4. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (Wildlife Services), is the cooperating agency in lethal predatory

wildlife control. Contractors may be used for predator population management, habitat management, predator prey research, conservation education and carnivore population monitoring efforts.

5. Wildlife Services personnel and contractors shall salvage (when practical) the hide and skull of any mountain lion, black bear and bobcat removed under authority of the contract and present them to the Department within 96 hours of the removal.
6. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.
7. Priority will be given to act in areas where other conservation efforts are completed, underway, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations.
8. Geographic locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area.
9. If needed, statewide and Project area estimates of terrestrial and avian predator populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

B. 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 the effects of predator control on game populations, predator-prey relationships including improved control techniques, predator-prey responses to habitat restoration activities and specific influences of large and medium-sized carnivores on Nevada ecosystems.
2. Geographic 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 in areas where other conservation efforts are being implemented.
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.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REPORT PROCEDURES

The Department shall prepare an annual Predation Management Plan. The Predation Management Plan shall identify, (a) projects for the management and control of predatory wildlife for the benefit of other species of wildlife, and (b) research projects related to predatory wildlife, successful techniques, and effective programs for managing and/or controlling predatory wildlife and related habitats.

If Habitat or Conservation Education projects are proposed, they should identify wildlife habitat management activities for the protection of non-predatory animals and programs for education of the public concerning the management and control of predatory wildlife and the role predators play in a well-functioning ecosystem.

Predation Management Plan Fiscal Year procedure and timeline:

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. Descriptions of Control Projects, Research Projects, Habitat Management Activities and/or Education Programs shall include:
 - A. Project Number and Title.
 - B. Justification (detailed description of the proposed project, including 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).
 - C. Project Purpose (Wildlife Control, Research Project, Habitat Management, or Education).
 - D. Project Manager.
 - E. Project Type (Implementation, Experimental Management, or Experimentation).
 - F. Monitoring Level (Standard, Intermediate, or Rigorous).
 - G. Potentially Affected Species.
 - H. Duration.
 - I. Project Area (Unit(s), County, or Statewide).
 - J. Limiting Factor Statement, including why potential non-lethal methods would not be effective.
 - K. Response Variable (further actions to be taken depending on project success or type).
 - L. Project Goals and measurable objectives, including the criteria to determine when the project will be discontinued due to either success or failure.
 - M. Habitat Conditions (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).
 - N. Comments From Previous Year's Predator Report.
 - O. Methods and Timing.
 - P. Prey Population Estimate (if a specific population objective is desired).
 - Q. Anticipated Results.
 - R. Staff Comment.
 - S. Project Direction (Department Recommendation).
 - T. Project Budget (\$3 Predator Fee, Pittman Robertson monies, private donations, etc.).
 - U. A status update of the previous year's Plan
2. The Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Commission prior to the January Commission meeting. The Draft Plan will be made available to all Stakeholders, including Wildlife Services, contractors, County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABMWs), conservation organizations, and interested publics and shall serve as a vehicle to elicit suggestions for changes, adjustments, new ideas and input from all Stakeholders.
3. The Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) and Wildlife Damage Management Committee (WDMC) shall set meetings in conjunction with the March Commission Meeting 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 WDMC Committee shall make a preliminary report to the Commission on which Projects should be funded in the subsequent Fiscal Year.

4. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan and present it to the WDMC and the Commission prior to the May meeting. The Final Draft Plan shall be posted on the Department's website and made available to the public and distributed to CABMWs. After consideration of all comments, the Commission shall make final recommendations to the Department on the Final Draft Plan.
5. On or before June 30, the Final Predation Management Plan shall be posted on the Department's website.
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. In July of each year, contractors, or grantees of Projects from the previous Fiscal Year shall submit a report to the Department which should include a summary of work completed, including predators removed, habitat work conducted (if applicable), and viability of the project moving forward.
8. The Department shall prepare an annual Predation Management 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.
9. This Status Report will be used in Department and Commission deliberations in subsequent years and in future Predation Management planning efforts. A summary of the status report will be included in the following years' Draft Predation Management Plan to make deliberations easier for the Committees and Commission.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS REGULAR SESSION,.



**Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**

DEFINITIONS

Experimental Management: The primary objectives are management of predators through lethal or non-lethal means and to learn the effects of a novel management technique. NDOW will collaborate with USDA Wildlife Services, private contractors, and other wildlife professionals to conduct lethal or non-lethal management of predators and will put forethought into project design. Response variables will be identified, and data will be collected to determine project effectiveness. Expected outcomes will include project effectiveness, agency reports, and possible peer-reviewed publications.

Experimentation: The primary objective is for increasing knowledge of predators in Nevada. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to study and learn about predators of Nevada. Expected outcomes will include agency reports, peer-reviewed publications, and information on how to better manage Nevada's predators.

Implementation: The primary objective is to implement management of predators through lethal or non-lethal means. NDOW will collaborate with USDA Wildlife Services and private contractors to conduct lethal and non-lethal management of predators. Identifying and monitoring a response variable is not a primary objective for implementation.

Intermediate Monitoring: The primary objective of intermediate monitoring is to apply a specific monitoring plan designed to evaluate the response of game species or sensitive wildlife to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to identify reference and treatment areas or evaluate productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife before, during, and after implementation to determine effectiveness of predator management. Composition surveys may be modified to thoroughly evaluate productivity in the reference and treatment areas and to better accommodate annual variation in survey conditions. Expected outcomes will include an indication of project effectiveness, agency reports, and possible peer-reviewed publications.

Nonpredatory Game Animals: For the purposes of this policy includes mule deer, pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, Rocky Mountain elk, mountain goat, moose, upland game birds, upland game mammals, and migratory game birds.

Predation: The act of an individual animal or group of animals killing another live animal.

Predation Management: Selective reduction and/or management of terrestrial, avian, or aquatic predator populations when and where predation is identified by the Department as a limiting factor negatively affecting another wildlife population.

Predator: Any wild animal species subsisting, wholly or in part, on other living animals captured through its own efforts.

Predator Removal: The physical removal of an animal from an area where its presence is undesirable for wildlife management purposes, generally requiring lethal actions.

Prey: Any animal hunted or killed as food by a predator.

Rigorous Monitoring: The primary objective of rigorous monitoring is to evaluate several response variables known to affect productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife and to determine the relative influence of those variables when measuring the response to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW may collaborate with other wildlife professionals to identify the requirements of rigorous monitoring and to further evaluate factors influencing productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife such as survival of juveniles, body condition of adults, or habitat productivity. Rigorous monitoring efforts will help to disentangle biotic and abiotic conditions that may influence productivity of game species or sensitive wildlife from the effects of lethal or non-lethal management of predators. Expected outcomes will include agency reports, peer-reviewed publications, and information on how to better manage Nevada's wildlife.

Sensitive Wildlife Species: For the purposes of this policy includes nonpredatory reptiles, mammals, birds, fish, and amphibians.

Standard Monitoring: The primary objective of standard monitoring is to use existing survey protocols to evaluate the response of game species or sensitive wildlife to lethal or non-lethal management of predators. NDOW conducts annual and biannual surveys to evaluate trend and composition of game species or sensitive wildlife and to inform the season and quota-setting process. Composition surveys will yield response variables such as recruitment of juveniles into the adult population and will be compared to published benchmarks of productivity in the management area of interest, to neighboring areas not receiving predator management, or in the same area before treatment began. Standard

monitoring represents no change to existing monitoring efforts. Expected outcomes include an indication of project effectiveness and agency reports.

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 24

Title : Hunting Opportunities Among Various Weapon 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 weapon 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 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, spike-only elk hunts are intended to target 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 business 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 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 a maximum of three junior 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 Number 60

Number: **P-60**
Title: Water Application Guidelines
Reference: NRS 501.105, 503.584,
503.589
Effective Date: March 28, 1980
Amended Date: December 2, 1995
Reviewed Date: 2002

PURPOSE

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall establish policies necessary for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat and shall utilize its authority to carry out a program for conserving, protecting and propagating native fish, wildlife and other vertebrates and their habitats.

POLICY

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners does hereby establish the following policy to provide for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat:

1. The Director, Department of Wildlife, to the maximum extent practical, shall review water applications submitted to the State Engineer for the appropriation of waters to determine the impact on wildlife and its habitat.
2. If it is determined by the Director that granting the application would threaten or cause significant impacts to wildlife or habitat resources, the Director shall, within 30 days from the date of last publication of notice of applications, file with the State Engineer a written protest against granting the application, setting forth with reasonable certainty the grounds of such protest.
3. The Director shall advise the State Engineer and the applicant that such protest will be withdrawn if, in his opinion, adequate safeguards are provided for wildlife or habitat.

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners recognizes the economic value and benefit of long-established agricultural development resulting, in part, from the use of drilled wells and free-flowing artesian wells. The Board will consider and review legislation that cause detrimental effects on wildlife and habitat resources.

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, DECEMBER 2, 1995.

B. Mahlon Brown, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 61

Number: **P-61**
Title: Water Rights
Reference: NRS 501.105, 503.584,
503.589
Effective Date: August 20, 1982
Amended Date: December 2, 1995
Reviewed Date: 2002

PURPOSE

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall establish policies necessary for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat and shall utilize its land management authority to carry out a program for conserving, protecting and propagating wildlife and their habitats.

Water is essential for the existence and survival of fish and most species of wildlife, and in Nevada's arid climate, water is the key to the distribution and population abundance of the State's fish and wildlife resources.

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Department of Wildlife in securing water for the preservation, maintenance, restoration and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats. The provisions of this policy are in complete accord with Nevada water law, and will not impair any vested, permitted or certificated rights for the use of water.

POLICY

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners does hereby establish the following policy to provide for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat:

1. Instream Flow:

It is the policy of the Commission to ~~achieve, through all available means,~~ ensure adequate instream flows to maintain existing fish life and aquatic ecosystems. Whenever waters with significant wildlife values is identified and a willing water seller ~~water~~ becomes available, the Department shall, subject to ~~a determination of need, and~~ available manpower and ~~funds~~ money, apply for and/or purchase such waters for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

2. Minimum Reservoir Pools:

It is the policy of the Commission to achieve, ~~through all available means,~~ the maintenance of minimum reservoir pools necessary to support viable fish populations. The Department shall collaborate with private reservoir owners, whenever ~~possible the opportunity arises, enter into negotiations with private reservoir owners~~ to secure cooperative agreements for public ~~fisherman~~ access and minimum pools. The Department shall work through the federal land management agency's ~~permitting process~~ to ensure ~~permit stipulations for the maintenance of~~ public access and minimum pools is maintained on all ~~new~~ reservoirs constructed wholly or partially on public lands.

3. Wetlands:

It is the policy of the Commission to maintain, ~~restore and expand, through all available means, the maximum possible acreages of~~ viable wetland habitats in Nevada. Whenever waters possessing significant wildlife and wetland values are identified and a willing water seller becomes available~~water becomes available~~, the Department shall, subject to available manpower and ~~fundsmoney~~, apply for and/or purchase such waters as are necessary to maintain existing wetlands for the benefit of fish and wildlife. The Department shall work with landowners and managers to ensure the most efficient and effective collective water management processes.

4. Springs and Seeps:

It is the policy of the Commission to ensure, through all available means, that wildlife have access to the water from springs and seeps necessary to maintain existing and anticipated distributions and population levels. The Department shall, subject to available manpower and money:

- a. Where significant wildlife values are identified ~~f~~File applications for permits to appropriate the necessary water to support existing and anticipated wildlife populations on ~~all~~ springs and seeps ~~of significant value to wildlife and~~ where unappropriated water is available.
- b. File joint applications, where appropriate, to obtain the amount of water needed for maintenance of wildlife populations.
- c. Develop procedures to implement the provisions of Chapter 533 of NRS to ensure wildlife access to appropriated waters.

- d. Work cooperatively with private water right holders and public land management agencies to ensure that sufficient water from springs and seeps is available for wildlife. In addition, work to protect, conserve and enhance riparian areas, meadows, wetlands, and other habitats associated with water resources that provide valuable habitats for wildlife.
- e. File protests with the State Water Engineer on those applications for waters of significant value to wildlife and where the proposed use of the water will remove waters from the lands or deny wildlife access thereto, and where all other avenues of ensuring wildlife access to such waters have been exhausted.

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, DECEMBER 2, 1995.

B. Mahlon Brown, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 62

Number:— **P-62**
Title:— Mitigation Policy
Reference:— NRS 501.105
Effective Date:— January 23, 1987
Amended Date:— December 1, 2001
Reviewed Date 2002

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide the Department of Wildlife in mitigation of activities which have the potential to adversely impact fish and wildlife resources in Nevada.

BACKGROUND

Anthropogenic activities associated with human population growth and economic development result in various demands on the State's natural resources. In some cases, these activities create ~~The natural expansion of human populations in Nevada has resulted in increased demands on many of the natural resources of the state, which in numerous cases has had an adverse impacts on fish and wildlife and habitat resources and their habitats. The severity and scale of these impacts on wildlife and habitat resources is wide-ranging and can vary significantly based on the intensity and location of the activity.~~

~~Examples of these impacts include losses include One only needs to look at the continued loss of wetland habitat in the Truckee Meadows, impacts to Lahontan cutthroat trout from grazing practices, habitat degradation use by wild horse and burro, and mining operations, the loss of mule deer migration corridors and winter range from residential and mineral development, along the Sierra front, the historical decreases in numbers and distribution patterns of bighorn sheep and greater sage grouse habitat loss and fragmentation from various anthropogenic impacts, and loss of their habitats, or the large scale conversions of natural shrub and grasslands to significantly degraded conditions. As some of these losses may be considered acceptable as the price paid for improving the quality of life and insuring the stability of economic development and diversification, it is important that we not take wildlife for granted in assuming that this important natural resource will always receive appropriate consideration.~~

~~The real challenge in fish, wildlife and habitat protection stems from the fact that most of man's human activities affect these resource values in one way or another, either beneficially or detrimentally, directly, or indirectly. Addressing these The methods by which problems negative impacts is possible, but also complex, in Nevada due the high percentage of federally administered public land. Development of public land provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage in the process, but is simultaneously complex because it can include different federal, state, and local government agencies with different rules, regulations, and policies for land and resource management. are addressed are further compounded complex in Nevada because due of the large number of federal, state and local government agencies responsible for land and resource use planning management and associated project development. Each of these agencies agency has their own set of rules, regulations and policies governing management individual actions activities and decisions across landscapes in Nevada or project proposals. An approach by our agency the Department aimed at avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts for a~~

specific ~~proposal~~ proposed project may be acceptable to one agency, but unrealistic or unacceptable for another.

~~The basis for the development of this mitigation policy (and the Department's Technical Review Program). The basis for the development of this program and procedure~~ lies in the Department's statutory charge that the protection of fish and wildlife ~~resources~~ values are in the public interest and that ~~proper land use planning~~ comprehensive participation in land use management decision-making, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes, are rooted in robust science and professional expertise, including wildlife input and consideration, can result in positive protective measures.

For the purposes of this policy, "impacts" may include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, may be short, medium, or long in duration, and may vary in significance. "Mitigation" will be defined as: Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate, and shall consist of:

1. Avoiding the impact(s) altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action, or through moving all or part of a proposed action to a less critical area.
2. Minimizing, reducing, or rectifying impacts by protective measures, or through limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation during the life of the action. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment may also minimize impacts and is often achieved through reclamation requirements.
3. Mitigating ~~for~~ the impact(s) by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments, or through compensation (also referred to as "compensatory mitigation"). This may occur near/adjacent to the proposed action(s), or off-site.

~~The overall objective of the Department and this policy is to guide or provide a that guides guidance for for use in the Department's role in land use, project, and conservation planning processes where avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation~~ compensatory measures may be necessary to offset for mitigate those activities which have the potential to adversely impact fish, ~~and wildlife, and habitat~~ resources in Nevada.

JUSTIFICATION

The Department's basic responsibility as a conservation agency is derived by state law which gives the Commission the authority to "...establish policies and adopt regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat." (NRS 501.105). Numerous other state laws outside of Title 45 also provide for the consideration and protection of wildlife in the state. Some of the more prominent state statutes are as follows:

NAC 232.400-480 – "Sagebrush Ecosystem Council: Mitigation of Adverse Impact to Greater Sage-Grouse and Habitat", and the establishment and implementation of the Nevada Conservation Credit System to achieve mitigation.

NRS 278.020 – With respect to the improvement of land as regulated by cities and counties: "(2) Any such regulation, restriction and control shall take into account the potential impairment of natural resources and the total population which the available natural resources will support without unreasonable impairment."

NRS 278.160 – As part of the master planning process, conservation plans are to be developed "For the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including water, ...fisheries, wildlife, ...and other natural resources."

NRS 278.337 – With respect to the Commission adoption of regulations for Department review of tentative subdivision maps for impacts to wildlife resources.

NRS 321.5977 – “The public lands of Nevada must be administered in such a manner as to conserve and preserve natural resources, wildlife habitat, ...and to permit the development of compatible public uses for recreation, agriculture, ranching, mining...”

~~NRS 278.160—As part of the master planning process, conservation plans are to be developed “For the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources, including water, ...fisheries, wildlife, ...and other natural resources.”~~

~~NRS 278.020—With respect to the improvement of land as regulated by cities and counties: “(2) Any such regulation, restriction and control shall take into account the potential impairment of natural resources and the total population which the available natural resources will support without unreasonable impairment.”~~

NRS 445.132 – The legislature declares that it is the policy of this state and the purpose of NRS 445.131 to 445.354 inclusive:—“To maintain the quality of the waters of the state consistent with the public health and enjoyment, the propagation and protection of terrestrial and aquatic life, ...”

NRS 445.244 – “The water quality standards must reflect water quality criteria which define the conditions necessary to support, protect and allow the propagation of fish, shellfish and other wildlife and to provide for recreation in and on the water if these objectives are reasonably attainable.”

NRS 528.053 – “No felling of trees, skidding, rigging or construction of tractor or truck lands or landings, or the operation of vehicles, may take place within 200 feet, measured on the slope, of the high water mark of any lake, reservoir, stream or other body of water unless a variance is first obtained from a committee composed of the state forester fire warden, the Director of the Department of Wildlife and the state engineer.”

NRS 533.367 – “Before a person may obtain a right to the use of water from a spring or water which has seeped to the surface of the ground, he must ensure that wildlife which customarily uses the water will have access to it.”

NRS 503.400 – “Every person who has erected, or who may hereafter erect, any dams, water weirs or other obstructions to the free passage of fish in the rivers, streams, lakes, or other waters of the State of Nevada shall construct and keep in repair to the satisfaction of the Department fishways or fish ladders at all such dams, water weirs or other obstructions so that at all seasons of the year fish may ascend above such dams, water weirs or other obstruction to deposit their spawn.”

NRS 701.610-640 - Notice of energy development project: Filing with Department of Wildlife; form; contents; regulations” and associated review and recommendations provided by the Department on behalf of energy development projects.

In an effort to recognize the importance of mitigation as a tool in minimizing wildlife losses, this policy ~~plan which was adopted by the Commission on December 9, 1983 and endorsed by the Governor on August 20, 1984 identified the following Department goals:~~guides the Department to:

- “Recommend alternative approaches in federal, state, or private projects to prevent avoid or minimize degradation or loss of fish and wildlife resources of fishery habitat or, where impacts are unavoidable seek mitigation.”

- Develop suitable Best Management Practices (BMP) and/or Design Features (DF) for avoiding and/or minimizing adverse impacts to fish and wildlife and habitat resources. These will incorporate BMPs and DFs already accepted by land and resource managers where appropriate, and may require development of new BMPs and/or DFs where none currently exist or are unsuitable.
- “Maintain close coordination and cooperation with user groups and land and resource managers, seeking the most favorable land use alternatives for ~~big game~~ all fish and wildlife and emphasizing mitigative measures to replace irrevocable losses.”

Since approximately 87% of ~~the land in~~ Nevada is public ~~domain~~ land administered by several ~~different agencies of the~~ federal land management government agencies, and ~~because~~ these lands include provide diverse habitats essential to types supporting a wide variety of wildlife species, it is important that federal law pertaining to state agency involvement and recommendations be reviewed. ~~These federal regulations also~~ provide opportunities for state involvement in activities potential mitigation matters involving on federal lands or ~~the using of~~ federal funds which may or may not be applicable to private lands. ~~In addition to the public~~ Public Trust doctrine-Doctrine, which is founded in common law, a few of the more important regulations pertaining to mitigation include the following:

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. § 661-666) authorized ...state agencies responsible for fish and wildlife resources to investigate all proposed federal undertakings and nonfederal actions needing a federal permit or license which would impound, divert, deepen, or otherwise control or modify a stream or other body of water and to make mitigation and enhancement recommendations to the involved federal agency.
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4321) gives all governmental agencies in addition to private citizens an opportunity for greater involvement for all federal projects and private projects involving federal funds or federal land. ~~One of the primary purposes of NEPA as listed in section 2 is “To promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment.”~~
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1712): to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public lands, coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies and of the States and local governments within which the lands are located.

POLICIES

The approach of the Department relative to mitigation emphasizes the public need for healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitats while recognizing other public needs or agency mandates (e.g. multiple use) may result in potential conflicts between resources. The program is further intended to provide recommendations which will help avoid and minimize adverse impacts.

- ~~1.~~ 1. It is the policy of the Commission that the Department will continue to emphasize a program of wildlife data collection and dissemination so that wildlife and habitat values can be disclosed and fully and accurately considered in the land use federal, state, and local decision-making ~~decision-making~~ processes. The Department will fulfill data requests and use a standard reporting process to describe ~~In order to insure~~ ensure that

~~wildlife resources are adequately considered in various planning processes at the local, state and federal levels, the Department will continue to provide all available data in a useable form. Emphasis in this arena will be toward the development of a standard report format describing resource values within or proximate to the location of the proposed activity when geographic areas of the state and will include economic considerations. These data will be made available for a reasonable fee, where appropriate to government agencies, private consultants, and others where it is determined that information is useful to inform needed in the land use planning and/or decision making decision-making processes and for individual project proposals on an as needed basis. More detailed and project-specific data may also be shared when appropriate.~~

~~1.~~

~~2.~~

~~2. 2. It is the policy of the Commission that the Department will provide technical assistance to the permitting entity and applicants when reviewing proposed development actions. Department biologists may assist in identifying fish and wildlife species and habitats, identify the type, extent, and duration of potential impacts, and identify or recommend avoidance and minimization measures. When impacts are anticipated to occur after avoidance and/or minimization measures have been incorporated, the Department may recommend mitigation measures to achieve the goals and standards of the Policy to offset impacts to fish and wildlife resources. The Department will formally provide any recommendations to the permitting entity, as well as the and project developer.~~

~~3. It is the policy of the Commission that the Department will provide recommendations for mitigation, enhancement and/or replacement as appropriate for individual project proposals where without such actions significant adverse impacts to the wildlife resources are expected to occur, recognizing that mitigation can not always equally replace loss. It is the policy of the Commission that the Department should coordinate closely with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team, who is charged with implementation of the Nevada Conservation Credit System for greater sage-grouse mitigation.~~

~~3.~~

~~4. It is the policy of the Commission that the Department should coordinate closely with any other governing body or entity with authority over a Department, State of Nevada, or federally approved mitigation program in Nevada.~~

~~4.~~

~~5. The approach of the Department relative to mitigation emphasizes the matters takes into account the public need for healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife populations and habitats habitat protection measures while at the same time recognizing other public needs or agency mandates (e.g. multiple use) may result in potential conflicts between resources. for sometimes conflicting activities. The program is further intended to provide recommendations or guidance for project development which will help avoid and to decrease or minimize adverse impacts, rather than being used as a tool to stop proposed projects.~~

~~6.~~

~~7. 3. It is the policy of the Commission that costs associated with mitigation are all normal costs of land or water development projects, independent of state or federally~~

required reclamation, and therefore should be borne by the developers and/or beneficiaries of the project. Costs associated with mitigation for greater sage-grouse in Nevada will be accounted for through the Nevada Conservation Credit System, unless otherwise accounted for as approved through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.

5. ~~—~~

8. ~~—~~

6. ~~4.~~ — It is the policy of the Commission that cash payments or donations may ~~only~~ be accepted:

a. ~~1)~~ ~~†~~ To support projects designed to directly offset potential resource losses related to the development of the project; or

b. ~~2)~~ ~~f~~ For deposit into a special ~~habitat~~ mitigation account. Monies from this account are to be administered by the Department and used for fish, wildlife, or habitat restoration, enhancement, ~~or~~ acquisition projects, or, under special circumstances, research related to the loss of such resource(s).

9. ~~7.~~ It is the policy of the Commission that any mitigation negotiated with the Department shall include as determined by the development establishment of a cooperative mitigation agreement between the project proponent and the Nevada Department of Wildlife Department, to be completed prior to initiation of ground disturbance for the development project. Any such agreement will describe party responsibilities and timelines for mitigation.

PROCEDURES

The Department will implement the above listed policies in accordance with the definitions as described in the National Environmental Policy Act and ~~as promulgated in the~~ consistent with federal regulations under 40 CFR 1508.20. ~~Mitigation will include in order of priority implementation:~~

1. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

The Department's ~~major program~~ emphasis will be directed toward providing ~~wildlife~~ input and ~~associated~~ recommendations which avoid ~~or divert~~ conflicting land uses with an overall objective of maintaining as much existing natural habitat as possible. ~~This approach is particularly important for projects conflicting with threatened or endangered species and in areas of critical environmental concern or key habitat types. —~~ Emphasis on the preservation of wetlands, spring sites and associated vegetation, riparian habitat, and meadow systems, should also fall under this category ~~because of~~ due to the limited nature and importance of these habitat types in the Great Basin. ~~†~~ The Department shall provide sufficient supporting information to the decision makers as a means of justifying the need for avoidance measures. ~~Recommendations~~ for avoidance measures should be for a "no action alternative" or for relocation of the proposed action into a less sensitive area.

2. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action or its implementation. This includes:

(a) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.

(a)(b) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

This ~~mitigative approach to habitat management is intended to directed at~~ reduce the duration, scope, or intensity of the adverse impacts and/or losses to wildlife and/or habitat resources making any ~~minimizing resources minimizing impacts less severe or to minimize the magnitude of the impact~~ and may require operation and/or maintenance obligations, ~~potential losses~~. ~~Minimizing~~ ~~mal~~ wildlife and habitat disruptions ~~often~~ may be achieved through permit stipulations, ~~restrictions in timing of activities, repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, protective measures such as fences, and/or alterations in project design, Best Management Practices, and Required Design Features.~~ The use of a fence to protect wildlife species from cyanide ponds used in mining operations, for example, not only needs to be designed to accomplish specified objectives but also needs to be maintained during the life of the project to insure ~~continued protection.~~ ~~Necessary a~~ ~~For example, a~~ ~~Activities~~ ~~proposed within in the vicinity of a~~ ~~mule~~ deer winter range, ~~for example,~~ might be less disruptive if confined to the summer months. ~~Although habitat and associated might be subject to some level of impact, thus by implementing the activity during stressed temporarily, this approach assumes that less critical timeframes will may result in fewer adverse impacts recovery will take place through natural processes within a reasonable time frame.~~ ~~The Department shall provide sufficient supporting information to the decision makers as a means of justifying the need for minimization measures.~~

3. ~~Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment~~

~~The primary objective of this measure is to restore the same functions in an affected area to pre-disturbance conditions. Since many proposed activities create temporary disruptions, it is often possible to mitigate adverse impacts by restoring or even improving conditions. Examples of such activities might include revegetation of temporary roads needed for exploratory purposes or streambank stabilization after completion of a bridge project. Although the Department recognizes there may be situations where complete rehabilitation is not possible or feasible, it should be a consideration in the review process and implementation of other mitigation (compensation) evaluated as an alternative to the loss of habitat.~~

4. ~~Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action~~

~~The primary objective of this measure is to offset potential losses by project design which may require operation and maintenance obligations. The use of a fence to protect wildlife species from cyanide ponds used in mining operations, for example, not only needs to be designed to accomplish specified objectives but also needs to be maintained during the life of the project to insure continued protection.~~

53. ~~Mitigating/Offsetting —Compensating ff~~ for the impact(s) by ~~compensating, replacing, or providing substitute resources or environments.~~

~~It should be noted that c~~ Compensation or replacement for habitat losses affecting wildlife resources under the ~~normal~~ multiple use concept of federal land management ~~is not a requirement of the land managing agencies should be of last resort.~~ Requests for recommendations for this type of mitigation where significant or irrevocable damage is likely to occur, however, is an ~~appropriate~~ ~~reasonable~~ approach ~~when impacts cannot be avoided and have been minimized to the greatest degree possible.~~ ~~Compensatory~~

~~mitigation and~~ may be used as a viable alternative to protect the public interest. ~~Compensation must necessarily be addressed through negotiation negotiated between the project developer/project beneficiary, permitting entity, and the Department, and since~~ all parties should be in agreement with the type and amount of compensation necessary for each proposed action. -This form of ~~mitigative action~~mitigation is the least desirable since it accepts the loss of natural habitat values ~~at the outset~~ and oftentimes cannot result in total ~~reparation-replacement~~ for ~~these losses~~lost values. ~~Compensation is best applied to wildlife and habitat values that will be adversely impacted after all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize impacts have been implemented; it is not intended nor desirable to use compensation in place of avoidance and minimization strategies. -It can be a viable method of offsetting losses, however, for those actions which will occur regardless of other natural resource values. -Since~~As ~~compensatory mitigation~~ien may be a highly sensitive subject ~~and has the potential for considerable controversy~~, the following specific procedures will be in effect:

- a) The Department ~~may~~will accept monetary contributions or donations as mitigation which are tied to programs or activities designed to offset potential resource losses or for mitigation banking for habitat restoration, enhancement, ~~and/or~~acquisition projects, ~~or, under special circumstances, research related to the loss of resource(s), provided that an appropriate and cooperatively developed~~cooperative mitigation agreement has been finalized between the project proponent and the ~~Nevada Department of Wildlife~~Department.
- b) ~~Compensatory~~ien ~~or replacement~~ mitigation should be oriented within or adjacent to the project area ~~in a suitable area as to be effective and~~ successful and ~~should be~~ designed to ~~rectify-compensate for~~ the same functions, habitat types and species being impacted wherever possible. -Off-site compensation should be considered when mitigative measures cannot be applied to adjacent areas or to benefit the same species that are impacted.
- c) All final actions associated with ~~compensatory~~ien mitigation will be approved by the Director ~~of the Department~~ to ~~insure~~ensure that agreements are consistent with Commission policy and program direction. -This measure is not intended to preclude ~~Bureau-land management or other resource management agencies~~personnel, under appropriate program and procedures, from negotiations, but it is directed at ~~e~~insuring a uniform statewide approach to ~~fish and~~ wildlife ~~resource~~ mitigation.

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

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR SESSION,
~~DECEMBER 1, 2004~~MONTH, DAY, YEAR.

~~John T. Moran, Jr.~~Tommy Caviglia, Chairman
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

**STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

Commission Policy Number 66

**Number: P-66
Title: Management and Use of
Conservation Lands and Wildlife
Management Areas
Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.181
Effective Date: March 28, 1980
Amended Date: August 15, 1998 and
January 26, 2018**

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this document is to provide policy-level guidance to the Nevada Department of Wildlife in the development of site specific operational plans for NDOW owned conservation lands and individual wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the State of Nevada.

JUSTIFICATION

In accordance with the provisions of NRS 501.105, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (the Commission) is responsible for establishing policies and adopting regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat. These duties are further refined in NRS 501.181, which allows the Commission to establish policies for areas of interest including the acquisition of lands, water rights and easements and other property, including the entry, access to, and occupancy and use of such property, including leases of grazing rights, and sales or agricultural products.

BACKGROUND

Nevada not only has the distinction of being the driest state in the nation, but also continues to be one of the fastest growing from a human population perspective. The increased demands for the limited water resources has escalated the importance of maintaining viable and functioning wetlands, and other water-related habitats, upon which a variety of game, nongame, and sensitive species of fish and wildlife depend. It has been estimated that 85 percent of the historic wetlands in the western part of the State, and 52 percent of the wetlands statewide have been lost. The desire to acquire and maintain wetlands in public ownership was also identified as a priority initiative in the Nevada Department of Wildlife's recently adopted Strategic Plan.

Nevada also has an inherent obligation from a national and international perspective to participate in efforts to insure the future well being of migratory birds, a majority of which utilize the wetlands and other habitats of Nevada for only a part of their life cycle. The WMAs of this State are an extremely important component of the North American

Waterfowl Management Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, a plan which considers the needs of neotropical migratory birds.

The State of Nevada through the Department of Wildlife currently owns in fee title, and/or maintains long-term leases for over 150,000 acres of real property, including attendant water rights in some cases. A vast majority of this land was acquired for the primary purpose of protecting wetlands, inclusive of maintaining public shooting grounds. Opportunities continue to exist for acquiring and or protecting additional wetlands and other critical habitats for fish and wildlife through the Conserve Nevada Bond program, use of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration projects, and other funding initiatives.

Planning the future of Nevada's conservation lands and WMAs is essential due to the increased and sometimes conflicting demands being placed upon these limited resources. The adoption of broad policies and attendant long-range plans can therefore assist in meeting the present and future use demands, help maintain and enhance the resource, and resolve the problems of the conflicting resource uses.

POLICIES

In order to address the current and future needs of the fish and wildlife resources, and the publics that utilize these resources, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners does hereby establish the following policies to provide for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitats on State owned or controlled lands and WMAs:

Priority Uses: The primary objectives governing the management and use of WMAs must necessarily be linked to the purposes for which the areas were purchased, particularly from a Federal Aid or other funding source perspective. Based upon this premise, priority management for the following listed WMAs will be directed toward wetland development and waterfowl activities, including the use of these areas as public shooting grounds, with all other uses being secondary: Argenta, Carson Lake, Mason Valley, Scripps, Fernley, Humboldt, Alkali Lake, Franklin Lake, Overton, Key Pittman, Steptoe Valley, and Wayne E. Kirch.

Using similar justification and rationale as described above, the following listed area will receive priority management for fisheries-related programs: Bruneau River. It is the intent of this policy to maximize available opportunities for all fish and wildlife uses within the WMA system, after consideration of the primary uses described above and within limits posed by provisions of the Endangered Species Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and other similar state and federal legislative mandates.

Multiple Uses: Because of the limited availability and subsequent high demand for wetland-related resources in Nevada, all WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds shall be developed, maintained and managed primarily for wetland

values. In the same manner, all WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds shall be developed, maintained and managed primarily for fisheries-related values. The maximum recreational or other public use will be pursued whenever and wherever feasible, but with the limits posed by the above reference priorities, within habitat capabilities, and may be limited by budget constraints or regulations applicable to lands purchased using Federal Aid.

Hunters and anglers benefit from the fish and wildlife on the WMAs and conservation lands and as such, shall continue to be included in the future management and use of the properties. Properties are also available for educational, scientific, aesthetic and other uses such as bird watching, nature trails, educational pursuits, scientific endeavors and will be encouraged whenever and wherever possible. The scope of activities, number of visitors and/or visitor days, and conflicting uses will be managed or limited to protect the associated natural resources, to maintain an optimum recreational experience and to provide for public safety.

Water Rights: Whenever water becomes available, the Department shall, subject to available manpower and money, apply for and/or purchase such waters as deemed necessary to maintain existing wetlands and/or develop new wetlands necessary for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats on WMAs.

Land Acquisition: In concert with public input provided as part of the inventory portion of the Strategic planning process, objectives developed in the Strategic Plan, and in accordance with policies established under the Conserve Nevada Bond program, the Department will continue to pursue a land acquisition program that meets the needs and desires of the public, and provides for the preservation, protection, and restoration of wildlife and their habitats within the WMA system.

Easements: Acquisition of conservation or access easements from willing private property parties that support important wildlife habitat or access will be considered when opportunities are presented. Easements keep private lands in private ownership but provide opportunity to prioritize wildlife values or ensure access.

Wetlands Management: An overall goal of no net loss of wetlands and the enhancement of wetland quantity and quality are the long-term wetlands management objectives on WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds. Comprehensive strategies for protecting and enhancing wetlands will be developed for each WMA using the Geographical Information System (GIS) natural resource inventory. The condition of present water delivery facilities will be reviewed, and improvement projects developed where needed on WMAs to increase efficiency of water delivery and promote water conservation.

Vegetation Management: Strategies to promote vegetation that is of maximum value to waterfowl and other migratory birds will be developed through water level manipulation, prescribed burning, grazing, herbicide applications and other means in an effort to meet plan-specific objectives on each WMA. Procedures will also be developed to control

and eradicate invasive and undesirable plants such as tamarisk and whitetop. Upland habitats on WMAs will be managed to maximize biodiversity, which may also require periodic vegetative manipulation.

Public Access: Appropriate road and trail systems will be established and maintained within each WMA to insure adequate public access to the resource, recognizing however, that some seasonal road closures may be necessary to protect the resource, and/or enhance the recreational experience. Roadways, parking areas and other vehicular control measures will be adequately signed to insure public compliance.

Camping: Although camping is recognized as an important part of the outdoor recreational experience, and that overnight and/or day-use facilities may be needed at some WMA locations, the Department of Wildlife is not in the camping business simply for the sake of camping. Facilities will therefore be provided only in those areas where there is an expressed demand by resource users, and only to specifically meet the identified needs of the users.

On those WMAs where improved camping facilities are deemed necessary to address the needs of the general public, and the development of such sites are compatible with fish and wildlife management objectives of the area, the Department of Wildlife shall work in cooperation with the Division of State Parks to provide upgraded camping facilities through the use of site-specific Memorandums of Agreement.

Boat Ramps: Recognizing that boating access is an important component associated with recreational opportunity at many of the WMAs, adequate boat ramp facilities will be provided for launching medium to small boats on reservoirs and ponds where appropriate.

Grazing Practices: It is recognized that livestock grazing frequently provides a viable and cost-effective management tool for enhancing habitat conditions for certain species of wildlife, and livestock grazing may therefore be utilized periodically on some WMAs or conservation lands to meet area-specific plan objectives.

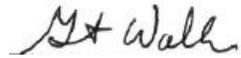
Farming Practices: It is recognized that agricultural production of farmland crops is an extremely beneficial asset to many species of wildlife, particularly some species of migratory birds, and that such practices add to the biodiversity of wildlife in Nevada. Although the major focus of the WMA program will be directed toward developing, enhancing and maintaining natural wetland systems, farming may be initiated on some areas to meet site-specific management area needs. Because of the high cost of farming for agricultural products, a cost benefit analysis will be one of the factors used in determining whether or not an area will be farmed.

Funding Sources: The ownership, maintenance and management of real property, particularly land and water, is an expensive program component of fish and wildlife management. The current WMA system provides both direct and indirect benefits to the general public through habitat and migratory bird protection. It is the intent of the

Commission to encourage the Department to explore broad and diverse funding opportunities to fund the WMAs for the benefit of all citizens.

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, JANUARY 26, 2018.



Grant Wallace, Chairman
Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners