

*Gerald A. Lent, O.D.  
5100 W. Acoma Rd.  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
775.852.4636  
ga.lent@yahoo.com*

Letters to the editor  
Elko Daily Free Press  
editor@elkodaily.com

July 6, 2012

I have been involved with Nevada wildlife issues for over forty years. I understand what is really going on with Director Mayer and NDOW and the people of Nevada need to understand this **also**.

This is what I think NDOW is trying to do: Director Mayer is supporting the listing (BEHIND CLOSED DOORS) of the sage grouse issue. It's all about money! If listed, the Feds will say what can we do to make it better and will then dump lots of dollars at NDOW (that's what the government does) for Mayer to waste on his administration, not wildlife!

His tactic has been to kill more mule deer to decline the deer herds. This holds true for the sage grouse decline so he can get more federal dollars and can blame habitat to get more funds. NDOW's intent is to accelerate the decline of the numbers of mule deer by giving out many more tags!

It is not habitat if only ONE species declines and Mayer needs a deer decline to have another species going down to prove the habitat excuse. Mule deer become an additional support for him to blame habitat, as Mayer has been doing for years.

NDOW believes they are serving the best interest of wildlife by getting sage grouse listed as this is the only way they will get money and get cattle and mining off the ranges so sheep can be planted.

Ken Mayer has rolled over to a non-government sheep organization (NGO). For years they have made huge donations to NDOW so basically they own Nevada Department of Wildlife. Director Mayer is saying they don't want sage grouse listed **only** to get mining and agriculture off his back.

NDOW doesn't want to believe predators are responsible for the decline of deer and sage grouse so they can say ONLY habitat is the problem!

I hope everybody really can see this because it is a pattern that Ken Mayer and NDOW have been following for years and is in Director Mayer's best interest to get the bird listed.

Dr. Gerald Lent  
*Former Wildlife Commission chairman*