

**ACTIVITIES OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, AGENCY
PERSONNEL AND DIRECTOR KENNETH MAYER - constituting, possible fraud,
misrepresentation of facts and obstruction of justice**

**Presentation and affidavit presented to the Board of County Commissioners, Elko County,
State of Nevada, August 9, 2012**

In 1991, Kent Howard sold his ranch, located along the Bruneau River to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Within the agreement for sale was a stipulation requiring that a management advisory board be formed. At the suggestion of Kent, I was appointed to that board.

During the initial tour of these newly acquired governmental holdings, I overheard NDOW, Region II Director, Larry Barngrover in conversation with another NDOW employee, discussing a study that had been accomplished - something about ravens taking large numbers of sage grouse eggs.

At first opportunity I ask Larry if I could obtain a copy of such a study - where-upon, Larry stated he had no knowledge of such a study. Unconvinced, I again approached Mr. Barngrover asking that he supply me a copy of the study some months later. Again he stated he had no knowledge of any such study.

Convinced I was being lied to, I then ask Las Vegas resident Harry Papas for assistance in finding a way of obtaining a copy. Harry had been heavily involved in wildlife issues and knew persons within NDOW that might have been able to help. Not so however. Harry too, learned nothing.

And so I went to Jim Smalley. Jim Smalley was then serving as president of the Nevada Rifle - Pistol Association. Jim knew his way around and was curious himself. He quizzed people in and out of NDOW but learned nothing. He then went to the University of Nevada campus in Reno and talked to Don Klebenow, then head of wildlife studies at the University and was alleged to have overseen the study. He too denied having knowledge of the study.

Finally, out of desperation, I again called the NDOW office in Elko, hoping someone there might make a mistake and furnish me a copy. When I ask the receptionist if I could speak to someone with knowledge of sage grouse, a young man by the name of Gary Zunino came on the phone. When I told him what I wanted - he said sure - "I completed my thesis for a masters degree in wildlife management as a part of that study. I'll send you a copy."

That is how I came to receive a copy of the Surprise Valley Study that everyone now talks about. Since then, I've learned that the suppression of scientific information that is found to be unfavorable by agency personnel is not that uncommon.

Dr. Charles Kay has written about the lies, myths and scientific fraud that have been perpetrated by persons working within state and federal agencies during recent decades.

Alston Chase, Jim Beers, Steve Rich, Vernon Bostick, and Fred Wagstaff, Richard Mackie, J. W. Hart, have all told of zealot environmentalism, hidden agendas, corruption, and suppressed data.

On October 26, 2010, Elko County sent a copy of Rural Heritage Preservation Project, Findings of Facts Document to representatives of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, asking that they address each issue raised within the document so as to determine if past actions taken by the various resource management agencies might be responsible for downtrends in wildlife numbers. NDOW officials sidestepped the issue.

So again, on Dec. 3, Elko County again ask that NDOW officials respond. To this day they have not.

We issued a challenge to Director Kenneth Mayer in an article produced in the August issue of the Nevada Rancher asking that he produce certain data supportive of the positions he and his department have taken regarding management issues. Again, we received no response.

Again, on September 23, I made a presentation before the State Wildlife Commission asking that NDOW officials respond to our requests. Still we have received no response.

In view of these refusals, we can only conclude that those working within the Nevada Department of Wildlife do not want the truth to be known.

What seems to interest officials working within the Nevada Department of Wildlife, The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service is ever increasing spending. Listing, planning and protection of species is only a guise for the enchansment of agency growth and power. For those working within these agencies, species in trouble serve as an asset, rather than a liability.

If the people working within these agencies continue to get their way in the months ahead, all will continue to suffer. The local economy will be adversely effected. Wildlife in general will continue to decline. Recreation opportunities will be further diminished. Ranching families will be hurt finically. It will be a lose, lose situation for everyone and everything.

To prevent this from happening, Rural Heritage Preservation Project suggests Elko County and public at large demand the following:

First - that a study be undertaken for the purpose of determining sage grouse statue and production on private lands owned by the Sorensen family near Secret Valley, as compared to that on lands now owned and controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, mid way up the Mary's River drainage, which have not been grazed for more than 15 years.

Second - we suggest that be a large study area (roughly the size of Area 10) be set aside here in Nevada where livestock grazing and predator control practices similar to those which were carried on in the 1940's, 50's, and 60's be conducted for a period of twenty or more years for the purpose of determining the true effects of past practices on sage grouse, mule deer and other wildlife.

Third - we suggest that a study be completed so as to determine amounts of yearly production and nutritional value of black sage growth or regrowth, on plants that are grazed by domestic sheep on a regular basis, as compared to black sage plants that are left ungrazed from year to year.

Forth - that officials working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, be required to address and answer the Findings of Facts Document that is herein attached. For far too long now, officials in each of these agencies have gotten away with formulating policy suitable to their own liking without having to adhere to the standards of truth and justice.

Fifth - so that misunderstandings can be resolved, officials working for the Nevada Department of Wildlife make data available showing the total number of mule deer buck tags which were issued within the State of Nevada for each year, beginning in 1945 through 2010; the total number of mule deer doe tags that were issued within the State of Nevada for each year beginning in 1945 through 2010; the total number of mule deer bucks that were harvested each year beginning in 1945 through 2010; and the total number of mule deer does that were harvested each year beginning in 1945 through 2010.

Sixth - before any new plan for the preservation and protection of sage grouse be implemented, such practices as will be proposed by persons working for the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management be first implemented and carried out of the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, and Hart Mountain Wildlife Refuge, so that their effectiveness can be determined. Should such practices work on refuge lands, then and only then should they be implemented on other lands found throughout the West.

Should officials working within the various agencies refuse to participate in such studies and goals, as are herein outlined, we can only conclude their intentions are anything but honorable.

If such is the case - and we believe it is. Then our appeal goes to you, the commissioners of Elko County. Will you stand and do all you can to protect the citizens of this county from the tyranny and abuse above described.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Gardner

8/9/12

Cliff Gardner

State of Nevada
County Of Elko
Signed and Sworn / Affirmed to before me this *9th* day of
August 2012 By *Cliff Gardner*

Betsy J. Lee
notary public

