

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

Amend Section 363  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations  
Re: Pronghorn Antelope

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: January 2, 2007
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: March 19, 2007
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: April 25, 2007
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
  - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: February 2, 2007  
Location: Monterey, California
  - (b) Discussion: Date: March 2, 2007  
Location: Arcata, California
  - (c) Discussion: Date: April 13, 2007  
Location: Bodega Bay, California
  - (d) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 25, 2007  
Location: Teleconference
- V. Update:

The initial proposal provided a range of tag numbers for pronghorn antelope hunt zones and indicated that final quotas for each zone would be determined and reported in the Final Statement, based on findings from the annual winter survey. These ranges are necessary as the final number of tags cannot be determined until the annual winter survey is completed and analyzed. However, under circumstances where severe environmental conditions adversely effect herd recruitment and survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed tag range. Based on results of the annual winter survey, the Department recommended pronghorn antelope tag quotas for 2007 (see "Data Supplement to The California Fish and Game Commission, Regarding: Recommended 2007 Antelope Tag Allocations (Updated 2006 Antelope Harvest and Population Estimates)"). Pursuant to it's April 25, 2007 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the final tag quotas as follows:

2007 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Quotas						
Hunt Area	Archery- Only Season		General Season			
			Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	1	0	8	0	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	1	0	15	0	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	8	0	40	0	40	0
Zone 4 – Lassen	7	0	40	0	40	0
Zone 5 – Big Valley	1	0	3	0	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	1	0	9	0	0	0
Big Valley Junior Hunt	N/A		1 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Junior Hunt	N/A		5 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Junior Hunt	N/A		4 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		2 Buck			

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.

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  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

1. Number of Tags

No alternatives were identified. Pronghorn antelope license tag quotas must be changed periodically in response to a variety of biological and environmental conditions.

2. Editorial Changes

No alternatives were identified.

(b) No change Alternative:

1. Number of Tags

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not attain project objectives of providing for hunting opportunities while maintaining pronghorn antelope populations within desired population objectives. Retaining the current tag quota for each zone may not be responsive to biologically-based changes in the status of various herds. Management plans specify minimum desired buck to doe ratios which are attained/maintained in part by modifying tag quotas on an annual basis. The no-change alternative would not allow adjustment of tag quotas in response to changing environmental or biological conditions.

2. Editorial Changes

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate regulations.

(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:

This proposed action adjusts tag quotas, for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, this proposal is economically neutral to business.

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses 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.

- (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 a Representative Private Person or Business: None
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None
- (e) 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 specify the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action provides tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones, pending final tag quota determinations based on winter survey results expected by March of 2007. The final tag quotas will provide for adequate hunting opportunities while allowing for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and does in specific populations. The proposed tag allocation ranges are as set forth below.

**The original proposal changed the number of license tags for the zones to a series of ranges. The proposal is further modified to provide the final tag quota's based on updated harvest and population analysis contained in the "Data Supplement To The California Fish and Game Commission, Regarding: Recommended 2007 Antelope Tag Allocations (Updated 2006 Antelope Harvest and Population Estimates)". The number of tags proposed is intended to provide an appropriate level of antelope hunting opportunity and harvest while achieving or maintaining management and population objectives. These final values for the license tag numbers are based upon findings from annual harvest and population surveys. However, under circumstances where severe environmental conditions adversely effect herd recruitment and survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed tag range.**

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