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WILLIAM A. MOLINI
Administrator

September 5, 1995

Mr. Cliff Gardner
Ruby Valley, Nevada

RE: **Miscellaneous References to Elk**

Dear Cliff:

As a follow-up to our telephone discussion last week, please find listed herein a couple of miscellaneous references to elk which were found by reviewing historic newspapers in various areas of the state. As mentioned, I have not yet completed this project for any specific area of the state, or for any single species, and the information should therefore only be viewed as a sample of the data available, not a complete record. Examples of references found to date specific to elk include the following:

October 17, 1867 - Carson Daily Appeal (Carson City)

ELK AT LAKE BIGLER - We learn that two elk were killed at Lake Bigler (Tahoe), beyond the Zephyr Cove House, during last week. One of them weighed about five hundred pounds.

February 3, 1876 - Reese River Reveille (Austin)

LARGE GAME - A man came into town this morning and reported having seen eighty-five (just eighty-five) elk and deer on Birch Creek, about seven miles from town...The man may have seen eighty-five animals...will bet...they were jack-rabbits. Jack-rabbits as large as deer and elk are frequently seen in these parts...

February 4, 1876 - Reese River Reveille (Austin)

NO VENISON - Nothing has been seen in town of the meat of these deer and elk which were seen at Birch Creek yesterday, in pursuit of which a party of hunters started. There is a hide at the City Market which Charley Richards claims is that of an elk - but Charley has recently joined the Sazerac Lying Club.

September 28, 1883 - Tuscarora Times-Review

TOWN TALK - Uncle John Gibbons and Tom Plunkett had excellent sport on Stampede Creek yesterday. They killed two elk, three antelope and six deer. One of their horses having cast a shoe they couldn't bring their game into town, so they traded it off to an Indian for a jackass rabbit and a quart of pine nuts.

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November 6, 1886 - Elko Independent

Max Schoen who is in town to-day from Mountain City, informs us that some of the men on Fisher's range on the lower Bruneau, in the latter part of last month saw a couple of elk which they approached nearly within rifle shot. These are the first of those animals that have ever been seen in this State so far as heard from. The late heavy snows have driven them from their mountain fastness to the plains below.

October 27, 1888 - Tuscarora Times-Review

Wm. Mahoney, a sheepman on the North Fork, while hunting in the Independence Mountains a few days ago, killed an elk which dressed 400 pounds. That game heretofore has been unknown in this section.

It is probably also important to note that the very first territorial legislature in 1861 identified elk as one of the big game animals of the state. The law, which was passed and approved by the Governor on November 21, 1861 states in part as follows:

Chap. XIV - An act relating to wild game and fish.

Sec. 5. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons, at any time after the first day of January, and before the first day of July, in each year, to catch, kill or destroy, or to pursue with such intent, any deer, antelope, elk, mountain sheep, or goat...

The first major revision of the game law occurred during the 1877 session of the State Legislature, and the act, which was approved on March 2, 1877, continued to identify elk as a big game species within the state. For whatever its worth, the bill was passed unanimously by both the Senate and Assembly with little controversy or discussion.

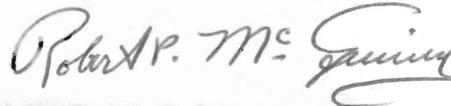
From strictly a personal standpoint, I would suggest that arguing over whether or not elk were part of the native fauna of Nevada is perhaps not as important as determining whether or not the citizens of the state want elk at the present time. The landscape of Nevada has undergone considerable change over the past 140 years, and in addition to supporting almost 1½ million people, we have altered the habitat in a variety of ways to meet the needs of a changing society (introduction of domestic livestock, building of Hoover Dam, establishment of chukar partridge, stocking of brook trout, etc.). I would personally be opposed to any effort directed at returning Nevada to pre-1860 conditions from a political, social or economic standpoint, and particularly from a fish and wildlife abundance and diversity standpoint. Although some mistakes have obviously been made (introduction of carp), most of the activities in Nevada related to wildlife management since 1860 have been largely beneficial.

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Last but not least, I am continuing to review historical wildlife information from a variety of sources, and will keep you updated as more information becomes available. If you have any questions or need for additional information at this time, please feel free to advise.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM A. MOLINI, ADMINISTRATOR



Robert P. McQuivey
Chief of Habitat

RPM:el

cc: Administrator/Deputy
Game Bureau
Regional Managers

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