

Economic Impact Assessment

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 regulations reorganize, consolidate and clarify the existing regulations that govern public use of lands administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department). They do not add new uses or remove existing uses. Under the existing regulations (Sec. 550(b)(5), Title 14), special use permits are required for organized events but there is no standardized process for how these permits are issued. The proposed regulations introduce a statewide process for special use permits and a fee to recover the Department's cost to issue these permits and recover additional costs if necessary. The proposed regulations also designate seven recently acquired properties as Wildlife Areas or Ecological Reserves. Because the proposed regulations do not add new uses or remove existing uses, they are not anticipated to result in the creation or elimination of jobs within the State, the creation of new businesses, or the elimination or expansion of existing businesses.

Benefits of the Regulation:

Improves Understanding of Regulations in CCR Title 14 Pertaining to Use of Department Lands:

The proposed regulations will make it easier for the public and Department staff to find the regulations about specific uses or properties that they are interested in. It will be easier to understand what uses are allowed or prohibited on Department lands, will assist Department staff in providing clear, consistent guidance to the public, and enhance law enforcement efforts. It will be easier to evaluate land regulations that are proposed in the future for consistency and lack of duplication.

Promotes Uses of Department Lands that are Consistent with Statutes:

The revised wording and added definitions more clearly reflect the statutes that govern the use of Department lands (Fish and Game Code Sections 1525 et. seq. and 1580 et. seq.). These statutes state the purposes for which the Department acquires lands. The proposed regulations will promote uses of the properties that are consistent with the statutes.

Currently, undesignated lands are not covered by regulations that specifically protect Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves. This makes it extremely difficult for Department land management and law enforcement staff to protect these properties from human-caused habitat degradation. Under the proposed regulations, wildlife areas, ecological reserves and undesignated lands would all be protected under the same set of general regulations.

Provides for Consistent Permitting and Cost Recovery by the Department for Special Uses:

Currently, Department staff responds to many proposals to use Department lands for special activities or events that may or may not be compatible with the management goals for a given property. There has not been a consistent, transparent process to evaluate these proposals or to recover the Department's costs for evaluating proposals and conducting additional work that may be associated with these events. The proposed regulations establish a consistent process for requesting permission to conduct a special use, for Department staff to issue special use permits, and for the Department to recover the associated costs.

Health and Welfare of California Residents:

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents through the continued access and enjoyment of Department lands along with the continued protection of habitats and the wildlife resources that depend upon them.

Benefits to Worker Safety:

The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety from the proposed regulations because the proposed regulations will not impact worker safety conditions.