

## Interesting Facts

Did you know there were twice as many deer harvested in the state of Nevada in the 1950's than were harvested in the 1980's.

An average of 16,185 deer were taken in Nevada from 1980 through 1989 - less than half that taken in the 1950's. Success rate for those hunting deer in the 1950's averaged between 80 and 90 percent. In 2009, 12,704 deer tags were issued for the state of Nevada, at a 26 percent success rate. - Which means that there were only 11 percent of the deer taken in 2009 as were taken in the 1960's.

NDOW claims that mule deer are now on the upswing. Data however, does not support such claims. If such is true, why is it then that most people are seeing fewer deer now than they were last year? What does that mean with regards to what we can expect in the next year or two?

Think about it, in 1952, 10,000 to 12,000 deer were harvested in Elko County at a 95 percent success rate. In 1956 13,000 to 15,000 deer were harvested in Elko County. Each hunter was allowed two deer. Hunting success was 95 percent for the first deer and 65 percent for the second deer - compared to a 26 percent success in 2009.

In 2009, there were 3,123 tags issued for the Ruby Mountains - as compared to 12,704 tags issued for the entire state. Which means that, 25 percent of the deer taken in the state, are now being taken on the Rubys. Which is interesting, because, in all of Nevada, there is no area that has more private ranch lands surrounding it than the Ruby Mountains. Which indicates, if it was not for ranching families, taking care of the land and conducting predator control, things would be far more dismal than they are.

It also tells us, the worst thing that has happened over the last 70 to 80 years has been governmental management of resources. Perhaps, if we would do away with government oversight and interference we could return wildlife numbers to that of the 1940's and 50's.

That's what they did in New Zealand a few years back. New Zealand's economy was so bad, in 1984 they took drastic measures. Great numbers of services that had been controlled by government were turned over to the private sector. Employees working for the Department of Transportation for example, were cut from 5,600 employees to 53. Employees working for the New Zealand Forest Service were cut from 17,000 employees to 17. Government subsidizes were slashed. And it worked. Today, New Zealand's farmers and ranchers are doing better than they ever did, and the economy of the nation has rebounded.

Think what it would do for the economy of the state of Nevada, if we were to run as many livestock as we did back in the 1950's. Think what it would do for our economy of the state of Nevada if we were harvesting the numbers of deer we were harvesting in the 1950's. What would it do for the economy of the United States if we were to cut the size of government as New Zealand did back in 1984 when they were facing economic collapse? It's something to think about