

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

**501.097 ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

**NRS 501.097 "Wildlife" defined.** As used in this Title, "wildlife" means any wild mammal, wild bird, fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk or crustacean found naturally in a wild state, whether indigenous to Nevada or not and whether raised in captivity or not.  
(Added to NRS by 1969, 1350; A 1987, 560; 1991, 259)

**NRS 501.100 Legislative declaration regarding wildlife.**

1. Wildlife in this state not domesticated and in its natural habitat is part of the natural resources belonging to the people of the State of Nevada.
2. The preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife within the state contribute immeasurably to the aesthetic, recreational and economic aspects of these natural resources.  
[Part 8:101:1947; A 1949, 292; 1943 NCL § 3035.08]—(NRS A 1969, 1347)

**NEVADA CASES.**

**Section recognizes recreational value of wildlife and providing water to wildlife is beneficial use of water.** On cross-appeal from order of the district court reversing the state engineer's grant of applications by the United States for appropriate water rights in Blue Lake for recreational, stock-watering and wildlife-watering purposes, the court held that wildlife watering is encompassed in the NRS 533.030 definition of recreation as a beneficial use of water. NRS 501.100 recognizes the recreational value of wildlife and NRS 501.181 and 533.367 recognize the need to provide wildlife with water. NRS 533.030 indicates that the legislature intended the provision to include wildlife watering under the rubric of recreation as a beneficial use of water. The court concluded that providing water to wildlife is a beneficial use of water. State, Bd. of Agriculture v. Morros, 104 Nev. 709, 766 P.2d 263 (1988)

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINIONS.**

**Citizen has right to fish in public streams but cannot interfere with rights of abutting property owners.** A citizen has the right to fish in public streams, but cannot trespass or otherwise interfere with the rights of abutting property owners. AGO (5-20-1909)

**Wild animals running at large belong to the state, yet when killed are possessed by the person killing them subject to game laws.** Wild animals running at large belong to the state, yet when killed they are reduced to the possession of the person killing them subject to whatever game laws the state may have enacted. AGO 49 (6-8-1943)

**Fish and game resources are public in nature and subject to protection by state.** The fish and game law proceeds on the theory that fish and game resources are public in nature and subject to protection by the state. AGO 200 (5-10-1945)

**All fish in their habitat belong to people to be taken as provided by law.** All fish in their habitat belong to the people of the state, to be taken as provided by law. AGO 338 (6-24-1954)

**"Fish derbies" for children, using fish propagated at hatcheries supported by public money, are illegal.** "Fish derbies" conducted by county game management boards exclusively for children and using fish propagated at hatcheries supported from public funds are illegal. AGO 411 (10-2-1958)

**Fish propagated at state hatcheries are part of state resources and taking thereof must be under state laws.** Fish propagated at state hatcheries, although distributed or planted in various lakes, streams, ponds and other waters of Nevada are part of the natural resources of the state and the taking thereof shall be under the laws of Nevada. AGO 411 (10-2-1958)

**No special group entitled to exclusive rights in state fish and game resources.** NRS 501.100, which provides that fish and game in Nevada are part of the natural resources of Nevada and belong to the people of this state, means that the people of Nevada are entitled to share equally in these resources with no exclusive rights being granted to any special group. AGO 411 (10-2-1958)

**NRS 501.102 Legislative declaration regarding hunting.** The legislature

declares that hunting permitted by law in this state:

1. Is a valuable activity in the management of game mammals and game birds.
2. Results in financial support for conservation programs that benefit many species, including nongame wildlife.