



Presented to the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, July 27, 2004  
By Cecil Fredi

I am being told that Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW's) legislative proposals have already been submitted. If this is true, then this board, along with others, have been treated worse than a mushroom. They have kept you in the dark, but failed to throw you their b.s in time for you to do anything about it.. If you choose to oppose any of NDOW's bill proposals, you will have to do that at the Legislature because the proposals have already been submitted. It appears that the advisory boards were conveniently left out on some of their proposals and for this reason, it is apparent that they didn't want your opinion because as usual, your opinion doesn't count. The Game Bureau was told all of their bill draft proposals would have to be submitted to the Legislative Committee for approval. However, **only** Law Enforcement proposals weren't required to be submitted to the Legislative Committee for approval. Law enforcement proposals were sent directly for bill draft regardless

of what the Committee decided. Perhaps after you review the Legislative Committee's proposals, you may want to submit a petition to change the name from the **Nevada Department of Wildlife to the Nevada Department of Law Enforcement!**

Sportsmen, not taxpayers, fund 97 percent of this agency. However, it is more of a law enforcement agency than a fish and game agency. Currently there are one hundred forty ways a warden can cite a sportsman and apparently this is not enough. They have proposed thirty-six pages with almost all of it being for more law enforcement for the upcoming legislative session. Since 1988 we have lost seventy percent of our deer herds. Yet their legislative package does nothing to address this problem. They present a weak and I want to emphasize, very weak excuse as to why all this mess is necessary. It is too bad they didn't work that hard on bringing back our deer but

they don't know how.

There were three attorneys on the four member Legislative Committee when this proposal was drawn up. With these new law enforcement proposals, it appears that they are trying to drum up a little business for themselves. You have been given their proposed legislation. Their proposals have a ring of law enforcement and laziness, not promoting or propagating wildlife.

Exhibit One: NDOW wants its own land. Currently lands are held by the Division of State Lands and NDOW want their land to be exempt from this provision. They must want private hunting and fishing areas for their employees. They admit there have been no adverse effects in the past so why is a change necessary now? What are they up to?

Exhibit Two: This is so bad I'm going to read this so those in attendance will hear how bad this agency has become. Section

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## Are Cougars Deerslayers?

Reprinted from *Outdoor Life*, June/July 2004

If cougars do reclaim the Eastern U.S., will they eat all the deer? The commonly accepted answer is that cougars kill one deer per week on average. The calculation dates from a 1959 study. More recent studies have validated this estimate, but they have also shown that there are many variables. For example, **cougars have to kill more often in warmer climates, where meat spoils,** says David Stoner, graduate research assistant with the Department of Forestry, Range, and Wildlife of Utah State University, who currently has a small population of wild cougars collared with GPS tracking devices. Recently in Yellowstone National Park, where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reintroduced wolves to the ecosystem, **cougars have had to kill more often because the wolves are stealing the cougars' kills,** according to Stoner. But cougars don't eat only deer. They are opportunists. Studies have found that they'll eat everything--including porcupines or your dog.

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Now let's put this into perspective. According to the article, the commonly accepted statistic is that cougars kill one deer per week on average. Go to the Nevada Department of Wildlife website and they state there are 3,000 mountain lions in our state. So, 3,000 lions times 52 weeks in the year means the lions are killing 156,000 deer each year in the state of Nevada. Let's cut

that number in half so the lions are only killing 78,000 deer per year. Let's cut that in half again so the lions are now killing 39,000 deer per year in our state. Let's cut that number in half once again so the now the lions are only killing 19,500 deer per year in our state. Well, let's go ahead and cut it in half again and now the lions are only killing 9,750 deer per year in our state. So now we have cut the original number in half 4 times and guess what? **The lions are still killing 60 percent more deer in our state than the hunters did last year.** At a predator control subcommittee meeting, Johnny Filipini stated that the "lions are eating our deer, not pizza." But the person in charge of this mess, Terry Crawford, still doesn't get it. Nor do the Wildlife commissioners who follow him. Clint Bentley, who holds the title (in name only) as sportsman on the Wildlife Commission, voted against a proposal which would have come closer to filling existing lion quota numbers. Is anyone in NDOW with some authority going to do something about this. Hell, no. They are more interested in how much their pension check is going to be when they retire. Is anyone on the Wildlife Commission going to do anything about it? Hell, no. They have patted themselves on the back so much for all of their non-accomplishments, they are subject to getting carpal tunnel syndrome. **The sportsmen in our state harvested a whopping 5,982 deer last year compared to 26,784 in 1988.** This should prove we have some incompetent people in charge of our game management and it is not the biologists.