



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Law Enforcement Division

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MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2018

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

From: Tyler Turnipseed, Chief Game Warden

Title: **Regulation Changes: Commission General Regulation 475**

Description: The Commission will consider an NAC change to establish season dates for the field collection of shed antlers.

Presenter: Tyler Turnipseed, Chief Game Warden

Agenda No: 13A

CGR 475: Shed Antlers. This proposed change would add a new section to NAC 503.

The proposed regulation change would place a seasonal closure on the field collection of deer and elk shed antlers from public lands in Elko, White Pine, Lincoln, Lander, Eureka, and Nye Counties. The remaining 11 Nevada counties would have no change (no season closure).

The change for the 6 restricted counties would establish a season open from April 1st to May 31st between the hours of 10am to sunset and June 1st to December 31st of each year with no hours restrictions. The antler collection season would be closed from January 1st through March 31st of each year.

Deer and elk annually shed their antlers. The cast off antlers or “sheds” have significant value as decorations, art media, or construction materials for items such as chandeliers, coat racks, wine racks, etc. As the value of shed antlers has increased, so have the interest, methods, and effort expended in shed antler collection. This proposed regulation is designed to protect deer and elk by preventing their harassment and displacement by shed antler collectors. When people search for shed antlers on occupied big game winter ranges during mid-winter animal concentrations, it can have negative effects on the animals’ nutritional condition, disrupt energy budgets, interrupt foraging activity, or cause animals to expend energy avoiding disruptions as they move from critical high quality winter range habitat onto lesser quality habitat.

This regulation was passed by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (NBWC) in 2014, but then failed to pass its final round of approval at the Nevada Legislative Commission. It was then brought back and amended to the current proposed language by the NBWC at its workshop November 3rd, 2017.

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

LCB File No. R134-17

November 17, 2017

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

AUTHORITY: §1, NRS 501.105, 501.181 and 503.655.

A REGULATION relating to shed antlers; prohibiting a person from taking or gathering shed antlers under certain circumstances; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Board of Wildlife Commissioners to adopt regulations for the taking of shed antlers. “Shed antlers” means any antlers which have been naturally shed by any big game mammal in this State. (NRS 503.655) This regulation prohibits a person from taking or gathering shed antlers from or on any public land located in certain counties: (1) at any time from January 1 to March 31, inclusive; or (2) between the hours of sunset and 10:00 a.m. from April 1 to May 31, inclusive.

Section 1. Chapter 503 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

A person shall not take or gather shed antlers from or on any public land located in Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Nye or White Pine Counties:

- 1. At any time from January 1 to March 31, inclusive; or*
- 2. Between the hours of sunset and 10:00 a.m. from April 1 to May 31, inclusive.*