

NDOW CHALLENGED

In light of the controversy that has been ongoing between members of the State Wildlife Commission and those within the Nevada Department of Wildlife for the last two or three years, I would like to issue a challenge to Director Kenneth Mayer and other officials heading up NDOW.

First, Information you have been supplying regarding historical deer harvests within Nevada seems to differ a great deal from that which we have obtained over the years. So that misunderstandings can be resolved, could you please supply us with copies of those documents indicating the total number of mule deer buck tags which were allocated within the State of Nevada for each year beginning in 1945 through 2010; the total number of mule deer doe tags that were allocated within the state of Nevada for each year beginning in 1945 through 2010; the total number of mule deer bucks that were harvested each year beginning in 1945 through 2010; and the total number of mule deer does that were harvested each year beginning in 1945 through 2010.

Second, I ask that you participate in a study comparing two areas for purpose of determining sage grouse populations and statues. The first area being lands owned by the Sorensen Family near Secret Pass where livestock grazing has occurred in a traditional manner for many, many years, as compared to lands encompassing approximately fourteen thousand acres that are located mid way up Mary's River drainage where no livestock have been allowed for fourteen or fifteen years now.

If it can be shown that sage grouse production is greater in the area where livestock grazing has been eliminated on the Mary's River than it is on privately owned lands where a ranching family has continued to graze their livestock unrestricted by governmental regulations, perhaps then we will agree that livestock grazing should be restricted for the purpose of protecting sage grouse.

Third, I suggest that there be one large area (roughly the size of Area 10) set aside here in Nevada, where the livestock grazing and predator control practices similar to that which occurred in the 1940's 50's and 60's be re-implemented for a period of twenty or more years for the purpose of seeing just what would happen in terms of wildlife production.

And forth, I suggest that a study be completed determining the nutritional value of black sage regrowth on plants that are grazed by domestic sheep on a regular basis, as compared to black sage plants that are protected and not grazing by domestic sheep on a regular basis. If this is done, it may explain one of the reasons why it was that sage grouse and mule deer did so well thirty to forty years ago.

And fifth, I suggest that you and your staff, take the time to address and answer the Findings of Facts Document that was submitted to your office on Oct. 26, 2010, by Elko County. Legitimate concerns have been raised regarding the validity of positions taken by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. It appears that, in too many cases policy adopted and positions taken by your agency during the last 25 to 30 years have been based on false assumptions – which may be the cause of much of the decrease in wildlife we have been experiencing during recent decades. Actions which are based on false assumptions generally fail.

If we on both sides of the issue of game management were to do this, quite possibly, some of the questions standing between us could be resolved, and common goals could be pursued.