

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 503—COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Revises certain provisions governing the
conservation of habitat for wildlife. (BDR 45-1091)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to wildlife; imposing certain habitat conservation fees; authorizing a person who accesses a wildlife management area and who is not the holder of an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license to pay an annual habitat conservation fee; revising certain provisions governing the use of money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law provides that, in addition to any fee charged and collected for an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license, a \$3 habitat conservation fee must be paid. The proceeds from this fee must be deposited in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account and must be used for wildlife habitat rehabilitation and restoration. (NRS 502.242) **Section 2** of this bill sets the habitat conservation fee at \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. In addition, **section 2** authorizes a person accessing a wildlife conservation area who is not the holder of a hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license to pay an annual habitat conservation fee of \$5 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. **Section 2** also provides that, each year, not more than 18 percent of the money credited to the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account from any revenue received from those habitat conservation fees may be used to monitor wildlife and its habitat for the purposes of wildlife habitat rehabilitation and restoration. **Section 3** of this bill revises the authority of the Board of Wildlife Commissioners concerning the use of a wildlife management area by a person who pays the annual habitat conservation fee.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 2. NRS 502.242 is hereby amended to read as follows:

502.242 1. In addition to any fee charged and collected for an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license pursuant to NRS 502.240, a habitat conservation fee ~~of \$3~~ must be paid ~~in the amount of \$5 for a resident and \$10 for a nonresident.~~

2. *A person accessing a wildlife management area who is not the holder of an annual hunting, trapping, fishing or combined hunting and fishing license may pay an annual habitat conservation fee in the amount of \$5 for a resident and \$10 for a nonresident.*

3. The Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account is hereby created in the State General Fund. Revenue from the habitat conservation fee must be accounted for separately, deposited with the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account and, except as otherwise provided in *this subsection and* NRS 502.294 and 502.310, used by the Department for the purposes of wildlife habitat rehabilitation and restoration. *Each year, not more than 18 percent of the money credited to the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account from any revenue received pursuant to subsections 1 and 2 may be used to monitor wildlife and its habitat for those purposes.* The interest and income earned on the money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account, after deducting any applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

~~3-1~~ 4. The money in the Wildlife Obligated Reserve Account remains in the Account and does not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

Sec. 3. NRS 504.143 is hereby amended to read as follows:

504.143 1. To effectuate a coordinated and balanced program resulting in the maximum revival of wildlife in the State and in the maximum recreational advantages to the people of the State, the Commission has created and maintains state-owned wildlife management areas, and, in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Interior and other federal agencies, has created and maintains other cooperative wildlife management areas.

2. The Commission may permit hunting, fishing or trapping on or within, or access to, occupancy and use of, areas so created and maintained.

3. The Commission may by regulation:



1 (a) Establish, extend, shorten or abolish open seasons and closed
2 seasons within such areas.

3 (b) Establish, change or abolish bag and creel limits and
4 possession limits in such areas.

5 (c) Prescribe the manner and the means of taking wildlife in
6 such areas.

7 (d) Establish, change or abolish restrictions in such areas based
8 upon sex, maturity or other physical distinctions.

9 (e) *Prescribe the manner of using such areas for a person*
10 *who pays the annual habitat conservation fee pursuant to*
11 *NRS 502.242.*

12 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2011.

