

Economic Impact Analysis

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

The proposed upland game regulation will have positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to hunters in 2013-2014. The best available information is presented in the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife associated recreation for California, produced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Census Bureau, which is the most recent survey completed. (<http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-ca.pdf>) The report estimates that hunters spent about \$964,054,000 on hunting trip-related and equipment expenditures in California in 2011. Most businesses will benefit from these regulations, and those that may be impacted are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses, are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed regulations is to maintain or increase upland game populations, and subsequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses.

Benefits of the Regulation

Concurrence with Federal Law. The upland game bird stamp is not governed by federal law. Resident game bird hunting regulations are set by the Commission under the authority of state law with no federal regulatory authority. Migratory game birds do fall within frameworks established by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and need to be approved by the flyway council.

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Upland Game Resources. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the upland game resources for the benefit of all the citizens of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of upland game to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support recreational opportunity. Adoption of sustainable upland game seasons, bag and possession limits provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of upland game to ensure their continued existence.

Promotion of Businesses That Rely on Upland Game Hunting. The upland game bird stamp and new hunting validation provide funding for the management of upland game birds. Adoption of scientifically-based upland game hunting season length, bag and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient upland game populations to ensure their continued existence and future upland game hunting opportunities. Based on the survey identified above, hunters contributed about \$142,412,000 on total trip-related expenditures for small game hunting in California in 2011. The most positive economic impact will be focused on regions with good upland game bird populations, which are often small businesses in rural communities. Businesses that will benefit the most include: sporting goods stores (equipment, guns, ammunition, clothing), department stores, boat dealers, gas stations, restaurants, grocery stores, motels, and campgrounds.

Health and Welfare of California Residents. Hunting is an outdoor activity that can provide several benefits for individuals who partake in it and for the environment. Individual health benefits come from exercise and consumption of wild game, which is generally healthier than domestic meats. The fees that hunters pay for licenses and stamps are used for conservation, which helps create a cleaner environment. In addition, the efforts of hunters can reduce the size of certain populations to reduce depredation on private lands. People who hunt have a special connection with the outdoors and an awareness of the relationships between wildlife, habitat, and humans. With that awareness comes an understanding of the role humans play in being caretakers of the environment. Hunting is a tradition that is often passed on from one generation to the next creating a special bond between family members and friends.