**STATE OF NEVADA**

Tracked Changes including APRP Committee Changes from 10/26/22

**BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**Number:** P-23

**Title:** Predation Management

**Commission Policy Number 23 Reference:** NRS 501.100, 501.105, 501.181, 502.253

 **Effective Date:** December 7, 2013 **Amended Date:** May 13, 2016

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 relating 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:

1. Developing and implementing an annual program for the management and control of predatory wildlife;
2. Wildlife management activities relating to the protection of non-predatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species; and
3. 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.

**PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

1. POLICY FOR PROGRAMS FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF PREDATORY WILDLIFE
2. Management decisions will be based on the best available scientific information.
3. 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, and with an emphasis on identifying and refining prescriptive measures of Predation Management for use in the future.
4. Lethal and/or nonlethal predator control efforts will be undertaken in a targeted fashion to reduce specific wildlife-related losses to wildlife populations.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.
8. Priority will be given to act in areas where other conservation efforts are completed, underway, or planned that will also benefit wildlife populations.
9. Geographic locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area.
10. If needed, statewide and project area estimates of terrestrial or avian predator populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.
11. 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 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.

**PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN AND REPORT PROCEDURES**

The Department shall prepare a 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.

The Predation Management Plan Fiscal Year 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. Descriptions of Control Programs, Management Activities, and Research Programs, collectively referred to as “project(s),” 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, by project: cost expenditures, amount left, how many years it has been ongoing, status of project over lifespan

1. The Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Commissionprior 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.
2. The Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee (PARC) and Wildlife Damage Management Committee (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.
3. The Department shall prepare a Final Draft Predation Management Plan (Final Draft 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 the comments, the Commission shall make its final recommendations to the Department on the Final Draft Plan.
4. On or before June 30, the Department shall the Final Predation Management Plan on the Department’s website.
5. 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.
6. In July of each year, contractors and grantees of projects from the previous Fiscal Year shall submit a report to the Commission on a form prescribed by 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.
7. 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.
8. This Status Report will be used in Department and Commission deliberations in subsequent years and in future Predation Management planning efforts. a summary of work completed, including predators removed, habitat work conducted (if applicable), and viability of the project moving forward.

**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**