CARSON CITY CONSOLIDATED MUNICIPALITY
NOTICE OF THE MEETING OF THE
CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Day: Wednesday
Date: November 4, 2026
Time: Beginning at 5:30 pm
Location: Community Center, Robert 'Bob' Crowell Board Room
851 East William Street
Carson City, NV 89701

AGENDA

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:
Members of the public who wish to view the meeting may watch the livestream of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meeting at www.carsoncity.gov/granicus and by clicking on "In progress" next to the meeting date, or by tuning in to cable channel 191. Livestream of the meeting is provided solely as a courtesy and convenience to the public. Carson City does not give any assurance or guarantee that the livestream or cable channel access will be reliable. Although all reasonable efforts will be made to provide livestream, unanticipated technical difficulties beyond the control of City staff may delay, interrupt, or render unavailable continuous livestream capability.

The public may provide public comment in advance of a meeting by written submission to the following email address: zpettit@carsoncity.gov. For inclusion or reference in the minutes of the meeting, your public comment must include your full name and be submitted via email by not later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. Public comment during a meeting is limited to three minutes for each speaker.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Public Comment:**
The public is invited at this time to provide comment on any topic that relates to a matter over which this public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power, including any such matter that is not specifically included on the agenda as an action item. No action may be taken on a matter raised during this period for public comment.

5. For Possible Action: Approval of Minutes

5.A August 11, 2026
Click Here for Staff Report

6. For Discussion Only: Update from Attendees of the August 14 and 15 and September 25 and 26, 2026 Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meetings.

7. For Discussion Only: Update and Activity Report on the Carson City Urban Wildlife Committee.

8. For Discussion Only: Reports - Informational

The following items are informational and for discussion only. No action may be taken. Any item requiring action will be scheduled on a future agenda. The Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may discuss these items as they relate to the upcoming Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' ("Commission") meeting.

8.A Division Activity Reports – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on highlights from the Nevada Department of Wildlife recent activities.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.B Litigation Report – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.C Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.D Presentation from Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, the Commission will hear a presentation on matters currently of concern or interest to Clark CABMW.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.E Shed Antler Regulation Update – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, an update will be provided on the current shed antler regulation, including recent developments and implementation status.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.F Wildlife Violation Process – At the November 6, 2026, meeting a presentation will be provided to the Commission giving an overview of the wildlife violation process.
It will outline each stage of a violation case from initial observation through final adjudication. Topics will include the issuance of citations, filing of criminal complaints, and the application of demerit points. The discussion will also address the authority of district attorneys and judges to amend, reduce, or dismiss charges throughout the legal process.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.G Aerial Hunting and Scouting – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a presentation will be provided to the Commission regarding the legal authority governing aerial
hunting and scouting activities. The presentation will highlight current statutes and regulations, clarify the Department's ability to amend or develop regulations for aerial hunting and scouting, and provide context for how aerial activities are managed within the existing statutory and regulatory framework.
Click Here for Staff Report

8.H Predator Management Status Report – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a presentation will be provided on the accomplishments of the Department's Predator Management Program complete with species and areas of focus.

Click Here for Staff Report

8.I Framework for Big Game Hunting Seasons and Harvest – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, a presentation will be provided to the Commission regarding the Game Division's recently updated
framework for developing hunting seasons and harvest recommendations for big game species, formerly referred to as "Big Game Season Prescriptions and Management Objectives for Quota
Recommendations." This framework was last presented to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners in January 2022 and provides guidance to the Game Division when developing recommendations for big game hunting seasons and quotas.
Click Here for Staff Report

Consent Agenda Items.

For additional information on the action items to be considered within this action item, please visit the Nevada Department of Wildlife website at: http://www.ndow.org/Public_Meetings/Commission/Agenda/. The items agendized hereafter are consent agenda items. They are considered routine and may be acted upon with one action and without extensive hearing. Although a member of the advisory board may request an item be pulled for separate discussion and action, the advisory board chair retains discretion in deciding whether or not to pull an item from the consent agenda. There will be no public comment unless an item is pulled for separate discussion and action.

10. For Possible Action: Action Items

The following list of items are action items for the upcoming meeting of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' Meeting. The Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife may consider whether to discuss or take possible action to make any recommendations to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners regarding any of the items listed in this section.

10.A Executive Order 2026-003 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will review Department and stakeholder identified opportunities to streamline, clarify, amend, repeal, or otherwise improve sections of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 488, 501, 502, 503, and 504 per Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2026-003 requiring a Review of Existing Regulations by All Executive Branch Agencies, Departments, Boards, and Commissions. The Commission may identify, suggest, prioritize, and take action to accept or not accept all recommendations. No formal rulemaking or regulatory drafts are required. This agenda item is not a workshop or public hearing related to formal Nevada Administrative Procedure Act requirements. Should the Commission in cooperation with the Governor's Office elevate any recommendations to pursue, those formal requirements will occur at a later date and be noticed accordingly.
Click Here for Staff Report

10.B Commission General Regulation 533, LCB File No. T003-26 – Destruction of Property – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, the Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) for the destruction of private property and wildlife management areas, while engaged in wildlife activity, and amending Chapter 501 of the NAC to create demerits associated with this violation.

Click Here for Staff Report

10.C Commission Regulation 26-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2027-2028 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2027-2028 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take of raptors for falconry.
Click Here for Staff Report

10.D Commission Regulation 26-15, Non-Commercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2027-2028 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will consider and may take action to approve 2027-2028 season and limits for non-commercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.
Click Here for Staff Report

(End of Consent Agenda)

12. Item(s) pulled from the Consent Agenda will be heard at this time.

13. For Discussion Only: The Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will discuss members' commitments to the meetings on November 6 in Las Vegas and January 29, 2027, in Reno.

14. For Discussion Only: Future Agenda Items

15. Public Comment:**
The public is invited at this time to provide comment on any topic that relates to a matter over which this public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction or advisory power, including any such matter that is not specifically included on the agenda as an action item. No action may be taken on a matter raised during this period for public comment.

16. For Possible Action: To Adjourn

**PUBLIC COMMENT LIMITATIONS - The Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife will provide at least two public comment periods in compliance with the minimum requirements of the Open Meeting Law prior to adjournment. Public comment will be limited to three minutes per speaker to facilitate the efficient conduct of a meeting and to provide a reasonable opportunity for comment from all members of the public who wish to speak. Testimony from a person who is directly involved with an item, such as City staff, an applicant, or a party to an administrative hearing or appeal, is not considered public comment and is not subject to the three-minute time limitation. No action may be taken on a matter raised under public comment unless the item has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

Agenda Management Notice - Items on the agenda may be taken out of order; the public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration; and the public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

The agenda and supporting materials are available on the City's website at www.carsoncity.gov/granicus and on the State website: https://notice.nv.gov.

Titles of agenda items are intended to identify specific matters. If you desire detailed information

concerning any subject matter itemized within this agenda, you are encouraged to contact zpettit@carsoncity.gov, or to contact the Board of Wildlife Commissioners if you have questions regarding the Commission agenda. You are encouraged to attend this meeting and participate by commenting on any agendized item.

Notice to persons with disabilities: Members of the public who are disabled and require special assistance or accommodations at the meeting are requested to notify Zach Pettit at (775) 283-7112 or, in writing, at 885 East Musser Street, Suite 1032, Carson City, Nevada 89701, as soon as possible.

To request a copy of the supporting materials for this meeting, contact Zach Pettit at zpettit@carsoncity.gov or (775) 283-7412. Additionally, a copy of the agenda with all supporting materials may be made available, upon request, from the Public Meetings / Records Division of the Carson City Clerk's Office, 885 East Musser Street, Suite 1032, Carson City, Nevada.

This notice has been posted at the following locations:
City Hall 201 North Carson Street
Community Center 851 East William Street
www.carsoncity.gov/granicus
http://notice.nv.gov

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: August 11, 2026

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
08-11-2026 Draft Minutes.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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(Vote Recorded By)

DRAFT MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (WAB)
Tuesday, August 11, 2026 ● 5:30 PM
Community Center Bonanza Room
851 East William Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701

Board Members

Chair – Corbett Fleming **Vice Chair – Robert Boehmer**
Member – Doris Dimmitt **Member – Stephen Stewart**
Member – Daniel Thompson

Staff

Zach Pettit, Public Meetings Clerk

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

Audio recordings and approved minutes of the Board's meetings are available on https://www.carsoncity.gov/government/city-meetings.

1. CALL TO ORDER

(5:33:30) – Chair Fleming called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Attendee Name	Status	Arrived
Corbett Fleming, Chair	Present	
Robert Boehmer, Vice Chair	Absent	
Doris Dimmitt	Present	
Stephen Stewart	Present	
Daniel Thompson	Absent	

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(5:34:18) – The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Member Stewart.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

(5:34:40) – Chair Fleming entertained public comment; however, none were forthcoming.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.A JUNE 22, 2026

(5:34:55) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and entertained questions, comments, and/or a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2026 meeting.

(5:35:08) – MOTION: Member Stewart moved to approve the minutes. Member Dimmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-0.

6. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: UPDATE FROM ATTENDEES OF THE JUNE 26 AND JUNE 27, 2026, NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS' MEETINGS.

(5:35:27) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and stated that Vice Chair Boehmer and Member Thompson attended the recent meetings but were not present today to provide an update.

7. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: UPDATE AND ACTIVITY REPORT ON THE CARSON CITY URBAN WILDLIFE COMMITTEE.

(5:36:19) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and entertained any updates; however, none were forthcoming.

8. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: REPORTS – INFORMATIONAL

(5:36:42) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and entertained requests to pull informational items for discussion; however, none were forthcoming.

8.A Division Activity Reports – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on highlights from the Nevada Department of Wildlife recent activities.

8.B Litigation Report – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

8.C Administrative Procedures, Regulations, and Policy (APRP) Committee Report – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the recent APRP meeting.

8.D Presentation on the Mule Deer Collaring Study and Habitat Restoration Projects in Central Nevada – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, a presentation will be provided in advance of the scheduled field tour to provide an overview of the mule deer collaring study and habitat restoration projects in central Nevada.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

10. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: ACTION ITEMS

(5:37:20) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and entertained requests to pull items from the Consent Agenda. Members sought to pull Item 10.C.

(5:39:08) – MOTION: Member Stewart moved to approve, as written, agenda items 10.A, 10.B, 10.D, 10.E, 10.F, and 10.G. Member Dimmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-0.

10.A Commission Policy 65 – Designation of Wildlife Management Areas – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will have a first reading of Commission Policy 65 and may take action to revise the policy and move it to a second reading.

10.B Commission Policy 66 – Management and Use of Wildlife Management Areas and Conservation Lands – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will have a first reading of Commission Policy 66 and may take action to revise the policy and move it to a second reading.

10.C Commission General Regulation 527 – Wildlife Salvage Permit – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending Chapter 501 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to create a salvage process and salvage permits for certain wildlife species through the direction of Senate Bill 215 (2025).

(5:39:25) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and referenced the Staff Report and Supporting Material, all of which are incorporated into the record. Discussion ensued regarding which portions of the animal are permitted for harvesting and moving carcasses off the road.

(5:44:55) – Member Stewart opined that a salvage permit holder should be required to harvest the entire animal rather than leaving portions behind.

(5:46:12) – MOTION: Member Stewart moved to pass Item 10.C as written. Member Dimmitt seconded the motion. The motion carried 3-0-0.

10.D Commission General Regulation 531 – Shed Antler Revisions – At the August 14, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will hold a workshop to consider regulation language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that adds requirements for private land collecting, prohibiting nonresidents from collecting shed antlers until July 1 and creating definitions.

10.E Commission General Regulation 529 – Disability Permit Program Revisions – At the August 15, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider adopting regulation language amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the archery, visual and special assistance disability permits.

10.F Commission General Regulation 532 – Windermere Hills Cooperative Wildlife Management Area – At the August 15, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider adopting language regulation by amending Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) that would update business rules and requirements related to the Windermere Hills Cooperative Wildlife Management Area.

10.G Commission General Regulation 26-01, Amendment #1, 2027 Spring Turkey and 2026 Application Deadlines – At the August 15, 2026, meeting, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners will consider adopting an amendment to regulations to set the 2027 spring turkey application deadlines and 2026 tag application deadlines and related information.

(End of Consent Agenda)

12. ITEM(S) PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA WILL BE HEARD AT THIS TIME.

13. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE WILL DISCUSS MEMBERS' COMMITMENTS TO THE MEETINGS ON AUGUST 14 AND 15, 2026, IN TONOPAH AND SEPTEMBER 25 AND 26, 2026, WITH A LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED.

(5:47:22) – Chair Fleming introduced the item. Member Dimmitt volunteered to attend the meetings in Tonopah.

14. FOR DISCUSSION ONLY: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

(5:49:13) – Chair Fleming introduced the item and entertained Members' requests for future agenda items; however, none were forthcoming.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT:

(5:49:40) – Chair Fleming entertained any final public comment; however, none were forthcoming.

16. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: TO ADJOURN.

(5:50:11) – Chair Fleming adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

The minutes of the August 11, 2026 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are approved on this 2nd day of November 2026.

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Division Activity Reports – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on highlights from the Nevada Department of Wildlife recent activities.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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_____
(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Litigation Report – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the Nevada Department of Wildlife litigation.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
7B-Litigation-Report.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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_____
_____
_____

_____
(Vote Recorded By)

CRAIG A. NEWBY
First Assistant Attorney General

CHRISTINE JONES BRADY
Assistant Attorney General

AARON D. FORD
Attorney General

LESLIE NINO PIRO
General Counsel

HEIDI PARRY STERN
Solicitor General

STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

MEMORANDUM

To: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
Alan Jenne, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife

From: Richard Yien, Senior Deputy Attorney General and Nicole N. Ting, Deputy Attorney General

Date: October 21, 2026

Subject: November 2026 Board Meeting Litigation Update

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1. United States and Walker River Paiute Tribe v. Walker River Irrigation Dist., et al. (Walker River Litigation), (USDC, Reno).

This action involves federal, tribal and Mineral County claims for additional water from Walker River, in addition to those already established by the Walker River Decree. NDOW and others moved to dismiss certain claims against groundwater rights by the United States.

Subfile 3:73-CV-00127-RCJ-WGC (federal reserved rights)

This case involves claims by the United States for federal reserved water rights for all federal lands on the Walker River system. All claims are stayed except those concerning the Walker River Indian Reservation.

Currently, this case is before the District Court on remand from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' May 22, 2018, decision. *The United States and the Tribe filed Amended Counterclaims on May 3, 2019. Answers to the Counterclaims were filed on August 1, 2019.* The next deadline is February 19, 2020 for the principle defendants and the United States to agree to a discovery plan. This deadline was extended from November 22, 2019.

On May 28, 2015, the District Court ruled that the United States' action to acquire federal reserved water rights for the Walker River Paiute Tribe and several smaller tribes within the Walker River watershed were to be dismissed on "preclusion"; a doctrine that means the U.S. had its chance to make claims at the time of the original decree but failed to do so and thus cannot make them now.

On May 22, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court's decision mostly based on the fact that the United States and the Tribe had not been given a chance to brief the issue before the District Court. In fact, the District Court specifically requested that the issue of preclusion should not be briefed.

On September 21, 2021 Plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment (ECF No. [2638]) was granted. Plaintiffs are entitled to judgment as a matter of law in their favor as to Defendants' Third, Seventh, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Affirmative Defenses. Nevertheless, Principal Defendants retain all other affirmative defenses and litigation remains ongoing.

The Principal Defendants have filed status reports regarding the status of access to tribal archives for discovery purposes. These archives remain closed due to the pandemic.

Discovery remains ongoing.

As of March 7, 2023, the case remains staid for 90 days pending settlement discussions. As of May 31, 2023, the parties appear to have reached a settlement agreement. the US, Tribe and WRID are now working through their internal approval processes. On February 13, 2024, the Court signed an Order issuing a 90 day stay of the proceedings to give the parties time to obtain approval from all the appropriate authorities to resolve the outstanding water rights claims.

Subfile 3:73-CV-00128-RCJ-WGC (public trust doctrine)

This case involves a claim filed by Mineral County for the court to recognize a public trust duty to provide water to Walker Lake to support the fishery therein.

This case has gone through an extensive appellate and procedural history. A summary of this procedural appellate history is as follows:

A) On May 28, 2015, the District Court held that Mineral County did not have standing to pursue the public trust claims. The Court also held that a shift of water from irrigators to Walker Lake would be considered a taking of property under the 5th amendment and compensation would be owed to the individual property holders.
B) On May 22, 2018, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the District Court's ruling on standing. The Appeals Court further held that the Public Trust Doctrine is a state law issue that has not been decided in Nevada. The Appeals Court sent two Certified Questions to the Nevada Supreme Court.
C) On September 18, 2020, the Nevada Supreme Court held that: (1) the Public Trust Doctrine applies to rights already adjudicated and settled under the doctor of prior appropriation; (2) the public trust doctrine applies to all waters within the state; and (3) the public trust doctrine does not permit reallocating water rights already adjudicated and settled under the doctrine of prior appropriation.
D) The case was returned to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and on January 28, 2021 the Appeals Court issued its Opinion and held that the District Court properly dismissed the County's public trust claim to the extent it sought a reallocation of water rights adjudicated under the Decree and settled the doctrine of prior appropriation. The Appeals Court further remanded to the District Court for the Court to consider the County's public trust doctrine claim to the extent it sought remedies that would not involve a reallocation of adjudicated water rights.

This case is now in discovery. Initial disclosures were exchanged in April 2023. On November 6, 2023, Mineral County/Plaintiffs served their initial expert reports. On April 8, 2024, Walker River Irrigation District/Defendants served their initial expert reports. The discovery schedule and deadlines have been extended a number of times due to Counsel for Mineral County having a serious cancer condition and subsequently passing away. Most recently in March 2025 the newest discovery schedule with deadlines was agreed to and signed by the Court.

At this point, rebuttal expert reports have been submitted and Counsel for NDOW is working with Counsel Gordon DePaoli, who is the coordinating Counsel for all the Defendants who represents the Walker River Irrigation District to coordinate discovery in this matter. Plaintiffs' Counsel has contacted our group of Defendants informing us that they plan to file a Motion to Bifurcate the case. This bifurcation would split the case into two different issues and time frames. Namely, Plaintiffs propose to split the case into two different issues. First, the issue of whether there has been a violation of the public trust doctrine would be heard and decided. Next, if there has been a determination that the public trust doctrine has been violated, the parties would then handle the issue of damages. Specifically, the issue of whether damages are owed, what damages are owed, and who owes the damages would be considered as the second issue. After Plaintiffs' motion is filed, Counsel will then make an official assessment as to our position regarding bifurcation.

On October 19, 2026, Plaintiffs filed their Motion to Bifurcate the case. The Motion is currently under review to determine what NDOW's stance will be on the issue. Further, depositions have started in the case. On September 29, 2026, we took the deposition of Plaintiff's expert Dr. Tom Myers. Plaintiffs two other experts, are also scheduled to be deposed soon.

Mineral County v. Lyon County, 136 Nev. Adv. Op. 58 (2020).

On June 30, 2021, Mineral County filed its Second Amended Complaint. Mineral county asserted that by permitting excessive and unreasonable upstream consumptive uses to reduce average annual inflows to Walker Lake to the detriment of the Lake's public trust values, the Decree Court and State of Nevada have violated this continuing duty under the public trust doctrine to maintain Walker Lake in a reasonable state of environmental health.

On October 28, 2021, the Principal Defendants filed a Motion to Dismiss Mineral County's Second Amended Complaint. The main arguments for dismissal are as follows: Paragraph XIV of the Walker River Decree does not give the Court subject matter jurisdiction to grant Declaratory Relief as to Nevada's, or the Court's purported obligation to Walker Lake; Mineral County's public trust claim is also inconsistent with the public trust doctrine as interpreted by the above Nevada supreme court opinion.

Defendants' Motion to Dismiss was denied on August 5, 2022. Judge Du found that Plaintiffs were still able to state a claim upon which relief can be

granted, largely technical claims asserted by Mineral County against WRID. Judge Du further found that NDOW and the State of Nevada are both ex rel. parties, meaning that NDOW is not simply a standalone rights holder in this case. As well, the political question doctrine does not apply to this case because caselaw cited provides authority for courts to modify or interpret the decree. It remains unclear from the ruling how this will impact NDOW. The relief sought by Mineral County is for NDOW to develop and fund a plan to improve the resource of Walker Lake, the legal argument against that is that such funding would more appropriately be decided by the legislature.

Because counsel for Mineral County has been gravely ill, the court has been deferential to Mineral County and allowed for a generous discovery schedule, as follows:

> Discovery may commence on April 7, 2023, and shall close on **April 4, 2025**. Dispositive Motions due no later than 60 days after the close of discovery (**6/3/2025**).

On April 18, 2023, the AG's office received Mineral County's initial disclosures. Document review remains ongoing.

On May 31, principal Defendants served their first joint discovery requests upon Mineral County.

Subfile 3:73-CV-00125-RCJ-WGC (main adjudication docket)

This subfile is not a case in the traditional sense, but rather constitutes the ongoing court-managed administration of the Walker River Decree. Decreed rights must be adjusted and administered consistent with the Court's decisions documented in the court's docket.

Walker Basin Conservancy's Permit Approvals: On July 28, 2023, NDOW filed Application 92910-T with the Nevada State Engineer seeking a temporarily change in the manger of use and place of water rights for the benefits of Walker Lake ("Application"). This is a matter of course for any change in the Decreed water rights. The Nevada State Engineer approved the Application on March 7, 2024. Subsequently, on March 13, 2024 a Joint Petition between NDOW and the Walker Basin Conservancy was filed asking for the Court's approval of the temporary modification of the Walker River Decree regarding water rights permit No. 92910-T. This Joint Petition asked for temporary instream flows to benefit Walker River and Walker Lake only during the 2024 irrigation season, which begins March 1, 2024 and ends on October 31, 2024.

NDOW first attempted to obtain approval of a temporary modification of the Walker River Decree for an instream flow permit in 2021. However, NDOW subsequently withdraw its petition asking for a modification because it was not approved by the Court in time to call for any instream flows during the irrigation season. NDOW attempted again in 2022 to obtain the same temporary modification which was approved by the Court, but only after the flows of the Walker River had receded significantly in the late summer such that NDOW's water rights were out of priority and unable to be served with any water. In 2023, the Court granted an expedited review of NDOW's third request for the temporary modification and the Court granted the expedited review and approved the modification.

After again asking for an expedited review in 2024, the Court approved the Joint Petition of NDOW and Walker Basin Conservancy for the temporary modification on March 21, 2024.

The California version of the process to temporarily modify the Walker River Decree for the 2024 irrigation season was similarly conducted and on July 10, 2024 the Court approved the temporary modification of water rights for the water rights of California.

On July 30, 2026, the Court issued an Order granting Walker Basin Conservancy's petition to modify the Decree to reflect changes to the Decree water rights. Namely, for Permit Nos. 92893 through 92899 the manner of use and place, from irrigation to instream flow was approved by and ordered by the Court. Please note, these Permit Nos. do not involve NDOW.

2. NDOW v. Nevada State Engineer, Division of Water Resources

There are two Petitions for Judicial Review NDOW filed in early May, 2026 regarding decisions made by Water Resources reinstating cancelled water rights permits, but resetting priority dates that make those rights junior to others. The two water permits supply water to the Oxbow Nature Study Area and the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery. The two Petitions seek equitable relief from the District Courts (District Courts 2 and 3 (Washoe County and Lyon County respectively)) to reset the priority dates back to the originally set dates thereby making them superior to other rights and guaranteeing continued water access to the over-appropriated water basins.

Motions to bypass the respective scheduling orders of each court were submitted in May 2026 in an effort to reduce the administrative burdens to the

state agencies involved as well as the court's review. Judge Drakulich, in the Second Judicial District, with jurisdiction over the Oxbow Nature Study Area granted the motion on June 3, 2026. Judge Schlegelmilch, in the Third Judicial District, with jurisdiction over the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery held a status hearing on June 9, 2026 and denied the motion.

As of September 10, 2026, the Oxbow Nature Study Area case has been fully briefed and submitted to the Court for decision. *On October 16, 2026 Wildlife filed its reply brief in the Mason Valley Fish Hatchery case.*

3. *Civil Rights Complaint PCR-26-15*

On September 17, 2026, Wildlife received notice of a civil rights complaint alleging NDOW discriminated against the complainant's son when NDOW denied use of a Benjamin Airbow during archery season. On October 9, 2026, NDOW provided a response to the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior briefing them on the facts surrounding the denial.

Italicized material, if any, (other than case name) is updated information since the last litigation update.

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee (TAAHC) – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a report will be provided on the recent TAAHC meeting.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
7C-Tag-Allocation-and-Application-Hunt-Committee-Oct-2026-Agenda.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
_____
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_____
(Vote Recorded By)

CHAIRMAN TOMMY CAVIGLIA
COMMISSIONER EDDIE BOOTH
COMMISSIONER SHANE ROGERS
COMMISSIONER PAUL YOUNG
CABMW REP. RYAN BROWNE
PUBLIC REP. MEGHAN BROWN

STAFF TO THE COMMITTEE:
MATT MAPLES, DATS DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR
mmaples@ndow.org, 775-688-1565
MEGAN MANFREDI, MANAGEMENT ANALYST
mmmanfredi@ndow.org, 775-688-1881

AGENDA

NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

TAG ALLOCATION AND APPLICATION HUNT COMMITTEE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026 @ 4:00 PM

Please click this URL to join.
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89081689278?pwd=GMTqoXT1geiDRodeOb6Z2nXuCexgQM.1
Passcode:836250

Phone one-tap:
+12532050468,,89081689278#,,,,*836250# US
+12532158782,,89081689278#,,,,*836250# US (Tacoma)

Public Comment will be taken on every action item after discussion but before action on each item and are limited to three (3) minutes per person. The Chair may allow persons representing groups to speak for six minutes. Persons may not allocate unused time to other speakers. Persons are invited to submit written comments to the Committee Staff or attend and make comment during the live meeting or, if utilized, be allowed to speak through a virtual platform which will become part of the official record. Persons attending virtually wishing to comment are invited to raise their virtual hands in the virtual meeting forum during the appropriate time. To ensure the public has notice of all matters the Committee will consider, Committee members may choose not to respond to public comments to avoid deliberation on topics not listed for action on the agenda.

FORUM RESTRICTIONS AND ORDERLY BUSINESS: In accordance with Attorney General Opinion No. 00-047, as restated in the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Manual, the Chair may prohibit comment if the content of that comment is a topic that is not relevant to, or within the authority of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commission and related Committees, or if the content is willfully disruptive of the meeting by being irrelevant, repetitious, slanderous, offensive, inflammatory, irrational or amounting to personal attacks or interfering with the rights of other speakers.

Please provide the Board of Wildlife Commissioners Tag Allocation and Application Hunt Committee with the complete electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations to include as exhibits with the minutes. Minutes of the meeting will be produced in summary format. All persons present are asked to sign-in whether speaking or not.

1. **Call to Order, Pledge and Roll Call – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia**

2. **Public Comment Period**
   This period is for general comment on anything not on the agenda. No action will be taken but may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. The 3- and 6-minute time limits apply. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record. If applicable, commentors will be allowed to speak within the virtual platform utilized for the meeting and taken in the order of hands raised. Commentors can raise their hands by clicking the "raise hand" button found at the bottom of the program.

3. **Approval of Agenda – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia** **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**
   The Committee will review the agenda and may take action to approve the agenda. The Committee may remove items from the agenda, continue items for consideration or take items out of order.

4.* Approval of Minutes – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The Committee may take action to approve Committee minutes from the December 10, 2025, meeting.

5. Party Hunt Sizes – Data and Technology Services Division Administrator Matt Maples
FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

The Committee will review a presentation on party hunt sizes, statistics and party hunt draw odds. The Committee will discuss potentially adding a limitation to the size of a party for big game tags.

6. Future Committee Meeting – Committee Chairman Tommy Caviglia **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

The committee will discuss possible future agenda topics and set a date and time for the next committee meeting.

7. Public Comment Period

This period is for general comment on anything not on the agenda. No action will be taken but may be scheduled on a future Committee agenda. The 3- and 6-minute time limits apply. Persons making comment are asked to begin by stating their name for the record. If applicable, commentors will be allowed to speak within the virtual platform utilized for the meeting and taken in the order of hands raised. Commentors can raise their hands by clicking the "raise hand" button found at the bottom of the program.

*Support material is posted at the NDOW website at this link: https://nvboardofwildlife.org/

Support material for this meeting may also be requested from Matt Maples, NDOW Data and Technology Services Division Administrator, at mmaples@ndow.org, (775) 688-1565 or Megan Manfredi, NDOW Management Analyst, at mmmanfredi@ndow.org, (775) 688-1881.

Note: In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three days prior to the meeting date and has been posted at https://notice.nv.gov/ and the following Department of Wildlife offices: 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Reno, NV 89511; 1100 Valley Rd, Reno, NV 89512; 380 W. "B" St, Fallon, NV 89406; 815 East Fourth St, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 60 Youth Center Rd, Elko, NV 89801; 1218 North Alpha St, Ely, NV 89301; and 3373 Pepper Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

Notice to the Public: Nevada Department of Wildlife receives Federal Aid in Fish and/or Wildlife Restoration. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. Individuals with hearing impairment may contact the Department at 775-688-1500 via a text telephone (TTY) telecommunications device by first calling the State of Nevada Relay Operator at 1-800-326-6868. Disabled individuals in need of special services should contact the Department prior to the meeting at (775) 688-1599.

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Presentation from Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, the Commission will hear a presentation on matters currently of concern or interest to Clark CABMW.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Shed Antler Regulation Update – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, an update will be provided on the current shed antler regulation, including recent developments and implementation status.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Wildlife Violation Process – At the November 6, 2026, meeting a presentation will be provided to the Commission giving an overview of the wildlife violation process.
It will outline each stage of a violation case from initial observation through final adjudication. Topics will include the issuance of citations, filing of criminal complaints, and the application of demerit points. The discussion will also address the authority of district attorneys and judges to amend, reduce, or dismiss charges throughout the legal process.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Aerial Hunting and Scouting – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a presentation will be provided to the Commission regarding the legal authority governing aerial
hunting and scouting activities. The presentation will highlight current statutes and regulations, clarify the Department's ability to amend or develop regulations for aerial hunting and scouting, and provide context for how aerial activities are managed within the existing statutory and regulatory framework.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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_____
(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Predator Management Status Report – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, a presentation will be provided on the accomplishments of the Department's Predator Management Program complete with species and areas of focus.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
12-NDOW_Predator_Mgmt_Report_2026_ADA.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
_____
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_____
_____

_____
(Vote Recorded By)

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Predation Management Status Report



Fiscal Year 2026

State of Nevada

Joe Lombardo, Governor

Department of Wildlife

Alan Jenne, Director

Game Division

Cody McKee, Administrator

Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Paul Young, Chairman…….….	Reno
Casey D. Kiel, Vice Chairman……	Lovelock
Wyatt Mesna…….	Elko
Eddie Booth…….....	Winnemucca
Shane Boren..……	Lund
Tommy Caviglia……	Henderson
Shane Rodgers……	Las Vegas
Liz Munn……	Reno
Mario Walther……	Yerington

Persons are free to use material in this report for educational or informational purposes. However, since most reports are part of continuing studies, persons intending to use this material in scientific publications should obtain prior permission from the Department of Wildlife. In all cases, tentative conclusions should be identified as such in quotation, and due credit would be appreciated. This publication will be made available in an alternative format upon request.

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Diversity Program Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS: 7072-43
Arlington, Virginia 22203

Director
Nevada Department of Wildlife
6980 Sierra Parkway, Suite 120
Reno, Nevada 89511

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Executive Summary

Provisions outlined in NRS 502.253 authorize the collection of a $3 fee for each big game tag application and deposit of the revenue into the Wildlife Fund Account. In the 2023 legislative session, Assembly Bill 70 was adopted which in part amended NRS 502.253 to read: 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, at the direction of the applicant, for costs related to (a) Developing and implementing an annual program for the lethal removal of predatory wildlife; or (b) Developing and implementing an annual program for the improvement of wildlife habitat and research or management activities beneficial to non-predatory game species. The 2025 tag application breakdown was 63% lethal removal and 37% Habitat, Research or Management of nonpredatory Game Species (HRM). This statute also allows for: the expenditure of a portion of the money collected to enable the State Department of Agriculture and other contractors and grantees to develop and carry out programs designed as described above; developing and conducting predator management activities under the guidance of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

In State Fiscal Year 2026, 6 projects were proposed and approved by the Wildlife Damage Management Committee and ultimately approved by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. This included a project for the protection of Greater sage-grouse (Project 21), a mountain lion removal project for the protection of big game (project 37), a project aimed at providing pronghorn and mule deer protection (Project 38), two projects intended to benefit mule deer including one in Area 13 (Project 40) and one through the Mule Deer Enhancement Program (Project 47), and a mesopredator control project on various Wildlife Management Areas (Project 43).

The raven management project (Project 21) is implemented for the protection of Greater sage-grouse as research has demonstrated that ravens are the most common predator of sage-grouse nests and have negative population effects once their densities exceed 0.40 ravens per square kilometer. In state fiscal year 2026, USDA - Wildlife Services and NDOW staff removed 7,485 ravens within 25 priority areas.

In the statewide mountain lion project (project 37), 31 mountain lions were removed across 11 mountain ranges. In addition to mountain lion removal in the Granites, Hunt Unit 014, 56 coyotes were removed under project 37 for the protection of mule deer (this work was primarily funded through NGO donations).

For Project 38, 69 coyotes were removed from three different management areas for the protection of mule deer and pronghorn. The three management areas were Hunt Units 012 and 014, Management Area 10, and Hunt Unit 144.

For Project 40, 16 lions, and 78 coyotes were removed to protect mule deer. Spring 2026 fawn ratios from Hunt Unit group 131-134 were 37 fawns per 100 adults which was similar to the statewide average of 37 fawns per 100 adults.

For Project 43, 40 coyotes, and 4 racoons were removed from Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. In addition, 18 coyotes, 1 racoon, 1 skunk, 1 badger, 1 gray fox and 3 bobcats were removed from Overton Wildlife Management Area.

Project 47 removed 24 lions. Six lions were removed from Hunt Unit 111, 8 lions were removed from Hunt Units 112/113, 4 lions were removed in Hunt Unit 121, 4 lions were removed from Area 16, and 2 lions were removed in Hunt Unit 081.

The Fiscal Year 2025 Predator Fee started with $326,649.84. An additional $722,529 was received for lethal control and $415,731 received for HRM. Fiscal Year 2025 expenses totaled $650,380.06. The Lethal Removal Balance at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026 was $398,798.94 and a beginning balance in Fiscal Year 2026 for HRM was $788,842,111. In fiscal year 2026, $714,756 was received for lethal removal and $460,305 was received for HRM. Fiscal Year 2026 expenses for Lethal Removal totaled $600,005.05 leaving the reserve totaling $618,979.54 for lethal removal.

Project 21: Greater Sage-grouse Protection (Common Raven Removal)

Project Narrative

Common raven (*Corvus corax*, hereafter "raven") control and monitoring efforts to conserve Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*, hereafter "sage-grouse") began in January and concluded in June of 2026. The objective of this project is to increase nest success of sage-grouse and thus, ultimately increase recruitment rates. USDA Wildlife Services (WS) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) coordinated with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to identify treatment sites across the state.

Utilizing the SMaRT tool created by the USGS Dixon Lab and prioritization criteria set by NDOW, 25 priority areas (treatment polygons) in the following counties were generated to focus GRSG protection efforts:

Lander –	4	Humboldt –	1
Elko –	6	Lincoln –	2
Eureka –	2	Nye –	2
White Pine -	8		

From January-June 2026, WS along with NDOW staff deployed DRC-1339 egg baits to protect Greater sage-grouse (GRSG) in 25 priority areas.

Utilizing shooting and DRC-1339 via a chicken egg bait delivery system, WS removed a total of 6,386 common ravens and NDOW staff removed 1,099 common ravens from the control areas.

Project Summary

- USDA – Wildlife Services: Staffing
  - 5 staff were assigned to Project 21
- NDOW – Nevada Department of Wildlife: Staffing
  - 10 staff assisted with Project 21
- USDA – Wildlife Services: Shooting
  - 78 ravens were shot.
  - 70 ravens were harassed/hazed.
- USDA – Wildlife Services: Corvicide Application (DRC-1339)
  - 15,910 egg baits placed. (288.18) grams DRC-1339)
    - 14,409 eggs baits taken
    - 1,501 egg baits recovered.

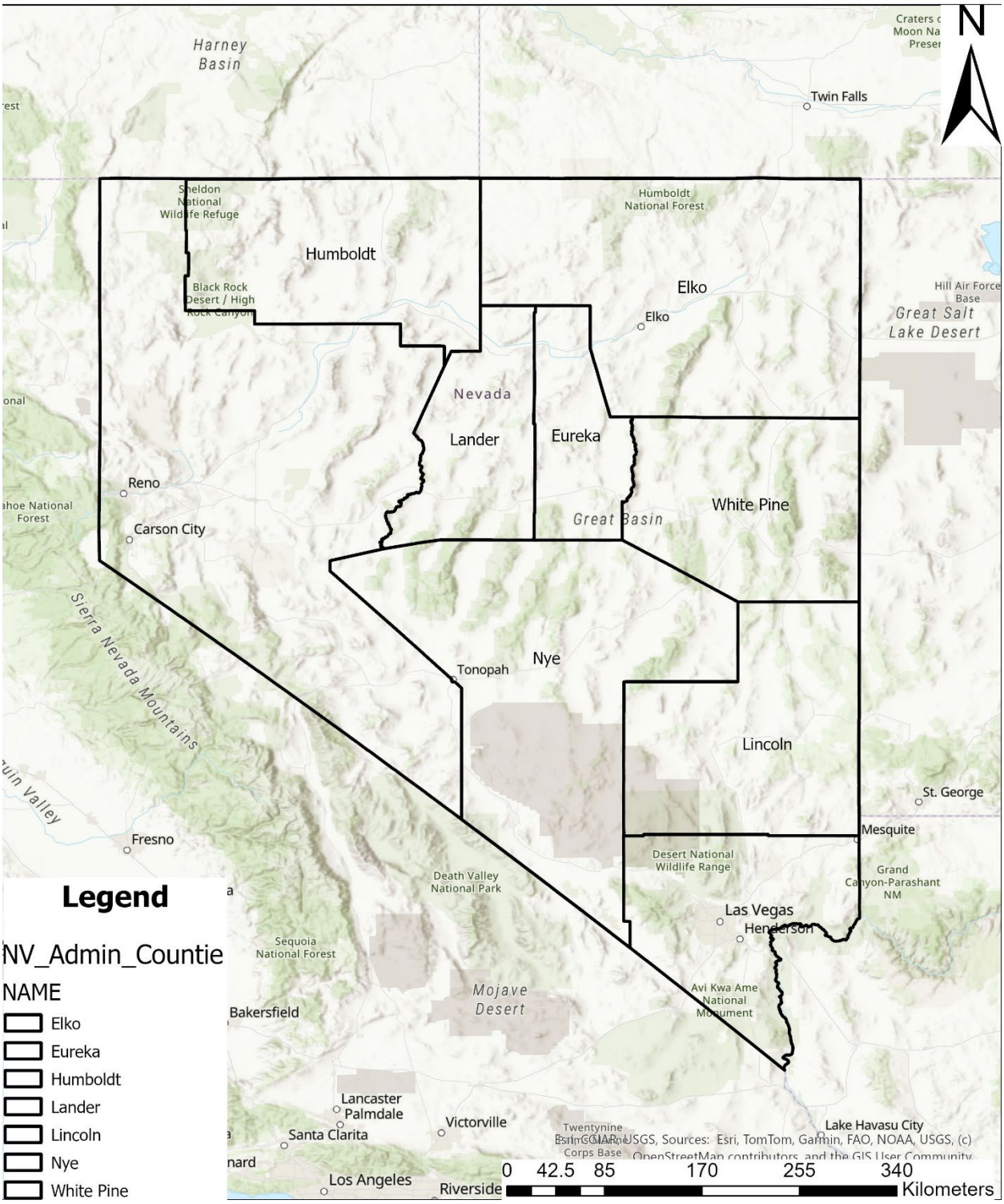
        - Estimated 6,386 ravens were taken.
- USDA – Wildlife Services: Raven Take Estimate (Shooting + DRC-1339)
    - 6,464 total ravens.
- NDOW – Nevada Department of Wildlife: Corvicide Application (DRC-1339)
        - 3,161 eggs baits placed (45.78 grams DRC-1339)
        - 2,289 egg baits taken
        - 872 egg baits recovered.
        - Estimated 1,099 ravens were taken.

Budget Detail

Project 21: Greater Sage-grouse Protection		
Personnel compensation		$68,426.65
Travel/Camp		$4,081.95
Vehicle Use		$11,752.02
Supplies and Equipment		$33,379.43
Aerial Services		-
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$31,939.24
Project Total		$149,579.29
Principal Amount Proposed	$212,125	
Balance	-	(*$62,545.71*)

Budget includes $145,000 from the approved predator plan budget, $57,125 from Upland Gamebird Stamp funds and $10,000 from NGO donations.

Project 21


N
Harney Basin
Twin Falls
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
Humboldt National Forest
Humboldt
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
Elko
Elko
Hill Air Force Base
Great Salt Lake Desert
Nevada
Lander
Eureka
Reno
Carson City
Great Basin
White Pine
Sierra Nevada Mountains
Nye
Tonopah
Lincoln
St. George
Mesquite
Fresno
Desert National Wildlife Range
Death Valley National Park
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Las Vegas
Henderson
Sequoia National Forest
Mojave Desert
Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Bakersfield
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Santa Clarita
Twentynine Palms
Lake Havasu City
Los Angeles
Riverside
Legend
NV_Admin_Countie
NAME
Elko
Eureka
Humboldt
Lander
Lincoln
Nye
White Pine
0 42.5 85 170 255 340
Kilometers
Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Project 37: Big Game Protection – Mountain Lions

Project Narrative

Culling of top predators is beneficial for protection of newly translocated big-game populations, small and isolated big-game populations, or big-game populations held below carrying capacity by predation (Hayes et al. 2003, Rominger et al. 2004, McKinney et al. 2006). The geographic range of mountain lions is larger than any big-game mammal in North and South America (Logan and Sweanor 2000), and specific areas can benefit from removal efforts that target one or more mountain lions.

Mountain lion control efforts continue in the Granite Range of Washoe County (Hunt Unit 014). During FY 2026, 4 mountain lions were removed in the Granite Range. The estimated mule deer population for 2026 is 400. Classification of mule deer during spring 2026 aerial surveys yielded a sample of 104 Mule deer with a fawn ratio of 33 fawns:100 adults. Aerial survey time was abbreviated compared to previous years due to weather conditions. In addition, 56 coyotes were removed for the protection of mule deer and bighorn sheep. This work was primarily funded by NGO donations.

Desert bighorn sheep protection remains a priority for this program. During FY 2026, 4 lions were removed from Hunt Units 211 and 213 from Indian Creek in the White Mountains to Monte Cristo Peak in the Monte Cristo Range to reduce mortality of desert bighorn sheep. This project was initiated due to over 50% of the collar deployments succumbing to lion mortalities within a short period (note, less than 5 active collars on the landscape), caches observed near water sources and trail camera photos indicating a relatively high lion density. One lion was removed from Hunt Unit 181 near Bottom Road. One lion was removed from Hunt Unit 251 on the east side of the Reville Range in response to the recent bighorn sheep augmentation. Six lions were removed in the Cortez Range in Hunt Unit 141 adjacent to 4-mile canyon and the Buckhorn mine in response to the desert bighorn sheep reintroduction.

Many of Nevada's California bighorn sheep populations are considered stable at low levels. Mountain lion predation can have disproportionate effects on survival rates and recruitment when population sizes are low (Festa-Bianchet et al 2006). When mountain lions target California bighorn sheep the population can benefit from mountain lion removal. As part of an effort to re-establish this species in the Montana Mountains of Hunt Unit 031, 2 mountain lions were removed from this range after the translocation of 18 sheep from the Sheep Creek Range (Hunt Unit 068). The 2 lions were removed from Thacker Pass and the Montana Mountains proper. Ten lions were removed from Hunt Unit 022 from Winnemucca Ranch to Big Canyon. The project was implemented as collaring efforts indicated mortality rates approaching 50% from the six collars that were deployed and demographic parameters, i.e. recruitment, indicated the bighorn sheep population should be increasing. One lion was removed in Hunt Unit 015 near Dry Valley for the protection of mule deer.

Lastly, two lions were removed for the protection of mule deer in Hunt Units 102 and 046.

In total, 31 mountain lions were removed during FY2026 to help conserve bighorn sheep and mule deer populations and are summarized below.

Project Summary

County	Hunt Unit	Location	Number Removed
Churchill	181	Fairview	1
Elko	102	Rubies	1
Eureka	141	Cortez	6
Esmeralda	211	White Mountains	1
Esmeralda	213	Mone Cristos	3
Humboldt	031	Montana's	2
Washoe	022	Virgina Mountains	10
Washoe	015	Dry Valley	1
Washoe	014	Granite	4
Nye	251	Reveille Range	1
Pershing	046	Sonoma Range	1
Total			31

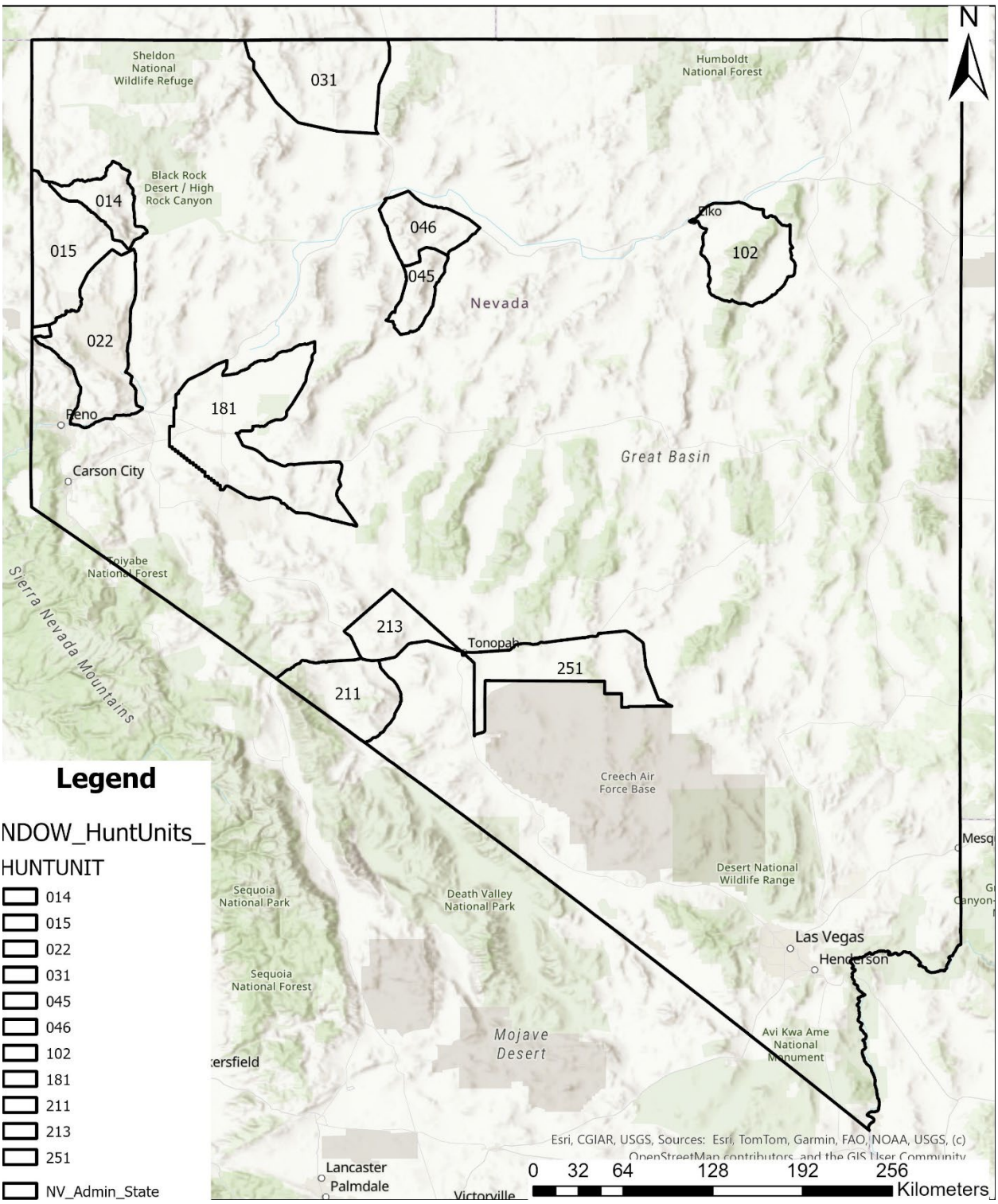
Budget Detail

Project 37: Big Game Protection – Mountain Lions		
Personnel compensation		$62,833.50
Travel/Camp		$8,614.50
Vehicle Use		$19,136.18
Supplies and Equipment		$8,771.09
Aerial Services		-
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$26,974.89
Project Total		$126,330.84
Principal Amount Proposed	$230,000	
Balance	-	(*$ 103,669.16*)

The table above covers only Wildlife Service's costs. In addition to these costs, American Lion Specialists and Proven Pursuit worked in various locations, mainly in the Tobin Range (Hunt Unit 045), the Cortez Range (Hunt Unit 141) and Esmeralda County (Hunt Units 211 and 213). The total expenditure for this work conducted in FY2026 was $64,000. After including contract expenditures, the total expenditure for Project 37 were $190,330.84, leaving a balance of $39,669.16.

Note, $80,000 was donated by NGO's to conduct mountain lion removals in support of desert bighorn sheep translocations in Hunt Units 045 and 141 and to maintain work in Hunt Unit 014.

Project 37


N
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
031
Humboldt National Forest
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
014
015
022
046
045
Nevada
Elko
102
181
Reno
Carson City
Great Basin
Toiyabe National Forest
Sierra Nevada Mountains
213
Tonopah
251
211
Creech Air Force Base
Desert National Wildlife Range
Sequoia National Park
Death Valley National Park
Las Vegas
Henderson
Sequoia National Forest
Mojave Desert
Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
0 32 64 128 192 256
Kilometers
Legend
NDOW_HuntUnits_
HUNTUNIT
014
015
022
031
045
046
102
181
211
213
251
NV_Admin_State

Project 38: Big Game Protection – Coyotes

Project Narrative

Coyotes face an increase in caloric need when raising pups, both through an increase in parent energetic output and feeding growing pups (Till and Knowlton 1983, Sacks et al. 1999, Seidler et al. 2014). Parent coyotes and their pups may consume a drastically different diet than their nonparent counterparts at the same time of year; this difference in diet likely requires larger prey, including mule deer (Hall 2018, Hurley 2016).

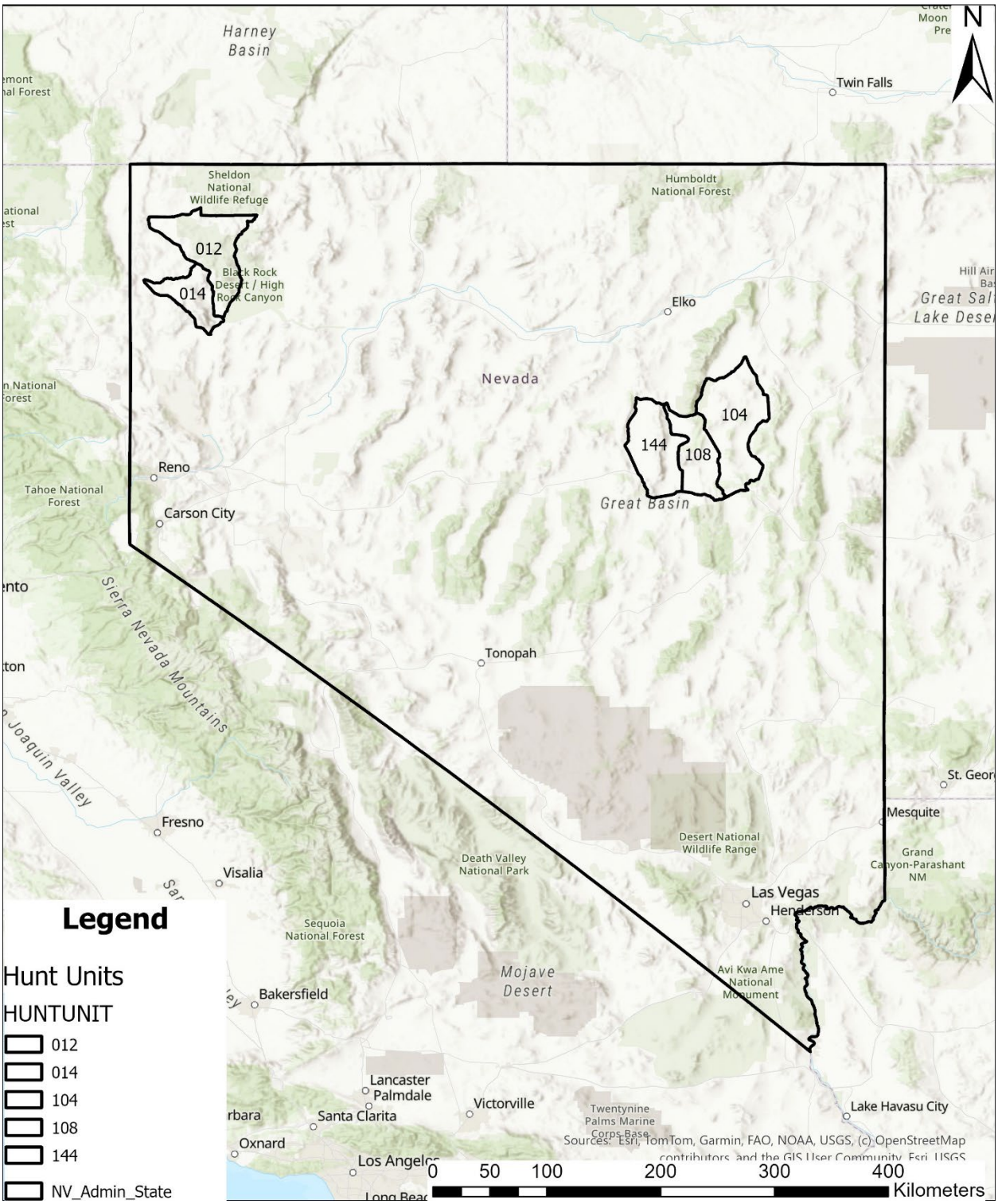
Coyote removal under Project 38 included work in Management Areas 1, 10 and 14. This was completed for the protection of mule deer and pronghorn and was in response to an evaluation of poorly performing demographic parameters and pronghorn translocations.

In total, 69 coyotes were removed with 47 removed from Hunt Units 012 and 014, 9 coyotes removed from area 10, and 13 were removed from Hunt Unit 144. Area 1 work was completed in response to a recent pronghorn translocation from Area 4. The Area 10 work was completed in response to poor age and sex ratios. With a sample size of 1,018 pronghorn classified on survey, a ratio of 23 fawns:100 does was observed in Area 10. This fawn ratio is well below the statewide average of 33 fawns:100 does. The Hunt Unit 144 removal was completed as maintenance level work for what was previously designated as Project 40.

Budget Detail

Project 38: Big Game Protection – Coyote		
Personnel compensation		$18,943.50
Travel/Camp		$3,866.52
Vehicle Use		$1,936.73
Supplies and Equipment		$217.90
Aerial Services		$26,515.60
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$13,976.85
Project Total		$65,457.10
Principal Amount Proposed	$105,000	
Balance		***$ 39,542.90***

Project 38


Harney Basin
Twin Falls
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
012
014
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
Humboldt National Forest
Elko
Nevada
104
144
108
Great Basin
Reno
Tahoe National Forest
Carson City
Sierra Nevada Mountains
Tonopah
Fresno
Visalia
Death Valley National Park
Desert National Wildlife Range
Mesquite
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Las Vegas
Henderson
Sequoia National Forest
Mojave Desert
Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Bakersfield
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Santa Clarita
Oxnard
Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base
Lake Havasu City
Los Angeles
Legend
Hunt Units
HUNTUNIT
012
014
104
108
144
NV_Admin_State
0 50 100 200 300 400
Kilometers
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

Project 40: Coyote Removal to Complement Multi-faceted Management in Eureka County

Project Narrative

Mule deer populations in Management Area 13 in White Pine and Nye Counties are underperforming due to competition with feral equids, cyclic drought conditions, pinyon-juniper expansion, and predation.

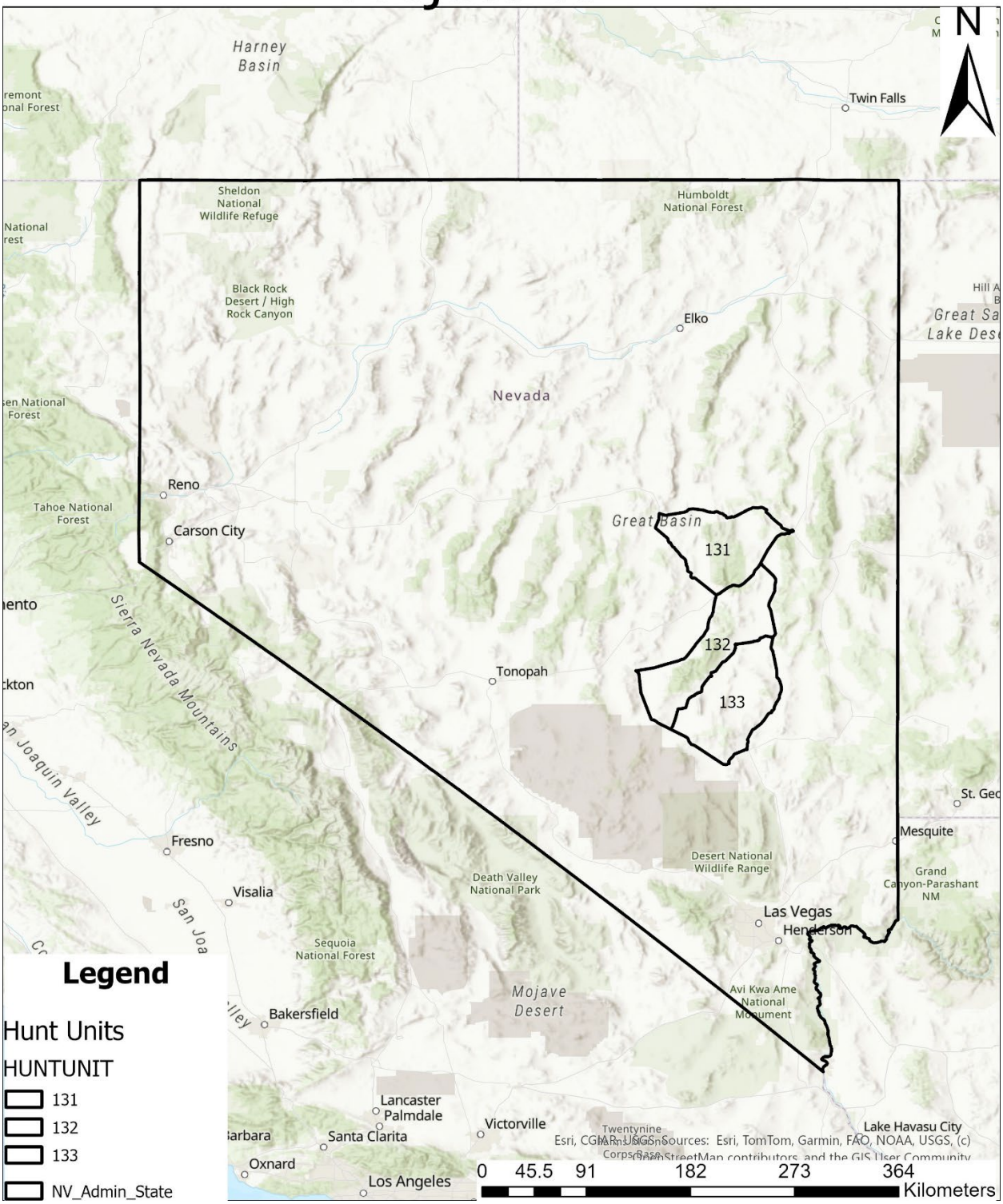
Project 40 removed 16 lions, and 78 coyotes in Management Area 13 in White Pine and Nye County's to benefit mule deer. Spring 2026 fawn ratios from Management Area 13 were 37 fawns: 100 adults which is similar to the statewide average of 37 fawns:100 adults. Collar data prior to predator removal efforts indicated mortality rates of 15-20%.

Majority of coyotes were removed from Hunt Unit 131 during the late spring/ early summer months to coincide with the fawning period.

Budget Detail

Project 40: Lion and Coyote Removal – White Pine and Nye County		
Personnel compensation		$60,557.02
Travel/Camp		$9,234.59
Vehicle Use		$9,373.20
Supplies and Equipment		
Aerial Services		$233.93
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$20,601.19
Project Total		$99,999.93
Principal Amount Proposed	$100,000	
Balance		***$0.07***

Project 40


N
Harney Basin
Twin Falls
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
Humboldt National Forest
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
Elko
Nevada
Great Basin
131
132
133
Reno
Carson City
Tahoe National Forest
Tonopah
Sierra Nevada Mountains
San Joaquin Valley
Fresno
Visalia
Bakersfield
Sequoia National Forest
Death Valley National Park
Desert National Wildlife Range
Mesquite
Las Vegas
Henderson
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Mojave Desert
Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Santa Clarita
Oxnard
Los Angeles
Lake Havasu City
Legend
Hunt Units
HUNTUNIT
131
132
133
NV_Admin_State
0 45.5 91 182 273 364
Kilometers

Project 43: Mesopredator Removal to Protect Waterfowl, Turkeys, and Pheasants on Wildlife Management Areas

Project Narrative

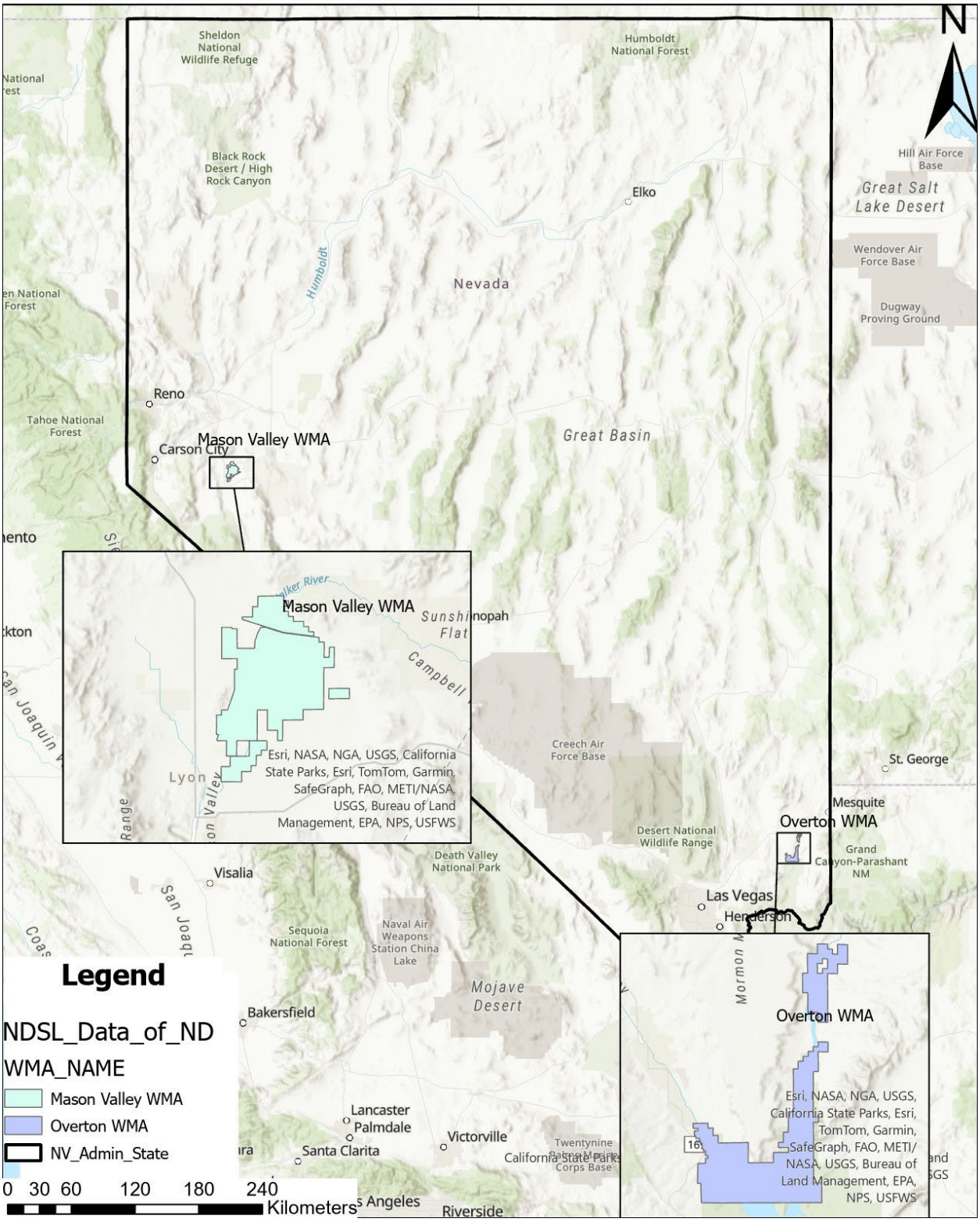
Project 43 was established to assist upland game and waterfowl populations on the Department's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), particularly during the nesting season, by removing small mammalian predators (mesopredators) such as skunks, raccoons, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, and even feral cats in some instances. Some WMAs have higher than expected populations of mesopredators due to habitat suitability and, in some cases, juxtaposition to suburban development and agricultural areas. These situations, which apply to WMAs such as Argenta, Mason Valley, Overton, and Carson Lake, can influence mesopredator abundance such as raccoons, foxes, bobcats, skunks, coyotes, and feral cats.

For Project 43, 40 coyotes, and 4 racoons were removed from Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. Eighteen coyotes, 1 racoon, 1 skunk, 1 badger, 1 gray fox and 3 bobcats were removed from Overton Wildlife Management Area.

Budget Detail

Project 43: Mesopredator removal		
Personnel compensation		$9,957.71
Travel/Camp		$2,654.50
Vehicle Use		$3,316.23
Supplies and Equipment		$181.80
Aerial Services		-
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$4,373.90
Project Total		$20,484.14
Principal Amount Proposed	$40,000	
Balance		***$19,515.86***

Project 43


N
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
Humboldt National Forest
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
Elko
Hill Air Force Base
Great Salt Lake Desert
Wendover Air Force Base
Dugway Proving Ground
Nevada
Humboldt
Reno
Tahoe National Forest
Carson City
Mason Valley WMA
Great Basin
Mason Valley WMA
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS
Creech Air Force Base
St. Mesquite
Overton WMA
Desert National Wildlife Range
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Death Valley National Park
Visalia
Las Vegas
Henderson
Sequoia National Forest
Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake
Mojave Desert
Bakersfield
Overton WMA
Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Santa Clarita
Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base
Riverside
Legend
NDSL_Data_of_ND
WMA_NAME
Mason Valley WMA
Overton WMA
NV_Admin_State
0 30 60 120 180 240
Kilometers

Project 47: Mule Deer Protection

Project Narrative

Underperforming mule deer populations will be identified by local mule deer enhancement program committees and individual biologists. Working with the mule deer oversight committee, NDOW staff, and outside collaborators, areas where predation is a potential limiting factor will be assessed. Areas identified under Project 47 have incorporated collar mortality data and young to adult ratios.

Project Summary

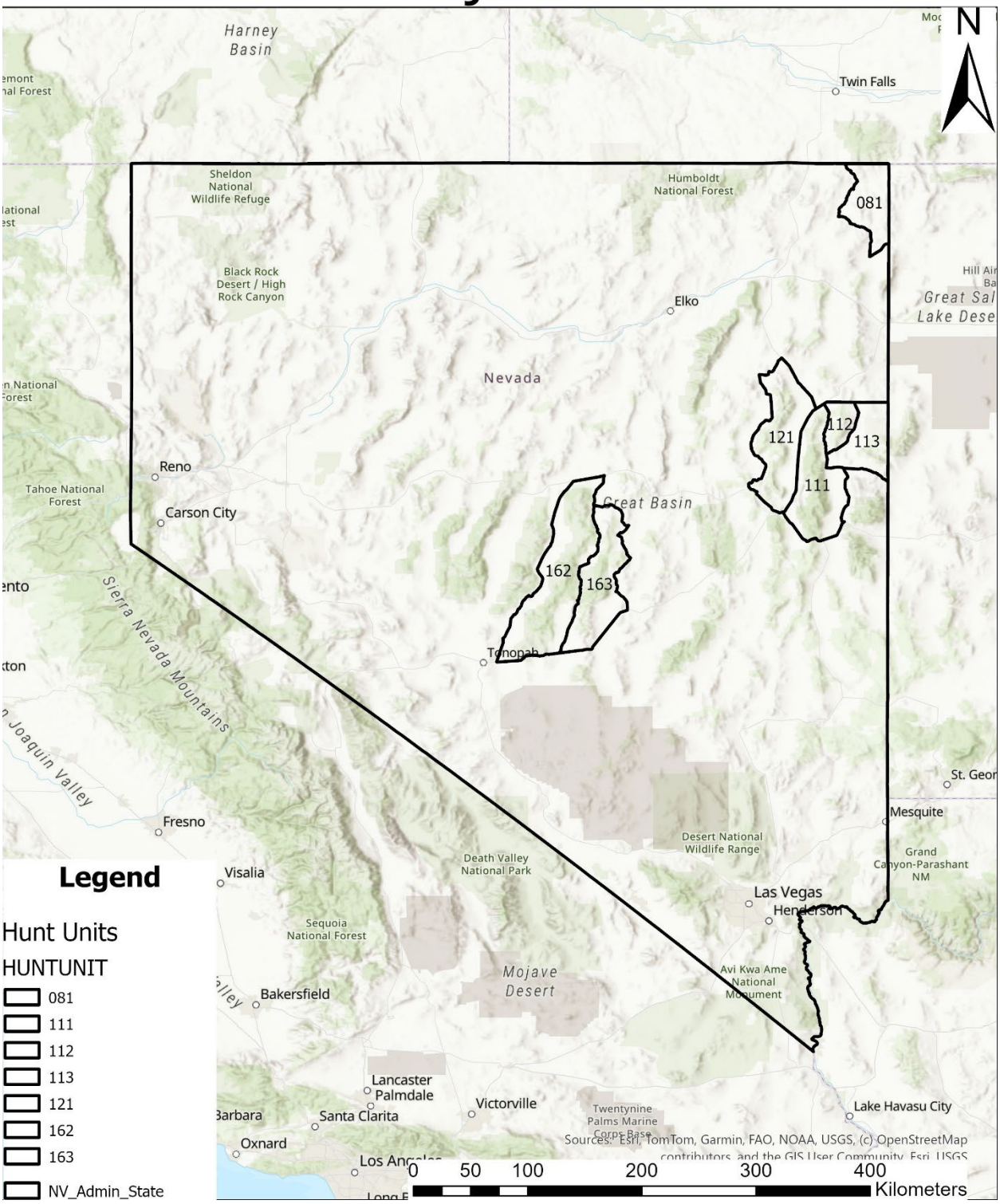
USDA – Wildlife Services removed 24 mountain lions in White Pine, Nye, Eureka, and Elko Counties during FY 2026. Six lions were removed from the Shell Creek Range (Hunt Unit 111), 8 lions were removed from Hunt Units 112 and 113, 4 lions were removed from Hunt Unit 121, 4 lions removed from Hunt Units 162 and 163, and 2 lions removed from Hunt Unit 081. Collar mortality data, performance of the herds demographic parameters, and the mule deer enhancement program informed where these projects would be conducted. Collar mortality in MA 11 and 16 exceeded 40% during the duration of time the collars were deployed before lion removal was conducted. Hunt Units 121 and 081 exceeded 15-20%. All these data points exceed the 7% annual survival threshold that Utah has seen as additive mortality in their mule deer herds (Utah 2024 predator-control measures implemented by Utah DWR, annual status report).

Budget Detail

Project 47: Mule Deer Protection		
Personnel compensation		$34,658.44
Travel/Camp		$2,535.25
Vehicle Use		$10,372.89
Supplies and Equipment		$1,630.80
Aerial Services		$-
Program Support (Admin/Indirect Costs)		$13,357.05
Project Total		$62,554.43
Principal Amount Proposed	$80,000	
Balance		***$17,445.57***

The table above covers only Wildlife Service's costs. In addition to these costs, American Lion Specialists worked in Management Area 16. The total expenditure for the work conducted in FY2026 was $11,600. After including contract expenditures, the total cost was $74,154.43, leaving a balance of $ 5,845.57.

Project 47


Harney Basin
Twin Falls
Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge
Humboldt National Forest
081
Black Rock Desert / High Rock Canyon
Elko
Great Salt Lake Desert
Nevada
121
112
113
111
Reno
Tahoe National Forest
Carson City
Great Basin
162
163
Tonopah
Sierra Nevada Mountains
San Joaquin Valley
Fresno
Visalia
Death Valley National Park
Desert National Wildlife Range
Mesquite
St. George
Grand Canyon-Parashant NM
Las Vegas
Henderson
Sequoia National Forest
Mojave Desert
Avi Kwa Ame National Monument
Bakersfield
Lancaster
Palmdale
Victorville
Santa Clarita
Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base
Lake Havasu City
Oxnard
Los Angeles
Legend
Hunt Units
HUNTUNIT
081
111
112
113
121
162
163
NV_Admin_State
0 50 100 200 300 400
Kilometers
Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

Overall Budget Expenditures for FY2026

Project	$3 Planned Expenditures	Donation and Upland Game Planned Expenditures	Wildlife Services Expenditures	Contractor Expenditures	Balance
Department of Ag Transfer [a]	$14,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
Project 21	$145,000	$67,125	$143,022.18	$0	$62,545.71
Project 37	$150,000	$80,000	$126,330.16	$64,000	$39,770
Project 38	$105,000	$0	$65,475.10	$0	$39,542
Project 40	$100,000	$0	$99,999.93	$0	$0.07
Project 43	$40,000	$0	$20,484.14	$0	$19,515.86
Project 47	$80,000	$0	$62,554.43	$11,600	$5,845.57
Total [b]	$634,000	$145,125	$524,405.05	$75,600	$167,219.21

[a] This transfer of $3 predator fees for administrative support to the Department of Agriculture partially funds state personnel that conduct work for the benefit of wildlife at the direction of USDA WS (e.g., mountain lion removal to benefit wildlife).

[b] Fiscal year 2026 predator fee revenues totaled $1,174,461. The allocation breakdown was $714,756 for lethal work and $460,305 for the HRM account. Proposed predator projects for fiscal year 2026 included $634,000 for lethal work.

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STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Framework for Big Game Hunting Seasons and Harvest – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, a presentation will be provided to the Commission regarding the Game Division's recently updated
framework for developing hunting seasons and harvest recommendations for big game species, formerly referred to as "Big Game Season Prescriptions and Management Objectives for Quota
Recommendations." This framework was last presented to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners in January 2022 and provides guidance to the Game Division when developing recommendations for big game hunting seasons and quotas.

Agenda Action: Other / Presentation **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
13-Framework-for-Big-Game-Hunting-Seasons-and-Harvest.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay

2) _____ _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

(Vote Recorded By)

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

MEMORANDUM

OCTOBER 16, 2026

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

From: Cody McKee – Game Division Administrator

Title: **Framework for Big Game Hunting Seasons and Harvest**

Purpose: The Board of Wildlife Commissioners will hear an overview of the harvest management principles guiding seasons and quota development for game species.

Summary

In January 2022, the Game Division provided a summary of the "Big Game Season Prescriptions and Management Objectives for Quota Recommendations" document to the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC). This document has provided internal sideboards for quota development for several years but was not officially adopted by the NBWC. The Game Division has drafted recent updates to the document and developed a concise title: "Nevada Harvest Management Framework." An overview of this document will be provided.

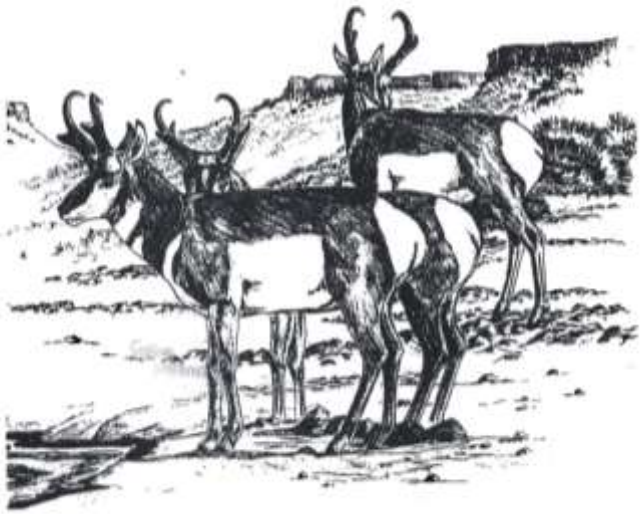
Included support material contains the originally presented document from January 2022, as well as a draft of the revised document that identifies proposed revisions and additions to various criteria for harvest management of game species in Nevada.

Recommendation

This is an informational item. The Department welcomes dialogue on the future of the Harvest Management Framework and its value for developing tag quota recommendations.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

GAME DIVISION



NEVADA HARVEST MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

~~GAME MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS~~
~~AND~~
~~OBJECTIVES FRAMEWORK~~
~~FOR~~
~~SEASONS, QUOTA AND BAG LIMIT RECOMMENDATIONS~~

Draft

October ~~July~~ 2026

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OBJECTIVE

Management Objectives for Hunting Seasons are designed to be used by Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) Game Biologists when formulating hunting season and quota recommendations. Management objectives are intended to provide general guidance on the target parameters toward which big game species are managed. Season and quota recommendations, as well as targets associated with management objectives will be reviewed and ~~approved~~adopted by~~shared with~~ the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission), County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABs), and interested publics annually to make them aware of the objectives the Department is attempting to achieve with the recommendations being provided. Management objectives may be changed in subsequent years if the Commission provides direction to that effect.

The management objectives themselves are one piece of a strategic approach used by the Department in managing wildlife. While management objectives describe the parameters toward which the Department manages, other protocols describe how that data is collected. Management plans (e.g., species management plans and related sub-planning documents) describe landscape-level objectives, opportunities for habitat enhancement, specific herd management objectives (e.g., increase population), and management challenges (e.g., persistent low fawn recruitment for pronghorn).

The Department also operates under a strategic plan that provides agency vision, an annual work plan developed under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, annual or biennial translocation plans approved by the Commission, and an annual implementation plan that tie together budgets, specific tasks, and work units for the upcoming year. The Department manages Nevada's wildlife within the biological limits of each species. Management strategies are developed to address social perceptions, which are routinely more conservative than the limits at which wildlife may be biologically managed.

Ultimately, the Department manages wildlife in the public trust for all of Nevada's citizens. All game animals, including predators, big game, and upland game, are managed as part of an important ecosystem of at least 894 species to be sustained for future generations of Nevadans and our visitors to enjoy. These management objectives have been developed to meet a variety of hunting desires and strive to provide adequate opportunity for all, while maintaining a self-sustaining resource. The objectives are based on the best available biological and social science. Nevada has a diverse wildlife resource, yet many of these resources are limited in supply. The following objectives attempt to provide the diversity of experiences desired by the hunters of Nevada, while providing the necessary management so that everyone will benefit from diverse wildlife populations in the future.

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APPROACHES FOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDANCE

A. Commission Policy 24 provides direction to the Department in allocating ~~quotas~~allowable harvest among weapon classes and between resident and nonresident hunters.

B. Seasons are recommended biennially, with recommendations from the Department to CAB's, the Commission, and interested publics.

C. Recommendations from area biologists, regional supervisors, and game staff will be the primary method of managing standard, alternative, or non-standard hunt strategies.

D. Population estimates will be derived from survey data, harvest metrics, and population models when possible.

E. Provide for a diversity of hunter experiences while maintaining wildlife population health.

F. Maintain consistent wildlife survey protocol and interpretation to develop hunt recommendations across the state in accordance with other pertinent management plans (e.g., species management plans and annual work plans).

G. Population management objectives (male to female ratios, harvest metrics, age of harvested animals, main beam length) for specific units may be described within pertinent species management plans.

H. Use innovative management hunts to address specific management objectives that are not being achieved through standard hunt structures.

I. Use split hunt structure to reduce user conflicts and hunter densities.

J. Use targeted harvest by hunters to address human-wildlife conflicts when appropriate.

K. Promote youth hunts when possible.

L. Emphasize primitive weapons hunts where possible to allow for increased participation due to lower success rates especially when a minimum of 10 tags are offered for corresponding any legal weapon seasons.

M. Several specialty hunts are offered each year consistent with appropriate statute and rule, to include Heritage, Silver State, Dream, and Partnership in Wildlife tags. These are important programs that have relatively little influence on harvest management for the remainder of Nevada's wildlife. Their implementation is acknowledged but not described within these guidelines.

N. **Alternatives to Standard Seasons** – earlier seasons to accommodate high elevation herds; split seasons for high quotas; date shifts to accommodate hunter access, water availability issues, and for DOD land restrictions. Interstate movement of migratory herds may also be justification.

O. **Special note on tag quota recommendations for hunts with low quotas** – hunt results can be quite variable when quota recommendations are fewer than 10 tags. For example, moose hunt metrics

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including a single unsuccessful moose hunter may suggest a tag reduction is warranted despite adequate bulls available for harvest. In these instances, professional judgement will be used to make recommendations.

ROUNDING AND MINIMUM TAG CONVENTION

~~**Deer** and **Antelope** ALW~~
All Species Except Black Bear, Bighorn, Mountain Goat and Moose Tags: (*Minimum of 2 tags for Mule Deer hunts)*

If the array recommends:

- 20~~10~~ tags or under: ——— Leave as is
- 20-99~~11 – 99~~ tags: ——— Round up to nearest 5
- ≥100: ——— Round up to nearest 10
- ~~101 – 300: Round up to nearest 10~~
- ~~301 - 500 tags: Round up to nearest 25~~
- ~~501 - 1000 tags: Round up to nearest 50~~

~~**Deer** and **Antelope** Archery & Muzzleloader Tags: *(Minimum of 2 tags for Mule Deer hunts)*~~
- ~~If ALW tags are more than 10, have a minimum of 5 tags~~
- ~~If ALW tags are 10 or fewer, leave as is~~
- ~~6 – 10 tags: Round up to 10~~
- ~~11 – 99 tags: Round up to nearest 5~~
- ~~101 – 500 tags: Round up to nearest 25~~
- ~~500 - 1000 tags: Round up to nearest 50~~

~~**Elk** ALW, Archery, and Muzzleloader tags**:** *(Minimum of 2 tags for Antlerless Elk hunts)*~~
- ~~Under 20 tags: Leave as is~~
- ~~21 – 100: Round up to nearest 5~~
- ~~100 – 300: Round up to nearest 10~~
- ~~300 – 500: Round up to nearest 25~~
- ~~500 +: Round up to nearest 50~~

Black Bear, **Bighorn**, ~~**and**~~ **Mountain Goat** and Moose:
- No rounding

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BIGHORN SHEEP

The Department's goals are to restore and maintain bighorn sheep herds at optimal population levels, provide diverse recreational opportunities, recognize hunting as a legitimate and desirable use of the bighorn sheep resource, strongly advocate habitats be maintained in good ecological condition, and reduce and manage risk of disease transmission.

Bighorn Season Prescriptions

1. Bighorn hunts include separate ram and ewe hunts using weapon classes for Any Legal Weapon or Archery.

2. Bighorn sheep season dates are set with the following considerations: ~~-~~bighorn breeding season that varies across subspecies and elevation, other hunting seasons to reduce overlap, aerial surveys, capture operations to reduce hunter/NDOW conflicts, allow hunter access to higher elevations, and reduce hunter congestion. Split or extended seasons may be implemented if hunter congestion and hunt efficacy become an issue. Standard season length will not be less than 21 days and preferably 30 days. Hunts on Department of Defense (DOD) lands may be reduced for total hunt days to accommodate special regulations and restrictions.

3. Bighorn ewe seasons will be no shorter than 14 days and will occur on dates that do not overlap with bighorn ram seasons in the same unit. Other considerations are to reduce overlap with mule deer rifle seasons in the same unit and to accommodate optimal timing of bighorn sheep captures for management and disease surveillance.

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Desert Bighorn (Nelson) Sheep Seasons	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	November 20 – January 1
Alternatives to Standard Seasons – earlier seasons to accommodate high elevation herds; split seasons for high quotas; date shifts to accommodate hunter access, bighorn water availability issues, and for DOD land restrictions	
Ram Archery Standard Season	Not to conflict with other standard ewe or ram seasons. ~~October 20 – November 14~~
Ewe Any Legal Weapon Season	Prior to any legal weapon and not overlapping archery season or post season for population management purposes and opportunity.

California Bighorn Sheep	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	September 1 – October 31
Ewe Any Legal Weapon Season	After ram season
Ram Archery Season	Prior to any legal weapon and not overlapping ewe season

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	September 1 – October 31
Alternatives to Standard Seasons – earlier and later seasons to accommodate high elevation, heavily timbered, and difficult to access herds;	

Management Hunts~~Ram~~

Management Ewe Any Legal Weapon	Not to conflict with other seasons, but may depend on need and tag quotas.
Management Ram Any Legal Weapon Season	After Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Tag quotas for rams for each unit group will be based on the following criteria: a minimum of 8% of the total estimated number of rams, not to exceed 50% of rams ≥6 years of age, derived from a herd's population model. These criteria are expected to maintain a mean age of harvested rams ≥6 year of age within each unit or unit group.

B. Units will be the primary geographic basis for managing bighorn harvest. Units may be subdivided to more optimally spread or focus hunting pressure and harvest to all known areas of bighorn distribution during bighorn hunting seasons.

C. Criteria for establishing ewe hunts and tag quotas will be based on evaluating seasonal or yearlong habitat resource limitations (e.g., water), past cyclical declines associated with record high population size, drought ~~extremity~~severity, or proximity to known disease risk and status. Opportunities for removal of source stock animals for low-risk translocations will be considered in conjunction with ~~prior to~~ recommending ewe hunts.

D. ~~Archery ram hunts will be considered in units where the majority of water sources used by bighorn sheep are natural to discourage hunting over man-made water developments.~~ The total tag quotas for all archery ram hunts will not exceed 10~~5~~% of the statewide total any legal weapon ram hunt quotas.

E. Management ram hunts will be considered in specific units to target harvest on a particular ram age group (i.e., nonbreeding rams to reduce an artificially high ram: ewe ratio and lower the probability of young rams foraying, and contacting domestic sheep), rams that have specific horn characteristics (i.e., mature one-horn or broken-off horn rams), or where hunter access and/or mature ram detection is extremely challenging. Tag quotas may vary depending on which type of management ram hunt is implemented but will not exceed 5% of the statewide total ram tags issued for all other hunts.

F. Emergency or Alternative Hunts could be established to assist with de-population efforts in certain circumstances. These hunts are normally only developed to assist with depopulation and may need to be augmented with further effort. These hunts may also be used to address pioneering herds (e.g., ewe groups) that move into an area of disease risk or extreme drought conditions.

~~E.~~ Prior to receiving your bighorn ewe tag from the Department, it is mandatory to attend the bighorn ewe seminar. If bighorn ewe tags are reissued via alternate or first come first serve, the Department will reach out to the individual to sign a document to attest they have watched the mandatory ewe seminar prior to receiving their ewe tag. Ram seminars are not required but are encouraged. The Department will provide three opportunities annually to attend the bighorn ram seminar with an option available in each region. Need to include information on pertinent indoctrination courses here.

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G.

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BLACK BEAR

The Department's Bear Management Goal is to manage black bear population numbers and distribution as an important part of Nevada's fauna. The hunt recommendation goal is to allow bear hunting harvest, while managing for representation of older age cohorts of both sexes in the population.

Black Bear Season Prescriptions

1. Black bear season will begin September 15 and run through December 1.

2. Seasons will be set for units or unit groups where populations of black bears occur in harvestable numbers. As black bear populations expand, units or unit groups may be added.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. The Department will manage black bear harvest toward compensatory ~~light~~ harvest, while considering modeled population trends. If harvest rates are under 5% of population estimate, other metrics will be evaluated.

B. Tags and harvest limits may be adjusted to maintain light harvests. The most recent 3-year-average or trend should receive greater emphasis when determining tag quota levels and harvest limits; emphasize previous year's data when a clear trend exists or emphasize the most recent 3-year mean data when no clear trend exists.

C. Harvest limits may be placed on the entire hunt area or specific units within the hunt area. Additionally, harvest limits may apply to total harvest or specific segments of the population (e.g., female harvest limit).

D. Determine harvest effect and provide tag quota recommendations using the criteria below based on the previous 3-year mean. If 2 or more parameters exceed light harvest (assuming harvest rates exceed 5%) , then tag quotas or harvest limits should be reduced.

~~D.~~E. Prior to receiving your black bear tag from the Department, it is mandatory for you and your guide to attend one of the two black bear seminars that are offered in the western region each year. If black bear tags are reissued via alternate or first come first serve, the Department will reach out to the individual to sign a document to attest they have watched the mandatory black bear seminar prior to receiving their tag.Need to include indoctrination course stipulations here.

Parameter	Light harvest	Moderate harvest	Heavy harvest
Percent females in	**<30%**	**30–40%**	**>40%**
Mean age of harvested females	>6 years	5–6 years	<5 years
Mean age of harvested males	>4 years	2–4 years	<2 years

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MOOSE

Presence and distribution of Shiras moose (*Alces alces shirasi*) in Nevada prior to European settlement is unknown. Historic sightings of moose in Nevada date back to the 1950s, likely coinciding with burgeoning moose populations in neighboring states. Since the early 2000s, frequency and distribution of moose sightings in Nevada have increased substantially. Currently, the Department believes the resident moose population is stable to increasing with numerous and repeated observations of adult males (i.e., bulls), adult females (i.e., cows), and juveniles (i.e., calves).

The Department recognizes moose as an important component of Nevada's diverse wildlife landscape and serves to protect, maintain, and, where applicable, increase the moose resource for current and future enjoyment by Nevadans. In 2020, the Department initiated a long-term monitoring effort to better understand habitat preferences, movement corridors, abundance, and distribution of moose in Nevada. Monitoring efforts have yielded high-resolution movement data from ~~7~~ 22 adult moose, providing previously unknown insight about habitat preferences and seasonal movements. The Department also maintains a database of moose sightings and reports to supplement moose records and data. Information collected from these efforts ~~will~~ assists the Department in identifying and protecting critical habitat for moose in Nevada, as well as ~~assess~~assessing the population's viability to support sustainable harvest.

In concert with these activities, the Department has identified three goals guiding management of moose in Nevada. Those goals (1) maintain ~~and improve~~ abundance and distribution of Nevada's resident moose population, (2) allow natural expansion of moose into suitable but unoccupied habitats, and (3) identify and encourage recreational opportunities for all user groups. Specific Departmental activities related to moose must have a nexus to achieving these management goals.

Antlered Moose Season Prescription

A. ~~No season is proposed for moose.~~Standard ~~Bull~~Antlered Moose Season: Sept. 1 – Nov. 30th.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recom~~mm~~endations

A. The hunt area includes all areas supporting a sustainable population of antlered moose. The current hunt boundary is comprised of Hunt Units 061, 062, 064, 066-068, 071-077, and 101-103. The hunt area may be split into smaller unit groupings to redistribute hunter pressure should harvest be isolated to certain areas over successive years.

B. The Department provides guidance for tag quotas for antlered moose based on past harvest trends and available literature identifying relationships in antler characteristics and age (i.e., Gasaway et al. 1987). As noted on pg. 3, hunt results can be quite variable for hunts with few tags like antlered moose. The outlined parameters provide guidance for antlered moose, but tag quotas will primarily incorporate both a professional assessment of prior hunt results and current population information.

Tag Quota Guidance	Decrease	No Change	Increase
Average age	<3	3-4	>4
Average antler width	<35 inches	35-40 inches	>40 inches
Hunter success	<50%	50-75%	>75%

Harvest rate of bulls aged 4+	>10%	8-10%	<8%

~~Use combination of hunter success and average age to assist with adjustments. Number of observed mature or modeled bulls amongst various management areas will also be considered. Average age criteria of 4+. No tags are recommended for moose.~~

~~A. Currently, a grouping of Management Areas is the standard for quota development. This may be altered to specific Management Areas or Hunt Units.~~

Antlerless Moose Season Prescription:

A. Should an antlerless moose season be adopted, the Standard Season will run partially concurrent to the antlered moose season: Oct 15th – Dec 31st.

Antlerless Moose Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Harvest of antlerless moose is an effective management tool to slow rapid population growth, especially in areas with substantial likelihood of human conflict. While the Department acknowledges the moose population is growing, conflicts have been minor.
B. An antlerless moose hunt may be recommended in areas where moose populations continue to grow and conflicts become more frequent.

Quotas for antlerless moose will be determined by estimating the harvest rate of antlerless moose needed to stabilize population growth. Should desired harvest needed to achieve stable population growth exceed 5 tags, then a multi-year, stepwise approach will be considered to meet hunt objectives.

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MOUNTAIN LION

The Department's Lion Management Goal is to manage the mountain lion population, numbers, and distribution, as an important part of Nevada's fauna while providing mountain lion hunting and other recreational opportunities.

The Department will establish a statewide harvest objective and monitor harvest within 6 management zones. These zones correspond to the genetic subpopulations identified fromin recent research within Nevada. Five zones correspond with 5 unique genetic subpopulations identified by Andreasen et al. (2012). An additional zone comprised of transient units is defined by NDOW.

Mountain Lion Season Prescriptions

1. Hunts for either sex mountain lion "any legal weapon" seasons will occur on March 1 and run until the last day of February of the subsequent year.

2. Unit 091 is managed as an interstate hunt with Utah. Hunter harvested lions from 091 will be considered part of the North management zone.

3. Hunting hours are any time of the day or night; however, hunters are required to follow local county ordinances for legal shooting hours.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Mountain lion hunts may be authorized for "either sex" seasons, except that spotted kittens or females accompanied by spotted kittens may not be taken. The harvest limit is 1 animal per tag, 2 tag maximum per person per year.

B. The number of total and adult female mountain lions removed from each management zone will be monitored annually. A premolar will be removed from each harvested mountain lion during the mandatory check procedures. Premolars will be sectioned, and age will be determined using cementum aging techniques. If the 3-year mean percentage of adult (≥3-year-old) female in the regulated hunting seasons within any specific management zone exceeds 35%, the Department maywill establish a separate harvest objective for that zone to limit harvest.

C. Female mountain lions should comprise <50% of the overall take within a specific management zone. If the 3-year mean percentage of female in the regulated hunting seasons within any specific management zone exceeds 50%, the Department maywill establish a separate harvest objective for that zone to limit harvest. A 3-year average of adult female harvest of 35% maywill be used to adjust regulated hunting (e.g. sport) harvest within Management Zones.

D. Harvest objectives within a specific management zone may be increased or combined with the statewide harvest objective following 2 consecutive seasons in which the 3-year mean of adult females in the harvest is ≤35% of the total harvest and the 3-year mean of total females in the harvest is <50%.Harvest objectives will align with the statewide harvest objective of 247.

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Management Zones

Central units	142,143, 144, 145, 155, 161, 162, 163, 171, 172, 183, 184, 251
East units	102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 121, 231
North units	044, 045, 046, 051, 061, 062, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 081, 091, 101, 107, 141, 151, 152, 153, 154, 156
West units	011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 021, 022, 032, ~~033~~, 034, 041, 192, 194, 195, 196, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 291
South units	131, 132, 133, 134, 164, 221, 222, 223, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 253, 254, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, ~~269~~, 271, 272, ~~280~~, ~~281~~, ~~282~~, ~~283~~, ~~284~~, ~~286~~
Transient units	031, 035, 042, 043, 181, 182, 205, 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 252
Units closed to hunting	033, 269, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, and 286 which are closed by other administrative regulations imposed by the Department of Defense, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or similar restriction.

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MULE DEER

The Department's Mule Deer Management Goal is to maintain and enhance deer populations to levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse effects to the species and its habitat. Harvest strategies for mule deer generally follow the draft *Nevada Management Plan for Mule Deer.*

Mule Deer Season Prescriptions

1. Generally, hunting seasons are for "antlered mule deer" or "antlerless mule deer". Junior mule deer tags are issued in accordance with NAC 502.063, and Commission Policy 24, which currently authorizes antlered or antlerless also known as "either sex" tags for junior youth hunts in certain areas or under certain circumstances. "Antlerless mule deer" hunts are used when deer populations require reduction or stabilization and to provide hunter opportunity. "Antlered mule deer" hunts are used to manage the ratio of males to females in the population while providing recreational hunting opportunities for both residents and nonresidents.

2. Hunts for antlered mule deer typically follow a progression from late summer through mid-autumn (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon). Seasons may be split to reduce hunter crowding or more effectively target the timing of harvest. Any legal weapon hunts during the early seasons provide greater probability to draw a tag and are primarily designed to achieve management objectives, whereas late seasons provide higher likelihood to harvest more mature bucks. Antlerless deer seasons are designed to target specific sub-populations while minimizing overlap with antlered any legal weapon seasons, except for some unique situations such as late depredation hunts.

3. Junior ~~"either sex"~~ seasons generally coincide with the any legal weapon season for standard mule deer hunts, the muzzleloader season, and the archery season dates for the unit or unit groups in which the hunt is adopted. Junior hunts that coincide with standard and early-late split seasons for the any legal weapon class will begin on October 5 and end following Nevada Day weekend, with a few exceptions. Primitive junior seasons align with the established archery and muzzleloader seasons.

Archery – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard Season	August 10 – September 9

Muzzleloader – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard season	September 10 – October 4

Any Legal Weapon – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard Single Season	October 5 – November 5
Standard Early-Late Split Season	October 5 – 20 October 21 – November 5
Standard Early-Mid-Late Split Season	October 1 – October 16 October 5 – October 16 October 17 – October 30 October 31 - November 8

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Antlered Mule Deer Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. For standard hunt units, the Department manages for approximately 30 bucks per 100 does to provide a quality experience for hunters that are drawn. The Department also manages some units as "alternative" hunt units with higher buck ratios, lower hunter density, and older-age-class animals in the harvest.

B. Alternative hunt units are managed for a minimum of 35 bucks per 100 does. In addition to buck ratio objectives, the Department will consider hunter success rate and percentage of 4-point or greater when making quota recommendations for alternative hunt units.

C. The Department will make quota recommendations for non-standard hunts based on a 3-year trend in hunt success. When a clear trend does not exist, the Department will recommend no change to the quota allocation from the previous year.

Standard Hunts	
Buck ratio objective (post-season)	30 bucks per 100 does
All units or unit groups not managed as Alternative or Non-Standard	

Alternative Hunts	
Buck ratio objective (post-season)	35 bucks per 100 does
Hunter success rate objective	40-55% success
Percent of harvest bucks with ≥ 4-points	50-75%
Unit Groups	Eastern Region: 065; 081; 114, 115; 131-134
	Southern Region: 221-223; 231; 241-245
	Western Region: 014; 033; ~~194, 196~~

Non-Standard Hunts	
Hunter Success Objective	**>45% success**
Unit Groups	192, 201, 204; 202, 205-208; 291; 041, 042 and 045; 261-268; 271, 272, 015; 021; 195; 203; 211-213; 251-254; 194,196
~~**Hunter Success Objective**~~	~~**>35 - 45% success**~~
~~Unit Groups~~	~~015; 021; 195; 203; 211-213; 251-254~~

Antlerless Mule Deer Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Antlerless mule deer harvest may be used to manage mule deer population size, growth, or to provide hunter opportunity. Recommendations of when to implement an antlerless harvest can be based on an assessment of the carrying capacity, trends in fawn-to-doe ratios, or body condition (either captured or harvested).

B. Generally, antlerless mule deer hunts will not be recommended in units that have total population estimates of < 1,000 adults, unless indices suggest that populations are at or above carrying capacity. In hunt units with > 1,000 adults, fawn-to-adult ratios obtained during spring surveys or modeled or measured survival of fawns and does will be used to guide Game Biologists to a range of harvest strategy options.

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C. Catastrophic environmental events (such as large-scale wildfires or severe drought) will be considered when recommending doe quotas and could initiate harvest beyond those described in these harvest objectives.

D. Harvest rate will be determined as the percentage of the adult female population (typically from population model estimate) based on the following general guidelines:

3-year-avg fawn: adult ratio	< 30	30–40	>40
Pre-hunt population est.		>1,000	>2,000
Doe Hunt?	No	1% - 5%	5% - 10%

E. Where possible, a 3-year mean of observed spring fawn-to-adult ratios will be used; however, a longer term or regional average may be considered when three consecutive years of observed spring data are not available. Extenuating circumstances such as prolonged drought conditions, severe population declines, or other indicators may affect management prescriptions.

F. In some instances, fawn-to-doe ratios may decline when the population approaches the capacity of the habitat. In those instances, although it may seem counterintuitive, doe harvest may be needed to maintain healthy populations. Perhaps shore this section up with more recent research as justification for this.

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Restricted Nonresident Deer Hunts

"Restricted nonresident deer hunts" are designed to provide nonresident hunters an opportunity to hunt with a licensed Nevada guide for mule deer. These tags are drawn in a separate drawing before the main draw for big game and nonresidents must be accompanied by a licensed master guide at all times. Any legal weapons may be used during these hunts. Seasons for restricted nonresident deer tags coincide with any legal weapon deer hunts and are issued according to NRS 502.147. Nonresident applicants who apply in the restricted nonresident guided deer hunt are not eligible to apply for deer tags in the big game main draw in the same year.

Landowner Compensation Tags for Mule Deer

An owner, lessee, or manager of private land in this state may apply to the Department for the issuance of deer tags to compensate for damage to their private lands. These tags can be used by the owner, lessee, or manager if he or she holds a valid Nevada hunting license, or the tags can be sold to any holder of a valid Nevada hunting license at any price mutually agreed upon. Landowners, lessees, or mangers of private land will be awarded 1 tag for every 50 mule deer present on the property as compensation for damage to private land as per regulation NRS 502.145 and NAC 502.424. NRS 502.145 limits the number of compensation tags to $\leq$ 2.5% of the total number of mule deer and pronghorn tags authorized by the Commission.

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

The Department's Pronghorn Management Goal is to protect, maintain or increase the resource for the enjoyment and use by the people now and into the future. Management practices are maintained annually to determine the status and trend of the pronghorn resource and its attendant habitat.

Factors used to determine population trend include survey observations, harvest success metrics, recruitment, climate and habitat conditions, disease or related items, and modeled population estimates.

Current harvest objectives for pronghorn antelope are set forth in the Department's pronghorn antelope management plan: *Nevada's Pronghorn Antelope, Ecology, Management, and Conservation (2003)* and subsequent Commission action: *Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Policy for the Management of Pronghorn Antelope (2003).*

Antelope Season Prescriptions

1. Pronghorn antelope hunts may be authorized for either "horns-longer-than-ears" (bucks) or "horns-shorter-than-ears (does).

2. Hunts for horns-longer-than-ears pronghorn may be recommended for "Any Legal Weapon", "Muzzleloader", or "Archery" seasons for both residents and non-residents. These seasons occur on standard opening dates. In some instances, seasons are split into "early" or "late" timeframes to reduce hunter density or to target harvest timing more effectively.

3. Where they currently occur, hunts for horns-shorter-than-ears pronghorn are limited to "Any Legal Weapon" seasons.

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Horns-longer-than-ears Archery	
Standard Season	August 1 – August 21
Standard Season in areas with early Muzzleloader	August 1 – August 14

Horns-longer-than-ears Muzzleloader	
Early ~~Standard~~ Season	August 15 – August 21
Standard Season ~~Late Season~~	September 25 – October 4

Horns-longer-than-ears Any Legal Weapon	
Standard Season	August 22 – September 7
~~Late Season~~	~~September 25 – October 4~~
~~Optional Non-Standard Split Season~~	~~August 22 - 28 and August 29 - September 7~~
~~Optional Non-Standard Season~~	~~October 15 – October 30~~

Horns-shorter-than-ears Any Legal Weapon	
Standard Season	September 8 – September 24
~~Optional Non-Standard Season~~	~~September 10 – September 16~~

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Harvest levels for horns-longer-than-ears (buck) pronghorn are based on a desired post-season buck ratio objective of 25 adult (≥ 2-year-old) bucks per 100 does. The target buck-to-doe ratio is based on adult bucks because many yearling bucks have horn lengths that would not allow them to be legally harvested. The ratio of adult bucks per 100 does is derived from the computer population modeled estimate.

Standard Units	
Buck-to-doe ratio objective (post-season)	25 bucks per 100 does
Applicable hunt units	All open units

B. The primary variable that influences buck quotas for pronghorn is the availability of bucks 2 years of age and older. If the buck: doe ratio for ≥ 2-year-old bucks increases above 30:100, this indicates that more bucks are available for harvest. If the population of pronghorn is trending upwards, this also indicates that more bucks are available for harvest. Under these scenarios, tag quotas may be recommended for increase. Conversely, if the buck: doe ratio for ≥ 2-year-old bucks decreases below 2~~50~~:100 or if population trend is downward, then a tag quota decrease may be recommended.

C. Harvest levels for horns-shorter-than-ears (doe) pronghorn are determined on a hunt unit group basis to allow for herd population management and to provide additional and desired hunting opportunities to harvest pronghorn does. Extenuating circumstances such as prolonged drought conditions, severe population declines, or other indicators may affect management prescriptions.

Doe harvest is typically managed with the range of 1 - 10% of the total adult doe population for smaller populations and could range between 5 - 20% for larger herd at or above carrying capacity. Harvest rates may fall outside this range in the case of catastrophic environmental or climatic events or other unique situations. Emergency depredation hunts may also be authorized as needed for catastrophic events such as wildfires or disease outbreaks.

In some instances, fawn-to-doe ratios may decline when the population approaches the capacity of the habitat. In those instances, although it may seem counterintuitive, doe harvest may be needed to maintain healthy populations.

D. Need to account for Junior Horns Shorter than Ears Hunt. Allocations should follow Policy 24. The Department recommends a 50:50 split between youth and adult HST allocations.

Landowner Compensation Tags for Pronghorn Antelope

An owner, lessee, or manager of private land in Nevada may apply to the Department for the issuance of pronghorn tags for compensation for damage to their private lands. These tags can be used by the owner, lessee, or manager if he or she holds a valid Nevada hunting license, or the tags can be sold to any holder of a valid Nevada hunting license at any price mutually agreed upon. Landowners, lessees, and managers of private land will be awarded 1 tag for every 50 pronghorn present on the property as compensation for damage to private lands as per regulation NRS 502.145 and NAC 502.424. NRS 502.145 limits the number of compensation tags to ≤ 2.5% of the total number of mule deer and pronghorn tags authorized by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

The Department's Elk Management Goal is to maintain elk populations to meet population objectives, while providing recreational opportunities and avoiding adverse impacts to the species, its habitat, and reducing land use conflicts. The Commission has adopted various local sub-plans, which provide broad and specific management goals for elk in Nevada and identify additional objectives specific to those areas.

Population objectives for established elk herds were modernized with the adoption of Addendum 2 to the *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan* (1997) by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NVBWC) in November 2025. Addendum 2, also referred to as Adaptive Population Objectives (ADPOP), outlines guidance for annual adjustments to allowable levels for elk populations. The basic premise for ADPOP is 1) to provide an annual evaluation of both biological limitations and social tolerances for established elk populations and 2) create a mechanism for the NVBWC to respond to changing conditions or tolerance for elk populations across the state. ~~Harvest objectives for elk are set forth~~Various elements guiding elk management are outlined in the Department's *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan (1997)* and 10 subordinate sub-plans: *Bruneau River Watershed Environmental Analysis (1994); Wells Resource Management Plan, Elk Amendment and Decision Record (1995); Environmental Assessment for the Release of Elk into the Jarbidge Mountains, Nevada (1997); NDOW Decision For Lands Outside of Wells RMP Elk Amendment Subplan; Central Nevada Elk Plan (2004); Conservation Agreement for the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area (1998); the White Pine County Elk Plan (1999); Lincoln County Elk Management Plan (2008); the Western Elko County Elk Management Plan (2003),* and *the Humboldt County Elk Management Sub-Plan (2016)*. ~~Specific~~ Historic population objectives are described in each plan. The currently recognized population objectives, developed through the ADPOP process, are appended to these guidelines (Appendix 1).

Elk Season Prescriptions

Because of high population growth rates observed in most elk herds and conservative population objectives identified in elk sub-plans, the need to increase harvest on elk to reduce both population size and growth rates has required aggressive hunt structures to maximize the harvest of antlerless elk. These aggressive season structures and quotas are designed to meet the population objectives and minimize conflicts with other hunts. Standardized season dates are implemented when practical. ~~Population objectives identified in local sub-plans, however, may supersede the implementation of the standardized season.~~ Elk hunts are currently authorized for "antlered elk" (i.e., bulls), "spike-only elk" (i.e., yearling bulls), or "antlerless elk" (i.e., cows).

1. Antlered elk hunts, which consist of "any legal weapon", "muzzleloader", and "archery" seasons, may have varied dates among units to reduce overlap with concurrent hunt seasons for other species. In some units, a multiple any-legal-weapon split-season (i.e., early-late) structure has been adopted to reduce hunter densities, increase hunt quality, and more effectively achieve desired harvest objectives.

Archery – Antlered Elk	
Standard Seasons:	Aug 25 – Sept 16 Aug 16 – Aug 31

Muzzleloader – Antlered Elk	
Standard Season:	Oct. 22 – Nov. 5

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Any Legal Weapon – Antlered Elk	
Standard Seasons:	Nov 6 – Nov 20 Nov 21 – Dec 4

2. Antlered elk hunting in Unit 091 is cooperatively managed with the State of Utah. Season dates for "archery" and "any legal weapon" hunts are established annually and will span 2-3 weeks beginning on a Saturday around the third week of August for "archery" hunts or the second week of September for "any legal weapon" hunts.

3. Spike-only elk hunts are established in identified hunt units to reduce the hunting pressure and harvest of mature bulls, while still managing population and harvest objectives. Spike elk hunts will generally run concurrent with seasons for antlerless elk since most spike bulls are found in association with cow-calf elk groups.

4. Hunts for antlerless elk, which consist of "any legal weapon", "muzzleloader", and "archery" seasons, have varied start and end dates to reduce overlap with concurrent seasons. Antlerless elk hunts are used where the elk population requires reduction or stabilization (i.e., above population objective). Where populations are above local sub-plan objectives, a more aggressive harvest strategy is implemented to bring populations closer to objective. In some units, a multiple any-legal-weapon, split-season structure may be implemented to reduce hunter densities, increase hunt quality, and more effectively achieve harvest objectives. Various combinations of non-standard antlerless elk seasons may exist for all weapon classes and will be implemented on a herd-by-herd basis to address emerging management needs.

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Archery – Antlerless Elk	
Standard Seasons	Aug 1 – Aug 15 Aug 1 – Aug 24

Muzzleloader – Antlerless Elk	
Standard Seasons	~~Sept 1 – Sept 16~~ Sept 17 – Sept 2~~6~~4 ~~Sept 17 – Sept 30~~
~~Optional Non-standard Seasons~~	~~Aug 16 – Aug 31~~

Any Legal Weapon – Antlerless or Spike Elk	
Standard Seasons	Sept 2~~7~~5 – Oct 4 ~~Oct 1 – Oct 20~~ ~~Nov 21 – Jan 1~~ Dec 5 – Jan 1

5. Depredation hunts for antlered or antlerless elk may be implemented in management areas and units with no existing sub-plan, in areas designated as "elk restricted" or "elk de-emphasis" areas, or to address existing or potential private land conflicts. Depredation hunts offer liberal tag quotas with relaxed eligibility requirements to facilitate the most effective harvest possible. These seasons may be structured to begin and end at any time to best achieve management objectives. Innovative season

structures or harvest prescriptions, including antler point restrictions, may be proposed to address emerging needs.

~~5.~~

6. Antlerless elk landowner hunts may be implemented to specifically target offending elk on private lands where conflicts occur.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. ~~A.~~ Percentage of main beams ≥50 ~~-~~inches in the antlered harvest will be used to guide recommended tag quotas for antlered elk. Data collected from hunter return questionnaires and cementum annuli from tooth submissions indicates a strong relationship between main beam length (MBL) and age. The length of the main beam of most antlered elk aged ≥~~8~~ 7 years is reported to be ≥50 inches. Three-year average percent of ~~main beams~~MBL ≥ 50 inches, changes in population size, and bull ratios will be evaluated to determine tag quotas for antlered elk~~s~~ needed to maintain desired hunter outcome.

~~Consider periodically collecting tooth samples to verify model outputs and perhaps influence quota recommendations.~~

B. ~~B.~~ Spike elk harvest, when implemented, should not exceed 15% of estimated yearling bulls in the population. Predicted spike harvest at the lower end of the objective provides added hunter opportunity with minimal long-term population impacts, while predicted harvest toward the upper end of the objective will be implemented to stabilize or lower bull ratios without impacting current availability of mature bulls in the population.

C. Periodic tooth collection will be conducted to calibrate MBL goals. Tooth collection in 2020 and again in 2025 detected an increasing trend in bull age with negligible change to MBL. Continued investigation of this relationship will occur to determine if adjustments to MBL ranges are warranted.

Standard	
Main beam length >50 inches	25–35% of bull harvest
Optional spike harvest	≤15% of estimated yearling bulls

Alternative	
Main beam length ≥50 inches	35-45% of bull harvest
Optional spike harvest	≤15% of estimated yearling bulls
Hunt units	Units: 078, 105–107, and 109; 091; and 111–115

Non-Standard	
Modeled bull to cow ratio	Supports harvestable surplus
Harvest success	Stable
Hunt units	Units: 051, 075, 241, 242, and 262

~~Depredation~~Deemphasis Areas	
Hunt units	Units: 101–103, 144–145, and 115 ~~and 251~~

C. For antlerless elk in areas where sub-plans exist, quota recommendations are based on specific population management objectives. These objectives may be used to reduce, stabilize, or encourage

growth of elk populations. In circumstances where populations are below objective, cow harvest may be designed to slow growth rates while still allowing herds to increase towards population objectives. In areas where no sub-plan currently exists, quota recommendations are based on providing hunting harvest, reducing conflicts with other resource users, controlling population growth and expansion, or reducing private land depredation issues.

D. Quotas for elk incentive hunts are calculated as identified in NAC 502.42279.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

The Department's Mountain Goat Management Goal is to protect and maintain or increase the mountain goat resources for the enjoyment and use by the people now and in the future.

Mountain Goat Season Prescriptions

1. Units may be subdivided into smaller hunt units to prevent hunters concentrating in specific areas within mountain ranges or to encourage hunting within areas with available mountain goats that may be avoided because of access difficulty.

2. All hunts will be "any legal weapon" seasons. Animal criteria for hunts may be either "any" or "male only" mountain goats.

3. Standard Mountain goat seasons will be September 1 through October 3~~10~~. Multiple shorter seasons may be considered for larger mountain goat herds with minimum season length of 14 days. This would increase the application options for applicants. This would be a consideration when tag quotas approach 25.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Hunt recommendations should be developed using estimated populations with accurate sex composition based on credible and scientifically sound survey, harvest, and demographic data.

~~B.~~ Harvest will be managed to allow for the take of 2–5% of the total population. ~~For purposes of harvest management, hunter success for future hunts will be assumed to be 100%.~~

B.

C. For "any" mountain goat hunts, successful applicants will be required to attend online mountain goat identification class with a formal test at the end of the class that they must pass before tag will be issued.

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UPLAND GAME AND FUR-BEARERS

The Department's Upland Game Management Goal is to provide plentiful upland game hunting, while managing for sustainable populations. Seasons will be designed to allow standardization and simplification of hunt regulations, better distribution of hunters, and the opportunity to hunt more than 1 species at the same time.

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Season prescriptions:

1. Hunting seasons for sage-grouse should be based on careful assessments of population size and trends.
2. If populations occur over relatively large geographic areas and are stable to increasing, seasons and bag limits can be relatively liberal (2 -bird daily bag limit and a 2 day- to 9 day~~5 week~~ season) for hunting seasons allowing firearms.
3. If populations are declining (for 3 or more consecutive years) or trends are unknown, seasons and bag limits should be generally conservative (~~1 or~~ 2 -bird daily bag limit and a 2 day ~~1 to 4 week~~ season) for hunting seasons allowing firearms, or suspended (for all types of hunting, including falconry and Native American subsistence hunting) because of this species' population characteristics.
4. Where populations are hunted, harvest rates should be ≤5~~10~~% of the estimated fall population to reduce negative effects on the subsequent year's breeding population.
5. Populations should not be hunted where <300 birds comprise the breeding population (i.e., <100 males are counted on leks).

WILD TURKEY

Season prescriptions:

1. Wild turkey spring seasons will be for "bearded turkey" only.
2. Wild turkey fall season may be for "any" turkey.
3. Spring seasons will be established to begin on the fourth Saturday in March and extend through the first Sunday in May. Season dates may be adjusted or split to avoid hunter crowding or conflicting land uses.
4. Hunting hours will be from ½ hour before sunrise to sunset daily for both spring and proposed fall turkey seasons.
5. Fall seasons may be established if population size, access, and hunter densities may be adequately addressed.

Management objectives for tag quota prescriptions:

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A. ___—Tag quotas may be adjusted down when 3-year mean hunt success is ≤40%.
B. _____Tag quotas should remain stable when 3-year mean hunt success is between 40–80%
C. ___—Tag quotas may be adjusted up when 3-year mean hunt success is ≥80%.

OTHER UPLAND GAME

Season prescriptions:

1. Upland game seasons will be open statewide when feasible.

   California, Gambel's, and mountain quail; and chukar and Hungarian partridge season will open on the second Saturday in October and run through the first Sunday in February unless population size, distribution and climatic conditions dictate otherwise.
   Blue (dusky and sooty) and ruffed grouse season will open on September 1 and run through December 31 unless population size and distribution dictate otherwise.
   Cottontail and white-tailed jackrabbit seasons will open on the second Saturday in October and run through February 28
   Pheasant season will open on November 1 and run through November 30; seasons will allow for the harvest of "cocks" only
   Snowcock season will open on September 1 and run through November 30
   A 9-day (2-week) youth season for chukar and Hungarian partridge, California and Gambel's quail, cottontail and white-tailed jackrabbits will be held annually, beginning on the fourth Saturday and Sunday in September and concluding on the first Saturday and Sunday in October.

2. Migratory game bird seasons and bag limits will be set by the Commission annually according to Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Pacific Flyway Council guidelines.

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FUR-BEARERS

The Department's fur-bearing mammal management objectives are to maintain present range, distribution, and population levels in Nevada; and to allow for the maximum recreational, economic and aesthetic uses commensurate with existing populations statewide. Fur-bearer seasons will be set for a 2-year time period. The Department will recommend gray fox seasons that coincide with bobcat season dates. Seasons and season dates will be reviewed by the Commission.

Season prescriptions:

Population estimates for some of the more common furbearer species (beaver, kit fox, gray fox) harvested in Nevada have been generated by using USGS GAP analysis data. GAP data uses maps that delineate topographical, biological, and geological features to identify various habitats. GAP data for each species is paired with habitat suitability models that specify known habitat requirements. This process provided the Department with maps indicating available statewide habitat for each of the species. The GAP data is then used in conjunction with biological density and home range data for each species to generate population estimates. Density and home range data were derived from research data either in Nevada, or in the absence of Nevada research, from nearby states (Utah and California) with similar habitat types. Population estimates and estimated harvest rates based on expanded trapper harvest data will be

compared annually. If harvest of any of those species is estimated to be in excess of 10% of the estimated population, the Department will recommend restricting harvest or restrictive seasons.

BOBCAT

Bobcat seasons will be set for a 2-year time period. If warranted, the Department may amend seasons in the interim year. Seasons and season dates and sealing dates will be reviewed with the Commission.

The Department's bobcat management objectives are to sustain a healthy bobcat population within existing suitable habitat and provide quality recreational opportunities for bobcat harvest. Bobcat populations in Nevada are monitored by using various performance targets. Those targets include production (reported as kittens/100 females), Adult male to adult female ratios, harvest effort (mean number of trap nights required to harvest 1 bobcat) and total harvest.

The 3-year mean for each performance target will be compared to the historical mean confidence interval for the same target. A value will be assigned to each performance target based on the chart below

Historical statewide 95% confidence limits

			Using 3-year mean for value		
Performance Target	Mean	95% Confidence Interval	<95% C. I. Score	Within 95% C.I. Score	>95% C.I. Score
Production (kittens/100 females)	66	57–75	- 1	0	1
Adult male to adult female ratio (males/100 females)	141	137–146	- 1	0	1
Effort (trap nights/bobcat harvested)	171	159–183	0.5	0	-0.5
Harvest (total bobcat harvest)	2,269	1,989–2,548	0.5	0	-0.5

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Season prescriptions (in order of application):

1. Maintain or return to the standard season strategy if net score of variables (3-year mean) are <2 but >-2.
   Standard season ≈ 105 days (Must close no more than 10 days before last weekend in February).

2. Initiate a restrictive season if net score of variables is ≤-2.
   Restrictive season ≈ 70 days (Must close no more than 10 days before last weekend in February).

3. Initiate a liberal season if net score of variables is ≥2.

Liberal season ≈ 120 days (November 1 running through the last day in February).

4. During any period if the 3-year mean of harvest falls below the low historical range (1,989) AND the 3-year mean of individuals reporting bobcat harvest drops below the low historical range (209), the season will remain liberal until either of these 2 variables increases to within the historical range. Then, the regular season prescriptions will be followed.

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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

GAME DIVISION

BIG GAME SEASON PRESCRIPTIONS
AND
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES
FOR
QUOTA RECOMMENDATIONS

Draft
January 06, 2022

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OBJECTIVE

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Management Objectives for Hunting Seasons are designed to be used by Nevada Department of Wildlife (Department) Game Biologists when formulating hunting season and quota recommendations. Management objectives are intended to provide general guidance on the target parameters toward which big game species are managed. Season and quota recommendations, as well as targets associated with management objectives will be shared with the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission), County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife (CABs), and interested publics annually to make them aware of the objectives the Department is attempting to achieve with the recommendations being provided. Management objectives may be changed in subsequent years if the Commission provides direction to that effect.

The management objectives themselves are one piece of a strategic approach used by the Department in managing wildlife. While management objectives describe the parameters toward which the Department manages, other protocols describe how that data is collected. Management plans (e.g., species management plans and related sub-planning documents) describe landscape-level objectives, opportunities for habitat enhancement, specific herd management objectives (e.g., increase population), and management challenges (e.g., persistent low fawn recruitment for pronghorn).

The Department also operates under a strategic plan that provides agency vision, an annual work plan developed under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, annual or biennial translocation plans approved by the Commission, and an annual implementation plan that tie together budgets, specific tasks, and work units for the upcoming year. The Department manages Nevada's wildlife within the biological limits of each species. Management strategies are developed to address social perceptions, which are routinely more conservative than the limits at which wildlife may be biologically managed.

Ultimately, the Department manages wildlife in the public trust for all of Nevada's citizens. All game animals, including predators, big game, and upland game, are managed as part of an important ecosystem of at least 894 species to be sustained for future generations of Nevadans and our visitors to enjoy. These

management objectives have been developed to meet a variety of hunting desires and strive to provide adequate opportunity for all, while maintaining a self-sustaining resource. The objectives are based on the best available biological and social science. Nevada has a diverse wildlife resource, yet many of these resources are limited in supply. The following objectives attempt to provide the diversity of experiences desired by the hunters of Nevada, while providing the necessary management so that everyone will benefit from diverse wildlife populations in the future.

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APPROACHES FOR MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND GUIDANCE

- Commission Policy 24 provides direction to the Department in allocating quotas among weapon classes and between resident and nonresident hunters.

- Seasons are recommended biennially, with recommendations from the Department to CAB's, the Commission, and interested publics.

- Recommendations from area biologists, regional supervisors, and game staff will be the primary method of managing standard, alternative, or non-standard hunt strategies.

- Population estimates will be derived from survey data, harvest metrics, and population models when possible.

- Provide for a diversity of hunter experiences while maintaining wildlife population health.

- Maintain consistent wildlife survey protocol and interpretation to develop hunt recommendations across the state in accordance with other pertinent management plans (e.g., species management plans and annual work plans).

- Population management objectives (male to female ratios, harvest metrics, age of harvested animals, main beam length) for specific units may be described within pertinent species management plans.

- Use innovative management hunts to address specific management objectives that are not being achieved through standard hunt structures.

- Use split hunt structure to reduce user conflicts and hunter densities.

- Use targeted harvest by hunters to address human-wildlife conflicts when appropriate.

- Promote youth hunts when possible.

- Emphasize primitive weapons hunts where possible to allow for increased participation due to lower success rates especially when a minimum of 10 tags are offered for corresponding any legal weapon seasons.

- Several specialty hunts are offered each year consistent with appropriate statute and rule, to include Heritage, Silver State, Dream, and Partnership in Wildlife tags. These are important programs that have relatively little influence on harvest management for the remainder of Nevada's wildlife. Their implementation is acknowledged but not described within these guidelines.

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ROUNDING AND MINIMUM TAG CONVENTION

Deer and **Antelope** ALW Tags: (*Minimum of 2 tags for Mule Deer hunts)*
If the array recommends:

- 10 tags or under: Leave as is
- 11 – 99 tags: Round up to nearest 5
- 101 – 300: Round up to nearest 10
- 301 - 500 tags: Round up to nearest 25
- 501 - 1000 tags: Round up to nearest 50

Deer and **Antelope** Archery & Muzzleloader Tags: (*Minimum of 2 tags for Mule Deer hunts)*

- If ALW tags are more than 10, have a minimum of 5 tags
- If ALW tags are 10 or fewer, leave as is
- 6 – 10 tags: Round up to 10
- 11 – 99 tags: Round up to nearest 5
- 101 – 500 tags: Round up to nearest 25
- 500 - 1000 tags: Round up to nearest 50

Elk ALW, Archery, and Muzzleloader tags**:** *(Minimum of 2 tags for Antlerless Elk hunts)*

- Under 20 tags: Leave as is
- 21 – 100: Round up to nearest 5
- 100 – 300: Round up to nearest 10
- 300 – 500: Round up to nearest 25
- 500 +: Round up to nearest 50

Bighorn and Mountain Goat:

- No rounding

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BIGHORN SHEEP

The Department's goals are to restore and maintain bighorn sheep herds at optimal population levels, provide diverse recreational opportunities, recognize hunting as a legitimate and desirable use of the bighorn sheep resource, strongly advocate habitats be maintained in good ecological condition, and reduce and manage risk of disease transmission.

Bighorn Season Prescriptions

1. Bighorn hunts include separate ram and ewe hunts using weapon classes for Any Legal Weapon or Archery.

2. Bighorn sheep season dates are set with the following considerations: bighorn breeding season that varies across subspecies and elevation, other hunting seasons to reduce overlap, aerial surveys, capture operations to reduce hunter/NDOW conflicts, allow hunter access to higher elevations, and reduce hunter congestion. Split or extended seasons may be implemented if hunter congestion and hunt efficacy become an issue. Standard season length will not be less than 21 days and preferably 30 days. Hunts on Department of Defense (DOD) lands may be reduced for total hunt days to accommodate special regulations and restrictions.

3. Bighorn ewe seasons will be no shorter than 14 days and will occur on dates that do not overlap with bighorn ram seasons in the same unit. Other considerations are to reduce overlap with mule deer rifle seasons in the same unit and to accommodate optimal timing of bighorn sheep captures for management and disease surveillance.

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Desert Bighorn (Nelson) Sheep Seasons	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	November 20 – January 1
Alternatives to Standard Seasons – earlier seasons to accommodate high elevation herds; split seasons for high quotas; date shifts to accommodate hunter access, bighorn water availability issues, and for DOD land restrictions	
Ram Archery Standard Season	October 20 – November 14
Ewe Any Legal Weapon Season	Prior to any legal weapon and not overlapping archery season

California Bighorn Sheep	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	September 1 – October 31
Ewe Any Legal Weapon Season	After ram season
Ram Archery Season	Prior to any legal weapon and not overlapping ewe season

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep	
Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season	September 1 – October 31
Alternatives to Standard Seasons – earlier and later seasons to accommodate high elevation, heavily timbered, and difficult to access herds;	

Management Ram	
Management Ram Any Legal Weapon Season	After Any Ram Any Legal Weapon Standard Season

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Tag quotas for rams for each unit group will be based on the following criteria: a minimum of 8% of the total estimated number of rams, not to exceed 50% of rams ≥6 years of age, derived from a herd's population model. These criteria are expected to maintain a mean age of harvested rams ≥6 year of age within each unit or unit group.

B. Units will be the primary geographic basis for managing bighorn harvest. Units may be subdivided to more optimally spread or focus hunting pressure and harvest to all known areas of bighorn distribution during bighorn hunting seasons.

C. Criteria for establishing ewe hunts and tag quotas will be based on evaluating seasonal or yearlong habitat resource limitations (e.g., water), past cyclical declines associated with record high population size, or proximity to known disease risk. Opportunities for removal of source stock animals for low-risk translocations will be considered prior to recommending ewe hunts.

D. Archery ram hunts will be considered in units where the majority of water sources used by bighorn sheep are natural to discourage hunting over man-made water developments. The total tag quotas for all archery ram hunts will not exceed 5% of the statewide total any legal weapon ram hunt quotas

E. Management ram hunts will be considered in specific units to target harvest on a particular ram age group (i.e., nonbreeding rams to reduce an artificially high ram: ewe ratio and lower the probability of young rams foraying, and contacting domestic sheep), rams that have specific horn characteristics (i.e., mature one-horn or broken-off horn rams), or where hunter access and/or mature ram detection is extremely challenging. Tag quotas may vary depending on which type of management ram hunt is implemented but will not exceed 5% of the statewide total ram tags issued for all other hunts.

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BLACK BEAR

The Department's Bear Management Goal is to manage black bear population numbers and distribution as an important part of Nevada's fauna. The hunt recommendation goal is to allow bear hunting harvest, while managing for representation of older age cohorts of both sexes in the population.

Black Bear Season Prescriptions

1. Black bear season will begin September 15 and run through December 1.

2. Seasons will be set for units or unit groups where populations of black bears occur in harvestable numbers. As black bear populations expand, units or unit groups may be added.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. The Department will manage black bear harvest toward light harvest, while considering modeled population trends.

B. Tags and harvest limits may be adjusted to maintain light harvests. The most recent 3-year-average or trend should receive greater emphasis when determining tag quota levels and harvest limits; emphasize previous year's data when a clear trend exists or emphasize the most recent 3-year mean data when no clear trend exists.

C. Harvest limits may be placed on the entire hunt area or specific units within the hunt area. Additionally, harvest limits may apply to total harvest or specific segments of the population (e.g., female harvest limit).

D. Determine harvest effect and provide tag quota recommendations using the criteria below based on the previous 3-year mean. If 2 or more parameters exceed light harvest, then tag quotas or harvest limits should be reduced.

Parameter	**Light harvest**	**Moderate harvest**	**Heavy harvest**
Percent females in	**<30%**	**30–40%**	**>40%**
Mean age of harvested females	>6 years	5–6 years	<5 years
Mean age of harvested males	>4 years	2–4 years	<2 years

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MOOSE

Presence and distribution of Shiras moose (*Alces alces shirasi*) in Nevada prior to European settlement is unknown. Historic sightings of moose in Nevada date back to the 1950s, likely coinciding with burgeoning moose populations in neighboring states. Since the early 2000s, frequency and distribution of moose sightings in Nevada have increased substantially. Currently, the Department believes the resident moose population is stable to increasing with numerous and repeated observations of adult males (i.e., bulls), adult females (i.e., cows), and juveniles (i.e., calves).

The Department recognizes moose as an important component of Nevada's diverse wildlife landscape and serves to protect, maintain, and, where applicable, increase the moose resource for current and future enjoyment by Nevadans. In 2020, the Department initiated a long-term monitoring effort to better understand habitat preferences, movement corridors, abundance, and distribution of moose in Nevada. Monitoring efforts have yielded high-resolution movement data from 7 adult moose, providing previously unknown insight about habitat preferences and seasonal movements. The Department also maintains a database of moose sightings and reports to supplement moose records and data. Information collected from these efforts will assist the Department in identifying and protecting critical habitat for moose in Nevada, as well as assess the population's viability to support sustainable harvest.

In concert with these activities, the Department has identified three goals guiding management of moose in Nevada. Those goals (1) maintain and improve abundance and distribution of Nevada's resident moose population, (2) allow natural expansion of moose into suitable but unoccupied habitats, and (3) identify and encourage recreational opportunities for all user groups. Specific Departmental activities related to moose must have a nexus to achieving these management goals.

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Season Prescription

1. No season is proposed for moose.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. No tags are recommended for moose.

MOUNTAIN LION

The Department's Lion Management Goal is to manage the mountain lion population, numbers, and distribution, as an important part of Nevada's fauna while providing mountain lion hunting and other recreational opportunities.

The Department will establish a statewide harvest objective and monitor harvest within 6 management zones. These zones correspond to the genetic subpopulations identified in recent research within Nevada. Five zones correspond with 5 unique genetic subpopulations identified by Andreasen et al. (2012). An additional zone comprised of transient units is defined by NDOW.

Mountain Lion Season Prescriptions

1. Hunts for either sex mountain lion "any legal weapon" seasons will occur on March 1 and run until the last day of February of the subsequent year.

2. Unit 091 is managed as an interstate hunt with Utah. Hunter harvested lions from 091 will be considered part of the North management zone.

3. Hunting hours are any time of the day or night; however, hunters are required to follow local county ordinances for legal shooting hours.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Mountain lion hunts may be authorized for "either sex" seasons, except that spotted kittens or females accompanied by spotted kittens may not be taken. The harvest limit is 1 animal per tag, 2 tag maximum per person per year.

B. The number of total and adult female mountain lions removed from each management zone will be monitored annually. A premolar will be removed from each harvested mountain lion during the mandatory check procedures. Premolars will be sectioned, and age will be determined using cementum aging techniques. If the 3-year mean percentage of adult (≥3-year-old) female in the regulated hunting seasons within any specific management zone exceeds 35%, the Department will establish a separate harvest objective for that zone to limit harvest.

C. Female mountain lions should comprise <50% of the overall take within a specific management zone. If the 3-year mean percentage of female in the regulated hunting seasons within any specific management zone exceeds 50%, the Department will establish a separate harvest objective for that zone to limit harvest.

D. Harvest objectives within a specific management zone may be increased or combined with the statewide harvest objective following 2 consecutive seasons in which the 3-year mean of adult females in the harvest is ≤35% of the total harvest and the 3-year mean of total females in the harvest is <50%.

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Management Zones

Central units	142,143, 144, 145, 155, 161, 162, 163, 171, 172, 183, 184, 251
East units	102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 108, 109, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 121, 231
North units	044, 045, 046, 051, 061, 062, 064, 065, 066, 067, 068, 071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077, 078, 079, 081, 091 101, 107, 141, 151, 152, 153, 154, 156
West units	011, 012, 013, 014, 015, 021, 022, 032, 033, 034, 041, 192, 194, 195, 196, 201, 202, 203, 204, 206, 291
South units	131, 132, 133, 134, 164, 221, 222, 223, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 253, 254, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 271, 272, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 286
Transient units	031, 035, 042, 043, 181, 182, 205, 207, 208, 211, 212, 213, 252
Units closed to hunting	033, 269, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, and 286 which are closed by other administrative regulations imposed by the Department of Defense, US Fish and Wildlife Service, or similar restriction.

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MULE DEER

The Department's Mule Deer Management Goal is to maintain and enhance deer populations to levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse effects to the species and its habitat. Harvest strategies for mule deer generally follow the draft *Nevada Management Plan for Mule Deer.*

Mule Deer Season Prescriptions

1. Generally, hunting seasons are for "antlered mule deer" or "antlerless mule deer". Junior mule deer tags are issued in accordance with NAC 502.063, and Commission Policy 24, which currently authorizes antlered or antlerless also known as "either sex" tags for junior youth hunts. "Antlerless mule deer" hunts are used when deer populations require reduction or stabilization and to provide hunter opportunity. "Antlered mule deer" hunts are used to manage the ratio of males to females in the population while providing recreational hunting opportunities for both residents and nonresidents.

2. Hunts for antlered mule deer typically follow a progression from late summer through mid-autumn (archery, muzzleloader, any legal weapon). Seasons may be split to reduce hunter crowding or more effectively target the timing of harvest. Any legal weapon hunts during the early seasons provide greater probability to draw a tag and are primarily designed to achieve management objectives, whereas late seasons provide higher likelihood to harvest more mature bucks. Antlerless deer seasons are designed to target specific sub-populations while minimizing overlap with antlered any legal weapon seasons, except for some unique situations such as late depredation hunts.

3. Junior "either sex" seasons generally coincide with the any legal weapon season for standard mule deer hunts, the muzzleloader season, and the archery season dates for the unit or unit groups in which the hunt is adopted. Junior hunts that coincide with standard and early-late split seasons for the any legal weapon class will begin on October 5 and end following Nevada Day weekend, with a few exceptions.

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Archery – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard Season	August 10 – September 9

Optional Non-standard seasons	November 10 – November 20 December 1 – December 10 December 1 – January 1 December 16 – January 1

Muzzleloader – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard season	September 10 – October 4

Optional Non-standard seasons	September 10 – September 30 September 10 – October 10 November 10 – November 30 November 21 – December 10 December 1 – December 15 December 11 – December 20

Any Legal Weapon – Antlered Mule Deer	
Standard Single Season	October 5 – November 5
Standard Early-Late Split Season	October 5 – 20 October 21 – November 5
Standard Early-Mid-Late Split Season	October 1 – October 16 October 5 – October 16 October 17 – October 30 October 31 - November 8

Optional Non-standard Seasons	October 5 – October 31 October 5 – November 2 November 5 – November 30 December 1 – December 15

Antlered Mule Deer Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. For standard hunt units, the Department manages for approximately 30 bucks per 100 does to provide a quality experience for hunters that are drawn. The Department also manages some units as "alternative" hunt units with higher buck ratios, lower hunter density, and older-age-class animals in the harvest.

B. Alternative hunt units are managed for a minimum of 35 bucks per 100 does. In addition to buck ratio objectives, the Department will consider hunter success rate and percentage of 4-point or greater when making quota recommendations for alternative hunt units.

C. The Department will make quota recommendations for non-standard hunts based on a 3-year trend in hunt success. When a clear trend does not exist, the Department will recommend no change to the quota allocation from the previous year.

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Standard Hunts	
Buck ratio objective (post-season)	30 bucks per 100 does
All units or unit groups not managed as Alternative or Non-Standard	

Alternative Hunts	
Buck ratio objective (post-season)	35 bucks per 100 does
Hunter success rate objective	40-55% success
Percent of harvest bucks with ≥ 4-points	50-75%
Unit Groups	Eastern Region: 065; 081; 114, 115; 131-134
	Southern Region: 221-223; 241-245
	Western Region: 033; 194, 196

Non-Standard Hunts	
Hunter Success Objective	**≥45% success**
Unit Groups	201, 204; 202, 205-208; 291; 041, 042; 261-268; 271, 272
Hunter Success Objective	**>35 - 45% success**
Unit Groups	015; 021; 195; 203; 211-213; 251-254

Antlerless Mule Deer Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Antlerless mule deer harvest may be used to manage mule deer population size, growth, or to provide hunter opportunity. Recommendations of when to implement an antlerless harvest can be based on an assessment of the carrying capacity, trends in fawn-to-doe ratios, or body condition (either captured or harvested).

B. Generally, antlerless mule deer hunts will not be recommended in units that have total population estimates of < 1,000 adults, unless indices suggest that populations are at or above carrying capacity. In hunt units with > 1,000 adults, fawn-to-adult ratios obtained during spring surveys or modeled or measured survival of fawns and does will be used to guide Game Biologists to a range of harvest strategy options.

C. Catastrophic environmental events (such as large-scale wildfires or severe drought) will be considered when recommending doe quotas and could initiate harvest beyond those described in these harvest objectives.

D. Harvest rate will be determined as the percentage of the adult female population (typically from population model estimate) based on the following general guidelines:

3-year-avg fawn: adult ratio	< 30	30–40	>40
Pre-hunt population est.		>1,000	>2,000
Doe Hunt?	No	1% - 5%	5% - 10%

E. Where possible, a 3-year mean of observed spring fawn-to-adult ratios will be used; however, a longer term or regional average may be considered when three consecutive years of observed spring data are not available. Extenuating circumstances such as prolonged drought conditions, severe population declines, or other indicators may affect management prescriptions.

F. In some instances, fawn-to-doe ratios may decline when the population approaches the capacity of the habitat. In those instances, although it may seem counterintuitive, doe harvest may be needed to maintain healthy populations.

Restricted Nonresident Deer Hunts

"Restricted nonresident deer hunts" are designed to provide nonresident hunters an opportunity to hunt with a licensed Nevada guide for mule deer. These tags are drawn in a separate drawing before the main draw for big game and nonresidents must be accompanied by a licensed master guide at all times. Any legal weapons may be used during these hunts. Seasons for restricted nonresident deer tags coincide with any legal weapon deer hunts and are issued according to NRS 502.147. Nonresident applicants who apply in the restricted nonresident guided deer hunt are not eligible to apply for deer tags in the big game main draw in the same year.

Landowner Compensation Tags for Mule Deer

An owner, lessee, or manager of private land in this state may apply to the Department for the issuance of deer tags to compensate for damage to their private lands. These tags can be used by the owner, lessee,

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or manager if he or she holds a valid Nevada hunting license, or the tags can be sold to any holder of a valid Nevada hunting license at any price mutually agreed upon. Landowners, lessees, or mangers of private land will be awarded 1 tag for every 50 mule deer present on the property as compensation for damage to private land as per regulation NRS 502.145 and NAC 502.424. NRS 502.145 limits the number of compensation tags to $\leq$ 2.5% of the total number of mule deer and pronghorn tags authorized by the Commission.

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

The Department's Pronghorn Management Goal is to protect, maintain or increase the resource for the enjoyment and use by the people now and into the future. Management practices are maintained annually to determine the status and trend of the pronghorn resource and its attendant habitat.

Factors used to determine population trend include survey observations, harvest success metrics, recruitment, climate and habitat conditions, disease or related items, and modeled population estimates.

Current harvest objectives for pronghorn antelope are set forth in the Department's pronghorn antelope management plan: *Nevada's Pronghorn Antelope, Ecology, Management, and Conservation (2003)* and subsequent Commission action: *Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Policy for the Management of Pronghorn Antelope (2003).*

Antelope Season Prescriptions

1. Pronghorn antelope hunts may be authorized for either "horns-longer-than-ears" (bucks) or "horns-shorter-than-ears (does).

2. Hunts for horns-longer-than-ears pronghorn may be recommended for "Any Legal Weapon", "Muzzleloader", or "Archery" seasons for both residents and non-residents. These seasons occur on standard opening dates. In some instances, seasons are split into "early" or "late" timeframes to reduce hunter density or to target harvest timing more effectively.

3. Where they currently occur, hunts for horns-shorter-than-ears pronghorn are limited to "Any Legal Weapon" seasons.

Horns-longer-than-ears Archery	
Standard Season	August 1 – August 21
Standard Season in areas with early Muzzleloader	August 1 – August 14

Horns-longer-than-ears Muzzleloader	
Standard Season	August 15 – August 21
Late Season	September 25 – October 4

Horns-longer-than-ears Any Legal Weapon	
Standard Season	August 22 – September 7
Late Season	September 25 – October 4
Optional Non-Standard Split Season	August 22 - 28 and August 29 - September 7

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Optional Non-Standard Season	October 15 – October 30

Horns-shorter-than-ears Any Legal Weapon	
Standard Season	September 8 – September 24
Optional Non-Standard Season	September 10 – September 16

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Harvest levels for horns-longer-than-ears (buck) pronghorn are based on a desired post-season buck ratio objective of 25 adult (≥ 2-year-old) bucks per 100 does. The target buck-to-doe ratio is based on adult bucks because many yearling bucks have horn lengths that would not allow them to be legally harvested. The ratio of adult bucks per 100 does is derived from the computer population modeled estimate.

Standard Units	
Buck-to-doe ratio objective (post-season)	25 bucks per 100 does
Applicable hunt units	All open units

B. The primary variable that influences buck quotas for pronghorn is the availability of bucks 2 years of age and older. If the buck: doe ratio for ≥ 2-year-old bucks increases above 30:100, this indicates that more bucks are available for harvest. If the population of pronghorn is trending upwards, this also indicates that more bucks are available for harvest. Under these scenarios, tag quotas may be recommended for increase. Conversely, if the buck: doe ratio for ≥ 2-year-old bucks decreases below 20:100 or if population trend is downward, then a tag quota decrease may be recommended.

C. Harvest levels for horns-shorter-than-ears (doe) pronghorn are determined on a hunt unit basis to allow for herd population management and to provide additional and desired hunting opportunities to harvest pronghorn does. Extenuating circumstances such as prolonged drought conditions, severe population declines, or other indicators may affect management prescriptions.

   Doe harvest is typically managed with the range of 1 - 10% of the total adult doe population for smaller populations and could range between 5 - 20% for larger herd at or above carrying capacity. Harvest rates may fall outside this range in the case of catastrophic environmental or climatic events or other unique situations. Emergency depredation hunts may also be authorized as needed for catastrophic events such as wildfires or disease outbreaks.

   In some instances, fawn-to-doe ratios may decline when the population approaches the capacity of the habitat. In those instances, although it may seem counterintuitive, doe harvest may be needed to maintain healthy populations.

Landowner Compensation Tags for Pronghorn Antelope

An owner, lessee, or manager of private land in Nevada may apply to the Department for the issuance of pronghorn tags for compensation for damage to their private lands. These tags can be used by the owner, lessee, or manager if he or she holds a valid Nevada hunting license, or the tags can be sold to any holder of a valid Nevada hunting license at any price mutually agreed upon. Landowners, lessees, and managers of private land will be awarded 1 tag for every 50 pronghorn present on the property as compensation for

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damage to private lands as per regulation NRS 502.145 and NAC 502.424. NRS 502.145 limits the number of compensation tags to ≤ 2.5% of the total number of mule deer and pronghorn tags authorized by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

The Department's Elk Management Goal is to maintain elk populations to meet population objectives, while providing recreational opportunities and avoiding adverse impacts to the species, its habitat, and reducing land use conflicts. The Commission has adopted various local sub-plans, which provide broad and specific management goals for elk in Nevada and identify additional objectives specific to those areas.

Harvest objectives for elk are set forth in the Department's *Nevada Elk Species Management Plan (1997)* and 10 subordinate sub-plans: *Bruneau River Watershed Environmental Analysis (1994); Wells Resource Management Plan, Elk Amendment and Decision Record (1995); Environmental Assessment for the Release of Elk into the Jarbidge Mountains, Nevada (1997); NDOW Decision For Lands Outside of Wells RMP Elk Amendment Subplan; Central Nevada Elk Plan (2004); Conservation Agreement for the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area (1998); the White Pine County Elk Plan (1999); Lincoln County Elk Management Plan (2008); the Western Elko County Elk Management Plan (2003),* and *the Humboldt County Elk Management Sub-Plan (2016)*. Specific population objectives described in each plan are appended to these guidelines (Appendix 1).

Elk Season Prescriptions

Because of high population growth rates observed in most elk herds and conservative population objectives identified in elk sub-plans, the need to increase harvest on elk to reduce both population size and growth rates has required aggressive hunt structures to maximize the harvest of antlerless elk. These aggressive season structures and quotas are designed to meet the population objectives and minimize conflicts with other hunts. Standardized season dates are implemented when practical. Population objectives identified in local sub-plans, however, may supersede the implementation of the standardized season. Elk hunts are currently authorized for "antlered elk" (i.e., bulls), "spike-only elk" (i.e., yearling bulls), or "antlerless elk" (i.e., cows).

1. Antlered elk hunts, which consist of "any legal weapon", "muzzleloader", and "archery" seasons, may have varied dates among units to reduce overlap with concurrent hunt seasons for other species. In some units, a multiple any-legal-weapon split-season (i.e., early-late) structure has been adopted to reduce hunter densities, increase hunt quality, and more effectively achieve desired harvest objectives.

Archery – Antlered Elk	
Standard Seasons:	Aug 25 – Sept 16 Aug 16 – Aug 31
Optional Non-standard Seasons:	Sept 1 – Sept 20

Muzzleloader – Antlered Elk	
Standard Seasons:	Sept 1 – Sept 16 Sept 17 – Sept 30
Optional Non-standard Seasons:	Oct 5 – Oct 21

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Any Legal Weapon – Antlered Elk	
Standard Seasons:	Nov 6 – Nov 20 Nov 21 – Dec 4
Optional Non-standard Seasons	Sept 17 – Sept 30 Oct 5 – Oct 21 Oct 22 – Nov 5

2. Antlered elk hunting in Unit 091 is cooperatively managed with the State of Utah. Season dates for "archery" and "any legal weapon" hunts are established annually and will span 2-3 weeks beginning on a Saturday around the third week of August for "archery" hunts or the second week of September for "any legal weapon" hunts.

3. Spike-only elk hunts are established in identified hunt units to reduce the hunting pressure and harvest of mature bulls, while still managing population and harvest objectives. Spike elk hunts will generally run concurrent with seasons for antlerless elk since most spike bulls are found in association with cow-calf elk groups.

4. Hunts for antlerless elk, which consist of "any legal weapon", "muzzleloader", and "archery" seasons, have varied start and end dates to reduce overlap with concurrent seasons. Antlerless elk hunts are used where the elk population requires reduction or stabilization (i.e., above population objective). Where populations are above local sub-plan objectives, a more aggressive harvest strategy is implemented to bring populations closer to objective. In some units, a multiple any-legal-weapon, split-season structure may be implemented to reduce hunter densities, increase hunt quality, and more effectively achieve harvest objectives. Various combinations of non-standard antlerless elk seasons may exist for all weapon classes and will be implemented on a herd-by-herd basis to address emerging management needs.

Archery – Antlerless Elk	
Standard Seasons	Aug 1 – Aug 15 Aug 1 – Aug 24

Muzzleloader – Antlerless Elk	
Standard Seasons	Sept 1 – Sept 16 Sept 17 – Sept 24 Sept 17 – Sept 30
Optional Non-standard Seasons	Aug 16 – Aug 31

Any Legal Weapon – Antlerless or Spike Elk	
Standard Seasons	Sept 25 – Oct 4 Oct 1 – Oct 20 Nov 21 – Jan 1 Dec 5 – Jan 1

5. Depredation hunts for antlered or antlerless elk may be implemented in management areas and units with no existing sub-plan, in areas designated as "elk restricted" or "elk de-emphasis" areas, or to address existing or potential private land conflicts. Depredation hunts offer liberal tag quotas with

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relaxed eligibility requirements to facilitate the most effective harvest possible. These seasons may be structured to begin and end at any time to best achieve management objectives. Innovative season structures or harvest prescriptions, including antler point restrictions, may be proposed to address emerging needs.

6. Antlerless elk landowner hunts may be implemented to specifically target offending elk on private lands where conflicts occur.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Percentage of main beams ≥50 inches in the antlered harvest will be used to guide recommended tag quotas for antlered elk. Data collected from hunter return questionnaires and cementum annuli from tooth submissions indicates a strong relationship between main beam length and age. The length of the main beam of most antlered elk aged ≥8 years is reported to be ≥50 inches. Three-year average percent of main beams ≥ 50 inches, changes in population size, and bull ratios will be evaluated to determine tag quotas for antlered elks needed to maintain desired hunter outcome.

B. Spike elk harvest, when implemented, should not exceed 15% of estimated yearling bulls in the population. Predicted spike harvest at the lower end of the objective provides added hunter opportunity with minimal long-term population impacts, while predicted harvest toward the upper end of the objective will be implemented to stabilize or lower bull ratios without impacting current availability of mature bulls in the population.

Standard	
Main beam length >50 inches	25–35% of bull harvest
Optional spike harvest	≤15% of estimated yearling bulls

Alternative	
Main beam length ≥50 inches	35-45% of bull harvest
Optional spike harvest	≤15% of estimated yearling bulls
Hunt units	Units: 078, 105–107, and 109; 091; and 111–115

Non-Standard	
Modeled bull to cow ratio	Supports harvestable surplus
Harvest success	Stable
Hunt units	Units: 051, 075, 241, 242, and 262

Depredation	
Hunt units	Units: 101–103, 144–145, 115 and 251

C. For antlerless elk in areas where sub-plans exist, quota recommendations are based on specific population management objectives. These objectives may be used to reduce, stabilize, or encourage growth of elk populations. In circumstances where populations are below objective, cow harvest may be designed to slow growth rates while still allowing herds to increase towards population objectives. In areas where no sub-plan currently exists, quota recommendations are based on providing hunting harvest, reducing conflicts with other resource users, controlling population growth and expansion, or reducing private land depredation issues.

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D. Quotas for elk incentive hunts are calculated as identified in NAC 502.42279.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

The Department's Mountain Goat Management Goal is to protect and maintain or increase the mountain goat resources for the enjoyment and use by the people now and in the future.

Mountain Goat Season Prescriptions

1. Units may be subdivided into smaller hunt units to prevent hunters concentrating in specific areas within mountain ranges or to encourage hunting within areas with available mountain goats that may be avoided because of access difficulty.

2. All hunts will be "any legal weapon" seasons. Animal criteria for hunts may be either "any" or "male only" mountain goats.

3. Standard Mountain goat seasons will be September 1 through October 30. Multiple shorter seasons may be considered for larger mountain goat herds with minimum season length of 14 days. This would increase the application options for applicants.

Management Objectives for Tag Quota Recommendations

A. Hunt recommendations should be developed using estimated populations with accurate sex composition based on credible and scientifically sound survey, harvest, and demographic data.

B. Harvest will be managed to allow for the take of 2–5% of the total population. For purposes of harvest management, hunter success for future hunts will be assumed to be 100%.

C. For "any" mountain goat hunts, successful applicants will be required to attend online mountain goat identification class with a formal test at the end of the class that they must pass before tag will be issued.

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STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Executive Order 2026-003 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will review Department and stakeholder identified opportunities to streamline, clarify, amend, repeal, or otherwise improve sections of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 488, 501, 502, 503, and 504 per Governor Lombardo's Executive Order 2026-003 requiring a Review of Existing Regulations by All Executive Branch Agencies, Departments, Boards, and Commissions. The Commission may identify, suggest, prioritize, and take action to accept or not accept all recommendations. No formal rulemaking or regulatory drafts are required. This agenda item is not a workshop or public hearing related to formal Nevada Administrative Procedure Act requirements. Should the Commission in cooperation with the Governor's Office elevate any recommendations to pursue, those formal requirements will occur at a later date and be noticed accordingly.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____

_____
_____
_____
_____

_____
(Vote Recorded By)

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Commission General Regulation 533, LCB File No. T003-26 – Destruction of Property – At the November 6, 2026, meeting, the Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation amending Chapter 503 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) for the destruction of private property and wildlife management areas, while engaged in wildlife activity, and amending Chapter 501 of the NAC to create demerits associated with this violation.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
14A-CGR-533-Destruction-of-Property.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
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_____
_____

_____

_____
(Vote Recorded By)

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Law Enforcement Division
6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste. 120, Reno, Nevada 89511
Phone (775) 688-1500 · Fax (775) 688-1987

MEMORANDUM: **NOVEMBER 6, 2026**

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

From: Kristy Knight, Chief Game Warden

Title: **Commission General Regulation 533 - Destruction of Private Property and Wildlife Management Areas.**

Description: This is a workshop for creating demerit points and language for destruction of private property and wildlife management areas while partaking in wildlife regulated activities.

Summary

This proposed regulation amends NAC 501.200 to create demerit points of 12 for destruction of private property while partaking in wildlife regulated activities.

Additionally, a new section will be added to NAC 503 stating that a person shall not destroy, injure, or deface private property or wildlife management areas while partaking in any wildlife-regulated activity, including but not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping, and shed hunting. For enforcement purposes, "destruction, injury, or defacement of private property" will incorporate acts defined in NRS 206.010, 206.015, 206.040, 206.150, 206.220, and 206.310.

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

LCB File No. T003-26

COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 533

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***italics*** is new; matter in brackets [~~omitted material~~] is material to be omitted.

Section 1. Approved Regulation R024-25, NAC 501.200 is hereby amended to read as follows:

501.200 1. A person who is convicted of a wildlife violation will be assessed demerit points pursuant to the following schedule:

HUNTING AND TAKING

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Unlawfully shooting at a game mammal or game bird from an aircraft, helicopter or motor-driven vehicle or using such a vehicle to molest, rally, stir up or drive game mammals or game birds	503.010	----	12
Spotting or locating game mammals or game birds from an aircraft or helicopter and communicating that information to a person on the ground for the purpose of hunting	503.010	----	12
Unlawfully using information obtained in violation of subsection 3 of NRS 503.010 to hunt or kill game mammals or game birds	503.010	----	12
Unlawfully using a helicopter to transport game, hunters or hunting equipment	503.010	----	12
Unlawfully killing or attempting to kill birds or animals from an aircraft	503.005	----	12
Unlawfully using an aircraft, balloon, unmanned aerial vehicle or satellite to locate or observe big game mammals, game birds or fur-bearing mammals for the purpose of hunting	501.385	503.148	12
Hunting or taking an endangered species without a special permit	503.585	503.093	12

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Unlawfully killing, destroying, wounding, trapping or injuring bald eagles or golden eagles	503.610	----	12
Unlawfully taking bald eagles or golden eagles	503.620	----	12
Taking twice the legal limit or more of big game mammals	501.385	-----	12
Unlawfully using or possessing thermal imaging, infrared or electronic night-vision, or electronic night vision, or electronically enhanced light-gathering or comparable night-vision devices or equipment……..	501.385	503.1455	12
Hunting or taking a threatened species	501.385	503.093	9
Unlawfully killing a fur-bearing mammal during the closed season	503.440	----	9
Unlawfully hunting migratory waterfowl by aid of baiting	501.385	503.180	6
Hunting big game mammals during the closed season	503.090	----	6
Hunting fur-bearing mammals during the closed season	501.015	----	6
Hunting big game mammals in closed areas	501.385	504.340	6
Hunting fur-bearing mammals in closed areas	501.385	504.340	6
Unlawfully hunting in a privately owned wildlife management area	504.140	----	6
Unlawfully hunting in a state-owned wildlife management area	504.143	----	6
Hunting big game mammals or migratory waterfowl during prohibited hours	503.140	----	6
Unlawfully hunting game birds or game mammals with	503.150	----	6

HUNTING AND TAKING

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
the aid of artificial light			
Hunting or taking a sensitive species	501.385	----	6
Hunting, trapping, possessing or selling birds of prey or raptors without a permit	503.582	503.205	6
Hunting alternative livestock	503.242	----	6
Taking a game mammal of a prohibited age or with prohibited physical characteristics	501.385	----	6

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Unlawfully possessing big game mammals during the closed season	503.030	----	12
Possessing a big game mammal or parts thereof without correct tag	502.150	----	9
Possessing twice the legal limit or more of game birds or game mammals, other than big game	501.385	----	9
Possessing twice the legal limit or more of game fish	501.385	-----	9
Unlawfully possessing a fur-bearing mammal during the closed season	503.030	-----	9
Possessing game birds or game mammals, other than big game, during the closed season	503.030	----	6
Possessing fish during the closed season	503.030	-----	6
Possessing game birds or game mammals, other than big game, in excess of the legal limit but less than twice the legal limit	501.385	----	6

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Possessing game fish in excess of the legal limit but less than twice the legal limit	501.385	----	6
Possessing a species that may not legally be possessed without a license or permit	501.385	----	6

TAGS AND SEALS

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Hunting big game or wild turkey without a tag	502.130	-----	9
Unlawfully transferring a tag to another person	502.140	502.385	9
Possessing or using a tag legally issued to another person	502.140	502.385	9
Obtaining tags in excess of the legal limit	502.140	502.331	9
Possessing used tags or tags in excess of the legal limit	502.150	----	9
Unlawfully using a tag	502.200	-----	9
Using a tag in an improper area	502.160	502.385	6
Failing to punch a tag properly	502.160	502.390	6
Failing to attach a tag to a big game mammal in the manner prescribed by regulation	502.160	502.400	6
Hunting by a Native American off an Indian reservation without a tag	502.280	----	6
Possessing fur-bearing mammals, other than a bobcat, without a seal	501.385	----	6
Possessing the pelt of a bobcat without a seal	501.385	502.347	6

TAGS AND SEALS

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Possessing the pelt of a mountain lion without a seal	501.385	502.370	6
Possessing the horns of a ram bighorn sheep without a seal or brand	501.385	502.345	6

PERMITS

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Unlawfully importing or transporting a prohibited species of wildlife without a permit or license	503.597	503.110	12
Collecting unprotected wildlife for commercial purposes without a permit	501.385	503.095	12
Collecting live bait fish or live aquatic bait for commercial purposes without a permit	501.385	503.513	12
Collecting unprotected fish for commercial purposes without a permit	501.385	503.545	12
Selling live bait without a permit	501.379	503.513	6
Conducting a field trial without a permit	503.200	503.610	6
Conducting a dredging operation without a permit	503.425	503.810	6
Possessing a raptor without a permit	503.582	503.205	6
Furnishing false information to obtain a permit	502.060	-----	6
Hunting swan without a swan hunt permit	-----	502.380	6
Transferring or giving a swan hunt permit to any other person	-----	502.380	6
Using or possessing a swan hunt permit issued to another person	-----	502.380	6
Commercial taking of crayfish, except in accordance with a permit issued pursuant to NAC 503.540	501.385	503.540	6

FISHING

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Fishing at a fish hatchery or other waters used for the purpose of rearing or growing fish	503.560	-----	6

MISCELLANEOUS FISH AND GAME

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Obstructing, hindering or otherwise interfering with an officer, employee or agent of the Department	501.385	-----	12
Unlawfully selling big game mammals	501.379	-----	12
Unlawfully selling an endangered species	501.379	-----	12
Needless waste of big game mammals	503.050	-----	12
Unlawfully placing, maintaining or using a trail camera or similar device capable of transmitting images, video or wildlife location data at any time during the period beginning July 1 and ending December 31 of each year ..	501.385	503.1485 Section 1 of LCB file No. R024-25	12
Unlawfully placing, maintaining or using a trail camera or similar device at any time during the period beginning August 1 and ending December 31 of each year	501.358	503.1485 Section 1 of LCB file No. R024-25	12
Destroy, injure, or deface private property while partaking in any wildlife-regulated activity	*501.385*	*New NAC*	*12*
Hunting, fishing in nonnavigable waters or trapping on private property without permission	503.240	-----	9
Needless waste of game birds or game mammals, other than big game	503.050	-----	9
Unlawfully selling a threatened species	501.379	-----	9

FISHING

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Taking or gathering shed antlers in certain counties between January 1 and April 30	503.655	503.172	9
Unlawfully selling game other than big game mammals	501.379	-----	6
Unlawfully selling a sensitive or protected species	501.379	-----	6
Unlawfully selling game fish	501.381	-----	6
Needless waste of game fish	503.050	-----	6
Unlawfully carrying a loaded rifle or shotgun in vehicle	503.165	-----	6
Unlawfully discharging a firearm	503.175	-----	6
Failing to retain the cape or scalp and any antlers or horns of wildlife	501.385	503.173	6
Destroying or mutilating signs of the Department	501.383	-----	6
Polluting water	503.430	-----	6
Removing, altering or tampering with a tag placed on wildlife or on seized equipment	501.377	-----	6
Intentionally interfering with a person lawfully hunting or trapping	503.015	-----	6
Failing to make a reasonable effort to retrieve dead or crippled migratory waterfowl	501.385	503.180	6
Taking or gathering shed antlers in certain counties between May 1 and June 30 without a certificate in violation of NAC 503.172	503.655	503.172	6

CATEGORY E FELONIES AND GROSS MISDEMANORS

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Conviction of a felony for intentionally killing a big game mammal, including aiding and abetting a person in the commission of the killing	501.376	-----	12
Conviction of a gross misdemeanor for intentionally killing a big game mammal, including aiding and abetting a person in the commission of the killing	501.376	-----	12
Conviction of a gross misdemeanor for willfully possessing an unlawfully killed big game mammal	501.376	-----	12
Acting as a master guide or subguide without a license	504.395	-----	12
Furnishing false information to obtain a big game tag	502.060	-----	12

TRAPPING

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Unlawfully capturing a raptor with a steel leghold trap placed, set or maintained within 30 feet of exposed bait	501.385	503.157	6
Trapping in a closed area	501.385	504.340	6
Unlawfully removing or disturbing a trap, snare or similar device lawfully being used by another person	503.454	-----	6
Trapping fur-bearing mammals during closed season	503.440	-----	6
Trapping birds of prey or raptors without a permit or by unlawful means	503.582	503.205	6
Failing to visit traps, snares or similar devices 48 or more hours after the required period for visitation	503.570	503.152	6

LICENSES

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Refusing to exhibit a license, wildlife, weapon, ammunition, device or apparatus	502.120	-----	12
Hunting without having procured a license	502.010	-----	6
Fishing without having procured a license	502.010	-----	6
Hunting without a license in possession	502.120	-----	6
Fishing without a license in possession	502.120	-----	6
Furnishing false information to obtain a license	502.060	-----	6
Furnishing of false information by a person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to obtain a specialty combination hunting and fishing license	502.290	502.220	6
Unlawfully transferring a license to another person	502.100	-----	6
Unlawfully using a license of another person	502.100	-----	6
Obtaining more than one license of each class	502.110	-----	6
Altering a license	502.105	-----	6
Practicing falconry without a license	503.583	503.235	6
Operating as a fur dealer without a license	505.010	-----	6
Trapping without having procured a license	502.010	-----	6
Taking fur-bearing mammals, trapping unprotected mammals or selling raw furs for profit without having procured a license	503.454	-----	6
Trapping without a license in possession	502.120	-----	6

LICENSES

Classification of Violations	NRS Section	NAC Section	Demerits
Hunting, fishing or trapping using a license that is invalid by reason of expiration or a false statement made to obtain the license	502.060	-----	6
Obtaining a hunting license without obtaining certification as a responsible hunter	502.360	-----	6

2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person who is convicted of committing a wildlife violation that does not appear in the schedule set forth in subsection 1 will be assessed 3 demerit points. No demerit points will be assessed for a violation of NRS 502.370, 502.390, 503.185, 503.310 or 504.295 to 504.398, inclusive.

3. A person who is convicted of committing a wildlife violation within 60 months after a conviction for the same violation will be assessed double the amount of demerit points listed in the schedule set forth in subsection 1.

4. A person who is convicted of committing any four wildlife violations arising out of separate events within a 60-month period will be assessed an extra 12 demerit points.

Section 2. Chapter 503 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. *A person shall not destroy, injure, or deface private property or State Wildlife Management Areas while partaking in any wildlife-regulated activity, including without limitation hunting, fishing, trapping, or shed hunting.*
2. *For the purposes of this section, destruction, injury, or defacement of private property includes any act described in NRS:*
    a. *206.010*
    b. *206.015*
    c. *206.040*
    d. *206.150*
    e. *206.220*
    f. *206.310*

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Commission Regulation 26-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for 2027-2028 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will consider and may take action to approve the 2027-2028 season dates, species, quotas, limits, closed areas, application procedures and deadlines, and take of raptors for falconry.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
15A-CR-26-14-Taking-of-Raptors-for-Falconry-for-2027-2028.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____

(Vote Recorded By)

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

MEMORANDUM: **NOVEMBER 6, 2026**

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

From: Jasmine Kleiber, Biodiversity Division Administrator and
Jessica Brooks, Biodiversity Staff Specialist

Title: Commission Regulation 26-14, Taking of Raptors for Falconry for the 2027–2028 Seasons

Description: Commission Regulation 26-14 establishes the seasons, species, capture quotas, and permit requirements for taking raptors for falconry in Nevada during the 2027–2028 seasons. The regulation provides opportunities for licensed falconers to capture wild raptors while maintaining restrictions intended to protect Nevada's raptor populations.

Summary

Between 2010 and 2025, a total of 196 raptors were captured for falconry in Nevada, averaging approximately 12 raptors annually. Annual captures peaked at 26 in 2013, with six raptors captured in each of 2024 and 2025. Falconry participation has also declined from a peak of 34 falconers in 2014 and 2015 to 14 in 2025.

The existing regulations allow for the capture of nine raptor species and include species-specific quotas, seasonal restrictions, and permit requirements. Historical participation and capture data indicate that current quotas have not restricted falconry activity. Based on these trends, current levels of take are not expected to have a significant impact on Nevada's wild raptor populations.

Recommendation

The Department recommends no changes to the existing regulations governing the taking of raptors for falconry for the 2027–2028 seasons. The Department recommends that the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners review and adopt Commission Regulation 26-14 as presented.

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of Title 45 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, NAC 503.300, and NAC 503.305, does hereby adopt the following regulations for the management of raptors:

Commission Regulation 26-14
2027 and 2028 SEASONS AND PERMIT QUOTAS
FOR TAKING RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY

LIMIT:	A person may take one (1) raptor per permit, with a maximum number of two permits issued to any one person per calendar year. NRS 503.583, NAC 503.300.
SPECIES LIMITS:	Not more than one raptor of any species may be taken per person per calendar year, except as provided below. Exception: Under the authority of the second capture permit, a person may take another raptor of the same species to replace a bird, captured in the same year, which died or was lost. NAC 503.300
TAKE RESTRICTION:	At least one eyas must remain in each nest from which an eyas is taken. An eyas may not be removed from its nest prior to 10 days of age. Nests may not be entered when young are 28 days or more of age.
HOURS:	Raptors may be taken any time of the day or night during the open season.
AREA:	Statewide for all authorized species except Northern Goshawk. The take of Northern Goshawk is closed in Elko County north of I-80.
SEASON:	Seasons are open during the periods specified below, unless the applicable species quota is reached earlier. 2027 season - Eyas season: March 1 through August 31, 2027 Passage season: January 1 through December 31, 2027 2028 season - Eyas season: March 1 through August 31, 2028 Passage season: January 1 through December 31, 2028

Application Deadlines and Permit Drawing

Applications for permits to take raptors for falconry will become available the first weekday of December.

Applications must be received at the address listed on the application by 5:00 p.m. on the second Monday of January.

A drawing will be conducted by the Department if there is an over-subscription of applications for any raptor species for which a permit quota has been established. After the drawing, any quota remaining will be available by application. Applications after the drawing will be processed in the order of receipt until the quota is filled or the close of the season.
Resident applicants can apply for a species in accordance with the instructions on the application. Nonresident applicants may only apply for **one** (1) species per application.

Even when the number of permits available to residents is unlimited, the species quota remains in effect. Once the Department determines that a species quota has been reached, permittees will be notified that the capture season for that species is closed.

2027 and 2028 SEASONS AND PERMIT QUOTAS FOR TAKING RAPTORS FOR FALCONRY

Species	Permit Quotas		Species Quotas
	Resident	Nonresident	
Goshawk (Eyas – March 1- August 31)	10	3	10
Goshawk (Passage – January 1- December 31)	Unlimited		15
Cooper's hawk	Unlimited	3	50
Sharp-shinned hawk	Unlimited	3	50
Prairie falcon	Unlimited	3	15
Merlin	Unlimited	3	50
American kestrel	Unlimited	3	50
Red-tailed hawk	Unlimited	3	50
Ferruginous hawk	5	1	5
Great horned owl	Unlimited	3	50

THE CAPTURE SEASON IS CLOSED FOR ALL RAPTOR SPECIES NOT LISTED.

STAFF REPORT

Report To: **Meeting Date:** November 4, 2026

Staff Contact:

Agenda Title: Commission Regulation 26-15, Non-Commercial Collection of Reptiles and Amphibians for 2027-2028 – At the November 6, 2026 meeting, the Commission will consider and may take action to approve 2027-2028 season and limits for non-commercial hobby collecting of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians.

Agenda Action: Formal Action / Motion **Time Requested:**

Proposed Motion

Board's Strategic Goal

Previous Action

Background/Issues & Analysis

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Financial Information
Is there a fiscal impact? No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

Attachment(s):
15B-CR-26-15-Non-Commercial-Collection-of-Reptiles-and-Amphibians-for-2027-2028.pdf

Motion: _____ 1) _____ Aye/Nay
2) _____ _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

_____

(Vote Recorded By)

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

MEMORANDUM: **OCTOBER 16, 2026**

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

From: Jasmine Kleiber Biodiversity Division Administrator

Title: **Commission Regulation 26-15**

Description: **2027 and 2028 seasons and limits for noncommercial collection of live, unprotected reptiles and amphibians**

Summary

A guiding concept of NDOW's management of species is the use of current formal taxonomy (Genus and species latin names). Taxonomy changes as more genetic and geographic information becomes available, and the authoritative source for agreed upon herpetological taxonomy is Nicholson, K. E. (ed.). 2025. *Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding.* Ninth Edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. Although NDOW does not manage species based on common names (i.e. colloquial names), as those names can differ regionally across a single species range, the above listed authoritative source has standardized herpetological common names. CR 26-15 reflects these contemporary taxonomic/common names as identified in Nicholson, 2025. Additionally, managing at the species level, not the subspecies level, is the most appropriate and realistic approach for regulations such as noncommercial collections given the notorious difficulty of subspecies in-hand identification and the ongoing scientific debate regarding subspecies validity. Based on this, several previously identified subspecies open for noncommercial collection were either merged (lumped) together into the species level, if/when multiple subspecies of a single species were identified, or the subspecies level was dropped if only a single subspecies of said species was identified. The pacific treefrog (Pseudacris regilla) was split into two species, while the Great Plains toad was removed from the list due to it's rarity and only occurring in a single isolated location. The western skink take and possession limits were reduced from five to two due to the rarity of the species in the state. Regarding unlimited take of non-natives, the rough-tailed gecko was added, while the tiger salamander species level was dropped to reflect only the Genus due to the lake of taxonomic clarity. Finally, the list was organized in alphabetical order of the latin names.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission adopt the new noncommercial collection regulations that reflect current and simplified taxonomy.

STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of Title 45 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS 501.105, 501.181, 504.295; and NAC 504.4615, does hereby adopt the following regulations for the management of reptiles and amphibians:

Commission Regulation 26-15
2027 & 2028 SEASONS & LIMITS FOR
NONCOMMERCIAL COLLECTION OF LIVE,
UNPROTECTED REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

TAKE LIMIT: Two (2) to five (5), dependent upon species listed below.

POSSESSION LIMIT: A person is allowed to possess two (2) to five (5) individuals total, dependent upon the species. Possession is limited to 24 snakes total across all species listed below. Possession limits are restricted within intervals of up to one year as listed below.

AREA: Statewide for all authorized species.

TAKE RESTRICTION(S): A person may collect only by hand or by a noose, set of tongs or snake hook, or dipnet. A person shall not use: A crowbar, tire iron, jackhammer, winch, explosive device, chemical substance or any other method or means of collection that involves the removal or breaking apart of rocks, a natural shelter or the habitat in or around which the reptile or amphibian may be found. Pitfall traps shall not be used.

HOURS: A person may collect at any hour of the day or night.

SEASON: All seasons are open during the following specified period or until a species quota is met.

2027 season - January 1 through December 31, 2027
2028 season - January 1 through December 31, 2028

Species (The Field Collection Season is Closed For Species Not Listed Below)		**Take Limit**	**Possession Limit**
AMPHIBIANS:		2 of each per year	2 of each
Western toad	*Anaxyrus boreas*		
Woodhouse's toad	*Anaxyrus woodhousii*		
Red-spotted toad	*Anaxyrus punctatus*		
Baja California Treefrog	*Pseudacris hypochondriaca*		
Sierran Treefrog	*Pseudacris sierra*		
Great Basin spadefoot toad	*Spea intermontana*		
NON-NATIVE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES:		Unlimited	Unlimited
Tiger salamander	*Ambystoma spp,*		
Rough-tailed gecko	*Cyrtopodion scabrum*		
Mediterranean gecko	*Hemidactylus turcicus*		
Spiny softshell turtle	*Trionyx spiniferus*		

Species (The Field Collection Season is Closed For Species Not Listed Below)		Take Limit	Possession Limit
LIZARDS:			
Western banded gecko	*Coleonyx variegatus*	2 of each per year	2 of each; no more than 24 lizards total
Great Basin collared	*Crotaphytus bicinctores*		
Desert iguana	*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*		
Long-nosed leopard	*Gambelia wislizenii*		
Desert horned	*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*		
Western skink	*Plestiodon skiltonianus*		
Common chuckwalla	*Sauromalus ater*		
Plateau fence	*Sceloporus tristichus*		
Ornate Tree	*Urosaurus ornatus*		
Long-tailed brush	*Urosaurus graciosus*		
Desert night	*Xantusia vigilis*		
Tiger whiptail	*Aspidoscelis tigris*	5 of each per year	5 of each
Zebra-tailed	*Callisaurus draconoides*		
Common sagebrush	*Sceloporus graciosus*		
Desert spiny	*Sceloporus magister*		
Western fence	*Sceloporus occidentalis*		
Common Side-blotched	*Uta stansburiana*	5 of each per week	5 of each
SNAKES:			
Common Glossy snake	*Arizona elegans*	2 of each per year	2 of each; no more than 24 snakes total
Rubber boa	*Charina bottae*		
North American racer	*Coluber constrictor*		
Sidewinder	*Crotalus cerastes*		
Western rattlesnake	*Crotalus oreganus*		
SW speckled rattlesnake	*Crotalus pyrrhus*		
Mohave rattlesnake	*Crotalus scutulatus*		
Panamint rattlesnake	*Crotalus stephensi*		
Desert night	*Hypsiglena chlorophaea*		
California kingsnake	*Lampropeltis californiae*		
Desert coachwhip	*Masticophis piceus*		
Striped whipsnake	*Masticophis taeniatus*		
Spotted leaf-nosed	*Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*		
Gopher	*Pituophis catenifer*		
Western thread	*Rena humilis*		
Long-nosed	*Rhinocheilus lecontei*		
Western patch-nosed	*Salvadora hexalepis*		
Mohave shovel-nosed	*Sonora occipitalis*		
Western ground	*Sonora semiannulata*		
Southwestern black-headed	*Tantilla hobartsmithi*		
Sierra garter	*Thamnophis couchii*		
Terrestrial garter	*Thamnophis elegans*		
Common garter	*Thamnophis sirtalis*		

Nomenclature follows: Nicholson, K. E. (ed.). 2025. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding. Ninth Edition. Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles. 87pp.