

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Subsection 360(b),
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Deer: X Zone Hunts

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: December 21, 2006
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: March 19, 2007
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: April 27, 2007

IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

- (a) Notice Hearing: Date: February 2, 2007
 Location: Monterey, California
- (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: March 2, 2007
 Location: Arcata, California
- (c) Discussion Hearing: Date: April 13, 2007
 Location: Bodega Bay, California
- (d) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 25, 2007
 Location: Teleconference

V. Update:

Existing regulations provide for the number of license tags available for the X zones. The original proposal changed the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and overwinter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range.

The proposal is further modified to provide final tag quotas based on updated harvest and population analysis. Pursuant to its April 25, 2007 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the final tag quotas (Modified Proposal) as follows:

Deer: § 360(b) X-Zone Hunts			
2007 Final Tag Allocations (Modified Proposal)			
Zone	Current	Original Proposal	Modified Proposal
X-1	2,325	1,000-6,000	2,230
X-2	180	50-500	180
X-3a	295	100-1,200	280
X-3b	840	200-3,000	795
X-4	435	100-1,200	415
X-5a	70	25-200	55
X-5b	155	50-500	115
X-6a	325	100-1,200	335
X-6b	415	100-1,200	390
X-7a	220	50-500	250
X-7b	100	25-200	120
X-8	300	100-750	250
X-9a	750	100-1,200	750
X-9b	325	100-600	325
X-9c	325	100-600	325
X-10	400	100-600	400
X-12	805	100-1,200	805

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting those considerations:

Responses to public recommendations were included in the Initial Statement of Reasons as Responses to Public Recommendations for Changes In the Mammal Hunting and Trapping Regulations Received by the Fish and Game Commission Between February 21, 2004 and February 2, 2007.

Additional responses and analysis to public comments received are included in the attached - Responses to Public Comments for Changes In the Mammal Hunting and Trapping Regulations Received by the Fish and Game Commission Between February 3, 2007 and April 13, 2007.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

1. Number of Tags

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Number of Tags

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current number of tags for the zones listed may not be responsive to changes in the status of the herds. The deer herd management plans specify objective levels for the proportion of bucks in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by modifying the number of tags. The no-change alternative would not allow management of the desired proportion of bucks stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made.

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States: The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.
- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.
- (c) Cost Impacts on Private Persons: The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Other Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

**UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST
(Policy Statement Overview)**

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the X zones. The proposal changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the following table. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and overwinter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range.

The original proposal changed the number of license tags for the X zones to a series of ranges. The proposal is further modified to provide the final tag quotas based on updated harvest and population analysis. Pursuant to it's April 25, 2007 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the final tag quotas (Modified Proposal) as follows:

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