

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 waterfowl regulations will set the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting season dates and bag limits within the federal frameworks. Positive impacts to jobs and/or businesses that provide services to waterfowl hunters will be realized with the continuation of adopting waterfowl hunting seasons in 2013-14. This is based on the 2011 U.S. Fish and Wildlife National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for California (issued Feb. 2013). The report estimated that hunters contributed about \$169,115,000 to small businesses in California during the 2011 waterfowl hunting season. The impacted businesses 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 waterfowl, subsequently, the long-term viability of these same small businesses. The 2011 report is posted on the United States Department of Commerce website at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2013pubs/fhw11-ca.pdf>.

Benefits of the Regulation

Concurrence with Federal Law. Each year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) establishes the frameworks for annual hunting regulations after coordination with the states through the Flyway Councils. These frameworks stipulate the outside dates, maximum number of days, and maximum daily bag limit for each species of waterfowl. Each of the Flyway Councils (Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic) meets twice a year to review these frameworks, the status of waterfowl populations, and may make recommendations to the USFWS to change the frameworks or offer other guidance on migratory bird management. The California Fish and Game Commission select hunting regulations from within these frameworks.

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Waterfowl Resources. It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the waterfowl 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 waterfowl to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support recreational opportunity. Adoption of scientifically-based waterfowl seasons, bag, and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient populations of waterfowl to ensure their continued existence.

Promotion of Businesses That Rely on Waterfowl Hunting. Adoption of scientifically-based waterfowl hunting season length, bag and possession limits provide for the maintenance of sufficient waterfowl populations to ensure their continued existence and future waterfowl hunting opportunities. Based on the 2011 waterfowl hunting season, hunters contributed about \$169,115,000 in direct revenues to the state's business sectors. This is based on a 2011 US Fish and Wildlife national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. The most positive economic

impact will be focused on regions with high migratory bird hunting activity. Businesses that will benefit the most include: sporting goods stores (equipment, guns, ammunition, and 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 those who partake in it and for the environment as well. The fees that hunters pay for licenses and stamps are used for conservation. In addition, the efforts of hunters can reduce the size of certain populations to reduce depredation on private lands. Jobs can also be created by hunting activities, hunters benefit from fresh game to eat, and from the benefits of physical activity. 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.