

Commissioners
Michael Sutton, President
Monterey
Richard Rogers, Vice President
Santa Barbara
Jim Kellogg, Member
Discovery Bay
Jack Baylis, Member
Los Angeles
Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
www.fgc.ca.gov

Fish and Game Commission



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
14 JAN 27 A 10:26

January 24, 2014

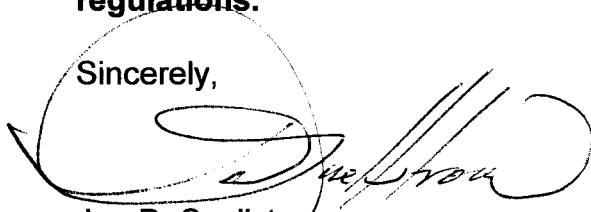
This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Amending Sections 360, 361, 362, 363 and 364, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Mammal Hunting Regulations for the 2014-2015 season, which are published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on January 24, 2014.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at www.fgc.ca.gov.

Mr. Craig Stowers, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 445-3553, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,



Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

**TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 203, 215, 219, 220, 331, 332, 460, 1050, 1572, 3452, 3453, 4302, 4334, 4902 and 10502; reference sections 200, 201, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 210, 215, 219, 220, 331, 332, 458, 459, 460, 713, 1050, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1575, 2005, 3452, 3453, 3950, 3951, 4302, 4334, 4902, 10500 and 10502, Fish and Game Code; proposes to Amend Sections 360, 361, 362, 363 and 364, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), relating to Mammal Hunting Regulations for the 2014-2015 season.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Subsection 360(a)

Existing regulations provide for the number of license tags available for the A, B, C, and D Zones. This regulatory proposal changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Deer: § 360(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts Tag Allocations		
Zone	Current	Proposed
A	65,000	30,000-65,000
B	35,000	35,000-65,000
C	8,150	5,000-15,000
D3-5	33,000	30,000-40,000
D-6	10,000	6,000-16,000
D-7	9,000	4,000-10,000
D-8	8,000	5,000-10,000
D-9	2,000	1,000-2,500
D-10	700	400-800
D-11	5,500	2,500-6,000
D-12	950	100-1,500
D-13	4,000	2,000-5,000
D-14	3,000	2,000-3,500
D-15	1,500	500-2,000
D-16	3,000	1,000-3,500
D-17	500	100-800
D-19	1,500	500-2,000

A minor editorial correction to highway nomenclature was also made.

Subsection 360(b)

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the X zones. The proposal changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Deer: § 360(b) X-Zone Hunts Tag Allocations		
Zone	Current	Proposed
X-1	935	900-6,000
X-2	180	50-500
X-3a	295	100-1,200
X-3b	835	200-3,000
X-4	395	100-1,200
X-5a	75	25-200
X-5b	55	50-500
X-6a	320	100-1,200
X-6b	310	100-1,200
X-7a	220	50-500
X-7b	130	25-200
X-8	220	100-750
X-9a	650	100-1,200
X-9b	325	100-600
X-9c	325	100-600
X-10	400	100-600
X-12	680	100-1,200

Subsection 360(c)

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags in the Additional Hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for all existing hunts to a series of ranges as indicated in the table below. The proposal provides a range of tag numbers for each hunt from which a final number will be determined, based on the post-winter status of each deer herd. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Due to this, the final recommended quotas may fall below the current proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunts G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt) and J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 5 and continue for two (2) consecutive days and reopen on October 12 and continue for three (3) consecutive days in order to accommodate for Base operations and other hunt opportunities. The proposal would modify the season to account for the annual calendar shift by changing the season opening dates to October 4 and October 11 (for 2 and 3 consecutive days) respectively, in order to accommodate for Base operations.

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4)	2,710	500-5,000
G-3 (Goodale Buck Hunt)	35	5-50
G-6 (Kern River Deer Herd Buck Hunt)	50	25-100
G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20 Military*	20 Military*
G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt)	20 Tags Total* (10 Military and 10 Public)	20 Tags Total* (10 Military and 10 Public)
G-9 (Camp Roberts Antlerless Deer Hunt)	0	0-30 Tags Total* (Military and Public splits 15/15)
G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	400 Military*	400 Military*

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	500 Military*, DOD and as Authorized by the Installation Commander**	500 Military*, DOD and as Authorized by the Installation Commander**
G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	10-50
G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt)	300	50-300
G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-50
G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt)	25	25-100
G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt)	25	25-50
G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt)	300	50-300
G-39 (Round Valley Late Season Buck Hunt)	5	5-150
M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	10-75
M-4 (Horse Lake Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	10	5-50
M-5 (East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	5	5-50
M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	80	25-100
M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	50-150
M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	5-50
M-9 (Devil's Garden Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	15	5-100
M-11 (Northwestern California Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	20-200
MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	20-150
MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt)	150	20-150
J-1 Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-25
J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-30
J-4 Shasta-Trinity Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-50
J-7 (Carson River Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-50
J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-20
J-9 (Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	5	5-10
J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	85 Tags Total* (20 Military and 65 Public)	85 Tags Total* (20 Military and 65 Public)
J-11 (San Bernardino Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	10-50
J-12 (Round Valley Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	10-20
J-13 (Los Angeles Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	25-100
J-14 (Riverside Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	15-75
J-15 (Anderson Flat Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	5-30
J-16 (Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75
J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	5-25
J-18 (Pacific-Grizzly Flat Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75
J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-40
J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20	5-20
J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50	20-80

* *Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.*

** *DOD = Department of Defense and eligible personnel as authorized by the Installation Commander.*

[Subsection 360(d) remains unchanged]

Section 361

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for existing area-specific archery hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Minor editorial changes are necessary to provide consistency in subsection numbering, spelling, grammar, and clarification.

Archery Deer Hunting: § 361 Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt)	1,945	150-3,000
A-3 (Zone X-1 Archery Hunt)	135	50-1,000
A-4 (Zone X-2 Archery Hunt)	10	5-100
A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt)	25	10-300
A-6 (Zone X-3b Archery Hunt)	90	25-400
A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt)	110	25-400
A-8 (Zone X-5a Archery Hunt)	15	15-100
A-9 (Zone X-5b Archery Hunt)	5	5-100
A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt)	50	10-200
A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt)	100	10-200
A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt)	45	10-200
A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt)	25	5-100
A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt)	40	5-100
A-16 (Zone X-9a Archery Hunt)	140	50-500
A-17 (Zone X-9b Archery Hunt)	300	50-500
A-18 (Zone X-9c Archery Hunt)	350	50-500
A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt)	100	25-200
A-20 (Zone X-12 Archery Hunt)	100	50-500
A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt)	25	25-100
A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	100	25-200
A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	35	20-75
A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt)	30	10-100
A-27 (Devil's Garden Archery Buck Hunt)	5	5-75
A-30 (Covelo Archery Buck Hunt)	40	20-100
A-31 (Los Angeles Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Archery Late Season Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	250	50-300
A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50 Tags Total* (25 Military and 25 Public)	50 Tags Total* (25 Military and 25 Public)

* *Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts*

hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

Section 362

The existing regulation provides for limited hunting of 23 Nelson bighorn rams in specified areas of the State. The proposed change is intended to adjust the number of tags based on Department's annual estimate of the population in the management unit. The number of tags allocated for each of the nine hunt zones is based on the results of the Department's 2013 estimate of the bighorn sheep population in each zone. Tags are proposed to ensure the take of no more than 15 percent of the mature rams estimated in each zone. Final tag quota determinations will be completed by February of 2014 pending completion of analyses.

The following proposed number of tags was determined using the procedure described in Fish and Game Code Section 4902:

HUNT ZONE	Current Tag Allocation	Proposed Tag Allocation
Zone 1 - Marble/Clipper Mountains	4	0-4
Zone 2 - Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains	3	0-4
Zone 3 - Clark/Kingston Mountain Ranges	2	0-2
Zone 4 - Orocopia Mountains	1	0-2
Zone 5 - San Gorgonio Wilderness	1	0-3
Zone 6 - Sheep Hole Mountains	1	0-2
Zone 7 - White Mountains	3	0-5
Zone 8 - South Bristol Mountains	2	0-3
Zone 9 - Cady Mountains	3	0-4
Open Zone Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Mountains Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
TOTAL	23	0-32

Section 363

Existing regulations provide for the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action would provide for tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones pending final tag quota determinations based on winter survey results that should be completed by March of 2014. The final tag quotas will provide for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and does in specific populations, while allowing for adequate hunting opportunities. The proposed 2014 tag allocation ranges for the hunt zones are as set forth below.

2014 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Ranges						
<i>Hunt Area</i>	<i>Archery-Only Season</i>		<i>General Season</i>			
			<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	0-10	0-3	0-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	0-10	0-3	0-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-130	0-50
Zone 4 – Lassen	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-150	0-50
Zone 5 – Big Valley	0-15	0-5	0-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	0-10	0	0-25	0-7	0	0
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-5 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-4 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		0-10 Buck			

Section 364

Existing regulations specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt. In order to maintain hunting quality in accordance with elk herd management goals and objectives, it is periodically necessary to adjust quotas in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. This proposed amendment modifies elk tag numbers to ranges of tags to adjust for fluctuations in population numbers. Final tag allocations will be made in accordance with elk management goals and objectives based on the results of survey data collected in January – March 2014.

Periodic quota changes are necessary to maintain hunting quality in accordance with management goals and objectives. The proposed quota ranges of elk tags for 2014 are as follows:

2014 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation				
Hunt Name and Type	Bull	Antlerless	Either-Sex	Spike
General Roosevelt Elk Hunts				
Siskiyou	0-30	0-30		
Big Lagoon	0-10	0-10		
Northwestern California			0-30	
Klamath	0-20	0-20		
Del Norte	0-15	0-20		
Marble Mountains	0-70	0-30		
General Rocky Mountain Elk Hunts				
Northeastern California	0-30	0-10		
General Roosevelt/Tule Elk Hunts				
Mendocino	0-4	0-4		
General Tule Elk Hunts				
Cache Creek	0-4	0-4		
La Panza Period 1	0-12	0-10		
La Panza Period 2	0-12	0-12		
Bishop Period 3	0-10	0-30		

2014 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation				
Hunt Name and Type	Bull	Antlerless	Either-Sex	Spike
Bishop Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Bishop Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 5	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 1	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 2	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 3	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 4	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Mountain Period 1	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 2	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 3	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 4	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 5	0-8			
Whitney Period 2	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 3	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 4	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 5	0-4	0-10		
Grizzly Island Period 1	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 2	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 3	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 4	0-2	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 5	0-2	0-12		0-6
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 1		0-16		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 2		0-14		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 3	0-14			
East Park Reservoir	0-4	0-8		
San Luis Reservoir	0-10	0-10	0-10	
Bear Valley	0-4	0-2		
Lake Pillsbury	0-4	0-4		
Santa Clara	0-4			
Alameda	0-4			
Apprentice Hunts				
Marble Mountains			0-4	
Northeastern CA			0-4	
Cache Creek	0-2			
La Panza Period 1	0-2	0-2		
Bishop Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Grizzly Island Period 1		0-2		0-2
Grizzly Island Period 2				0-2

2014 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation				
Hunt Name and Type	Bull	Antlerless	Either-Sex	Spike
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 1		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 2		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 3	0-2			
Archery Only Hunts				
Northeastern California Archery Only			0-20	
Owens Valley Multiple Zone Archery Only	0-10	0-10		
Lone Pine Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Whitney Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Fort Hunter Liggett Archery Only		0-10	0-6	
Muzzleloader Only Hunts				
Bishop Muzzleloader Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Independence Muzzleloader Only Period 1	0-10	0-10		
Fort Hunter Liggett Muzzleloader Only	0-6			
Muzzleloader/Archery Only Hunts				
Marble Mountains Muzzleloader/Archery Only			0-10	
Fund Raising Tags				
Multi-zone	1			
Grizzly Island	1			
Owens Valley	1			
Military Only Elk Tags				
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Early Season	0-2	0-2		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 1		0-16		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 2		0-14		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 3	0-14			
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 1		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 2		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 3	0-2			
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Archery Only		0-10	0-6	
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Muzzleloader Only	0-6			

Benefits of the Regulation

Hunting provides outdoor recreational opportunities for not only the hunters, but for family and friends who are non-hunting members of the group, and are able to participate in hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities.

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the state's wildlife under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local California hunting in harmony with federal law respecting the conservation of the living resources of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual tag quotas to the quantity that is sufficient to provide satisfying hunting opportunities. Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones, and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of big-game species to ensure their continued existence.

Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of

sufficient populations of big game to ensure their continued existence and future sport hunting opportunities. Under a normal season state big game hunters contribute about \$202,390,334 in direct revenues to the State's business sector. This is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife data and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 national survey data on fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. Adding the indirect and induced effects of this initial revenue contribution and the total benefit to California's economy is estimated to be \$263,702,757 per year. This is equivalent to about \$51,947,191 in total wage earnings to Californians, or as many as 1,170 jobs in the state.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing State Regulations

After conducting a review for any related regulations, the agency has determined that these are the only regulations dealing with public use of California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands. Therefore, the proposed regulations in this rulemaking action are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The primary purpose of the proposed regulations is an annual review of tag quotas in existing regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Resources Building Auditorium, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, California, on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 450 E. Harbor Blvd. Ventura Beach, California, on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before April 4, 2014 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on April 11, 2014. All comments must be received no later than April 16, 2014 at the hearing in Ventura. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in ~~strikeout~~-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Craig Stowers, Wildlife Branch, phone (916) 445-3553, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation

adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

(a) **Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:**

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

(b) **Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:**

Sections 360, 361 and 364

None. The proposed action will not have significant impacts on jobs or business within California. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts based on herd performance criteria. Given the number of tags historically available, the minimal adjustments in tag numbers that are anticipated for the 2014 hunting season, and the area over which they are distributed (entire State of California), these proposals are economically neutral to jobs or business within California.

Sections 362 and 363

None. It is unlikely that the proposed regulation will result in the creation or elimination of jobs within the state, cause the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses or result in the expansion of businesses in California because the overall number of tags issued is small and the resulting hunting effort is spread over a large geographic area.

(c) **Cost Impacts on Private Persons:**

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

None

(e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director

Dated: January 7, 2014