



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Law Enforcement Division**

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MEMORANDUM:

APRIL 8, 2024

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

From: Kristy Knight, Chief Game Warden, Law Enforcement

Title: **Commission General Regulation 518, Shed antler and skull pick up**

Purpose: The Commission will review and provide revision to amended language to NAC 503.172 on clarifying shed antler collecting and new draft language on big game skull pick up.

Summary

This is amended language for NAC 503.172. The amended language includes further explanation on what constitutes violations of shed collection when the season is closed, changing the requirements for the instruction in responsible collection for shed antlers certificate, and adding a section for allowing for big game skull collection.

Brief Explanation of the Proposed Regulation

Existing regulation sets forth closures in certain counties for shed collection and stipulations on what is required to collect during May 1-June 20 open season. The amendment to this regulation further defines what constitutes shed collection during closed season, and changes to the requirements for the instruction on the responsible collection of shed antlers. The certificate from the instruction is now broken out into resident and nonresident. Residents must take the class one time in their lifetime to collect during a limited shed collection season and the nonresident must take annually. There is an addition to getting a big game skull tag or permit to be able to collect a big game skull. There are also requirements for prior to, during and after collecting of a big game skull.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission review and provide revision to the amended language.

COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 518

Shed Antler and Big Game Skull Regulation Change Draft 04_08_2024

NAC 503.172 Prohibition on taking, gathering, *catching*, or *possessing* shed antlers on public land in Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Nye or White Pine Counties during certain period. *Collection of big game skulls statewide upon public and private lands.*

NAC 503.172 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1. A person shall not *search for*, take, gather, *cache, or possess* shed antlers from or on any public land located in Elko, Eureka, Lander, Lincoln, Nye, or White Pine Counties at any time from:

(a) January 1 to April 30, inclusive.

(b) May 1 to June 30, inclusive, unless the person:

(1) Is *a resident* 12 years of age or older and has in his or her possession a certificate issued by the Department, or an agent designated by the Department, as proof that the person successfully completed the course of instruction in the responsible collection of shed antlers offered pursuant to subsection 2;

(2) Is *a resident* under 12 years of age and is accompanied by a person who:

(I) Is at least 18 years of age; and

(II) Has in his or her possession a certificate issued by the Department, or an agent designated by the Department, as proof the person successfully completed the course of instruction in the responsible collection of shed antlers offered pursuant to subsection 2.

(3) Is a nonresident 12 years of age or older and has in his or her possession a certificate issued by the Department, or an agent designated by the Department, as proof that at any time during the current calendar year the person successfully completed the course of instruction in responsible collection of shed antlers offered pursuant to subsection 2; or

(4) Is a nonresident under 12 years of age and is accompanied by a person who:

(I) Is at least 18 years of age; and

(II) Has in his or her possession a certificate issued by the Department, or an agent designated by the Department, as proof that at any time during the current calendar year the person successfully completed the course of instruction in the responsible collection of shed antlers offered pursuant to subsection 2.

2. The Department shall:

(a) Offer, without charge, an online course of instruction in the responsible collection of shed antlers and issue a certificate of completion from the Department to a person who successfully completes the course; or

(b) Designate an agent of the Department to:

(1) Offer, without charge, an online course of instruction in the responsible collection of shed antlers that is approved by the Department; and

~~(2) Issue a certificate of completion from the Department to a person who successfully completes the course. Allow a person who successfully completes the course to print or save an image of a certificate of completion.~~

3. *Evidence of an act constituting a violation of subsection 1(a), includes, without limitation:*
 - (a) searching for or collecting shed antlers conducted by vehicle, foot, unmanned aerial vehicle, or other means.*
 - (b) stockpiling, stashing, or hiding shed antlers for a lawful season pick up; or*
 - (c) marking location(s) of shed antlers;*
 - (d) use of an unmanned aerial vehicles for shed antler location;*
 - (f) use of dogs for collection of shed antlers; or*
 - (g) any other means that constitutes locating shed antlers.*
4. *Lawfully collected shed antlers may be sold, bartered, or traded.*
5. *A person shall not take or gather skulls of big game mammals without obtaining a big game mammal skull tag or permit from the Department. Upon finding the skull of a big game mammal a person shall:*
 - (a) collect GPS coordinates of the big game mammal skull;*
 - (b) take photos from multiple angles of the big game mammal skull and carcass, if present, in the found location.*
 - (c) contact Nevada Department of Wildlife to notify of found big game mammal skull to receive instructions;*
 - (d) present the skull of the big game mammal complete with antlers and horns attached if present, GPS coordinates, and photos to Department personnel for investigation within 5 business days of being found or collected;*
 - (1) the skull of the big game mammal may be seized by Department personnel for investigative purposes;*
 - (2) if it is found that the death of the big game mammal was the result of natural causes or is undetermined, the big game mammal skull may be sealed or;*
 - (3) if it is determined that the death of the big game mammal was the result of human causes the big game mammal skull will be retained by the Department.*
6. *Evidence of an act constituting a violation of subsection 1, includes, without limitation:*
 - (a) Stockpiling big game mammal skulls;*
7. *A big game skull tag or seal is free of charge from the Department.*
8. *A sealed big game mammal skull and legally collected shed antlers may be sold, auctioned, or traded by a nonprofit organization after receiving it as a donation.*
9. *As used in this section:*

(a) "Stockpiling" means intentionally hiding, stashing, or caching the big game skull for retrieval at a later date.

(b) "Unmanned aerial vehicle" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 493.020.

