

COMMISSION ITEM #8 - TIMELINE OF ADA MUZZLELOADER COMPLAINT

9/2006 - Letter from Department of Interior (DOI) requesting information about current muzzleloader Regulations and efforts made for equal access to hunting for their research on a complaint of discrimination on the basis of age and disability on several state wildlife agencies by Toby Bridges on behalf of the North American Muzzleloader Association.

10/2006 - Response from NDOW cataloging our regulations, and pointing out that hunters are allowed to use a muzzleloader with scope during the any legal weapon seasons. Also pointing out that access for hunters with visual disabilities is provided by NDOW through hunting licenses to blind persons, as allowed by NRS.

8/2007 - NDOW received a letter from DOI 2007 pointing out that the complaint of age discrimination was not valid. DOI did not agree that persons with visual disabilities would have equal access to muzzleloader hunting during the any legal weapon season, and persons denied reasonable modifications in the special muzzleloader season would be segregated.

DOI pointed that State governments must provide a reasonable modification that does not segregate for persons who meet the definition of disability, according to Federal disability rights laws: a person and whose disability is a substantial limitation on a major life activity or has a record of the disability or a perceived disability. The federal definition of visually disabled is a person with limited vision that is not correctible by glasses or contacts.

10/2007 - Response from NDOW outlining the current processes and hypothetical language that would need to be passed as an NAC in order to remedy the issue of allowing qualified disabled persons to hunt with scopes during the muzzleloader season should we receive a request for reasonable modification.

3/2009 - Letter from DOI requesting our reasonable modification plan by June 2009.

5/2009 – Met with Deputy Attorney General at soonest time to discuss next steps, which were determined that NDOW should proceed with the regulation changes in order to provide a reasonable modification as indicated.

6/2009 – Nevada Wildlife Commission will determine which course of action is next, to choose **the minimum change which would only apply to visually disabled muzzleloader hunters**, or to choose a broader change. There are various options and degrees of accommodation or change. Those options range from

1. The minimal, which would limit non-magnifying 1x scopes to those with a federally qualified visual disability (not correctible with glasses or contacts) during the muzzleloader-only season,
2. The slightly more broad, which would allow muzzleloaders with magnifying scopes for those who have limited or impaired vision including those correctible with glasses or contacts during the muzzleloader-only season,
3. To the even broader, allow 1x non-magnifying scopes for use by anyone during the muzzleloader-only season,
4. To the ultimate, which would permit scopes for use by anyone on muzzleloaders during the muzzleloader-only season.