

Economic Impact Assessment

Amend Sections 702 and 708.5, 708.11, and 713
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Big Game Hunting

1. AMEND SECTION 702: FEES; AND
2. AMEND SECTION 708.5: DEER TAGGING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Reporting of deer harvest is an important tool to collect information and provide an enforcement mechanism for limiting deer harvest to within acceptable levels established by population surveys and analyses. Although harvest data is an important factor in the current deer population model, harvest report cards for deer currently have poor return rates, historically less than 25% overall as demonstrated in Table 1 (although they are variable depending upon zone). The low return rate results in increased costs for managing the hunting programs through additional data collection and analysis to fill data gaps, outreach to remind hunters to return report cards, enforcement activities, and may potentially lead to proposed management actions without adequate data to justify them.

Table 1. Annual deer tag sales and non-reported tags

Year	Tags Sold	Reported Harvest (successful only)	% Non-Reporting (includes unsuccessful)
2011	182,726	10,892	94
2012	182,157	12,526	93
2013	187,107	14,733	92
3 yr. avg.	183,997	12,717	93

Accurate harvest data is a critical component of the population model used to estimate deer populations and establish tag quotas. The Department currently increases reported harvest by a zone specific "non-reporting" factor established primarily through the use of meat-locker reports. The non-reporting rate is established by comparing tags reported in the deer harvest database with tags identified on meat locker reports by various game processing businesses statewide. This requires hand entry of data for comparison and analysis purposes.

Based on a 3 year average of tags not reported (Table 1), mandatory reporting may result in an approximate 92% increase in harvest reports annually. While it is anticipated that a significant number of those reports will be electronically submitted through ALDS a significant number will also be mailed in. This will require hand entry of data from mailed in report cards and post-card notification to (based on 3 year average of tag sales identified in Table 1) 183,997 deer hunters to ensure maximum compliance with the mandatory reporting requirement. Estimated costs are detailed in the attached table "Cost Estimate of Non-reporting Tag Holders."

Cost Estimate for Non-Reporting of Deer Harvest per Year											
Task	Hourly Rate	# of Hours	Salaries cost	Benefits	S + B	OE&E	Unit Cost	Units*	Postage	Total	
Meat Locker Booklets							\$5.00	250	\$0	\$1,250	
Data Entry, 1 Sci Aid for 2 mo	\$13.00	336	\$4,368	\$2,044	\$6,412	\$4,667			\$0	\$11,078	
Validation, 1 Env Sci for 1 mo	\$26.00	168	\$4,368	\$2,044	\$6,412	\$2,333			\$0	\$8,745	
Prep, 1 Env Sci for 1 mo	\$26.00	168	\$4,368	\$2,044	\$6,412	\$2,333			\$0	\$8,745	
Mailed Cards, 3 Sci Aid, 2 mo	\$13.00	1008	\$13,104	\$6,131	\$19,235	\$14,000			\$0	\$33,235	
LRB costs, 1 AGPA for 2 mo; postage.	\$30.00	336	\$10,080	\$4,716	\$14,796	\$4,667	\$0.42	183,997	\$81,945	\$96,742	
		2016								\$159,796	
									9200	\$17.37	
										\$20.00	
										\$184,000.00	

It is anticipated that the non-reporting fee will have the benefit of increasing the return rate of deer harvest report cards. As the return rate increases, the cost associated with the non-return efforts is expected to decrease. Assuming 5% non-reporting rate even after mandatory reporting is implemented (approximately 9,200 non-reports/year), the \$20.00 non-reporting fee would cover program costs and provide a prudent reserve for unanticipated expenses.

The amendments are not anticipated to have any economic effect.

3. AMEND SECTION 708.11: ELK LICENSE TAGS, APPLICATIONS, DISTRIBUTION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Existing regulations specify license tags shall be attached to the antler of an antlered elk, or to the ear of an antlerless elk immediately after killing. However, it can be difficult to transport the elk carcass from the harvest location when the head, with ear, is required to be attached along with the useable parts of the kill. Allowing a new option for the tag to be attached to the leg, or remain with the largest portion of meat provides flexibility during transport while still implementing tagging requirements.

The amendment is not anticipated to have any economic effect.

4. AMEND SECTION 713: TAG REPLACEMENT FOR CARCASS CONDEMNATION

Existing regulations identify a process by which a hunter can have a diseased, injured, or chemically immobilized big-game carcass condemned. The proposed amendment will streamline the programming process for ALDS and assure a simple process to provide a hunter a tag in the same zone/hunt in the following year.

The amendment is not anticipated to have any economic effect.

Effects of the regulations on the creation or elimination of jobs within the State; on the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the State; and, the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State:

The amendments will have no effect on the creation or elimination of jobs within the state; will not affect the creation of new businesses or the elimination of existing businesses within the state; and, will not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within the state.

Benefits of the regulation to the health and welfare of California residents and worker safety:

The Commission does not anticipate benefits to the health and welfare of California residents, or to worker safety.

Benefits of the regulations to the state's environment:

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. The expected benefits of the proposed regulations to the environment take the form of sustainable deer and other big game populations, thus providing benefits to persons, businesses, and species dependent upon a healthy big game resource.