1. Current population trend or estimate - and proximity to management objectives:

Year	Estimate
1993	149,000
1992	183,000
1991	180,000
1990	202,000
1989	212,000

2. 1992 Hunting season statistics:

Type/length of season:	# of hunters afield:	# of hunter days:	% success:	Harvest Antler:	Antlerless:
Rifle / 29	25,013	96,064	53.6	10,227	3,185
Muzzl. / 15	612	384	72.1	277	0
Arch. / 27	2,513	13,807	23.2	584	0

3. Method used to estimate harvest:

   Nevada uses a mandatory questionnaire that is attached to the carcass tag mailed to the hunter after the drawing. Failure to return the questionnaire or not fully completing the return results in the hunter being ineligible to hunt big game in the succeeding year. Eligibility can be restored with payment of an administrative fine of $50. The reporting rate has averaged 95% for over 10 years.

4. Do you limit hunters to one season (rifle,archery or muzzleloader)?

   Yes.

5. Do your deer seasons extend into the breeding season? If so, how far?

   The primary rifle season usually begins the first or second weekend in October and ends the first or second weekend of November. The breeding season peaks in mid-November, but can be well underway in late October. Some late seasons extend into December with a few seasons open as late as early January.

6. How many deer can a hunter legally take per year?

   For several years, two or three deer could be taken, a buck, an antlerless deer, and perhaps a deer taken in a special depredation hunt. With the population declines of the last few years, this has been rescinded. Now one hunter can take one deer.

7. Do you use antler-point restriction regulations? If so, what is the purpose of this regulation and is the objective being met? How do you assess hunter compliance - illegal kill?

   No. Nevada regulations classified spike bucks as antlerless animals for many years. With full quota hunting, this was unnecessary whether effective or not. Our experience with an experimental 4-point regulation was that the unclaimed illegal kill was equal to or greater than the legal kill.

8. Do you have regulations to limit or distribute hunters? What type of regulations and are they working?

Nevada has used a full quota hunting system since 1976. The state is divided into units with quotas proportional to unit deer estimates. The system is very conservative with high hunter success and post hunt buck ratios.

9. Do you use access (road) management to regulate hunter distribution? What is the hunting publics reaction? Who is responsible for enforcement of closures etc.?

No.

10. Do you use a system such as "preference points" to distribute the opportunity to draw big game permits? If yes, what has been your experience with such a system?

Nevada has just adopted a "bonus" points system. The system was patterned after Arizona's with modifications. This year was the first year the system was used.

11. In what ways do you believe hunting impacts your deer populations (ie. compensatory/additive mortality, total population size, genetics, behaviour, etc.)? What data do you have to support this?

Aside from the direct removal, our present hunting strategy does not seem to have significant consequences. It appears that the heavy kills of the 1950's and 1960's were producing compensatory recruitment, but this has not been demonstrated conclusively.

12. What do you feel are the major factor(s) limiting the deer populations, and what evidence is this based on?

Habitat is the greatest limiting factor for deer in Nevada. The geography of the state results in small, widely dispersed islands of good deer habitat, but there are no large contiguous blocks of habitat. Land uses, cheat grass invasion and successional changes are negatively affecting most deer habitat. Recent phenomenal growth of Nevada's human population is removing habitat at an accelerating rate, and regular deer movements between seasonal habitats is being blocked.

13. Do you make any attempts to model deer populations? If so, please describe the model. Identify any problems.

Nevada has used POP-II by Fossil Creek Software for the last 10 years to model deer populations for establishing hunting quota recommendations. We have adapted the program to the data we are capable of collecting. Basically, this was a simplification of the program. Our inputs consist of kill, post hunt and spring composition data. We model the population for the last 10-15 years, projecting for the coming hunting season.

14. What is your state or province's approach to manipulating habitat to benefit deer?

We encourage habitat manipulation and participate as much as a limited budget allows. Recent windfalls from mining have enabled us to participate in several projects the last few years. These projects have included pinyon-juniper thinning and attempts to restore impoverished winter ranges.

15. Primary deer research efforts underway at this time (please list):
None.