

# SHED ANTLER UPDATE

March 9, 2011

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF  
WILDLIFE  
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT



# Overview

## ➤ The issue

- Demand/Value
- Impacts
- Nevada Status
  - Legal
  - What is occurring in Nevada

## ➤ The solution

# DEMAND

- Personal use
- Knife handles
- Interior decorating (chandeliers, furniture, cabinet knobs, etc.)
- Trophy value





TRIPLE TAIL ELK/MULE DEER  
CHANDELIER

Lights 24

Diameter 62" - 68"

Height 75" - 80"

Price \$8489



**Elk 279**

Very nice set of 6x6 antlers. Minor tip chips, but NO breaks or chews. Late find so these are faded on one side, brown on other. Make an exceptional mount or display. Mains are **47 3/4" & 48 3/4"**. Rough score of **333-337** with a 38"-42" spread. These are BIG antlers.

**\$450**

L-5

# DEMAND?



# VALUE

## ➤ Deer

- \$5 - \$20 per pound
- Matched set \$5,000 plus

## ➤ Elk

- \$6 - \$16 per pound

# Antler Value Outdoor Life Article (March 2011)

“An avid shed hunter  
can make fifteen  
thousand dollars a  
year”

Value range of  
trophy quality  
\$1,500 to \$19,000

Snapshots  
NEWS

FIELD REPORT

## Searching for Sheds

Sportsmen comb the backcountry for potential profit **BY BRIAN McCOMBIE**

EVERY SPRING, A NEW BREED of hunters descends upon the foothills of the Rocky Mountains—shed hunters, looking for antlers dropped during the winter by white-tails, mule deer and elk. It's not just a fun hobby; it's a money-making opportunity.



For complete article see Outdoor Life  
<http://www.outdoorlife.com/>

Article on file at the Research Library.  
[library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us)

March 13, 2011 [www.outdoorlife.com](http://www.outdoorlife.com)

Antler Rendezvous, Jackson Hole, WY, May 27-30, elkfest.org

Even so, he adds, that guy who gathered up 200 pounds of antlers while on vacation still made \$1,200.



# IMPACTS

- Excessive harassment of animals on winter range
  - Actually chase animals in an effort to cause antler drop
  - Causing wildlife in feeding in area move to less desirable forage areas
  - Preclude wildlife from the area all together

# IMPACTS (cont)

- Force wildlife to deplete energy reserves
- Off road travel = habitat destruction
- Flying for sheds

# Nevada

- White Pine & Lincoln County sportsmen expressed concern about impacts of shed antler hunting in 1987
- Together we explored options

# Nevada

## Current Legal Status:

**NRS 503.010 Manner of hunting or trapping: Unlawful use of aircraft, helicopter, motor-driven vehicle or boat.**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section or subsection 2 of [NRS 503.005](#), it is unlawful to molest, rally, stir up or drive any game mammals or game birds with an aircraft, helicopter or motor-driven vehicle, including a motorboat or sailboat.

# SPECIAL SHED OPERATION

- During Spring 2008, four extended patrol operations conducted in Lincoln and White Pine counties
- Ground patrol with air support, to maximize contacts with shed hunters
- Educational component with advance radio spots, OGT trailer deployment, informational flyers, giveaways

# PROJECT GOALS

- Limit resource damage
- Document and minimize negative impacts to wintering big game (intentional harassment)
- Increase public awareness to habitat damage through irresponsible use of ATV's
- Increase public awareness of stress on wintering big game due to human activity





# Hunt Shed Antlers Responsibly

Shed hunting is a great way to get outdoors, appreciate nature and spend time with friends and family, but like every activity, there is a right and a wrong way to hunt shed antlers.

## Do

- Tread lightly on animal habitat, respect the animal's space
- Stay clear of sick, injured, cornered wildlife
- Report injured animals and wildlife harassment to NDOW
- Wait for antlers to shed naturally
- Stay on designated roads and trails

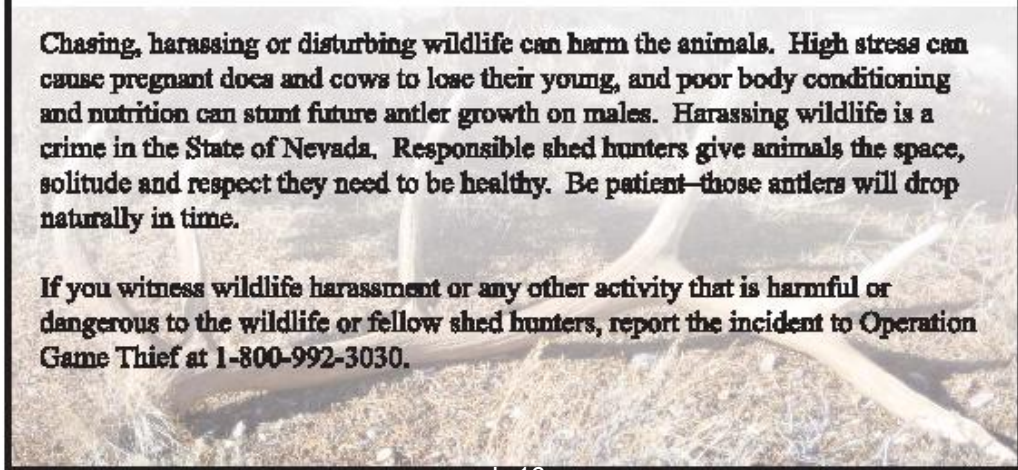


## Don't

- Do not chase animals on foot or with any motorized vehicles
- Do not allow your dog to chase wildlife -- it is a crime
- Do not operate off road vehicles in wilderness areas
- Do not harass wildlife to get their antlers to drop off prematurely
- Do not litter, destroy or harm the habitat of the animals

Chasing, harassing or disturbing wildlife can harm the animals. High stress can cause pregnant does and cows to lose their young, and poor body conditioning and nutrition can stunt future antler growth on males. Harassing wildlife is a crime in the State of Nevada. Responsible shed hunters give animals the space, solitude and respect they need to be healthy. Be patient—those antlers will drop naturally in time.

If you witness wildlife harassment or any other activity that is harmful or dangerous to the wildlife or fellow shed hunters, report the incident to Operation Game Thief at 1-800-992-3030.



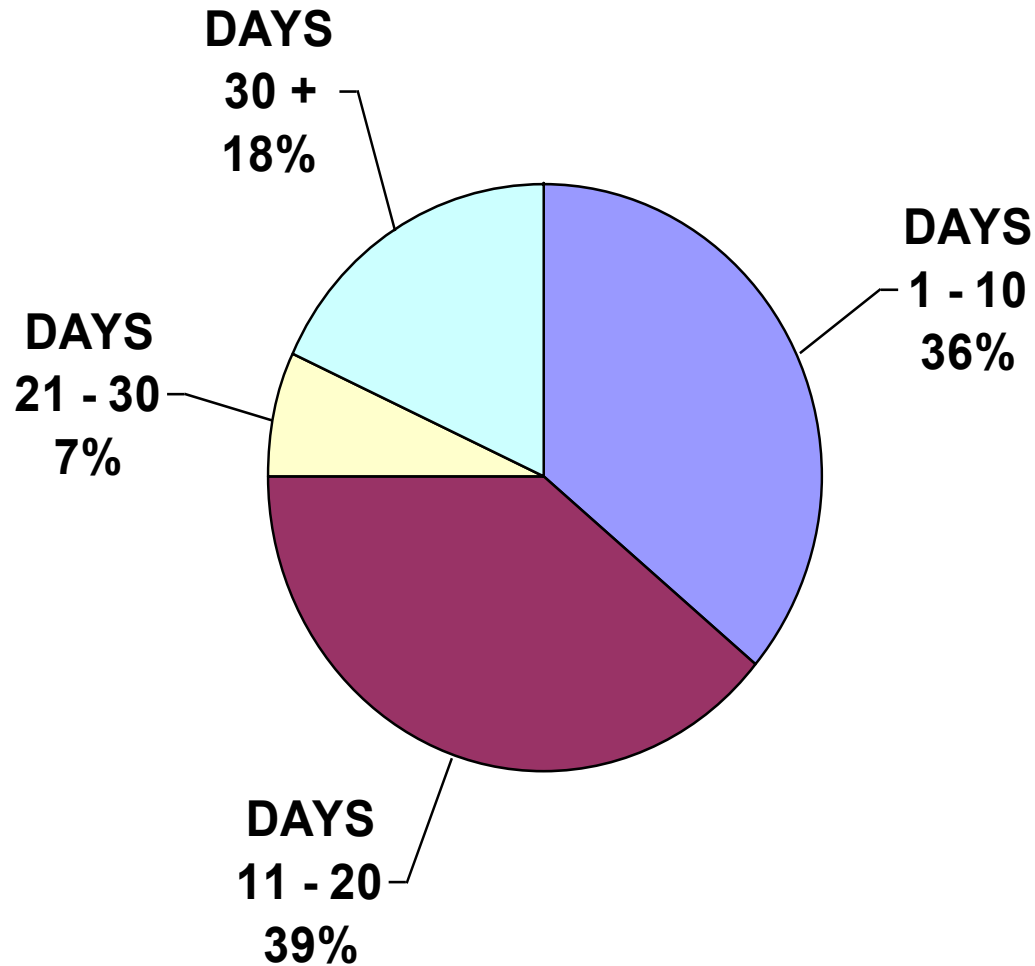




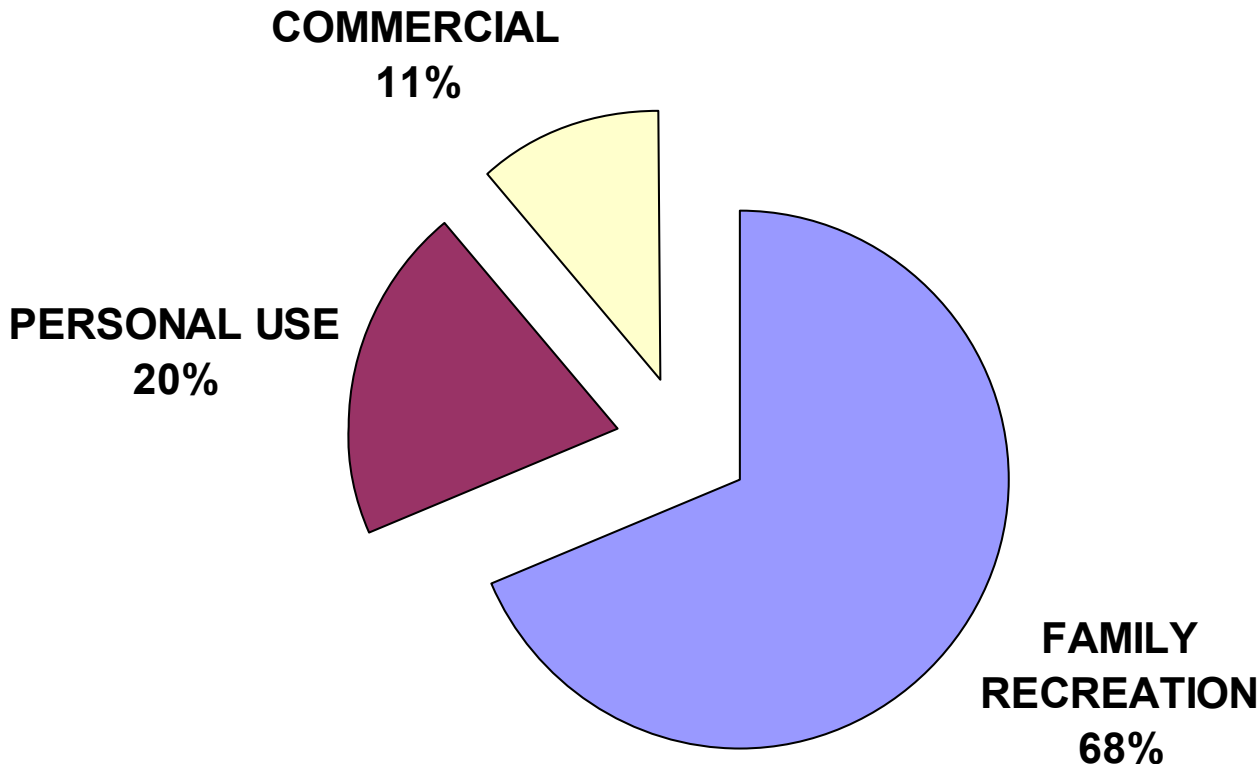
# RESULTS

- 247 contacts
  - Most all surveyed
- Project cost
  - \$28,460.65

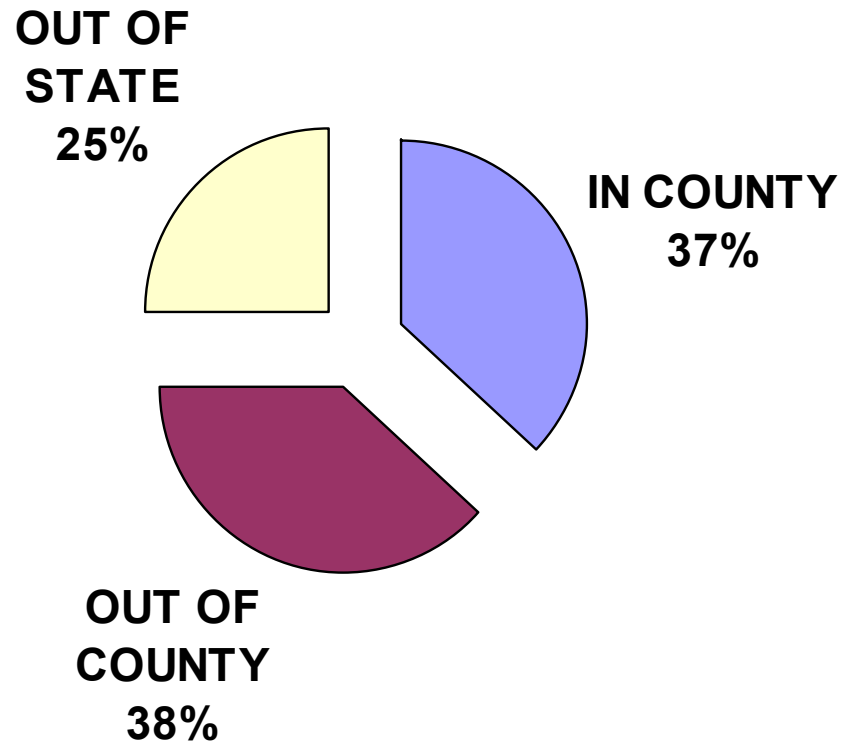
# TIME SPENT SHED HUNTING



# PURPOSE



# SHED HUNTER RESIDENCE



# What SB 102 can do for wildlife?

- Provide NDOW with authority to regulate shed antler hunting
- Protect Nevada's wildlife and habitat

# QUESTIONS?