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Fish and Game Commission



Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
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February 14, 2014

Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director
California Fish & Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Sonke:

Earlier this week, my quotes in a press account of a webinar in which I participated on the illegal wildlife trade gave rise to confusion regarding my attitude towards legal hunting in California. I'm writing to set the record straight.

I fully support legal, well-regulated, science-based hunting in California. As you know, I've been an active hunter and fisherman most of my life and I recognize the vital contributions hunters make to wildlife conservation. Further, I believe that hunting in California is well managed by our Commission and the Department of Fish & Wildlife, using the best available science. I am unaware of any legal, managed hunting today in our state that contributes to the decline of our native wildlife. Both the Commission and the Department continually strive to improve our stewardship of wildlife in California.

Thanks for the opportunity to clarify my position and clear up any misunderstandings that may have arisen as a result of my comments during the webinar earlier this week. I apologize for the confusion and hope that this letter serves to forestall any misinterpretation of my position on hunting. You are welcome to circulate this to anyone who may inquire.

Sincerely,

Michael Sutton
President