

Analysis:

This proposal is consistent with the Department's proposal.

Description of Proposed Action by Public:

Include San Diego County within the fall turkey season.

Proposal Source:

Walt Mansell
California Rifle and Pistol Association
August 8, 2008

Recommendation:

Accept

Analysis:

This proposal is consistent with the Department's proposal.

Description of Proposed Action by Public:

Expand the pheasant hunting season from the current six weeks to eight weeks.

Proposal Source:

Jim Brown
San Diego, CA
July 9, 2008 (letter)

Recommendation:

Reject

Analysis:

The Department believes that the existing pheasant season is a reasonable length, and is generally supported by most pheasant hunters. Although a longer season would have little effect on the population, since only male pheasants may be taken, opposition to a longer season could be anticipated. This is because pheasant numbers have decreased substantially in California, because of changes in agricultural practices.

Description of Proposed Action by Public:

Add a spring turkey season for junior hunters that would occur on the weekend prior to the general spring season.

Proposal Source:

Bill Gaines
California Outdoor Heritage Alliance
June 27, 2008 (oral comments)
July 14, 2008 (letter)
August 8, 2008 (oral comments)

Analysis:

The Commission has asked the Department to prepare appropriate documents to allow the consideration of a spring turkey season for junior hunters prior to the general season of 2009. The Department will comply with this request.

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 Regulation Change:

The following reasonable alternatives were identified in the Initial Statement of Reasons:

1. Season and Bag Limit for Doves – removal of bag limit on Eurasian collared-doves

An alternative to the Department's proposal to remove the bag limit on Eurasian collared-doves would be to remove the bag limit, and also to allow them to be taken year around. This is the approach that has been taken by some other states. An advantage to this alternative is that it would provide some additional hunter opportunity. However, the Department's Enforcement Branch believes that a year around season on Eurasian collared-doves would create a substantial Enforcement workload that would not be justified by a modest increase in hunter opportunity, and that white-wing and mourning doves would be taken due to misidentification by hunters.

(b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative was considered and found to be inadequate because of the following:

Adequate numbers of wild turkeys exist in San Diego County to justify a fall season there, and this would simplify regulations since the fall season would become the same statewide.

Even though the number of falconers who hunt upland game birds is small, allowing them a longer season would provide some additional opportunity, and would not effect upland game populations.

Continuing to include Eurasian collared-doves in the dove bag limit would result in unnecessarily forgoing some additional hunter opportunity. In addition, there is a possibility (as yet unproven) that these birds may compete with native doves, and might displace them in some locations.

- (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 the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (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. The proposed regulation change is sufficiently minor that there would be no significant economic impact to businesses.

- (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:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business 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) 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

1. Fall season for Hunting Wild Turkeys (Addition of San Diego County)

Current regulations provide for a fall turkey hunting season statewide, except for San Diego County. The Department's annual "Game Take Hunter Survey" indicates wild turkey populations have increased in San Diego County. Harvest of turkeys in San Diego County during the spring season has increased from an estimated number of 460 in 2003 to nearly 1,000 in 2006 (most recent information available). It is reasonable to conclude that the population there will support a fall season. Also, adding San Diego County to the area where turkeys can be hunted in the fall will make this regulation consistent statewide.

2. Falconry Season for Upland Game Birds

Current regulations provide for a falconry season for pheasant, quail, chukar, blue and ruffed grouse, and white-tailed ptarmigan that opens on October 1. Falconers have requested that their season be changed to open at the same time as the archery season for quail, chukars, and blue and ruffed grouse (third Saturday in August). This would allow falconers a longer season, and allow them to train their hawks on young prey that the hawks would be more capable of catching. This would make it more likely that the birds would develop into successful hunters. The Department supports this proposal. The Department sells about 600 falconry licenses annually, and only a small portion of these falconers hunt upland game birds, so this regulation change would have no effect on upland game populations.

3. Bag Limit for Eurasian Collared-doves

Eurasian collared-doves have recently become established in California and their numbers are rapidly expanding, particularly in southern California. In 2007, the Commission designated them a resident small game species, and included them in the existing dove season and bag and possession limits. The Department is proposing to provide additional hunting opportunity by removing the bag and possession limit on Eurasian collared-doves. This would be consistent with the approach taken by other states (for example, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi), although more liberal than some others, which continue to include this species in the dove bag limit (e.g. Oklahoma, Louisiana). Some other states (e.g. Arizona, Texas, Georgia) allow the take of collared-doves all year, with no limit.

Minor editorial changes were made to improve the clarity of the regulations.

The Commission adopted the regulations as proposed by the Department at the adoption hearing.