

From: [Mark Kucera](#)
To: [FGC](#)
Subject: new legislation
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Every year, hundreds of deer and other game animals are killed by automobiles on California's highways. The conscientious citizens of this state hate to see these animals dragged to the shoulder and left to rot. They would rather be able to harvest the usable meat and move the carcass to a less offensive location. Our Department of Fish and Game has laws on the books that make it an offense to "waste" game animals, making it apparent that our leaders feel the same way. However, they also have laws on the books that make it a crime to salvage an animal that has been struck by an automobile, which is a strong deterrent to the honest people in our society (although there are many firemen around this state who routinely harvest choice parts of deer after responding to an accident).

The state of Montana has implemented a salvage permit program to address the issue of wanton waste of traffic-killed game animals and I think it would be wise for California to do the same.

The permits should be readily available (from CalTrans, CHP, local police, sporting goods stores and post offices) and should not cost the public anything. They should allow for the timely harvest of recently killed deer, elk and bear (and other game animals) and should require the off-highway disposal of the carcass. We should allow the animal to be removed prior to obtaining the permit so that the person whose vehicle got damaged has the first chance at the animal. Otherwise, only highway workers and first responders will be able to take advantage of the program. The program should not be overly restrictive like most California laws, but should encourage the public to be responsible with game animals... like hunters are.

Allowing people to recover traffic-killed animals might even reduce the poaching problems in this state by making game animals more available, rather than killing and wasting 10-25% of a local animal population by automobile.

Please do your part to implement a program like this.

Sincerely,

Mark Kucera

Hunter and retired lawman