

**FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2014 BIG-GAME TAG QUOTAS**

# DEER (360 & 361)

- 2014 TAG QUOTA RECOMMENDATION = 204,337; represents a 5% (11,065 tags) **decrease** from 2013 total tags quota (215, 412, of which 178,940 were sold)
- D6 reduced to 6,000 (4,000 reduction) due to access concerns and continuing fire-related closures of forests;
- Continuing declines in northeastern X zones due to herd performance;
- Tag quota for G11 reduced from 500 to 250 upon request by the Vandenberg Air Force base.

# BIG-HORN SHEEP (362)

- 2014 TAG QUOTA RECOMMENDATION = 14; represents a 39% (9 tags) **decrease** from 2013 tag quota (23)
- Eliminated 4 tags normally available in the Kelso/Old Dad hunt area due to disease related impacts;
- Reduced by 5 tags scattered over various zones due to population survey (primarily minimum number of mature rams observed) results.

# PRONGHORN ANTELOPE (363)

- 2014 TAG QUOTA RECOMMENDATION = 200; represents a 2.5% (5 tags) **decrease** from 2013 tag quota (205)
- Total tags for Lassen Hunt Zone, which is still suffering impacts from 2012 Rush Fire, reduced by 5

# ELK (364)

- 2014 TAG QUOTA RECOMMENDATION = 316; represents a 10% (37 tags) **decrease** from 2013 tag quota (353)
- 8 fewer tags issued for Fort Hunter Liggett hunts in 2014 (to accommodate military operations);
- Reduced antlerless harvest (10 tags) in Owens Valley;
- Elimination of 15 tags in Del Norte due to Green Diamond enrolling in PLM program
- **Increased** total tags available at Grizzly Island by **31** in response to population increase in this herd

# THOUGHTS

- Population impacts on big-game species due to drought-related factors not an impact – yet.
- Prepare for reduced quotas beginning in 2015 if drought conditions persist.
- Highly likely we will experience unprecedented closures of public lands due to fire dangers during many of our big-game hunting seasons/areas.