

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95811

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. Apprentice hunts.

No alternatives were identified. The new regulation better distinguishes between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota's, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters.

(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. Apprentice Hunts

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not result in clear and accurate description of hunting opportunities available to junior hunters.

(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.

XI. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the regulatory action have been assessed, and the following determinations regarding 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:

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

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. The final tag quotas 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 was modified to include a recommendation to rename “Junior” hunts to “Apprentice” hunts in an effort to better distinguish between hunting opportunities available for junior and adult hunters, “junior hunts” have been re-titled to “apprentice hunts”. These hunting opportunities have been established with special seasons, tag quota’s, and/or tag types in order to reduce competition between junior and adult hunters. Additionally, junior antelope hunters are required to have a nonhunting licensed adult chaperon while hunting under an apprentice hunt tag. All of these factors assist the junior hunter in refining the skills necessary to be a safe, ethical, and successful adult hunter.

No other modifications to the original proposal were made. Pursuant to it’s May 9, 2008 meeting, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the above referenced changes and final tag quotas as proposed.

2008 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Quotas						
<i>Hunt Area</i>	<i>Archery-Only Season</i>		<i>General Season</i>			
			<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
	<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>	<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>	<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	1	0	8	0	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	1	0	15	0	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	9	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	10	0	0	0
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		1 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		5 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		4 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		2 Buck			