



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Game Division

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Ste 120 • Reno, Nevada 89511
(775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1987

18 A

MEMORANDUM

August 29, 2018

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

From: Brian Wakeling, Administrator, Game Division

BFW

Title: Commission General Regulation 478, Bighorn Sheep Ewe and Mountain Goat Online Course, LCB File No. R151-18 – For Possible Action

Description: The Commission will consider adopting 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. This regulation would eliminate the need for a physical inspection for hunters that harvest a ewe. 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. The Commission held a workshop on Aug. 10, 2018, and the Commission directed the Department to move forward with an adoption hearing.

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 can influence population growth to a lesser extent; bighorn sheep ewe hunters may not lawfully harvest a yearling male that may appear similar in appearance to an adult ewe. The Department proposes to establish a mandatory

online seminar that hunters that draw either a bighorn sheep ewe or a mountain goat tag must watch prior to receiving their tag in the mail. This mandatory seminar should help hunters accurately identify these game species, and the course may be taken at any time or date after notification of being drawn. Upon completion, their tag will be mailed to them.

Opening this NAC allows the Department to address a process improvement to harvest reporting as well. A common complaint from hunters that must have their harvest physically inspected is that they must also complete a questionnaire and submit it after answering many of the same questions in person during the physical inspection. Due to improvements in our licensing software, the Department can capture the data from the harvest questionnaire and enter it at the time of the physical inspection and remove the need for, and confusion from, requiring hunters to submit a questionnaire subsequent to the physical inspection.

Finally, the Department proposes eliminating the requirement for hunters to physically check harvested bighorn sheep ewes with Department personnel. The data collected during a physical inspection does not warrant the imposition on hunters and the elimination of the inspection will reduce work load on personnel.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the Commission **VOTE TO ADOPT THE LANGUAGE IN COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION 478, PENDING LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION APPROVAL.**

**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

Department for inspection is not required to submit the questionnaire that is issued with a big game tag. **Section 4** of this regulation makes conforming changes.

Section 1. NAC 502.345 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.345 1. Unless his or her privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident of Nevada or nonresident is eligible to apply for a tag to hunt for a ram from one or more of the following subspecies of bighorn sheep:

- (a) Nelson bighorn sheep;
- (b) California bighorn sheep; or
- (c) Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep,

↪ if, in the immediately preceding 10 years, he or she did not receive a tag or replacement tag to hunt for a ram from that subspecies of bighorn sheep.

2. Unless his or her privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident of Nevada or nonresident is eligible to apply for a tag to hunt for a ewe from one or more of the following subspecies of bighorn sheep:

- (a) Nelson bighorn sheep;
- (b) California bighorn sheep; or
- (c) Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep,

↪ if, in the immediately preceding 2 years, he or she did not receive a tag or replacement tag to hunt for a ewe from that subspecies of bighorn sheep.

3. *A person whose application for a tag to hunt for a ewe is successfully drawn must complete an online course provided by the Department in the gender identification of bighorn sheep before the Department may issue the tag.*

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:

502.405 1. ~~{Unless otherwise provided by an annual regulation of the Commission, the}~~

The properly completed questionnaire issued as part of a big game tag or the information required by the questionnaire must be received by the Department not later than the deadline established in an annual regulation of the Commission.

2. A person who fails to return the questionnaire or the information required by the questionnaire on or before the deadline or who submits incomplete or false information on the questionnaire will be denied all big game tags for 1 year. A person who is ineligible for a big game tag pursuant to this subsection may have those privileges reinstated if the person:

(a) Pays to the Department an administrative fine of \$50; and

(b) Submits to the Department the properly completed questionnaire issued as part of the big game tag or the information required by the questionnaire, all of which must be received on or before the deadline for the application for the main drawing.

3. A person who presents the skull and horns of a ram bighorn sheep, the skull, hide and any edible portion of a mountain goat or its carcass, the skull and hide of a mountain lion or the skull and hide of a black bear to a representative of the Department for inspection pursuant to NAC 502.345, 502.364, 502.370 or 502.373, as applicable, may provide the information required by the questionnaire to the Department at the time of inspection. If a person provides such information at the time of inspection, he or she is not required to submit the completed questionnaire issued as part of the big game tag.

Sec. 4. NAC 502.42694 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.