

On Oct 1, 2020, at 10:37 AM, Becky Dwire <beckydwire@gmail.com> wrote:

Good morning CAB chairmen, I hope this email finds you well.

My name is Becky Dwire and I'm an avid Nevada sportsman, I also do a lot of conservation work with various organizations around Nevada and surrounding states. The reason I'm emailing is I'm looking to try and get a bill introduced into the 2021 legislative session, regarding including using blood tracking dogs to recover wounded large game animals in Nevada. As you know Nevada is considered a "trophy" state for many of our game animal species, because of that we have long draw wait periods before hunters can draw a tag. This is a great system but unfortunately, that can also cause people to be dishonest in their harvesting. For example, wounding an animal and if they can't find it with reasonable effort, continuing to hunt instead of doing the ethical thing and punching their tag on an unrecovered animal. I believe the use of blood trailing dogs could exponentially increase the amount of recovered game. As you know our deer and elk herds are struggling, especially the deer herd. We should be supporting any and all methods that could reduce wasted, injured, and overtake of game animals. I conducted an unofficial "poll" of Nevada hunters on this subject The results were as follows
154- said yes, absolutely.

6- were against the idea.

Obviously the majority of that group should support and would be quite excited about the change of law.

These dogs take an incredible amount of time and training to be successful and not disturb other animals. Most of them are worked on a long lead and are under complete control at all times. Other states are allowing this process with wild success rates, its time Nevada joined the ranks, we owe it to our wildlife and our sportsman.

I have included a short piece about the statistics of game tracking success from "deersearch.org" it reflects the following; " A South Carolina study conducted by Richard Morton to determine the efficiency of archery equipment in conjunction with tracking dogs. In his study, 22 experienced archers shot 61 deer (29 bucks, 29 does, 3 fawns). Twenty of the deer (32.8 percent) fell within sight of the hunters. If bow hunters didn't see their deer fall, the services of a trained tracking dog were utilized one hour after the shot. In total, 60 out of the 61 deer (98 percent) were found within 24 hours of being shot. The one deer that wasn't recovered was reportedly hit in a non-vital area. Morton also found that most deer reacted to being shot by taking off with their tails down (72 percent) and left a blood trail (68 percent), blood spots (23 percent), rumen material (5 percent), bone fragments (2 percent), meat (1 percent), and hair (1 percent). The average distance traveled by a shot deer was 109 yards. Most deer were not spooked (96 percent) during the search. In fact, 95 percent of the harvested deer were found dead. It took an average of 30 minutes to recover a deer once the dogs were released and 95 percent were found within 4 hours.

Morton concluded, "Our results do confirm that archery hunting can be a highly efficient means of harvesting white-tailed deer when shot selection and shooting skills are emphasized and using trailing dogs is required as part of an organized management approach."

Another study in South Carolina by Charles Ruth, Deer Project Supervisor for the South Carolina DNR, also reflected the benefits of using trained dogs. Hunters in this study used rifles rather than bows. As in Morton's

study, trained tracking dogs were brought in to recover animals that ran beyond the hunters' sight. A total of 493 deer were harvested – 305 bucks and 188 does. Ruth determined that trained trailing dogs deserved credit for the recovery of 15 to 20 percent of all those deer"

The reason I am talking to you about this is I am requesting letters of support to bring before the Wildlife advisory commission board and then move on up the legislative chain. Please feel free to reach back out to me for more information and or to give your CABs support. Thank you for your time.

Becky Dwire