

Nevada Department of Wildlife and The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

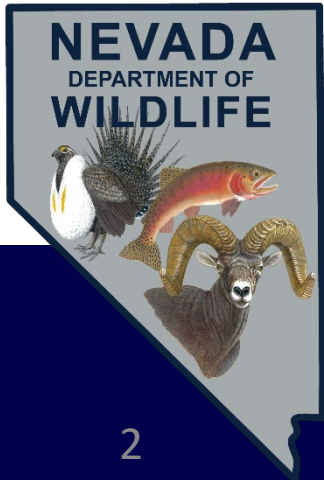
Interim Natural Resources Committee Meeting

April 5, 2024

Presented by: Director Alan Jenne

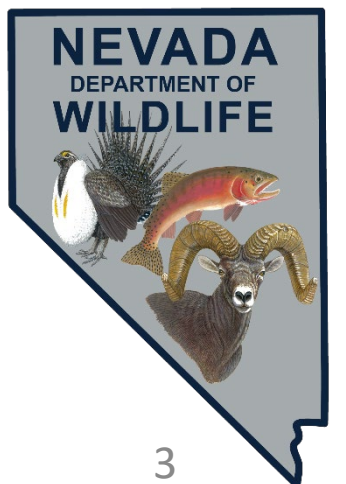
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Our Department's mission remains:

To protect, conserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for the aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of Nevada.

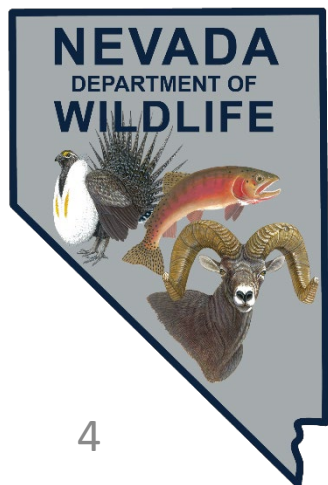


BROAD STATUTORY CHARGE

- NDOW is the sole agency responsible for conservation of ALL 900 wildlife species
- NDOW's Law Enforcement Division is comprised of Category 1 Peace Officers responsible for public safety on waterways and enforcement of wildlife laws
- Nevada is the 7th largest state with over 85 percent federal land and is among the five smallest wildlife agencies in the nation
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - NDOW reviews any project on federal land or projects using federal funds
 - NDOW comments on over 600 projects a year
 - this puts a significant burden on an already small staff and requires input from almost every division

UNIQUE FUNDING MODEL

- Over 95 percent of NDOW's Budget consists of user-derived funds, including federal funding
 - Pittman-Robertson: Funds are derived from excise taxes on guns, ammunition and archery equipment
 - Dingell-Johnson: Funds are derived from excise taxes on motorboat fuel, small engine fuel, fishing tackle, and tariffs on imported yachts and fishing equipment.
 - Coast Guard Funding: Public and boating safety
- License Revenue
 - Restricted Reserve Accounts
 - Sportsmen Revenue
- Other
- Most federal funds require non-federal match
- NDOW receives a negligible general fund contribution



Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners

Appointments (NRS 501.171)

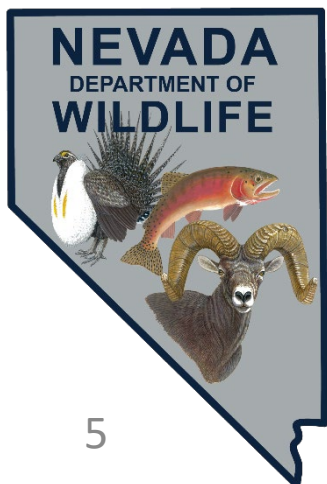
The Wildlife Commission is Comprised of:

9 Gubernatorial Appointees with a 3-year term, two term limit (generally), representing:

- One conservation; *(currently from Washoe Co.)*
- One farming; *(currently from Pershing Co.)*
- One ranching; *(currently from Elko Co.)*
- One general public; *(currently from Clark Co.)* and
- Five members who during at least 3 of the 4 years immediately preceding their appointment held a resident license to fish or hunt, or both, in Nevada.

Currently

- 2 Clark County reps
- 1 Washoe County rep
- 1 Lyon County rep
- 1 Humboldt County rep



Other Qualifications (NRS 501.171):

- The Governor shall not appoint to the Commission any person who has been convicted of certain wildlife crimes in the previous ten years.
- Not more than three members may be from the same county whose population is 700,000 or more (Clark County)
- Not more than two members may be from the same county whose population is 100,000 or more but less than 700,000 (Washoe County), and
- Not more than one member may be from the same county whose population is less than 100,000.

Commission Leadership:

- The Commission shall annually select a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its members.
- A person shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as Chair.

Commission Duties and Meetings

NBWC Duties (NRS 501.181):

- Establish broad policies for wildlife management and boating safety
- Provide broad policy guidance to NDOW
- Adopt regulations for wildlife management and boating safety
- Adopt regulations specific to hunting, trapping, and fishing
- Consider NDOW recommendations, County Advisory Boards and public views at an open meeting
- Establish a system of assessing demerit points for wildlife convictions for the Department to administer and enforce

NBWC Meetings (NRS 501.177)

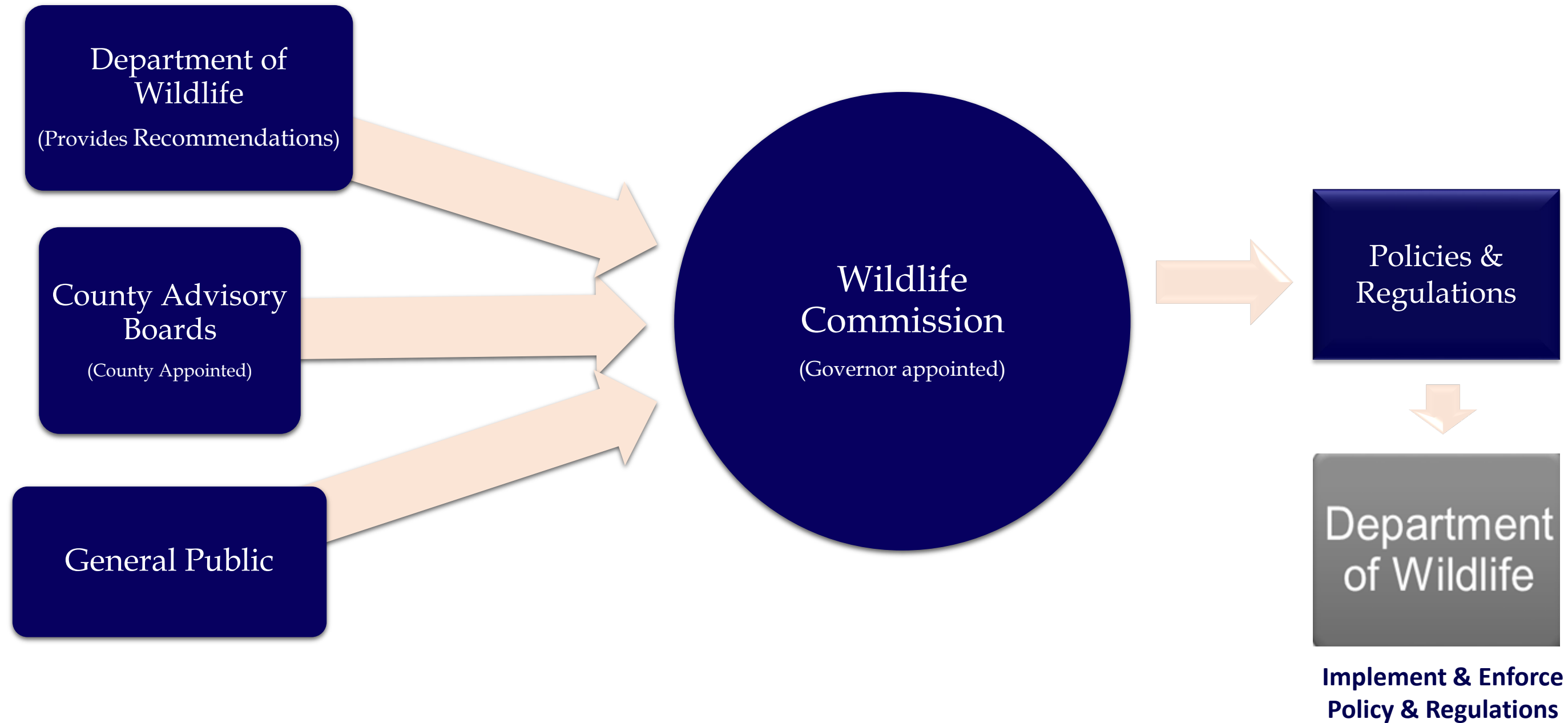
- The Commission may hold not more than nine meetings regularly each year based on need and the requests submitted by the county advisory boards to manage wildlife.
 - Typical Meeting Locations
 - January – Washoe County
 - March – Clark County
 - May – Washoe County
 - June – Rural Location
 - August – Rural Location
 - September – Clark County
 - November – Washoe County
- Special meetings of the Commission may be held at such times and places as the Commission deems proper.
 - *April (in odd years, virtual meeting)*
- **Five members of the Commission constitute a quorum**

NBWC Compensation (NRS 501.179):

- Commissioners receive \$80 per day for Commission Meetings plus per diem expenses for travel
- Expenses are paid from the Wildlife Account



Public Process



Legislative History

1877 – Nevada State Fish Commissioner created by Nevada statute. H.G. Parker was the first Fish Commissioner appointed to this nonpaid position, concentrating his efforts on stocking Nevada waters with different kinds of fish

1901 – Nevada Statute passed for fish and game wardens to be appointed and paid through the Board of County Commissioners.

1905 – The three-member State Fish Commission entity was created by Nevada statute.

1917 – Fish Commission repealed by Nevada statute and renamed Fish and Game Commission. Office of State Game Warden was established, independent of the Commission, and collected one-third of hunting and fishing license money sold at county levels.

1937 – Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, named after U.S. Senator Key Pittman of Nevada, established an 11% federal excise tax on all sporting arms and ammunition to support all state wildlife research and habitat projects to aid the recovery of fish and wildlife populations. States must match federal dollars 25:75 and **any funds raised from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses must be used exclusively for fish and wildlife restoration projects** (U.S.C. 666,667j).

1947 – In response to federal legislation; the State of Nevada takes control to begin receiving PR funds. This is the beginning of what is now considered the Department of Wildlife and Wildlife Commission.

1947 – Nevada State Fish and Game Commission expanded from 5 members into a 17-member elected Commission with representatives from each county.

1947 – County Game Boards created under the State of Nevada, but members are appointed by their respective Board of County Commissioners.

1950 – Federal Dingell-Johnson Act passed establishing an excise tax on fishing equipment to fund state sport fish program. State must match federal dollars, and any funds raised from the sale of fishing licenses must be used exclusively for fish restoration projects.

1969 – Name changed from Nevada Fish and Game Commission to Nevada Department of Fish and Game, Commission reduced from 17 members to 9 members, and became appointed by the Governor instead of the counties.

1979 – Nevada Department of Fish and Game becomes Nevada Department of Wildlife to reflect responsibilities for all wildlife. Also, Wildlife Commission size is reduced to 7, and County Game Boards have 3 members per county.

1989 – The Wildlife Commission membership is expanded from 7 to 9 members, adding on 2 additional sportsmen representatives



NOTABLE MENTIONS:

- The Wildlife Commission has received the Commission of the Year Award from WAFWA three times (1984, 2003, 2016)
- Current Commissioner David McNinch has received the Special Achievement Award, and an Honorary Lifetime WAFWA Membership
- The Nevada Wildlife Commission was the first State Wildlife Commission in the country to adopt a resolution supporting the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources – leading to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act



Recent Accomplishments and Actions

Recent Regulations

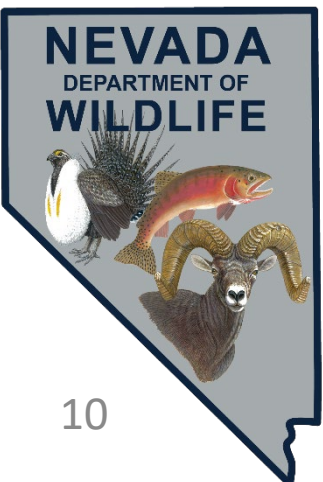
CGR 506 – Golden Eagles
CGR 509 – License and Vessel Refunds
CGR 510 – FCFS Suspensions
CGR 512 – Fishing Regulations
CGR 513 – Executive Order
CGR 514 – Moose
Establishment of Big Game Seasons

Commitment to Fair Chase

-Shed Antler and Trail Camera Restrictions
-Revised provisions surrounding the commercial collection of reptiles
-NV Fair Chase Doctrine
-License appeals

Commitment to the Resource

-The Commission oversees the well-being of all wildlife to include threatened and endangered species
-Letters sent to Congressional delegates and Governor's Office regarding the controversial Winecup Gamble Land Exchange
-Toured three renewable energy development sites (Nye County, Clark County)
-Visited four newly acquired properties (Humboldt County, White Pine County, Lyon County, Washoe County)
-Visited one resource-important area (Washoe County)
-Active participation on surveys and projects (deer helicopter surveys and turkey trapping)



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR TIME

Instagram: @Nevadawildlife

Facebook: Nevada Department of Wildlife

YouTube: NVDeptofWildlife

NDOWCommission

Get outside and enjoy Nevada's wildlife