

Predator Management

Options for Addressing Three
Structural Issues in Title 14

Presented to the California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee by Commission Staff

January 14, 2015

Predator Management

Goal

- Review state of predator management in California

Task

- Review existing policies and regulations
- Identify and address inconsistencies

Proposed Timeline

- Structural concerns (today)
- Ecological concerns (May 2015)
- Ethical concerns (September 2015)

Structural Concerns

- Section 460 Fisher, Marten, River Otter, Desert Kit Fox and Red Fox – functionally fully protected species
- Section 465.5 Use of Traps – Urban damage control
- Section 472 General Provisions - Inconsistency

Title 14, Ch. 5: Furbearing Mammals

Section 460. Fisher, Marten, River Otter, Desert Kit Fox and Red Fox

Structural issues:

- Fisher, marten, river otter, desert kit fox and red fox may not be taken at any time
- Unintentionally creates fully protected species
- Conflicts with other authorized activities

Title 14, Ch. 5: Furbearing Mammals

Section 460. Fisher, Marten, River Otter, Desert Kit Fox and Red Fox

Possible solutions:

- Insert language exempting certain permitted activities (depredation, scientific collecting, incidental take permits, etc.)
- Clarify that 460 only prohibits take for fur (original intent)

Title 14, Ch. 5: Furbearing Mammals

Section 465.5. Use of Traps

Structural issues:

- Mixing rules for sport, commerce, and depredation
- Depredation in urban settings problematic
- Zones (kit fox range) prohibit some trap gear - problematic for depredation control

Title 14, Ch. 5: Furbearing Mammals

Section 465.5. Use of Traps

Discussion topics:

- Should different rules govern sport, commercial, and depredation trapping for furbearing mammals? If so, establish separate subsections for the three types.
- Should licensed commercial animal pest control operators under a contract for pest control services be authorized to place traps within 150 yards of a structure used as a permanent or temporary residence without notification of residents?
- Are gear restriction zones still necessary?
Technological advances in gear design may avoid kit fox concerns.

Title 14, Ch. 6: Nongame Mammals

Section 472. General Provisions

Structural issues:

- Inconsistent with all other provisions of law where take is limited or authorized only under specified circumstances. Allows unlimited take by hunters.
- English sparrows and starlings are not mammals and is redundant with Fish and Game Code (FGC), Section 3801
- Fails to include appropriate reference to FGC, Section 4150

Title 14, Ch. 6: Nongame Mammals

Section 472. General Provisions

Possible solutions:

- Update FGC, Section 472 to make consistent with other statute (4152) that establishes limitations on take. Or create permit to set limits on case-by-case basis. Or, delete FGC, Section 472 and rely on 4152.
- Reference proper statutory authority (Section 4150).
- Remove references to English sparrow and starling, as they are already covered by FGC, Section 3801.