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Fish and Game Commission



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WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Chairs: Commissioner Baylis (present) and Commissioner Kellogg (present)

Staff Meeting Summary
July 28, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
Resources Building
1416 Ninth Street, First Floor Auditorium
Sacramento, CA 95814

Following is a summary of the subject meeting as prepared by staff.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Baylis, who introduced Chair Kellogg, Fish and Game Commission (Commission) staff, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) staff.

Commission Staff

Sonke Mastrup	Executive Director
Jon Snellstrom	Analyst
Caren Woodson	Analyst

Department Staff

Chuck Bonham	Director
Dan Yparraguirre	Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
Stafford Lehr	Chief, Fisheries Branch
Eric Loft	Chief, Wildlife Branch
Craig Martz	Manager, Regulations Unit

Executive Director Mastrup outlined the procedures for the meeting, noting that the Committee is a non-decision making body which provides recommendations to the full Commission on non-marine items, and, reminded the participants that while the meeting was not live streamed via the Internet, it was being audio-recorded for posting to the website with a staff summary.

2. DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS TO IMPLEMENT NON-LEAD AMMUNITION REQUIREMENTS (AB 711)

A. DEPARTMENT UPDATE ON OUTREACH EFFORTS

Department staff provided a brief update detailing its past and future outreach efforts across the state and confirmed that staff would be prepared to draft regulations in conformance with statutory deadlines.

Department staff agreed to meet with ammunition manufacturers and suppliers as part of the continued outreach efforts

B. PRESENTATION BY AUDUBON CALIFORNIA, DEFENDERS OF CALIFORNIA, AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Dr. Vernon G. Thomas, Professor Emeritus, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph, Ontario, presented research data: *Availability and Use of Nonlead Rifle Cartridges and Nontoxic Shot for Hunting in California, with Reference to Regulations used in Various Jurisdictions & Survey of California Ammunition Retailers to Assess Availability of Nonlead Ammunition.*

Non-lead ammunition availability continues to be an issue and, if passed and signed, SB 53 is likely to make implementation of AB 711 more difficult.

3. DISCUSSION OF IDEAS RELATED TO POSSIBLE AMENDMENT OF MAMMAL HUNTING REGULATIONS IN 2015 (SECTIONS 360, 361, 362, 363, AND 364, TITLE 14, CCR)

Department staff indicated that its 2015 proposal includes changes to mandatory reporting requirements, some ALDS clean-up, and fundraising tags. Staff agreed to review the following proposals and report back in September about the feasibility of inclusion in the 2015 package:

- Removing Big Horn Sheep from the preference pool
- Lassen County Board of Supervisors' request for reallocation of tags in various zones to encourage apprentice hunts

4. DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE BOBCAT PROTECTION MANDATE (AB 1213)

Department staff provided some insight about the complications of trying to draw buffer zones around each park and some of the various ideas under review. It remains unclear how to implement all the provisions of the AB 1213, including cost recovery.

5. UPDATE AND SUGGESTIONS OF POSSIBLE CHANGES TO PREDATOR MANAGEMENT POLICIES/REGULATIONS

A. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FROM THE PUBLIC

B. DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Commission staff provided a summary of the process for receiving comments to date and requested any additional comments be sent as soon as possible to fgc@fgc.ca.gov, including a description of the Fish and Game Code or Title 14 section to be changed, how, and why. Staff identified a path for moving this discussion forward, starting in September with a review of three sections of Title 14 believed to be at structural odds with Fish and Game Code, including sections 460, 465.5, and 472. The Committee chairs agreed.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Mastrup and Branch Chief Eric Loft identified several items recommended for discussion, including non-consumptive user stamps, follow-up on vetting 2015 mammal regulations, falconry, and continuations of the predator management, non-lead ammunition and bobcat protection mandate discussions.

7. PUBLIC FORUM

Received public testimony for items not listed on the agenda.

The Wildlife Resources Committee meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.