



STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Director's Office

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MEMORANDUM

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

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 policy to be reviewed and amended is Commission Policy 23.

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 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 second reading by the Commission.

Recommendation

Adopt

Commission Policy 23

**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

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 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 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners shall establish broad policies for a) The protection, propagation, restoration, transplanting, introduction and management of wildlife in this State, including big and small game mammals, upland and migratory game birds, fur-bearing mammals, game fish, and protected and

unprotected mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians, and b) The management and control of predatory wildlife. NRS 502.253 Additional fee for processing application for game tag; use of money collected.

1. In addition to any fee charged and collected pursuant to NRS 502.250, a fee of \$3 must be charged for processing each application for a game tag, the revenue from which must be accounted for separately, deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Account in the State General Fund and 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 nonpredatory game animals and sensitive wildlife species; and
 - (c) Conducting research necessary to determine successful techniques for managing and controlling predatory wildlife.
2. The Department of Wildlife is hereby authorized to expend a portion of the money collected pursuant to subsection 1 to enable the State Department of Agriculture to develop and carry out the programs described in subsection 1.
3. Any program developed, or wildlife management activity or research conducted pursuant to this section must be developed or conducted under the guidance of the Commission in accordance with the provisions of subsection 4 and the policies adopted by the Commission pursuant to NRS 501.181.
4. The Department:
 - (a) In adopting any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife developed pursuant to this section, shall first consider the recommendations of the Commission and the State Predatory Animal and Rodent Committee created by NRS 567.020.
 - (b) Shall not adopt any program for the management and control of predatory wildlife developed pursuant to this section that provides for the expenditure of less than 80 percent of the amount of money collected pursuant to subsection 1 in the most recent fiscal year for which the Department has complete information for the purposes of lethal management and control of predatory wildlife.
5. The money in the Wildlife Account credited pursuant to this section remains in the Account and does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

PREDATION MANAGEMENT POLICIES

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, predator prey research, and predator population monitoring efforts.
 5. Control activities will be conducted where game and sensitive wildlife populations are at risk of being disproportionately affected by predation.
 6. Geographic locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations in the area.
 7. If needed, statewide and Project area estimates of terrestrial and avian predator populations or densities will be based on an objective analysis.

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 predators on Nevada ecosystems.
2. Geographic locations for Project areas will be determined based on an objective analysis and on the needs of wildlife populations 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

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.

Predation Management Plan Fiscal Year procedure and timeline:

1. The Department shall prepare a Draft Predation Management Plan outlining proposed actions needed for the protection, preservation, management, and restoration of wildlife populations. Descriptions of Control Projects and/or Research Projects shall include:
 - A. Project Number and Title
 - B. Justification (detailed description of the proposed project)
 - C. Project Purpose
 - D. Project Manager
 - E. Project Type (Implementation, Experimental Management, or Experimentation)

- F. Potentially Affected Species
 - G. Duration
 - H. Project Area (Unit(s), County, or Statewide)
 - I. Limiting Factor Statement
 - J. Response Variable (if applicable)
 - K. Project Goals including the criteria to adjust, alter or end a project based off the response variable or other considerations
 - L. 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)
 - M. Comments From Previous Year's Predator Report
 - N. Methods and Timing
 - O. Staff Comment
 - P. Project Direction (Department Recommendation)
 - Q. Project Budget (\$3 Predator Fee, Pittman Robertson monies, private donations, etc.)
 - R. A project summary
2. The A Draft Plan shall be submitted to the Commission during its first meeting of the calendar year (typically January). 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 at the March meeting. The Commission may approve the Draft Plan at the March Commission

meeting. If not approved at the March meeting, the Department will incorporate the Commission's recommendations and present the Final Draft Plan at the May Commission meeting for final approval.

6. On or before June 30, the Final Predation Management Plan shall be posted on the Department's website.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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,
May 13, 2016.**



**Chairman Jeremy Drew
Board of Wildlife Commissioners**