



## NEVADA

### State bans commercial reptile collections

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

The commercial collection of reptiles in Nevada is now illegal, after a 6-1 decision by the state's wildlife commission.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners decided Saturday to end the policy of allowing unlimited commercial reptile collecting. That policy set the Silver State apart from its neighbors in the West and alarmed conservationists and state wildlife officials.

“These reptiles play central roles in the desert ecosystem, and this will allow populations to recover and that provides benefits — beyond the reptiles — that provide food for the eagles and hawks,” said Patrick Donnelly, the Center for Biological Diversity's Nevada state director. The center pushed for a complete ban.

Commercial collectors can continue picking up reptiles until Jan. 1 (Ben Botkin, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sept. 25). — CS