Revert Concedes Strong FWS Stance Might Affect Choice of High or Low Road

BY MILT BOZANIC

Nye County Commissioner Bob Revert conceded yesterday that if the Fish and Wildlife Service strongly opposes the "high road" linking Pahrump and Amargosa, his action "would affect everybody's thinking."

Revert's comment appears to be a change of his position of supporting the high road route without reservation. The commission changed from the low road to a high road plan in a surprise move Aug. 1. The decision surprised Pahrump Valley resident and opposition was voiced. But at a subsequent commission meeting the commission held to its high road decision.

Since then a strongly worded letter from Edwin Rothfuss, superintendent of the Death Valley National Monument, was written to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Rothfuss wrote that he "strongly supports your efforts to take the low road."

Revert played down the impact of the Rothfuss letter and said he expected the high road to be built as planned. Yesterday's comment appears to hedge Revert's stance for the first time.

Opposition to the high road by Superintendent Rothfuss backs the agreement that the county commission previously signed with FWS to use the low road route.

Dave Brown at the time told the Times that the FWS and the federal government oppose running main highways through parks or refuges. That view suggests the FWS would agree with the Death Valley superintendent in support of the low road.

Amargosa Valley residents are concerned that the low road route would mean a serious loss of traffic and tourist revenue.

Revert said the commission won't take any action until comments are heard from FWS. Will all the controversy over the high and low road, Revert quipped, "maybe we ought to take the middle road."