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**To:** [FGC; Woodson, Caren@FGC](mailto:FGC; Woodson, Caren@FGC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Predator policy  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2014 9:14:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [Recommendations regarding predator policy and regulations.doc](#)  
[ATT00001.htm](#)

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FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Donald Flanagan [REDACTED]  
**Date:** April 23, 2014 at 8:31:45 PM PDT  
**To:** "[sonke.mastrup@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:sonke.mastrup@fgc.ca.gov)" <[sonke.mastrup@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:sonke.mastrup@fgc.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Predator policy

Mr. Mastrup,  
Per the request of the WRC at their last meeting in Van Nuys, I have reviewed the materials and codes you provided, and am submitting my input for inclusion and consideration by the WRC. Thank you!

Donald Flanagan

Policy, code, or regulation	Recommendations and comments
Sections regarding policies having to do with depredation, raptors, shellfish and sea otter conflicts, etc.	I can only assume that these were included in the summary of predator regulations for the purpose of giving the reader an example of what format the FGC uses when establishing a policy. Otherwise, the text provided does not seem related to predator policies and codes.
2003: tournaments, derbies, etc.	Tournaments and derbies are important management tools. For example, each year Big Bear Lake sponsors a bowfishing tournament for carp. This tournament is needed in order to keep the population of carp under control. Tournaments also are a great way to bring young fishermen and hunters into the sports (subsection B acknowledges this). Each year in the San Diego County area, several “big buck” contests are held. These contests encourage hunters to take older animals, as opposed to sheer numbers. Many hunters who would otherwise take a younger deer hold out for an older animal. This is good game management, and the code seems reasonable and balanced. <b>Sections C and D are also very reasonable and should NOT be eliminated.</b>
4000: definition of fur-bearing mammals	Unless there is a pressing need to remove mammal group designations (big game, small game, non-game, etc.), doing so would require extensive, major modifications to the code, and should therefore be avoided.
4002: methods of take for fur-bearers	Crossbows and falcons should be added as approved methods of take. No methods of take should be eliminated from this list.
4003: poisons and fur-bearers	If even one application for a poison permit has been submitted in the last 20 years, then this provision should stay on the books. Otherwise, an unforeseen problem might arise, leading to a need for state or federal intervention, which costs more money and is much less expedient.
4004: trapping of fur-bearers	Subsections a, b, c, f, g, and h are deprecated by section 3003.1, and should be removed. Subsections d and e should not be modified.
4011: take of diseased fur-bearing, game, and nongame mammals	No change necessary
4150: classification of nongame mammals	No change necessary
4152: trapping of depredating nongame mammals	No change necessary

4153: take of depredating mammals	No change should be made. This section provides authority to agents to intervene when time is of the essence in protecting sensitive wildlife from predators.
4154: control of nongame mammals	Unless adding a requirement for the department to enlist the voluntary help of licensed hunters to assist in the control of these nongame mammals, no change should be made. Australia's rabbit problems are evidence of this. Whether a species is native, invasive, or otherwise is irrelevant.
4181: Depredators	No change should be made; some have suggested removing bears from this section, but this would be foolhardy. Bears cause significant damage to property and livestock, and depredation permits should continue to be allowed at the discretion of the DFW.
4181.1: Depredators	No change should be made. Some have suggested changes requiring that the carcasses of animals taken pursuant to this section must be given to a person or entity that is a nonprofit organization. I don't believe that any person can be a nonprofit organization. The code requires that use be made of the carcasses of wild pigs taken, but if the carcasses can only be donated to nonprofit orgs, this could lead to waste of the carcass if a qualifying organization is not located nearby. Allowing a landowner to transfer the carcass to a person in need or able to make use of it (without compensation) makes for responsible use of the resource. It also allows the person to share portions of the carcass with neighbors, or others dining with the landowner.
4185: depredation bears	The fencing and signage portions of this regulation do not seem to be necessary, since live traps are the only trapping methods allowed, and cage traps wouldn't present any danger to humans or wildlife wandering into the area. Alternate language could be: "Bears may be taken pursuant to a depredation permit with traps set at a distance no greater than 50 yards from a beehive. No iron or steel-jawed or any type of metal-jawed trap shall be used to take bear under this section."
4190: identification of relocated depredators	Marking problematic depredators is a good idea, and likely critical to managing these animals. Otherwise, they should necessarily be destroyed.

	If tags or other devices can possible become dislodged, then branding or tattooing would be the only recourse. Unless litigation risk is high, this code should remain in place, or be changed to require the destruction of the animal.
Title 14 Div1 subd 2 section 250: general prohibitions...	No changes recommended
265: Use of dogs...	The use of 1 dog should be allowed during archery deer season. 1 dog is allowed for rifle season, and using a dog to track a wounded deer would benefit the archery hunter greatly. Dogs have proven themselves over and over again to be one of the greatest game conservation tools available to us. Furthermore, any suggestion that dogs not be used to pursue any animal should be rejected soundly and immediately. The use of dogs in pursuing birds and other game is a heritage that has been handed down to us by many generations, and destroying this way of life would be tantamount to telling Native Americans that they can no longer hunt from horseback or from a kayak. Our hunting heritage is just as important to us as theirs is to them- and in many cases, more so.
365: bears	No changes
366: bears	No changes
400: deer depredation hunts	No changes
401: permits	No changes
460: Fisher, Martin, etc.	No changes.
461: Badger & gray fox	No changes. The current lack of a limit or season has not had a negative effect on the state's badger and gray fox population. Suggestions to the contrary should be backed up with scientific data from multiple sources.
462: muskrat and mink	No changes. Objections to a lack of seasons or bag limits are baseless unless backed up with facts showing that the populations are being adversely affected. There is no limit on carp and other nongame fish, and this raises no serious or sincere ethical dilemma. Sound game management decisions should be based in science and responsibility, not sentiment.
464: raccoons	No changes.
472: general provisions	Subsection (a) should be modified to include feral

	pigeons, and read: “The following nongame birds and mammals may be taken at any time of the year and in any number except as prohibited in Chapter 6: English sparrow, starling, feral pigeon (rock dove), coyote, weasels, skunks, opossum, moles and rodents (excluding tree and flying squirrels, and those listed as furbearers, endangered or threatened species).”
474: hours for taking	No changes
475: methods of take for nongame birds and mammals	No changes
478: bobcat	No changes. The bobcat population in CA is doing quite well under current policy structure. See above statements regarding policies being based upon science and responsibility as opposed to sentiment.
478.1 bobcat tags	No changes
480: depredating bobcats	No changes

Proposed policy regarding predators:

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission to:

- Recognize that predators play a critical role in the biosphere in many ways, including (but not limited to) rodent control, and prevention of overpopulation of their prey species.
- Recognize that predator populations must also be controlled so as not to decimate the populations of their prey species, as shortages of prey animals is ecologically deleterious, and can result in depredation of livestock and even attacks upon humans.

Therefore, it is the intent of the commission to insure that predator populations and their habitats shall be identified, monitored, and managed, and to work alongside hunters to maintain a responsible balance between predator and prey. These policies shall be informed by sound scientific research and metrics, thereby ensuring the continued health of natural resources belonging to the citizens of the State of California.