

COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 518

Shed Antler and Big Game Skull Regulation Change Draft 05_01_2024

Authority: NRS 501.376(4), NRS 501.379(1)(a), NRS 502.150, NRS 503.030 (3), NAC 502.345

NAC 503.172 Prohibition on taking, gathering, *catching*, or *possessing* shed antlers *or skulls of big game mammals* 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 *or skulls of big game mammals* 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;~~

~~(d-f) use of dogs for collection of shed antlers; or~~

~~(e-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 a 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.~~

(d) Present the skull of the big game mammal with antlers and horns attached (if present), along with photographs and the GPS coordinates of the location the skull was found, to Department personnel for investigation within 5 business days of being found or collected. The skull of the big game mammal will be sealed and returned to the person unless the Department determines:

(1) the death of the big game mammal was that result of human causes; or

(2) there are other investigative purposes for retention of the skull.

6. *A person who violates subsection 1 after January 1, 2025:*

(a) *For a first offense, they must not be cited or charged criminally but must be informed, in writing, of the behavior that constitutes the violation and the penalties prescribed by this section for any subsequent violation of this section.*

(b) *For a second offense, or subsequent offense, shall be penalized in accordance with NAC 501.200.*

7. *A person who holds a course certificate and who knowingly violates subsection 1 shall be penalized in accordance with NAC 501.200 at the time of the first offense.*

~~9-8.~~ *A big game skull tag or seal is free of charge from the Department.*

~~10-9.~~ *A sealed big game mammal skull collected pursuant to this section ~~and legally collected shed antlers may be sold, auctioned, or traded by a nonprofit organization after receiving it as a donation.~~*

~~11-10.~~ *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.*

(c) *“Skulls of big game mammals” means the clean skull plate or head of the big game mammal, with no part of the brain tissue attached. Big Game Mammal has the definition ascribed in NAC 502.020.*

11. *The Department may close units for collection purposes at any time for disease events or other biological or safety reasons at the discretion of the director.*

NAC 503.174 Sale of nonedible parts of legally killed *or collected* game; exception for gall bladder of any species of bear. ([NRS 501.105](#), [501.181](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the sale of the hide, head, antlers or horns or other nonedible parts of game animals which were legally killed *or collected* is permitted.

2. It is unlawful to sell, purchase, barter or trade a gall bladder of any species of bear, regardless of whether the gall bladder was taken inside or outside this State. The possession of more than two bear gall bladders of any species of bear is prima facie evidence that the gall bladders are possessed for sale, purchase, barter or trade in violation of this section.