



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Data and Technology Services Division
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120 · Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM:

JANUARY 1, 2023

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

From: Kimberly Munoz, Data and Technology Services Division Administrator

Title: **Commission Regulation 23-12, 2023 Silver State**

Purpose: The Commission will review, revise, and adopt recommendations for the establishment of the 2023 Silver State Tags seasons and quotas.

Summary

This regulation is to establish the 2023 seasons and quotas for Silver State big game tags. The combined Heritage and Silver State tag quotas may not exceed 15 big game tags and 5 wild turkey tags per Nevada Revised Statute 502.250. Nine (9) big game Heritage tags for 2022 were approved last year, leaving up to six (6) big game tags remaining for Silver State.

Brief Explanation of the Proposed Regulation

The Department updated the method for closing Silver State Tag Bighorn Sheep hunt units based on the Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) recommendations. The new process provides a quota for specialty tag holders based on the quota available for the public in each hunt unit. Upon the collection of the unit of kill during the harvest check in process, the Department will notify specialty tag bighorn sheep holders of any unit closures. This process has been approved for the 2023 Heritage Tags found in Commission Regulation 22-05.

The Department anticipates a drop in the quota for California bighorn sheep and recommends replacing the Silver State California bighorn sheep with a Silver State Mountain Goat tag.

The Department recommends no change to all other previous year's Silver State Tag species or quotas, allowing one (1) tag each for Nelson (desert) bighorn sheep, mule deer, antelope, and elk.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission review and adopt the proposed regulation change as presented.

CR 23-12 2023 Silver State

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, under the authority of Section 501.181, 502.140, 502.250 and 503.140 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS), does hereby adopt the following regulation for the management of wildlife resources in the State of Nevada.

Silver State Tags

Hunting Hours: Big game mammals may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset as listed on government sunrise-sunset tables.

Take Limit: One animal allowed per tag.

Legal Weapon: Any legal firearm or bow as described in NRS 503.150 and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.141, 503.142, 503.143 and 503.144 may be used throughout the big game season.

Unit Closures: Unit Closures: The Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee and Commission directive on unit closures is associated with the setting of the annual bighorn sheep quotas and the following table that identifies the maximum number of specialty tags for every unit group that has an open season. Some unit groups may be set to zero (0) if they are not able to sustain additional ram harvest beyond the general draw's tag quota.

BHS Unit Group Quota	Maximum Specialty Tag Quota
1-2	0
3-6	1
7-12	2
13-20	3
>20	4

Upon the collection of the unit of kill during the harvest check in process, the Department will notify specialty tag bighorn sheep holders of any unit closures by cell or satellite phone, satellite communicator, email, or other forms of electronic notification the Department may adopt to advise of bighorn sheep unit group closures due to specialty tag harvest limits being reached.

Hunt	Class	Unit Group	Season	Quota
Mule Deer	Any mule deer	Any hunt unit assigned an antlered mule deer season.	August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	1
Pronghorn Antelope	Any pronghorn antelope	Any hunt unit assigned a pronghorn antelope with horns longer than ears season.	August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	1
Nelson (Desert) Bighorn Sheep Silver State Tag*	Any ram	Any hunt unit assigned a Nelson (desert) bighorn sheep season.	July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	1
Mountain Goat Silver State Tag**	Any goat	Hunt Unit 102	July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	1
Rocky Mountain Elk	Any elk with at least one antler	Any hunt unit assigned an antlered elk season except for unit 091.	August 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023	1
Total				5

* There are portions of hunt unit 181 in Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon where public access is **restricted**. To hunt Nelson (desert) bighorn sheep in the NAS portions of this unit, the tag holder is required to attend a NAS hunter safety briefing. Those portions of hunt unit 181 that do not fall within the boundaries of NAS Fallon are open to the public.

Portions of Hunt units 252, 280, 281, 282 are within the Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) where public access is restricted. Hunters and everyone in their respective hunting parties must comply with all Nevada hunting requirements and all NTTR safety and security requirements including the following: 1) consent to and pass a criminal history background check; 2) be at least 14 years old on opening day of the respective hunting season; 3) attend the Nellis Air Force Base hunter safety briefing; and 4) within the NTTR portion of unit 252 limit party size to 5 including tag holder. Additional party members may complete background check and safety briefing, but only maximum of 5 party members including tag holder may be present within the NTTR portion of unit 252 at any given time. Those portions of hunt units 252, 280, 281, and 282 that do not fall within the boundaries of NTTR are open to the public.

Hunters and members of their parties who fail to comply with these requirements may be denied access to the NTTR. Hunters and members of their parties may not access the NTTR after a tag is filled and animal has been removed and in possession of tag holder. No pets are allowed on NTTR. It is the hunter's responsibility to meet and/or comply with all NTTR eligibility requirements. In some units there may be adjustments to season dates to accommodate Department of Defense operations. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners hereby delegates authority to the Nevada Department of Wildlife to adjust season dates to accommodate Department of Defense operations so long as there is no change to the overall length of the season.

**** Successful applicants for the Silver State Mountain Goat tag will need to watch an online seminar before their tag will be released to the hunter.**

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners hereby delegates authority to the Nevada Department of Wildlife to adjust season dates to accommodate Department of Defense operations so long as there is no change to the overall length of the season.