

Ravens and Management



A Perspective from the
Nevada Department of
Wildlife

Context



- ❧ Public Trust (*Martin vs. Waddell 1842*)
 - ❧ Trustees vs. Trust Managers (Smith 2011)

- ❧ Federal vs. State Trust
 - ❧ Sage grouse
 - ❧ Ravens
 - ❧ Habitat

What does success look like?



☞ Sage grouse

- ☞ Healthy, thriving population
- ☞ NOT listing

☞ Threats to sage grouse

- ☞ Habitat (federal, land management agency)
- ☞ Predation (some federal, permitting)
- ☞ Hunting (primarily state)

State of Nevada



- ❧ Permit for raven take
 - ❧ 5,000 total
 - ❧ 2,500 Department of Agriculture (not sage grouse)
 - ❧ 2,500 Department of Wildlife (primarily sage grouse)

- ❧ Ravens estimated population at 100,000 to 190,000

- ❧ Sage grouse 64,000–80,000

Why not escalate take?



⌘ Basics of risk assessments and statistical probabilities

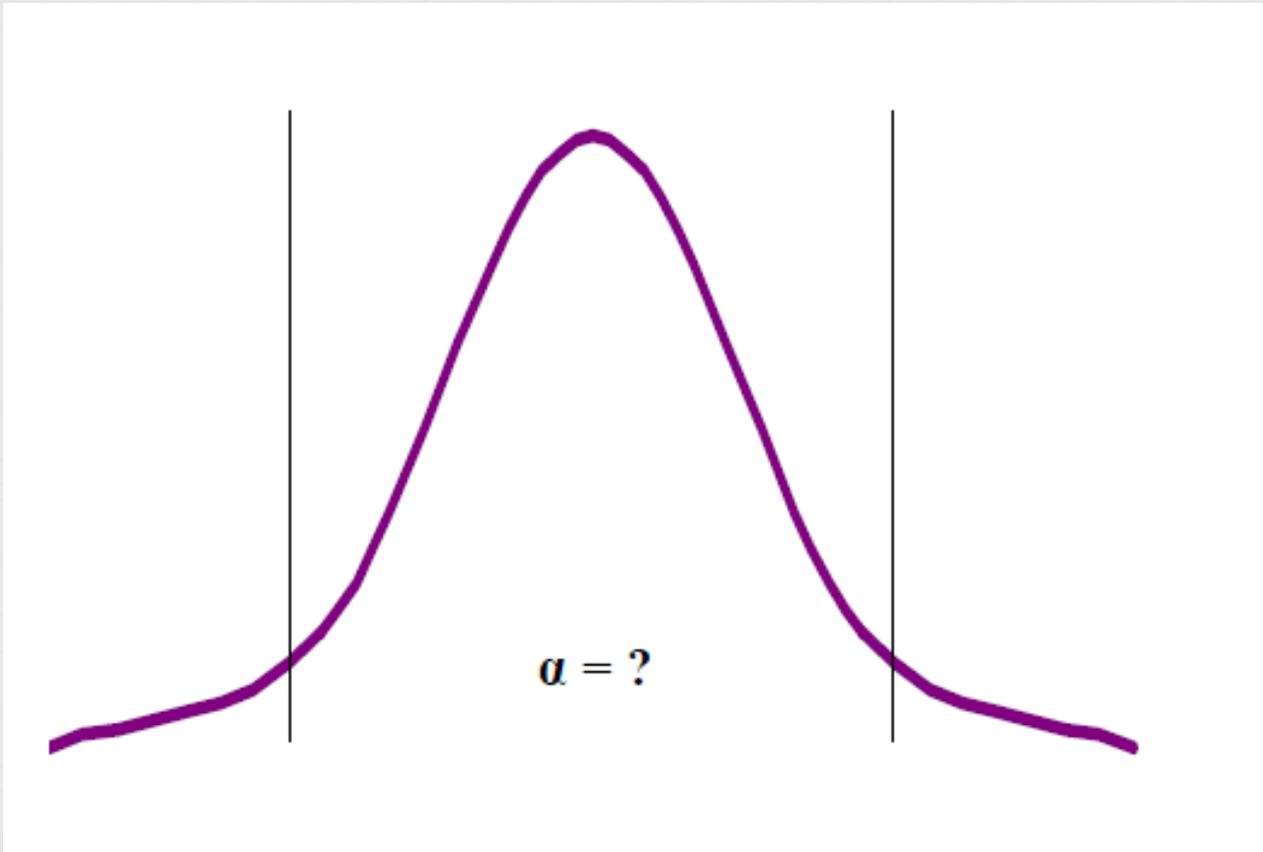
⌘ Wakeling (2005) – Proceedings of the Deer-Elk Workshop – Wildlife management decisions and Type I and II errors

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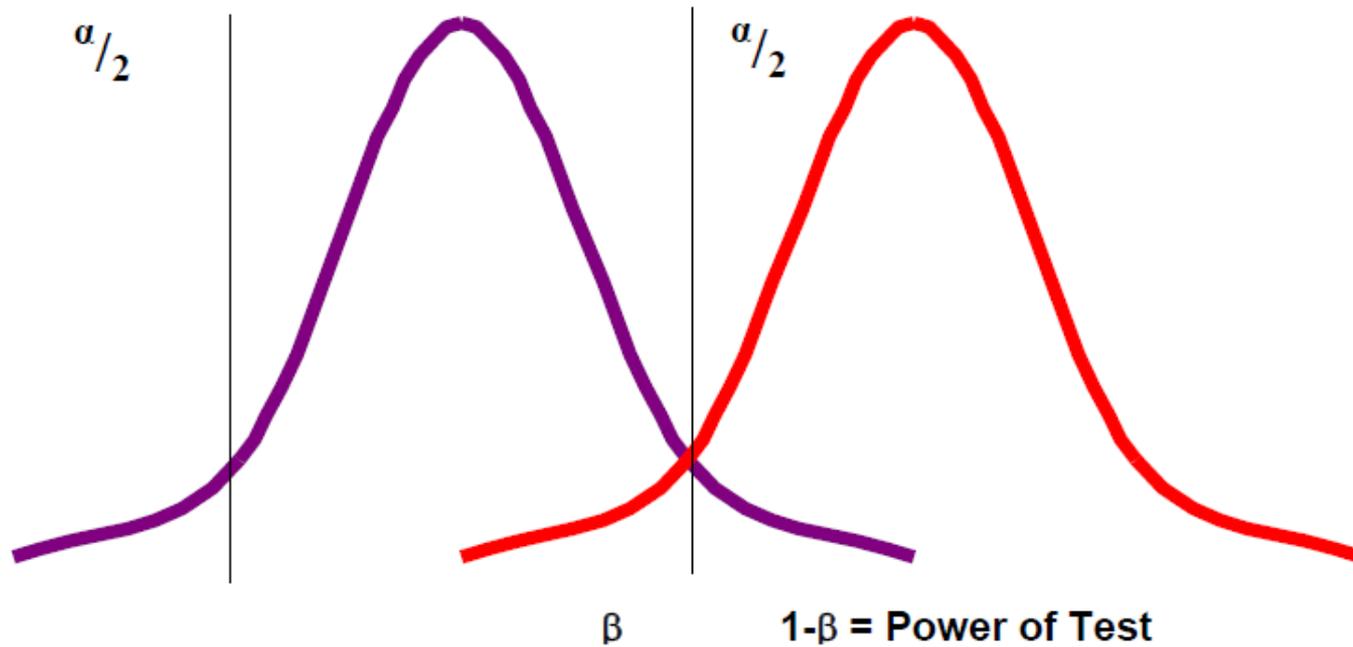


- ❧ Basics of risk assessments and statistical probabilities
 - ❧ Journal of Most-excellent and Eminent Research
 - ❧ Wakeling (2005) – Proceedings of the Deer-Elk Workshop – Wildlife management decisions and Type I and II errors

A little rambling



A little more



What does success look like?



- ❧ Sage grouse
 - ❧ Healthy, thriving population
 - ❧ NOT listing

- ❧ Not that simple
 - ❧ No violation of MBTA
 - ❧ No threat to ravens
 - ❧ We are doing the right thing
 - ❧ We don't get sued

Other Nevada Actions



- ❧ Predator Plan
 - ❧ 80% on lethal activities – ravens only one predator

- ❧ Raven deterrents
 - ❧ Subsidy removal
 - ❧ Transfer station enclosure

- ❧ Raven research (\$)

- ❧ Reliance on WS NEPA documentation
 - ❧ Cooperation in revisions

- ❧ Habitat improvement, comment, coordination for sage grouse – suitable habitat mitigates predation risk

Regulating Take of Ravens



- œ USFWS permitting
 - œ Multiple years since we had new permit issued
 - œ NDOW issued 3 versions so far in 2016
 - œ DRC 1339 EPA Label application

Challenges



- ❧ Often competing authorities and jurisdiction
 - ❧ Communication is paramount
 - ❧ Common goal
- ❧ Identifying success
 - ❧ Actions to get there
- ❧ Predation management is not only tool
 - ❧ Can be debilitating
 - ❧ Few other things have short term effect
 - ❧ Important tool to have

Overview



- ❧ Extremely brief
- ❧ Overlooks nuances

- ❧ Not intended to be finger pointing
- ❧ Brief is what we deal with
- ❧ Public and elected officials influence our ability to deliver conservation, we have to be ready to respond