

Administrative procedures and the Fish and Game Code require the Fish and Game Commission to receive proposed changes to existing regulations prior to the time winter pronghorn antelope surveys are completed. The proposed ranges of pronghorn antelope tags for 2012 are as follows:

Archery tags:

Zone	2011 Buck	2012 Buck	2011 Doe	2012 Doe
1 - Mount Dome	0	0-10	0	0 – 3
2 - Clear Lake	1	0-10	0	0 – 3
3 - Likely Table	8	0-20	0	0 – 7
4 - Lassen	10	0-20	0	0 – 7
5 - Big Valley	1	0-15	0	0 – 5
6 - Surprise Valley	1	0-10	-	-

General Season tags

Zone	2011 Tag Quotas				2012 Tag Quotas			
	Period 1		Period 2		Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
1 – Mount Dome	0	0	-	-	0-60	0-20	-	-
2 – Clear Lake	10	0	-	-	0-80	0-25	-	-
3 – Likely Table	40	0	35	0	0-150	0-50	0-130	0-50
4 – Lassen	50	0	50	0	0-150	0-50	0-150	0-50
5 – Big Valley	8	-	0	-	0-150	0-50	-	-
6 – Surprise Valley	10	-	0	-	0-25	0-7	-	-
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	1 Either Sex		-		0-15 Either Sex		-	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	5 Either Sex		-		0-15 Either Sex		-	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	4 Either Sex		-		0-4 Either Sex		-	
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	5 Either Sex		-		0-5 Either Sex		-	
Fund-Raising Hunt	2 Buck				0-10 Buck			

(b) Authority and Reference:

Authority: Fish and Game Code sections 219, 220, 331, 1050 and 10502.
Reference: Fish and Game Code Sections 331, 713, 1050, 10500 and 10502.

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

None.

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

None were identified

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

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

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

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.

(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 for adjustment of tag quotas in response to changing environmental/biological conditions.

(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 as 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.

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 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. Considering the small number of tags issued over the entire state, this proposal is 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 or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this 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 pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action would provide for tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones pending final tag quota determinations based on winter survey results that should be completed by March of 2012. 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 2012 tag allocation ranges for the hunt zones are as set forth below.

2012 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Ranges						
<i>Hunt Area</i>	<i>Archery-Only Season</i>		<i>General Season</i>			
			Period 1		Period 2	
	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe	Buck	Doe
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	0-10	0-3	0-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	0-10	0-3	0-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-130	0-50
Zone 4 – Lassen	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-150	0-50
Zone 5 – Big Valley	0-15	0-5	0-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	0-10	0	0-25	0-7	0	0
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-4 Either-Sex		0	
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-5 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		0-10 Buck			