



December 2022, Issue 372

## Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Lunch Program: elections for Officers and Directors

### Three Gun Shoot Cancelled

At the Board meeting it was decided to cancel the final shoot of the year, for a few key reasons. 1. The honcho Steve Pierce will not be in the country on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 2. No one has a machine gun to shoot 3. **Tony Perkins** has the **Marksman of the Year** wrapped up as no one can mathematically catch him in the standings and Tony also has the **All Around** category wrapped up as no one can mathematically catch him. So rather than have a competition we will use the already reserved range time for members open range. The range at the education center is open from 8am-12pm come out and shoot as you please. Maybe the steel targets could be available as we had a fun time at the turkey shoot? That will depend on if Jeff Bryant shows up to open the conex box.

### Governor Elect Joe Lombardo selects MIKE REESE to be on his Transition Team

Joe made good on his campaign promise to make sure sportsmen will have a seat at the table by appointing Mike to Transition Team. There are some VERY big names on the list comprising the Transition Team, past senators, casino CEO's and prominent leaders in the state. Mike is now playing with the big boys But better than that, Mike is not just one of 15 or so members of the transition team he was selected to CHAIR the Environmental, Land and Wildlife Committee. Mike will chair of group of 10-15 folks on this committee to make critical decisions for things we all value the environment, the open lands and wildlife. Mike will have an integral say in who gets appointed to replace Tony Wasley who just resigned as head of NDOW.



Josh White killed a coues deer in AZ with Cody Boor Josh's son Jack White got his FIRST deer this year in NV, that's what we like to see the tradition being carried forward!



Next meeting Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 11:45 at LV National Golf Club located at 1911 E Desert Inn Road (near Eastern) price \$20



# Presidents Message...Steve Peirce

To all Woods and Water Club Members, Officers, and the Board of Directors, I want to say thank you for the opportunity to serve the Club. As a newcomer to Las Vegas in 2019, you welcomed me to participate, join in and contribute to the organization. I greatly appreciated that, and it was fun to spend quality time with real men. So many of you are veterans, former police officers, elected officials and you exemplify what a real patriot / engaged citizen is. What was once quite common, it has become a lost art, much like common sense.

As a group, you are some of the best hunters, fishermen, outdoorsmen and you are willing to pass that on to younger generations. There is nothing more noble than a willingness to give back to the youth or individuals that want to learn from you.

While the LVWW Club may fly below the radar screen in terms of National awareness, the members and the organization exemplify so much of what is needed today in our Country. Keep up the fun, the comradery, the sportsmanship, the competition and the banter among members. You guys are in an amazing place with the opportunity to etch a very deep legacy for youth and incoming sportsmen. I encourage the officers, the board and membership to continue the good and improve on the needed items when identified. You guys have a great future and opportunity to expand upon the legacy.

Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve and be a part of your great organization. As I move to Portugal, you will be greatly missed.

**Steve Peirce President 2022**      “All we want to do is hunt and fish and talk about it.”

Pres	Dave Talaga	Board of Directors (3 yr term)
1VP	Jeff Bryant	1.
2VP	John Mitteness	2.
Treas	M Reese	3.
Sec	Roger Palmer	4.
Warden	Steve Reiter	5.
GameBag	Robert Gaudet	



There are a few quail out there if you know where to look and can run them down. One lucky LVWW member got into some birds a couple weeks ago.



Old boys club in AZ shooting dove  
Ken Johnson, Al Schoelen, John Mitteness

# In Washington State, Hunters May No Longer Be “Necessary to Manage Wildlife”

An emerging wildlife war has its first skirmish this week in Spokane, where a reformist group is looking to deprioritize hunting and hunters

By [Andrew McKean](#) | Published Nov 7, 2022 5:10 PM

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With more predators and a new philosophy on wildlife, hunters in Washington could see a decreasing role in management. John Hafner SHARE Colville, Washington like a lot of bare-knuckle Western towns, with dusty pickups parked at family businesses, government agencies stabilizing the boombust ranch-and-timber economy, and a string of fast-food franchises along U.S. Highway 395 that heads north to Canada. It's the late general season for deer this week in northeast Washington, but this year hunters aren't seeing nearly as many elk or pine-ridge whitetails as usual.

They mostly blame [wolves](#) that have moved into this rural corner of Washington over the past decade and the increasing number of cougars that are no longer staying way out in the Colville National Forest. Instead, lions have been coming closer to town, following the scarcity of deer right down to the city limits. Locals cite the [ambush of a 9-year-old girl](#) playing hide-and-seek in the town of Fruitland, about 45 miles southwest of Colville, in June as evidence that cougars need to be more aggressively managed by the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

When the Fish and Wildlife Commission [met in Colville last week](#), they were welcomed sarcastically to the “center of wolf recovery” by members of a pro-hunting organization called Northeast Washington Wildlife Group. But the commission also heard from predator advocates, represented by members of [Washington Wildlife First](#), a non-profit founded last year whose [mission](#) is “transforming the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife from a model of consumptive use” to one that “prioritizes the preservation of natural ecosystems.” For Washington Wildlife First, the increase in predators isn't problematic; instead, it's indicative of a healthy ecosystem.

Tension between the two camps was palpable at the Colville meeting, says Commissioner Kim Thorburn, a retired public-health physician from Spokane and self-described “non-hunting hippie from San Francisco.”

“We had people from the community begging us to pay attention to the changes they're seeing on the ground,” says Thorburn, the longest-serving member of the 9-person commission. “They feel that large carnivores are impacting hunting and livelihoods. We heard people say they don't let their kids stand out at isolated school bus stops any more. We heard hunters say the deer numbers are going way down. They were asking the department to be more responsive.”

But a new majority of the Washington commission doesn't recognize those pleas as a problem. They're among an insurgent type of wildlife official that wants to transform state fish-and-game departments across the country into agencies that “emphasize the intrinsic value of individual animals and healthy ecosystems.” That

realignment would deemphasize hunting as a wildlife management tool and devote more agency resources to non-hunted and fished species.

This movement, championed by a small but influential group based in New Mexico called [Wildlife For All](#), borrows from a number of allies, including animal-rights, rewilding, and deep ecology campaigns, few adherents of which have previously been involved in the day-to-day business of fish-and-game management. But with the appointment earlier this year of three “preservationist” commissioners in Washington, reformers now hold a 5-4 majority on the board. In March, they succeeded in [closing Washington’s spring bear season](#), despite recommendations from agency staff that the hunt was ecologically sustainable and despite opposition from Thorburn and three other commissioners.

Groups aligned with these freshman commissioners held an invitation-only [retreat](#) last month to discuss strategies to “reform” the agency. Their agenda, since removed from their website, calls for the same “conservation over consumption” orientation championed by Washington Wildlife First.

## Battle Lines in Spokane



Wolf management is just the beginning of the wildlife war in Washington state. *Getty Images*

Colville’s place as the center of wildlife controversy may be replaced by Spokane this week. An hour and a half to the south, Spokane is the site of the annual conference of [The Wildlife Society](#), the largest group of working wildlife biologists in the country. About 2,000 wildlife professionals have registered for the week-long conference that started Sunday, the first since Covid-19 shut down public gatherings.

The conference’s agenda is packed with wonky topics such as “Spatial Ecology and Modeling,” “Conservation of Native Pollinators in Managed Forest Ecosystems,” and “Biometrics and Population Monitoring.”

But it’s not just deer managers, vole researchers, and habitat-improvement vendors who have descended on downtown Spokane’s [Davenport Grand hotel](#). Washington Wildlife First is here, too, hosting a reception tonight (Monday, Nov. 7). And they’ll be back on Thursday, participating in a panel discussion titled “Transforming State Wildlife Management to Be More Ecologically Focused, Democratic, and Compassionate.” That panel is moderated by Kevin Bixby, the head of Wildlife For All.

All this is too much for Brian Lynn. The vice president of marketing and communications for the [Sportsmen’s Alliance](#), Lynn has called on some sponsors of the conference to pull their support, claiming that TWS is “allowing an organization intent on destroying a century of scientific management to air their anti-hunting beliefs at a national conference to a roomful of biologists.”

In a [letter](#) published Oct. 24, Lynn compared The Wildlife Society’s conference with another convention held in Spokane 19 years ago, the divisive session of the [Outdoor Writers Association of America](#). The normally uncontroversial gathering of outdoor journalists cleaved that year along ideological fault lines as [gun-rights groups lambasted](#) the OWAA for accommodating environmental groups such as the Sierra Club. The rift ultimately spawned the creation of gun- and hunting-friendly [Professional Outdoor Media Association](#).

“This is the first domino,” says Lynn (a former *Outdoor Life* editor) of the inclusion of animal-rights groups in The Wildlife Society convention, the marquee event for wildlife biologists. “Giving these anti-hunting groups a

platform and an audience at a conference is in the playbook for breaking our conservation model. They want to eliminate predator hunting and with that our ungulate herds will decline and [the states will] sell fewer hunting licenses, and then agency funding will go away and then they'll get their wish to have a new mandate."

For his part, The Wildlife Society's CEO, Ed Arnett, says the Washington group, as well as Wildlife For All, are welcome at the conference as long as they abide by rules of decorum and procedure and align with the group's foundation in scientific inquiry.

"Our conference is open to all organizations and persons who are interested in wildlife resources and subscribe to our principles, bylaws, and code of ethics," says Arnett, who doesn't expect any open confrontation between groups. "We don't want to exclude any organizations and voices simply because they have a difference of opinion—radical as it might seem to some."

But Lynn and Thorburn both maintain the agency-reform groups' ideology runs counter to TWS's position, published in 2020, that concludes "foundational elements of the animal rights philosophy contradict the principles that have led to the recognized successes of wildlife management in North America."

"Their stated positions plus their rejection of science should disqualify" both Washington Wildlife First and Wildlife For All from attendance, let alone hosting events, that give the appearance their positions are in the mainstream, says Lynn.

## A Rising Divide

Spokane may be the flash point for this collision of values surrounding wildlife management in America, but it's a conflict that has been arcing for decades, and has approached ignition in the past two years.

How do state wildlife agencies, funded primarily by anglers and hunters who buy licenses and tags, accommodate citizens with an interest in ecosystems, wildlife, and recreational access but who don't hunt, fish, or contribute financially to conservation? And how do agencies remain relevant as America becomes more demographically diverse and we lose fish and wildlife habitat at an alarming rate? That's the context for an ambitious project that started in 2018 and looked for ways state fish-and-game agencies could remain solvent and meaningful—both culturally and politically.

The [Relevancy Roadmap](#), a deep investigation led by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies into strategies to broaden the base of conservation in America, concluded that groups like Wildlife For All, the Sierra Club, Sportsmen's Alliance, the NRA, and Northeast Washington Wildlife Group all have a role to play in how we manage fish and wildlife through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

"The Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap charts the beginning of a new era focused on expanding the relevance of conservation to more diverse constituencies," says the official Relevancy Roadmap report.

That sounds great in theory, but how do traditional wildlife managers—and the hunters and anglers who have for decades had the loudest or sometimes only voices in the allocation of resources—engage wildlife lovers who want to give every hunted animal a name? Or who believe that hunters are only interested in a game animal's trophy parts? Or who are actively working to push hunting into obscurity?

"This is a conversation that's been brewing for years, but nobody's been wanting to have it publicly," said an assistant agency director who didn't want to speak on the record. "We have an increasing mutualist population that we need to figure out how to deal with or they're going to deal with us. Ignoring or demonizing the population of Americans who cherish wildlife and value the habitats that they require is not the path forward."

As a percentage of the population, [fewer Americans](#) are hunting and fishing while the percentage of Americans who don't have a personal connection to the natural world is increasing. That doesn't mean Americans care less about wildlife. Instead of considering wild animals on a population scale, more Americans associate with wildlife as individuals, their affection reinforced by social media and a "[mutualist](#)" orientation that stresses the interdependence of species.

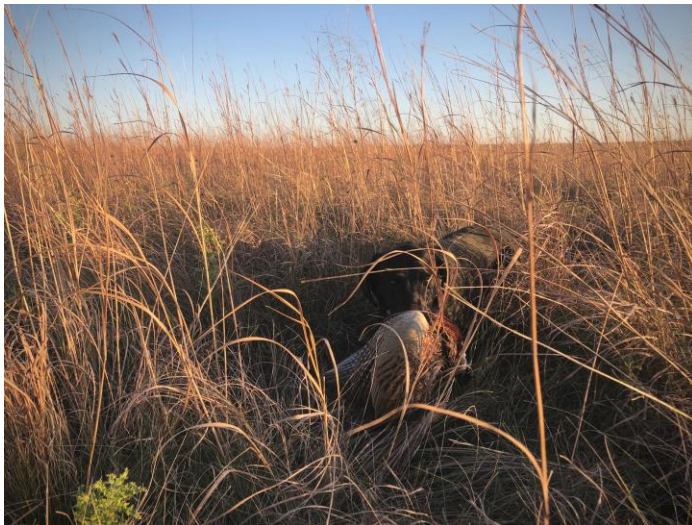
Recall the global outrage over the legal killing of [Cecil the Lion](#) back in 2015? That incendiary defense of wildlife—especially charismatic carnivores—is likely to increase in coming years as mutualism defines our national character. Few younger Americans appreciate the widespread ecological benefit that license-buying hunters and anglers have provided to non-hunted species. Meanwhile, the [number of license-buying hunters](#) is on a long-term slide. Compounding those structural problems is a collision of competing wildlife values amplified by the schisms that are increasingly dividing Americans along ethnic, cultural, and political lines.

As Jim Martin, the legendary Alabama conservationist, noted “wildlife has gone from the sports page to the front page,” as fish and game conflicts have become more politically volatile and influenced by social-justice dynamics including equity and inclusion.

While some traditional hunters may dismiss these perspectives as “woke” or overly sensitive, wildlife managers are wise to pay attention to how social trends influence their work, says Tony Wasley, director of Nevada's Department of Wildlife and a leader of the Relevancy Roadmap effort.

“Here's the challenge,” says Wasley. “In my state, less than three percent of our citizens are engaged in any kind of hunting activity. Only eight percent of the species that we are statutorily charged with managing are pursued recreationally by hunters. So we have this challenge of getting money and support from the other 97 percent of the citizens of Nevada to take care of the other 92 percent of the species that we manage. We cannot do this with hunters alone.”

## Who Funds Conservation?



A bird dog retrieves a rooster through a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program field. *Alex Robinson*

But hunters have historically been resistant to asking non-hunters to participate in either the funding or the management of wildlife in most states. Many vocal members of the sporting community have shot down the idea of a "[backpack tax](#)" that might broaden wildlife funding (top outdoor gear retailers have also resisted the tax). By perpetuating the narrative that hunters and anglers—through license fees—pay for most state-delivered conservation, they've managed to monopolize conversations about agency priorities.

“I've had sportsmen tell me point-blank that they don't want anyone else having an opportunity to pay because they don't want anybody to have an opportunity for a say,” says Nevada's Wasley. “That's the crux of it all. How can we get more people caring about wildlife, but not just caring about it in order to name it and save it?”

Wasley says neither pole is productive.

“You have the extreme traditional view that doesn’t want anyone else to be involved in wildlife decisions, whether that’s about trapping or predators or elk management,” says Wasley. “That’s a dictatorial position. But on the other end of the continuum you have folks who want to save every individual animal and shut out traditionalists. I come back to my state and maintain that if we can find those opportunities in the middle to get some of the 97 percent of the citizens to fund some of the 92 percent of the species that we’re responsible for, then we’ll have the capability to figure out how to manage those few species that are the most polarizing.”

Jim Heffelfinger puts the coming reallocation of resources in a sharper context.

“The majority of the public wants to see [large carnivores restored on the landscape](#), and it would be a huge mistake if hunters positioned themselves on the opposite side of that overwhelming desire,” says Heffelfinger, wildlife science coordinator for Arizona Game and Fish Department. “Elk herds in a lot of Western states are robust enough to provide meat for both the hunting community and large carnivores. Hunters have to be willing to give up some cow elk tags in the name of large carnivore restoration, which hurts me to say because my dad and sons value cow elk tags more than most families.”

Equally important, says Heffelfinger, the extreme protectionist groups will need to compromise and allow the management of large carnivore populations on the landscape.

“Unnecessary protection fomenting extreme hate of those carnivores and the groups trying to protect them in perpetuity,” he says. “And it also wastes millions of dollars at the expense of other species that are disappearing from planet Earth. If you made a list of endangered species in need of saving, wolves would be at the bottom of that list.”

Ultimately, hunters aren’t really necessary to manage wildlife, says Kevin Bixby. Executive director of Wildlife For All, Bixby says predators should be considered the primary wildlife management tool by agencies, which should adopt values consistent with the animal-rights movement.

“If we want to save our own species, then we have to adopt an attitude of coexistence with all the other species,” says Bixby. “And we can’t do that if human needs are placed above other lifeforms. That is the bottom line. Some people will never agree to that.”

Hunters will continue to resist competition from predators, but also from other conservationists, adds Bixby, who wants to “democratize” wildlife management in America.

“Everyone should have a voice in wildlife governance, and everyone should pay for it, too, with general tax funding” he says. “But this is changing already. The number of hunters is declining, the percentage of Pittman-Robertson [dollars contributed by non-hunters](#) [new gun owners and recreational shooters] is 70 percent more than hunters contribute. We want to democratize the source of funding so that we can democratize decision-making.”

Bixby says wildlife agencies as they are currently configured don’t reflect the public trust, one of the pillars of the [North American model of wildlife conservation](#). That’s a widely accepted construct that provides moral and legal authority to agencies to manage public wildlife as trustees. But Bixby says consumptive conservationists have misinterpreted the idea of “public trust.”

“One of the messages I hope to bring to Spokane is that the more people resist giving up power in wildlife governance, the less credibility they’ll have with the broader public,” says Bixby. “People complain about ‘ballot biology,’ but that’s what happens when your institutions are not responsive to the public.”

Bixby would like to start this “democratization” of wildlife agencies by broadening the definition of who can serve as a commissioner. “Right now, more than 75 percent of wildlife commissioners represent hunters or

anglers or agriculture. We believe that's undemocratic. The government as trustee of the resource has a duty to represent the interests of all the people."

## Sharpening Ideologies

Accommodating a diversity of viewpoints is nothing new to Chad Bishop. The director of the University of Montana's [wildlife biology program](#), Bishop's graduates are as likely to take positions with environmental and conservation NGOs as they are to become biologists with fish-and-game agencies. He says the school is adding more social science courses to broaden students' grounding in the hard science of wildlife biology in order to prepare them for jobs in a changing workplace.

What mustn't change, he says, is relying on science to guide decisions. And what shouldn't change, he says, is the statutory purpose of wildlife agencies.

"Let's go back to the grounding principles of what we're here to do, which is to conserve and manage wildlife," says Bishop, who previously served as assistant director of Colorado's wildlife agency. "If you can keep coming back to that purpose, then it's easier to include groups with divergent viewpoints of how that gets accomplished. Easy to say, hard to implement."

Wasley agrees.

"Maybe we don't need to modify the representation of wildlife commissions as much as we need to ensure that the processes are true to the intent," he says. "If we're trying to realign wildlife commissions to a certain value system or ideology, then you're going to have a guaranteed fight that looks a lot like all the other fights taking place over public policy in America."

Back in Washington, Thorburn says the battle lines between consumptive and non-consumptive ideologies are sharpening.

"There's a reason we're seeing this culture war first in Washington," she says. "We're the smallest state in the West with the second-highest population, with increasing numbers of people who have never experienced wildlife in the wild. Meanwhile, you have tens of thousands of people pushing into shrinking wildlife habitat. My view is that if you want to keep wildlife on the landscape, then you need to support what our Fish and Wildlife Department does, which is to find balance. That's the best definition of relevancy I can think of."

Thorburn, who has applied for another 6-year term on the commission, is pessimistic about her chances in the charged political atmosphere in Washington.

"Let's just say the governor took me off his Christmas card list," she says. "But I'd like to continue to serve to try to heal this growing rural/urban divide. I think we're deliberately setting fire to what we've built, which is why the people in Colville are so vocal. If we cannot manage wildlife so that the people who live with wildlife are included, then we're going to fail. But sometimes I think that's what the other side would like."

Back at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Arnett says he feels blindsided by the controversy that this week's conference has revealed. But he's taking the long view.

"I think it's good and healthy to have these discussions, and TWS is the right venue to have them, as long as they're balanced and professional and ultimately based in science," says Arnett. "If there's science to support a different approach, then we should be paying attention to it, whether we agree with it or not. Besides, where would you rather this conversation played out? On social media? In the courts?"

# DWR reminds of new rule after increase in illegal e-bikes ruining habitat on wildlife, waterfowl management areas

SALT LAKE CITY — After seeing an uptick in issued warnings in recent years, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources conservation officers are reminding the public that class 2 and class 3 electronic bikes are now illegal off-road on all wildlife and waterfowl management areas in Utah.



After being passed by the [Utah Wildlife Board in August](#), the new e-bike rule officially went into effect Nov. 7. Class 2 and class 3 e-bikes are now classified as "motorized vehicles" by rule, so motorized vehicle restrictions on wildlife or waterfowl management areas now apply to these classes of e-bikes as well. These restrictions are often publicized with "no motorized vehicles" signs in areas of the WMAs.

Previously, only waterfowl management areas had rules about e-bike use and stated that only class 1 e-bikes could be used on established roads and other authorized areas. This new rule now extends the same e-bike rule to wildlife management areas, as well. Class 2 and class 3 e-bikes, which can self-propel (and often contain a throttle), are prohibited from leaving roads open to motorized vehicles on all waterfowl and wildlife management areas.

"E-bike use, as a recreational activity, has increased dramatically in the past five to 10 years," DWR Capt. Chad Bettridge said. "As a result, we are seeing increased use on our waterfowl and wildlife management areas. In areas where there is a lot of e-bike use, notable habitat damage is occurring. These new rules will help to preserve these

properties for their intended use, which is for wildlife and their long-term benefit and health."

There are 193 wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas in Utah. The DWR started acquiring the areas in the late 1940s for several reasons:

- To conserve critical habitats for wildlife
- To help minimize and mitigate wildlife depredation on private property
- To provide anglers and hunters — who provide funding for the WMAs through the purchase of a fishing or hunting license — a place to hunt and fish in Utah

"While we would like to provide recreational opportunities on our WMAs, these properties were purchased for the benefit of wildlife and wildlife habitat," Bettridge said. "These properties are public land, but they are not multiple use like many other state- and federally-owned properties. With the increased use of e-bikes, we are seeing these properties damaged, ultimately limiting our ability to manage them for their intended purpose."

A citation for using a class 2 or class 3 e-bike off-road on any WMA is an infraction.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Don Turner Memorial Turkey Shoot

What a great day we had for the Don Turner Turkey Shoot. It was a bit cool to start but with the aid of a space heater we all kept warm. Rice Krispy treats and chocolate chip cookies were a big hit especially to Mike Taylor who was a little kid at the cookie jar. We had 16 shooters show up. The format was 20 steel targets at ranges from 15 yards out to 75 yards. You had unlimited shots to knock down all the steels then move to a paper Turkey target at 50 yards for 10 shots on paper. Only catch was all this had to be done in 5 minutes.

As per Don Turner if you didn't knock down the steels in the allotted 5 minutes you could have a buy back and start over.

During the competition "poor" Mike Taylor spun a target 90 degrees (but didn't knock it over) and only had a small "knife edge" of steel to hit in order to move on. He did this not once but twice! The first time he didn't see the spun target and assumed it was knocked over. Due to that infraction he used the buy back system to shoot again and post a legal score. Again he spun a target 90 degrees but this time he noticed it and was able to shoot again and knock it over. Nice job!

A few took advantage of this. Al Schoelen used the buy back and completed the task. As a few found out your gun choice was a major part of completing the course. Bolt actions and leavers were a disadvantage. A perfect score was 120. 20 for the steels and 100 for the paper Turkey. Only three people didn't complete knocking down all the steels. "Dang Bolt Guns" At the end the scores were close. The money was split up in to two groups of four. Lewis class went to John Mitteness \$ 55. Mike Taylor \$ 45. Clayton Philips \$ 35. And Ralph Willits \$ 22. The big winners were Jeff Bryant \$ 55. Ray Scissons \$ 45. Dan Zelna \$ 35 and Mark Forsstrom \$22.

As you can see it pays to Honcho an event. Set it up for the Honcho to win!!!

While the scores were being tabulated we held a mini-cash competition for added fun. The four shooting lanes were set with 20 steel targets at various ranges. Four (4), two man teams would compete for a winner take all cash prize. Cost was \$5 per man, for a total prize pool of \$40 to be split between the winning team. The objective: which two man team could knock down all 20 targets FIRST. Poor Mike Taylor stood around like Charlie Brown waiting to be picked.....who wants a shooter that makes it almost impossible to knock a target over if they consistently simply spin it 90 degrees? Well Brian Patterson took pity and teamed with Mike.

Let the competition begin. Most teams strategy was to divide the course into 10 close targets for one shooter and 10 far targets for the other shooter. Once you cleared your 10 you could help your partner. Mike of course had open sights so we let him attack the close targets. I loaded my 30 shot magazine and hoped to use the spray and pray method. The timer yelled start and the range rang out with a flurry of shots. After spraying a bit I finally cleared my 10 targets, I looked at Mike and he had just cleared his targets too! Or so we thought just then our spotter yelled out No 1 target still standing. ONCE AGAIN MIKE HAD SPUN A TARGET 90 DEGREES! Without thinking I threw up my rifle and spotted the knife edge steel, one quick shot and I luckily knocked it over. AMAZINLY we had won! It was then that I went to clear my gun to "make safe" my gun was empty....I had hit that last steel with my last of 30 shots! WAY FUN! We need to do that again some day. Best of all Mike did not end up costing me \$5, we both pocketed \$20.

I would like to personal thank Brian Patterson for being Game bag editor and always correcting my Clark County School District education grammar and spelling on all my Honcho reports

Honcho, Jeff Bryant

[www.LVWoodsandWaters.org](http://www.LVWoodsandWaters.org)

## BUY – SELL - TRADE

Buyers & Sellers agree to obey all firearms laws and local regulations in all transactions and hold LVWW harmless. Hunting, Fishing Camping gear for sale. Anyone have some gear they aren't using and would like to pass on? And perhaps make some money at the same time.

Ruger American .30/06 rifle for sale, like new w/extras ! Accurate !

**New Members:** Welcome new member Bill Neal, Cesar Garcia, Blain Marshal who joined at the fall feast .....make sure to get your free hat and club logo decal at lunch for joining.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## LVWW Marksman- Angler Events

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 3 Target Shoot at CCSC  
**CANCELLED** Open Range Day 8am -12pm

Jan Ice Fishing Honcho Mark Transue

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> LVWW Banquet at Gold Coast Hotel & Casino 5:30pm



Stories or photos, contact GameBag  
editor Brian Patterson 715-2020

## In the News/Coming Events

Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CAB) Next Meeting **is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 5:30pm-9:00pm stay tuned for updates if it will be held BOTH virtually AND in person** at Government Center, Pueblo room, 500 S Grand Central Pkwy. Main topic of discussion is general regulations & policy reports.

## GameBag Editor transition.....Thank you Robert Gaudet!!!

It has been a pleasure and labor of love being the GameBag editor for the past 11 years. (see attached a copy of my first attempt at preparing the newsletter, Jan 2011). The club is "social" there are no paid positions everyone volunteers their time, expertise and experience to help make the club function. As with any club or organization roughly 10% of the membership provide the direction and effort for the whole membership. As volunteers we gladly step in to help, thank you officers, board members and **ESPECIALLY HONCHO's** Sure the officers and board members get the dirty work done, filing our status with the state, paying the insurance, tracking the financial aspects, negotiating fees for lunch locations etc etc BUT the HONCHO's are the work horses that step up to create and organize the monthly functions that make the FUN stuff for the others in the group to enjoy.

As Robert steps up to create and organize the GameBag going forward remember there is a lot going on both in the club and in his personal life. Good Luck Robert, I will assist as best I can. Communication is always key, keeping the club informed of activities and functions is as much an art as it is technical.

Thank you everyone....it has been a pleasure being editor for this group. Brian Patterson

## 2022 Marksman & Angler of the Year Standings

### Marksman of the Year

2022 standings after 10/11 events

Tony Perkins	68 pts
Ralph Willits	44 pts
Luke Weber	36 pts
Jeff Bryant	34 pts
Jeff Jorgensen	27.5 pts

### Angler of the Year

2022 standings after 4/4 events

Brian Patterson	26 pts
Steve Junge	23.5 pts
John Mitteness	18 pts
Nick Gulli	16 pts
Roger Palmer	13 pts

### All Around

2022 Standings after 14/15 events

Tony Perkins	78 pts
Steve Junge	48.5 pts
Ralph Willits	45 pts
John Mitteness	44 pts
Brian Patterson	42.5 pts

**"You learn something every day if you pay attention"**  
**Ray LeBlond**

## The GameBag

Las Vegas Woods and Waters Club  
P. O. Box 29081  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89126-3081  
[www. LVWoodsandWaters.org](http://www.LVWoodsandWaters.org)

Email: [admin@lvwoodsandwaters.org](mailto:admin@lvwoodsandwaters.org)  
Editor: Brian Patterson 702 715-2020

## 2022 Officers

President	Steve Peirce
1st VP	Dave Talaga
2nd VP	Jeff Bryant
Treasurer	Mike Reese
Secretary	Ralph Willits
Warden	John Mitteness
GameBag	Brian Patterson
Social Media	Reese/Patterson

## 2022 Directors

### 3-Year Term

Brian Burris  
Ron Stoker  
Jeff Jorgensen  
Carl Jamison  
Nick Guilli

### 2-Year Term

James Werner  
Mark Transue  
Steve Scott  
John Mitteness  
Jeff Bryant

### 1-Year Term

Steve Peirce  
Randy Peters  
Ryan Werner  
Duane LaDuke  
Steve Reiter

Lunch door host: Steve Reiter

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“all we want to do is hunt, and fish and talk about it”

## Jokes





## How Long Taxidermy Lasts & Tips for Maintaining Your Mounts

By [Travis Smola](#) | November 14, 2022  
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There is no better way to preserve a memory of your hunt than to have it preserved as a [taxidermy mount](#). Humans have been practicing preserving various animal specimens through the tanning of hides and mounting them on forms for hundreds of years. There's no question it's an art form at this point. Some of the most skilled taxidermists can produce work that's so lifelike it looks like your wall mount is ready to jump down and run away at any minute. Of course, animal taxidermy is relatively expensive, and you don't want to spend your hard-earned money on shoddy work. You also don't want to see your costly mounts starting to fall apart after only a few years. There's no question that taxidermy has a shelf life. The only real question is, how long does it last? And what can you do to ensure your mounts stand up to the passage of time?

## *How Long Does Taxidermy Last?*



Travis Smola

There's no question taxidermy probably has a shelf life. We are talking about the preservation of organic materials from real animals here. Nothing is going to last forever. However, we do have proof a taxidermy collection can last a lifetime or more. One prime example is the many animals taken by Teddy Roosevelt. Because of the historical significance of the man who harvested them, people kept Roosevelt's animals when other, older mounts were either not cared for or were thrown out after degrading.

One of the more notable of Roosevelt's animals is a lion he harvested back in 1909. The Natural History Museum in Washington, D.C, currently displays the lion. The life-size mount did [undergo a restoration effort](#) in 2016 after sitting in storage for decades. However, it's not half bad looking for a mount that's well over 100 years old. The shelf life of any taxidermy animal will likely depend on how well it is cared for and where it is stored.

From my own experience, I have seven mounts in my [taxidermy collection](#). This assortment consists of one fish, two whitetail deer, one pheasant, and three European mounts of deer. I expect the European mounts to last the longest of this group since they're simply animal skulls. My two shoulder deer mounts are 21 and 19 years old, respectively. Different taxidermists also mounted them. Objectively, I think both still look great, although I have noticed some slight cracking around the lips of the 21-year-old mount.

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Travis Smola

My pheasant mount is only about a year old, so it's too soon to say what the life of that may be. However, my fish mount is a largemouth bass I caught back in 1997. I did break one dorsal fin spine at some point, but it still looks great for being 25 years old. I credit this mainly to the work of the taxidermist, who did an excellent job on the preservation. I've seen much younger fish mounts that looked way worse. I'm not sure what techniques my taxidermist used on that mount, but it consistently amazes people when I tell them how old it is.

### ***The Factors That Damage Taxidermy***



Travis Smola

All [taxidermy](#) is extremely sensitive to the environment in which they are stored. I genuinely believe the key to my deer heads and fish mount lasting for as long as they have is due to climate control. Except for one brief month-long stint in a self-storage facility at a high elevation, they have always been kept in parts of the house that are insulated, and climate controlled. Except for occasional power outages, they have never gotten too hot or cold. Nor have they ever been exposed to high humidity for extended periods.

We know that some people like to store their mounts in a garage. We have heard of people doing that successfully. However, we cannot recommend it unless your garage is insulated and climate-controlled. You'll also want to be cautious about hanging mounts in a basement if it frequently experiences extreme cold snaps or floods. This could lead to mold and mildew, which will eat away the tanned hide and damage the sculpting around the eyes, ears, and mouth.

The UV rays from the sun will hurt the color of your mounts over time. Just go into any sporting goods store with large front windows and examine the mounts that get sunlight vs. the ones that do not take all day. Another good idea is to avoid any area where insects may be present. It's not only disgusting, but moths, their larvae, beetles, and more can infest and slowly destroy the hide of a mount if left unchecked.

#### **Advertisement**

There is also no question that smoke can shorten the shelf life of just about any mount. While smoking in bars is almost non-existent these days, you need only to go into one that allowed it in the past and look at the condition of any taxidermy hanging on the walls to see the apparent discoloration that comes with cigarette smoke. You can keep your mounts nice simply by avoiding smoking in the same room where your mounts are stored. I've never smoked, which was another huge factor in why my deer taxidermy still looks new.

## *Caring For Your Taxidermy*



Travis Smola

Aside from ensuring you stow taxidermy art in a proper environment, a little maintenance doesn't hurt either. Admittedly, most of my care has been minor at most. I usually run a feather duster over the back of the hide, moving it with the natural grain of the animal's hair. I also dust the deer antlers. You'd be surprised how much dirt can accumulate on the main beams of a buck. Every so often, I'll get some Q-tips and put a little window cleaner on them to clean up the glass eyes.

Several manufacturers sell unique cleaning products for mounts. However, I've found that a damp cloth works just as well to keep the hide fresh and dust-free. Again, always wipe with the natural grain of the animal's hair, or you may risk damaging it. Whether your mount is a simple pronghorn antelope or a 10-foot polar bear, a little bit of attention to these things once a month will help ensure your mount stays looking nice for years to come.

I also use glass cleaner on my bass mount, although that may not be the ideal solution for everyone. I use that because that's what my taxidermist recommended when I first picked him up back in 1997. Be sure to ask [your taxidermist](#) how to care for a fish mount. I think mine used some special sealant to give it that glossy finish I can clean. If you're unsure about using a cleaner, try using a damp cloth, which should help clear up any accumulated dust. Once again, be careful about the fins, as these are the most delicate parts of any fish mount.

## **Second Yuma AZ Dove Hunt late November Photos**





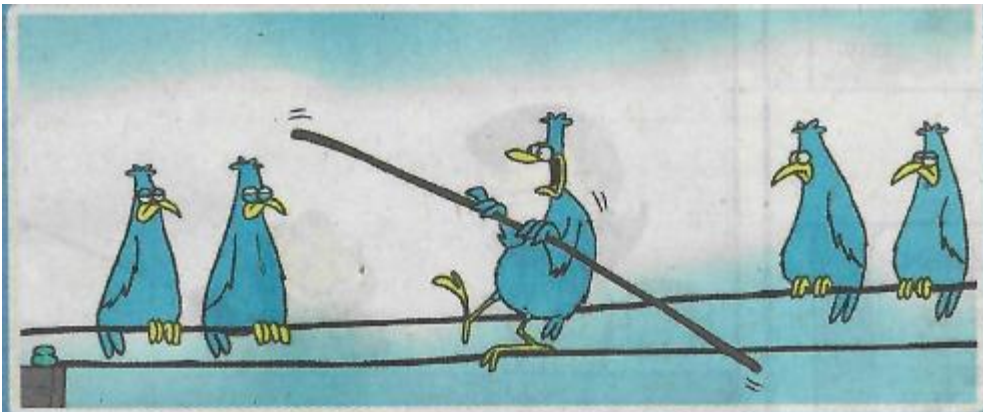
More jokes.....its been a fun 11 years. Thank you all. bp



# TUNDRA







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