



bucks will exist over and above the number required to maintain the desired buck ratio objectives stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

The actual tag numbers for each affected hunt will be reflected in the Final Statement of Reasons and will be selected from the range of values provided by this proposal. The number of tags is intended to allow the appropriate level of hunting opportunity and harvest of bucks in the population, while achieving or maintaining the buck ratios at, or near, objective levels set forth in the approved deer herd management plans. These final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the annual harvest and herd composition counts. However, under circumstances where severe winter conditions adversely effect herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed tag range.

## 2. Modify Season for Hunt A-33

Existing regulations for Archery Hunt A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only beginning the first Saturday in October and continuing through November 8, except if rescheduled by the Base Commander between the season opener and December 31 with Department concurrence. The Base Commander has requested the season be modified to include weekdays as well, and extend the season through the Veterans Day holiday (original proposed season from 2007 Environmental Document), in order to provide equal hunting access and opportunity to those military personnel possessing A-33 hunt tags that are normally assigned to work on weekends and holidays.

The proposal would modify the season to include all weekdays and weekends between the season opener and Veterans Day. No loss of hunter opportunity would result from this action and the proposal is consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

## 3. Modify Special Conditions - Tag Application Refunds/Point Restoration for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

Existing regulations provide for additional premium deer hunts on military bases (Hunt A-33). Under Special Conditions for these deer hunts, it specifies that in the event the Base Commander cancels the hunt, tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund. However, current regulations only provide for the refund of deer tag application fees under a very limited set of circumstances and conditions as specified in Section 708.14. These military hunt Special Conditions are in direct conflict with tag application refund policies addressed in Section 708.14 and may create confusion in the event of hunt cancellation.

In addition, existing regulations for these premium deer hunts on military bases do not address the restoration of accumulated or earned preference points for tags issued through the Big Game Drawing in the event of hunt cancellation.

The proposed change would eliminate reference to tag application fee refunds for cancelled military hunts under Special Conditions, thereby eliminating conflict with other regulations and policies. In the event of hunt cancellation, the proposal would also provide for the restoration of accumulated and earned preference points for those tags issued through the Big Game Drawing following procedures described in Section 708.14. Tag exchange options provided under Special Conditions would remain unchanged.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Fish and Game Code sections 200, 202, 203, 220, and 4370.

Reference: Fish and Game Code sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, and 4370.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change:

None.

(d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change:

2007 Final Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication:

The Department conducted a public scoping session in Sacramento on October 11, 2006 and November 18, 2010. Public input, discussions and recommendations regarding the environmental document and mammal hunting and trapping regulations were taken at this time.

Additionally, in 2000, the Department of Fish and Game held a total of twenty-three (23) "Deer Stakeholder" meetings throughout the State. The meetings were open to the public and the Department provided information on a variety of deer management strategies and issues including: Deer Assessment Unit (zone complex) planning and tag draw method alternatives. Attendees were asked to participate in a survey and public comment was also received. The Department also conducted four public meetings at which regulation change concepts and specific proposals for mammals, furbearers, including deer were discussed, and additional public comment was received.

While these meetings were conducted prior to the establishment of current and proposed regulations, the concepts and proposals which were derived through

these meetings are still being implemented as part of the current year regulatory process.

#### IV. 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.

###### 2. Modify Season for Hunt A-33

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

###### 3. Modify Special Conditions – Tag Application Refunds/Point Restoration for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

An alternative would be to modify subsections within Section 708.14 to provide additional exceptions to the refund policy. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would create more exceptions to the no-refund policy. In addition, it would not resolve issues pertaining to preference point reinstatement, resulting in hunter dissatisfaction.

##### (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 hunts 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.

###### 2. Modify Season Dates for Hunt A-33

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current season length and timing would be unresponsive to Base operations, scheduled activities and unnecessarily restrict hunter opportunity.

###### 3. Modify Special Conditions - Tag Application Refunds/Point Restoration for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

The no change alternative was considered and rejected. Retaining the existing regulations regarding deer tag application refunds for cancelled military deer hunts would be unresponsive to inconsistencies which currently exist between 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.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. 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, modifies the season for one hunt and clarifies refund and preference point policies in the event of military hunt cancellation. 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.

**INFORMATIVE DIGEST  
(Policy Statement Overview)**

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for existing area-specific archery hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the table below. 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 over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range.

Existing regulations for Archery Hunt A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays only beginning the first Saturday in October and continuing through November 8, except if rescheduled by the Base Commander between the season opener and December 31 with Department concurrence. The Base Commander has requested the season be modified to include weekdays as well, and extend the season through the Veterans Day holiday (original proposed season from 2007 Environmental Document), in order to provide equal hunting access and opportunity to those military personnel normally assigned to work on weekends and holidays. The proposal would modify the season to include all weekdays and weekends between the season opener and Veterans Day. No loss of hunter opportunity would result from this action and the proposal is consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

Existing regulations provide for additional premium deer hunts on military bases (Hunt A-33). Under Special Conditions for these deer hunts, it specifies that in the event the Base Commander cancels the hunt, tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund. However, current regulations only provide for the refund of deer tag application fees under a very limited set of circumstances and conditions as specified in Section 708.14. These military hunt Special Conditions are in direct conflict with tag application refund policies addressed in Section 708.14 and may create confusion in the event of hunt cancellation. In addition, existing regulations for these premium deer hunts on military bases do not address the restoration of accumulated or earned preference points for tags issued through the Big Game Drawing in the event of hunt cancellation. The proposed change would eliminate reference to tag application fee refunds for cancelled military hunts under Special Conditions, thereby eliminating conflict with other regulations and policies. In the event of hunt cancellation, the proposal would also provide for the restoration of accumulated and earned preference points for those tags issued through the Big Game Drawing following procedures described in Section 708.14.

<b>Archery Deer Hunting: § 361</b>		
<b>Tag Allocations</b>		
<b>Hunt Number (and Title)</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt)	1,945	150-3,000
A-3 (Zone X-1 Archery Hunt)	130	50-1,000
A-4 (Zone X-2 Archery Hunt)	10	5-100

<b>Archery Deer Hunting: § 361</b>		
<b>Tag Allocations</b>		
<b>Hunt Number (and Title)</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt)	30	10-300
A-6 (Zone X-3b Archery Hunt)	90	25-400
A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt)	115	25-400
A-8 (Zone X-5a Archery Hunt)	15	15-100
A-9 (Zone X-5b Archery Hunt)	5	5-100
A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt)	55	10-200
A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt)	140	10-300
A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt)	50	10-200
A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt)	25	5-100
A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt)	40	5-100
A-16 (Zone X-9a Archery Hunt)	140	50-500
A-17 (Zone X-9b Archery Hunt)	300	50-500
A-18 (Zone X-9c Archery Hunt)	350	50-500
A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt)	120	25-200
A-20 (Zone X-12 Archery Hunt)	170	50-500
A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt)	25	25-100
A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	100	25-200
A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	35	20-75
A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt)	30	10-100
A-27 (Devil's Garden Archery Buck Hunt)	10	5-75
A-30 (Covelo Archery Buck Hunt)	40	20-100
A-31 (Los Angeles Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Archery Late Season Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	250	50-300
A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25 Military* and 25 Public	25 Military* and 25 Public

\* *Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.*