



## STATE OF NEVADA

## DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

## Game Division

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## MEMORANDUM

July 23, 2018

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

**From:** Brian Wakeling, Administrator, Game Division

**Title:** Commission General Regulation 478, Bighorn Sheep Ewe and Mountain Goat Online Course, LCB File No. RISI-18- For Possible Action

**Description:** The Commission will hold a workshop to consider a regulation relating to amending Chapter 502 of the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC). This regulation would require all bighorn ewe and mountain goat tag holders to complete an online course. It would also require the tag holder for ram bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion or bear to provide questionnaire information during the already required post-harvest physical inspection and eliminate the subsequent need for successful tag holders to also submit a questionnaire.

**Presenter:** Game Division Administrator Brian F. Wakeling

Summary:

The Department is proposing to amend regulation to increase knowledge about specific game animals for hunters that draw tags for bighorn sheep ewe or mountain goats, while simplifying the questionnaire response for those that must have their harvest physically inspected. Both bighorn sheep ewe hunters and mountain goat hunters can find themselves challenged to accurately determine sex of their animals in the field prior to harvest. Mountain goat hunters may lawfully harvest either sex, but harvesting a male influences population growth to a lesser extent than female harvest; bighorn sheep ewe hunters may not lawfully harvest a yearling male which often appear similar to adult ewes. The Department proposes to establish a mandatory online course for hunters who draw either a bighorn sheep ewe or a mountain goat tag. The course must be completed prior to receiving their tag in the mail. This mandatory course should help hunters accurately identify gender and age of these game species, and the course may be taken at any time or date after notification of being drawn. Upon completion of the course the tag will be mailed.

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

**LCB File No. R151-18**

July 18, 2018

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

AUTHORITY: §§1 and 2, NRS 501.105, 501.181 and 502.160; §§3 and 4, NRS 501.105, 501.119, 501.181 and 502.160.

A REGULATION relating to wildlife; requiring a person whose application for a tag to hunt certain animals is successfully drawn to complete an online course in gender identification of the animal; providing an exception to the requirement that a person who presents certain animals that have been killed or harvested for inspection to the Department of Wildlife submit a completed questionnaire; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

Under existing law, tags are required to hunt certain animals, including bighorn sheep and mountain goats, and the Board of Wildlife Commissioners may adopt regulations governing the manner of applying for and receiving such tags. (NRS 502.130, 502.160) **Sections 1 and 2** of this regulation require a person whose application for a tag to hunt for a female bighorn sheep or a mountain goat has been successfully drawn to complete an online course in the gender identification of bighorn sheep or mountain goats, as applicable, before the tag will be issued by the Department of Wildlife.

Existing regulations require a person who successfully kills or harvests a bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion or black bear to present certain parts of the animal to the Department for inspection within a certain period of time after killing or harvesting the animal. (NAC 502.345, 502.364, 502.370, 502.373) **Section 1** revises the requirement to present the skull and horns of a bighorn sheep of either gender to the Department for inspection to require only the skull and horns of a bighorn sheep ram be presented to the Department.

Existing law authorizes the Department to obtain information from hunters relative to their activities in the form of a questionnaire. (NRS 501.119) **Section 3** of this regulation provides that a person who provides the information required by the questionnaire at the time he or she presents a bighorn sheep ram, mountain goat, mountain lion or black bear to the

4. A person who kills a ~~{bighorn sheep,}~~ *ram*, regardless of subspecies, ~~{or gender,}~~ shall, within 5 days after killing it, personally present the skull and horns of the ~~{animal}~~ ram to a representative of the Department for inspection. ~~{For a ram, the}~~ *The* inspector shall permanently attach a seal to one of the horns by plugging the seal into the horn or permanently brand an identification number on one of the horns. It is unlawful for any person to alter or remove the seal after the seal is permanently attached to a horn or to alter or remove the permanently branded identification number. It is unlawful to possess or sell the horns of a ram without a seal having been so attached or number so branded.

~~{4,}~~ 5. As used in this section, “ewe” means any female bighorn sheep having a horn or horns of at least 5 inches in length each as measured on the outside curve of the horn from the skull to the tip.

**Sec. 2.** NAC 502.364 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.364 1. Except as otherwise provided by a regulation of the Commission or title 45 of NRS, a person may apply for a mountain goat tag in any year if, in the immediately preceding 10 years, he or she did not receive a tag or replacement tag for a mountain goat.

2. *A person whose application for a mountain goat tag is successfully drawn must complete an online course provided by the Department in the gender identification of mountain goats before the Department may issue the tag.*

3. A person who harvests a mountain goat shall, within 5 days after harvesting it, personally present the skull, hide and any edible portion of the animal, or its carcass, to a representative of the Department for inspection.

**Sec. 3.** NAC 502.405 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.42694 1. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 502.42695, and notwithstanding the provisions of NAC 502.341, 502.345, 502.361, 502.364 and 502.373, a private entity conducting a Dream Tag raffle may issue a Dream Tag at any time to a person who wins the tag in the raffle.

2. ~~Each~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3 of NAC 502.405, each* recipient of a Dream Tag shall submit the questionnaire issued as part of the Dream Tag pursuant to NAC 502.405.