

Economic Impact Assessment
 Amend Subsection 362
 Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
 Re: Nelson Bighorn Sheep

The proposed regulations will set the 2014-2015 Nelson Bighorn Sheep hunting regulations. Currently, the season dates and tag quotas are established based on overwinter herd reports and biological assessments made by Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologists at the conclusion of the respective species hunting seasons. In early spring, surveys of deer herds are conducted to determine the proportion of fawns that have survived the winter. This information is used in conjunction with the prior year harvest and fall herd composition data to estimate overall herd size, sex and age ratios, and the predicted number of available bucks next season. Each year the Department reviews the population status of the subject species and recommends tag quotas based on the above survey data.

Economic Impact of Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep Hunting

Data from the Department’s Wildlife and License and Revenue Branches were used in conjunction with USFWS¹ data to estimate the total economic impact of Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep hunters throughout the state. Each year about 175,000 hunters spend about \$1,161 each in hunting trip-related expenditures. These trip-related expenditures are dispersed to California businesses in the vicinity of and en route to the hunting areas. These direct expenditures generate indirect and induced effects resulting in \$263,702,757 in total economic output.² Deer, Elk, Antelope, and Bighorn Sheep hunting is associated with about \$51,947,191 in labor income or a total of 1,170 jobs in the state.

Economic Impact of Big Game Hunting Trip-Related Expenditures (resident & nonresident)			
	Output	Labor Income	Jobs
Direct	\$202,390,334	\$31,704,949	803
Indirect	\$21,568,669	\$7,035,943	121
Induced	\$39,743,754	\$13,206,299	247
Total	\$263,702,757	\$51,947,191	1,170

Economic Impact of Nelson Bighorn Sheep Hunting

Section 362 sets dates and tag quotas for Bighorn Sheep hunting in the state. The approximately 23 Bighorn Sheep hunters alone are estimated to contribute about \$12,339 per year in hunting trip-related expenditures. These trip-related expenditures generate indirect and induced effects resulting in \$16,077 in total economic output. The combined economic effects of Bighorn Sheep hunters in these zones support as much as .07 jobs in the state.

¹ USFWS, *2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation for California, Feb 2013.*

² California state-wide multipliers generated with IMPLAN were used to estimate the total economic impacts for all Big Game Hunting.

Bighorn Sheep Hunting §362 Trip-Related Expenditures (resident & nonresident)			
	Output	Labor Income	Jobs
Direct	\$12,339	\$1,933	0.05
Indirect	\$1,315	\$429	0.01
Induced	\$2,423	\$805	0.02
Total	\$16,077	\$3,167	0.07

Economic Impact of Proposed Changes to §362

The existing §362 regulation specifies the number of license Bighorn Sheep tags allocated in the state. The Commission is considering changes to the number of tags for all existing zones within the ranges presented in the table below.

HUNT ZONE	Current Tag allocation	Tag allocation (proposed)
Zone 1 - Marble/Clipper Mountains	4	0-4
Zone 2 - Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains	3	0-4
Zone 3 - Clark/Kingston Mountain Ranges	2	0-2
Zone 4 - Orocopia Mountains	1	0-2
Zone 5 - San Gorgonio Wilderness	1	0-3
Zone 6 - Sheep Hole Mountains	1	0-2
Zone 7 - White Mountains	3	0-5
Zone 8 - South Bristol Mountains	2	0-3
Zone 9 - Cady Mountains	3	0-4
Open Zone Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Mountains Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains Fund-raising Tag	1	0-1
TOTAL:	23	0-32

The lowest number of tags that could be adopted under the proposed regulations is zero and the highest amount being considered is 32. From the 2013 allocation of 23 tags the potential increase or decrease could fall within a range of about minus 100 percent to plus 39 percent of last season's total number of tags for the entire regulated zones. The economic impact of the final tag allocation structure was evaluated at the lowest possible number; the median number; and the highest possible number of tags to be adopted by the Commission.

A. The Creation or Elimination of Jobs

Depending on the final number of tags that the Commission adopts for these zones, the statewide impact to the creation or elimination of jobs is estimated to be less than one job, given the limited impact of the small number of Bighorn Sheep hunters.

B. The Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation of new business or the elimination of existing businesses because the proposed regulations are not expected to reduce or increase the number of hunter days to a significant extent.

C. The Expansion of Businesses in California

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the expansion of businesses in California that will be subject to the proposed amendments will not reduce or increase the number of hunter days to a significant extent.

D. Benefits of the Regulation:

Concurrence with Federal Law:

There are no comparable federal laws.

Concurrence with other Statutory Requirements:

Not applicable.

Health and Welfare of California Residents

Hunting provides outdoor recreational opportunities for not only the hunters, but for family and friends who are non-hunting members of the group, and are able to participate in hiking, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Benefits of the regulation to worker safety

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts to worker safety because the proposed amendments will not affect working conditions.

Benefits to the Environment: Sustainable Management of Big Game Resources

It is the policy of this state to encourage the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of the living resources of the state's wildlife under the jurisdiction and influence of the state for the benefit of all the citizens of the state and to promote the development of local California hunting in harmony with federal law respecting the conservation of the living resources of the state. The objectives of this policy include, but are not limited to, the maintenance of sufficient populations of all species to ensure their continued existence and the maintenance of a sufficient resource to support a reasonable sport use, taking into consideration the necessity of regulating individual tag quotas to the quantity that is sufficient to provide satisfying hunting opportunities. Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones, and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of big-game species to ensure their continued existence.

Other Benefits of the regulation:

Promotion of Businesses That Rely on Statewide Hunting.

Adoption of scientifically-based seasons, zones and tag quotas provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of big game to ensure their continued existence and future sport hunting opportunities. Under a normal season state big game hunters contribute about \$202,390,334 in direct revenues to the State's business sector. This is based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife data and the US Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 national survey data on fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation for California. Adding the indirect and induced effects of this initial revenue contribution and the total benefit to California's economy is estimated to be \$263,702,757 per year. This is equivalent to about \$51,947,191 in total wage earnings to Californians, or as many as 1,170 jobs in the state.