

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION
(Pre-Publication of Notice Statement)

Amend Section 364
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Re: Elk

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: December 15, 2009

- II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: February 4, 2010
Location: Sacramento

 - (b) Discussion Hearings: Date: March 3, 2010
Location: Ontario

Date: April 8, 2010
Location: Monterey

 - (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 21, 2010 (Teleconference)
Location: Sacramento

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

- (a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

- 1. Number of Tags

Existing regulations specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt. In order to maintain hunting quality in accordance with management goals and objectives, it is periodically necessary to adjust quotas in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. This proposed amendment modifies elk tag numbers to ranges of tags to adjust for periodic fluctuations in population numbers.

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Roosevelt Elk										
Siskiyou	0-30		0-30							
Del Norte	0-20		0-15							
Marble Mountains	0-30		0-70							
Marble Mtns Apprentice		0-4								
Marble Mtns Muzzleloader/ Archery		0-10								
Klamath	0-20		0-20							
Big Lagoon	0-10		0-10							
Northwestern California		0-30								
Rocky Mountain Elk										
Northeastern	0-10		0-30					0-20		
Northeastern Apprentice		0-4								
Tule Elk										
Cache Creek	0-4		0-4							
Cache Creek Apprentice			0-2							
La Panza										
Period 1	0-10		0-12							
Period 1 (Apprentice)	0-2		0-2							
Period 2	0-12		0-12							
Owens Valley										
Multiple-Zone									0-10	0-10
Bishop										
Period 1 Muzzleloader					0-10	0-30				
Period 2 Apprentice	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Independence										
Period 1 Muzzleloader (New)					0-10	0-10				
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Lone Pine										
Period 1 Archery (New)									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Tinemaha										
Period 1 Archery									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
West Tinemaha										
Period 1	0-30		0-10							
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Tinemaha Mountain (New)										
Period 1			0-8							
Period 2			0-8							
Period 3			0-8							
Period 4			0-8							
Period 5			0-8							
Whitney (New)										
Period 1 Archery									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-10		0-4							
Period 3	0-10		0-4							
Period 4	0-10		0-4							
Period 5	0-10		0-4							
Grizzly Island										
Period 1	0-12		0-2	0-6						
Period 1 Apprentice	0-2			0-2						
Period 2	0-12		0-3	0-6						
Period 2 Apprentice				0-2						
Period 3	0-12		0-3	0-4						

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation										
Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Fort Hunter Liggett										
Archery Only								0-12	0-20	
Period 1	0-28									
Apprentice	0-8									
Period 2	0-32									
Period 3			0-28							
Apprentice			0-4							
Muzzleloader Bull (new)					0-12					
Early Season Bull (new)			0-4							
East Park Reservoir										
Period 1			0-4							
Period 3	0-8									
San Luis Reservoir	0-5	0-10	0-10							
Mendocino (New)	0-4		0-4							
Bear Valley (new)	0-2		0-4							
Lake Pillsbury (New)	0-4		0-4							
Alameda (New)			0-4							
Santa Clara (New)			0-4							

2. Establish new hunts: Whitney tule elk, Tinemaha Mountain tule elk, Mendocino tule elk, Lake Pillsbury tule elk, Bear Valley tule elk, Alameda tule elk, and Santa Clara tule elk.

As part of the modifications to the (Lone Pine) zone in Inyo County a portion of the zone would be converted to a new zone to more appropriately manage harvest. The proposal creates a new zone called Whitney tule elk. Antlerless and bull tags would be issued utilizing the established Owens Valley hunt periods. Period one would be archery antlerless (range 0-30), and bull (range 0-10) tags. Periods two through five would be antlerless (range 0-10) and bull (range 0-4).

As part of the modifications to the West_Tinemaha zone in Inyo County a portion of the zone would be converted to a new zone to more appropriate

manage harvest. A subgroup of elk has shifted distribution and is currently occupying a higher elevation portion of the zone. The proposal creates a new zone called Tinemaha Mountain tule elk hunt. Bull tags (range 0-8, for each period) would be available to the public within the five established hunt periods in the Owens Valley.

Public opportunities to hunt elk are currently not available in Mendocino County. Sufficient numbers of elk now occur in this area to provide additional opportunity for the public to hunt elk. The proposal would add a (new) hunt for elk in portions of Mendocino County called Mendocino tule elk hunt. Bull (range 0 to 4) and antlerless (range 0-4) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the Wednesday preceding the fourth Saturday in September and continue for 12 consecutive days.

Public opportunities to hunt elk are currently limited or not available in Lake County. Sufficient numbers of elk occur in this area to provide additional opportunity for the public to hunt elk. The proposal would add a (new) hunt for elk in portions of Lake County called Lake Pillsbury tule elk hunt. Bull (range 0 to 4) and antlerless (range 0-4) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the second Wednesday in September and continue for 10 consecutive days.

Public opportunities to hunt elk are currently very limited or not available in Colusa, Lake, and Yolo Counties. Sufficient numbers of elk occur in this area to provide additional opportunity for the public to hunt elk. The proposal would add a (new) hunt for elk in portions of Colusa, Lake, and Yolo Counties called Bear Valley tule elk hunt. Bull (range 0 to 4) and antlerless (range 0-2) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the second Saturday in October and continue for 9 consecutive days.

Public opportunities to hunt elk are currently not available in Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. Sufficient numbers of elk occur in this area to provide additional opportunity for the public to hunt elk. The proposal would add a (new) hunt for elk in portions of Alameda and San Joaquin Counties called Alameda tule elk hunt. Bull (range 0 to 4) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the second Saturday in October and continue for 16 consecutive days.

Public opportunities to hunt elk are currently very limited or not available in Merced, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties. Sufficient numbers of elk occur in this area to provide additional opportunity for the public to hunt elk. The proposal would add a (new) hunt for elk in portions of Merced, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties called Santa Clara tule elk hunt. Bull (range 0 to 4) tags would be available to the public during a season

beginning the second Saturday in October and continue for 16 consecutive days.

3. Modify Season Dates: Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk, Northwestern Roosevelt elk, and Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk.

The proposal modifies season dates for the Fort Hunter Liggett hunts. Due to military use constraints, hunt dates are subject to change from year to year.

The proposal modifies season dates for the fund raising tag in the Northwestern Roosevelt elk hunt zone. This change will modify the hunt dates for fund raising tag to end the same day as the general season hunt.

The proposal modifies season dates for the fund raising tag in the Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk hunt zone. This change will modify the hunt dates for fund raising tag to end the same day as the general season hunt.

4. Modify existing hunt boundaries: Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk, Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk, Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk, West Tinemaha tule elk, and Lone Pine tule elk.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk hunt. During the years that have elapsed since this hunt was established elk population numbers have increased and their range has expanded beyond existing hunt boundaries. The proposal to expand boundaries for the Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk hunt south to Highway 36 is necessary to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with management objectives for elk in the area.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk hunt. During the years that have elapsed since this hunt was established elk population numbers have increased and their range has expanded beyond existing hunt boundaries. The proposal to expand boundaries for the Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk hunt south to Highway 36 is necessary to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with management objectives for elk in the area.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk hunt. The proposal to modify the boundary is necessary to reduce confusion between the boundaries of the Big Lagoon and the Northwestern elk hunt. This modification changes the boundary from the power line right of way to the power line road within right of way of the Humboldt-Trinity 115

Line and Trinity-Maple Creek 60 Line.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the West Tinemaha tule elk zone. The proposal modifies the boundary by dividing the zone into two separate zones. This will create a new zone called Tinemaha Mountain tule elk hunt. This will allow more precise allocation of tags to allow appropriate harvest between subgroups.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Lone Pine tule elk zone. The proposal modifies the boundary by dividing the zone into two separate zones. This will create a new zone called Whitney tule elk hunt. This will allow more precise allocation of tags to allow appropriate harvest between subgroups.

5. Add hunts within existing zones: Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk and Fort Hunter Liggett.

Establish a new hunt period for the Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk hunt. There is demand for alternative weapon hunts for Roosevelt elk. Currently there are no muzzleloader or archery hunts for Roosevelt elk. The proposal establishes a late season hunt for a combination archery and muzzleloader. Either-sex (range 0 to 10) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the last Saturday in October and continue for 9 consecutive days.

Establish new hunts for Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk. There is demand for alternative weapon hunts for tule elk. Currently the Owens Valley is the only area that has muzzleloader hunts for tule elk. The proposal establishes a new hunt for muzzleloader only. Bull (range 0-6) tags would be available to the public during a season beginning the first Saturday in November and continuing for 9 consecutive days.

Establish new military hunt for Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk. The proposal establishes a new hunt for bull tule elk. Bull tags (range 0-2) would be available for military use during a season beginning the second Tuesday in September and continuing for 9 consecutive days.

6. Modifications to existing hunts: Owens Valley (Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha, and West Tinemaha), Siskiyou, Marble Mountain, Northeastern, and Big Lagoon.

Existing regulations permit the Owens Valley region wide archery tags to be utilized in all of the Owens Valley zones. Due to the non uniform distribution of elk within zones and vulnerability of certain groups of elk the proposal would specify which zones the tags could be utilized to better

manage harvest within zones. The proposal would change the name of the Owens Valley Region Wide Archery Only hunt to the Owens Valley Multiple-Zone Archery Only hunt. The tag would authorize harvest of elk in the Bishop, Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha Mountain, and Whitney zones. Existing regulations for these tags authorize the harvest of either-sex elk. In an effort to better manage harvest and provide more hunter opportunity the proposal would convert the new Owens Valley multiple-zone archery tags from either-sex to bull and antlerless tags.

Existing regulations specify methods of take for each hunt period in the Owens Valley. Success rates for the period one archery hunt in the Independence zone are low. The Department believes archery success rates would be higher in the Lone Pine zone due to habitat and topography. In an effort to better manage harvest and hunter success the proposal modifies the period one hunt in the Independence zone from archery to muzzleloader and the period one hunt in the Lone Pine zone from muzzleloader to archery.

Previously authorized tags for the Tinemaha and West Tinemaha zones have been valid in both zones. In an effort to better manage harvest within zones the proposal would issue tags independently for each zone.

Currently the Siskiyou Roosevelt elk hunt authorizes either-sex and antlerless tags. In an effort to better manage harvest the proposal would convert the Siskiyou Roosevelt elk tags from either-sex to bull.

Currently the Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk hunt authorizes either-sex general tags. In an effort to better manage harvest and allow more opportunity to hunters the proposal would convert general either-sex tags to bull (range 0 -70) and antlerless (range 0-30) tags.

Currently the Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk hunt authorizes either-sex general tags. In an effort to better manage harvest and allow more opportunity to hunters the proposal would convert general either-sex tags to bull (range 0-30) and antlerless (range 0-10) tags.

Currently the Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk hunt authorizes either-sex general tags. In an effort to better manage harvest and allow more opportunity to hunters the proposal would convert general either-sex tags to bull (range 0-10) and antlerless (range 0-10) tags.

(b) Authority and Reference:

Authority: Fish and Game Code sections 200, 202, 203, 332, 1050, and 1575.

Reference: Fish and Game Code sections 203, 203.1, 332, 713, 1575, and 3951.

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

None.

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

Final 2010 Environmental Document Regarding Elk Hunting.

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

The Department conducted a public scoping session in Davis on November 18, 2009. 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. Elk license tag quotas must be adjusted periodically in response to a variety of environmental and biological conditions.

2. Establish new hunts: Whitney tule elk, Tinemaha Mountain tule elk, Mendocino tule elk, Lake Pillsbury tule elk, Bear Valley tule elk, Alameda tule elk, and Santa Clara tule elk.

No alternatives were considered in establishing new hunts for the Whitney and Tinemaha Mountain tule elk hunts. Leaving them as part of the previous hunt boundaries would not allow the Department to appropriately manage the subgroups through existing harvest regulations.

Demand for public elk hunting is high in California. More than 26,000 applications were submitted in 2009 for 332 elk tags.

No alternatives were identified for the Mendocino, Lake Pillsbury, Bear Valley, Alameda, and Santa Clara tule elk hunts. Existing regulations provide limited

or no public tule elk hunting in these areas. These areas currently support adequate numbers of elk to support a limited harvest. Establishing (new) tule elk hunts in these areas is desired to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

3. Modify Season Dates: Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk, Northwestern Roosevelt elk, and Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk.

No alternatives were identified for the Fort Hunter Liggett Tule Elk Hunt season date modification. Access is entirely controlled by Fort Hunter Liggett and the new dates are the only option that accommodates military operations while still providing hunter opportunity.

4. Modify hunt boundary: Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk, Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk, Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk, West Tinemaha tule elk, and Lone Pine tule elk.

Establishing a (new) hunt (in lieu of adjusting boundaries) was considered as an alternative and rejected for the Northeastern and Marble Mountain elk hunt zones. The additional areas occupied by elk are predominantly on private property. It is unknown if trespass permission would be granted to a general tag holder. Establishing a (new) hunt is not needed at this time.

Splitting both the Northeastern and Marble Mountain elk zones into two or more smaller zones (while encompassing the boundary extension) was considered as an alternative and rejected. Currently harvest objectives are being met with the existing zones.

No alternative was identified for the Big Lagoon boundary modification. The modification is a minor change to precisely identify the actual boundary between zones.

No alternatives were identified for the West Tinemaha and Lone Pine elk zone boundary modifications. Existing boundaries do not allow appropriate harvest between subgroups. Modifying these boundaries (splitting the zones) allows for the appropriate harvest level within in each subgroup.

5. Add hunts within existing zones: Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk and Fort Hunter Liggett. tule elk.

Establishing separate archery and muzzleloader hunts for the Marble Mountain elk hunt was considered and rejected. With the limited number of tags available and the size of the zone hunter crowding is not considered to

be a problem. Combining the tags into one hunt allows hunters with maximum preference points the best chance of being drawn. The combination tag also allows the hunter to choose between methods.

No alternatives were identified for the establishment of the new bull tule elk muzzleloader hunt at Fort Hunter Liggett. There is great demand for tule elk bull hunts and muzzleloader hunts. The new muzzleloader hunt satisfies the demand for additional muzzleloader hunts and bull tule elk hunts and provides more opportunity for California elk hunters.

Combining the proposed Fort Hunter Liggett military bull tag into one of the existing hunt periods was considered and rejected. The proposed new hunt allows early season hunting opportunity of tule elk bulls that fits within the military operation schedule on the base.

6. Modifications to existing hunts: Owens Valley (Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha, and West Tinemaha) tule elk, Siskiyou Roosevelt elk, Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk, Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk, and Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk.

Eliminating the Owens Valley region wide early season archery hunt was considered and rejected. There is a large demand for these tags and eliminating the tag would reduce early season hunting opportunities within the area. Reducing the zones the tags are valid in allows eliminates the potential for over harvest of elk in those zones.

Reducing the number of tags was considered and rejected for the conversion of the Owens Valley multi-zone archery tags from either-sex to bull and antlerless tags. The proposal allows the Department to better manage the desired harvest with bull and antlerless tags. There is demand for both bull and antlerless tule elk and the proposal meets that demand and increases opportunity.

Conversion of the period one Independence archery tag and the Lone Pine muzzleloader tag to general method tags was considered and rejected. There is demand for archery and muzzleloader tags. Modifying the methods of take for period one in these zones still allows for archery and muzzleloader opportunities. Success rates for the period one archery hunt in the Independence zone are low. The Department believes archery success rates would be higher in the Lone Pine zone due to habitat and topography. Success rates for muzzleloader hunts in the Independence zone should be similar to historic rates in the Lone Pine zone.

Reducing the number of tags was considered and rejected as an alternative for independently issuing tags for the Tinemaha and West Tinemaha zones. Reducing the overall number of tags would eliminate the potential for over

harvest of subgroups, but would also reduce hunter opportunity. Issuing tags valid for the Tinemaha or West Tinemaha zone allows the Department to obtain the desired harvest in each zone while maintaining hunter opportunity.

Reducing the number of tags was considered and rejected as an alternative for the conversion either-sex tags in the Siskiyou zone to bull tags. Current regulations authorize either-sex and antlerless tags for the Siskiyou zone. The proposal allows the Department to better manage the desired harvest by converting the either-sex tags to bull tags.

No alternative was identified for the conversion of either-sex tags to bull and antlerless tags for the Marble Mountain, Northeastern, and Big Lagoon elk hunts. The proposal allows the Department to better manage the desired harvest with bull and antlerless tags. There is demand for both bull and antlerless elk and the proposal meets that demand and increases opportunity.

(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 elk populations and biological/environmental conditions at desired levels. Retaining current tag quotas for each zone may not be responsive to biologically-based changes in the status of various herds. Management plans specify desired sex and age ratios which are attained and maintained in part by modifying tag quotas on an annual basis. The no-change alternative would not allow adjustment of tag quotas in response to changing environmental/biological conditions.

2. Establish new hunts: Whitney tule elk, Tinemaha Mountain tule elk, Mendocino tule elk, Lake Pillsbury tule elk, Bear Valley tule elk, Alameda tule elk, and Santa Clara tule elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected. The no-change alternative would not allow DFG to offer additional hunting opportunities, which currently are in high demand. By not implementing hunting in these areas, the no-change alternative would compromise the Departments ability to alleviate land use conflicts and manage elk population numbers.

3. Modify Season Dates: Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk, Northwestern Roosevelt elk, and Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected for the Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk hunt because not adjusting the dates is not acceptable to the military base. Military use has priority over the hunting program and the new dates meet the needs of the base. The hunts would be eliminated if the dates were not allowed to change.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected for the Northwestern and Northeastern elk hunts because it creates confusion on season ending dates between the fund raising tag and general tags.

4. Modify existing hunt boundaries: Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk, Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk, Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk, West Tinemaha tule elk, and Lone Pine tule elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not facilitate opening additional areas to hunt in the Northeastern and Marble Mountain hunt zones.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not provide for a clear boundary description for the Big Lagoon elk zone.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected for the West Tinemaha and Lone Pine tule elk zone boundary modification because it does not allow the Department to obtain the desired harvest within each zone while maintaining hunting opportunities.

5. Add hunts within existing zones: Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk and Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not meet the demand by the hunting public for archery and muzzleloader hunts for Roosevelt elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not meet the demand by the hunting public additional muzzleloader hunts for tule elk, nor does it meet the demand by Fort Hunter Liggett for additional military hunts.

6. Modifications to existing hunts: Owens Valley (Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha, and West Tinemaha) tule elk, Siskiyou Roosevelt elk, Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk, Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk, and Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected for modifying the Owens Valley region wide early season archery because it does not allow the Department to meet and maintain population objectives for individual areas.

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it does not meet the demand by the hunting public for both bull and antlerless tags nor does it allow the Department to meet and maintain population objectives for these areas.

(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, modifies hunt dates, and modifies the definition of bull and antlerless elk. 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 specify elk license tag quotas for each hunt. In order to maintain hunting quality in accordance with management goals and objectives, it is periodically necessary to adjust quotas in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions. This proposed amendment modifies elk tag numbers to ranges of tags to adjust for fluctuations in population numbers.

Periodic quota changes are necessary to maintain hunting quality in accordance with management goals and objectives.

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation										
Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Roosevelt Elk										
Siskiyou	0-30		0-30							
Del Norte	0-20		0-15							
Marble Mountains	0-30		0-70							
Marble Mtns Apprentice		0-4								
Marble Mtns Muzzleloader/ Archery		0-10								
Klamath	0-20		0-20							
Big Lagoon	0-10		0-10							
Northwestern California		0-30								
Rocky Mountain Elk										
Northeastern	0-10		0-30					0-20		
Northeastern Apprentice		0-4								
Tule Elk										
Cache Creek	0-4		0-4							
Cache Creek Apprentice			0-2							
La Panza										
Period 1	0-10		0-12							
Period 1 (Apprentice)	0-2		0-2							
Period 2	0-12		0-12							
Owens Valley										
Multiple-Zone									0-10	0-10
Bishop										
Period 1					0-10	0-30				

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Muzzleloader										
Period 2 Apprentice	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Independence										
Period 1 Muzzleloader (New)					0-10	0-10				
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Lone Pine										
Period 1 Archery (New)									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Tinemaha										
Period 1 Archery									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
West Tinemaha										
Period 1	0-30		0-10							
Period 2	0-30		0-10							
Period 3	0-30		0-10							
Period 4	0-30		0-10							
Period 5	0-30		0-10							
Tinemaha Mountain (New)										
Period 1			0-8							
Period 2			0-8							
Period 3			0-8							
Period 4			0-8							
Period 5			0-8							

2010 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation

Hunt Name	Antler-less	Either-Sex	Bull	Spike	Muzzle-loader Bull	Muzzle-loader Antler-less	Muzzle-loader either-sex	Archery Either-Sex	Archery Antler-less	Archery Bull
Whitney (New)										
Period 1 Archery									0-30	0-10
Period 2	0-10		0-4							
Period 3	0-10		0-4							
Period 4	0-10		0-4							
Period 5	0-10		0-4							
Grizzly Island										
Period 1	0-12		0-2	0-6						
Period 1 Apprentice	0-2			0-2						
Period 2	0-12		0-3	0-6						
Period 2 Apprentice				0-2						
Period 3	0-12		0-3	0-4						
Fort Hunter Liggett										
Archery Only								0-12	0-20	
Period 1	0-28									
Period 1 Apprentice	0-8									
Period 2	0-32									
Period 3			0-28							
Period 3 Apprentice			0-4							
Muzzleloader Bull (new)					0-12					
Early Season Bull (new)			0-4							
East Park Reservoir										
Period 1			0-4							
Period 3	0-8									
San Luis Reservoir	0-5	0-10	0-10							
Mendocino (New)	0-4		0-4							
Bear Valley (new)	0-2		0-4							
Lake Pillsbury (New)	0-4		0-4							
Alameda (New)			0-4							
Santa Clara (New)			0-4							

Existing regulations do not allow the appropriate allocation of tags to obtain the desired harvest between subgroups in the Lone Pine zone in the Owens Valley. The proposal will modify the hunt boundary and create an additional zone (Whitney tule elk hunt). Tags will be issued for the new Whitney zone period one archery (range 0-30 antlerless, 0-10 bull) and periods two, three, four, and, five general season methods (range 0-10 antlerless, 0-4 bull). The proposal will provide elk hunting opportunities consistent with the objectives for tule elk in the Owens Valley.

Existing regulations do not allow the appropriate allocation of tags to obtain the desired harvest between subgroups in the West Tinemaha zone in the Owens Valley. The proposal will modify the hunt boundary and create an additional zone (Tinemaha Mountain tule elk hunt). Tags will be issued for the new Tinemaha zone utilizing existing hunt periods one through five in the Owens Valley (range 0-8 bull). The proposal will provide elk hunting opportunities consistent with the objectives for tule elk in the Owens Valley.

Existing regulations do not provide for public tule elk hunting in Mendocino County. The proposal will establish a new tule elk hunt in a portion of Mendocino County (called Mendocino tule elk hunt) with bull tags (range 0-4) and antlerless tags (range 0-4) during a season beginning on the Wednesday preceding the fourth Saturday in September and continue for 12 consecutive days. The proposal will provide additional elk hunting opportunities, consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

Existing regulations provide limited opportunities for public tule elk hunting in Lake County. The proposal will establish a new tule elk hunt in a portion of Lake County (called Lake Pillsbury tule elk hunt) with bull tags (range 0-4) and antlerless tags (range 0-4) during a season beginning on the second Wednesday in September and continue for 10 consecutive days. The proposal will provide additional elk hunting opportunities, consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

Existing regulations provide none or limited opportunities for public tule elk hunting in portions of Colusa, Lake, and Yolo Counties. The proposal will establish a new tule elk hunt in portions of Colusa, Lake, and Yolo Counties (called Bear Valley tule elk hunt) with bull tags (range 0-) and antlerless tags (range 0-2) during a season beginning on the second Saturday in October and continue for 9 consecutive days. The proposal will provide additional elk hunting opportunities, consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

Existing regulations do not provide for public tule elk hunting in portions of Alameda and San Joaquin Counties. The proposal will establish a new tule elk hunt in portions of Alameda and San Joaquin Counties (called Alameda tule elk

hunt) with bull tags (range 0-4) during a season beginning on the second Saturday in October and continue for 16 consecutive days. The proposal will provide additional elk hunting opportunities, consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

Existing regulations provide none or limited opportunities for public tule elk hunting in portions of Merced, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties. The proposal will establish a new tule elk hunt in portions of Merced, Santa Clara, and Stanislaus Counties (called Santa Clara tule elk hunt) with bull tags (range 0-4) during a season beginning on the second Saturday in October and continue for 16 consecutive days. The proposal will provide additional elk hunting opportunities, consistent with the statewide management objectives for tule elk.

Existing regulations establish season dates for the Fort Hunter Liggett tule elk hunts. The proposed regulations for Fort Hunter Liggett increase the number of hunt days for each hunt. The proposal modifies the following: extends the season dates for the archery either-sex from five days to nine days beginning on the first Saturday in September; modifies the archery antlerless from the second Thursday in October to the fourth Saturday in September and extends it from five to nine consecutive days; modifies the period one antlerless (general and apprentice) from the second Thursday in October to the third Saturday in October and extends it from five to nine consecutive days; modifies the period two antlerless from the fourth Wednesday in November to the third Saturday in November and extends it from five to nine consecutive days; modifies the period three bull (general and apprentice) from the last Wednesday in December to the fourth Wednesday in December and extends it from five to 12 consecutive days in order to increase hunter opportunity accommodate military operations.

Existing regulations end the fund raising tag in the Northwestern Roosevelt elk zone prior to the close of the general season. The proposed regulation modifies the ending date of the fund raising tag to end on the same day as the general hunt. Season shall open on the last Wednesday in August and continue for 19 consecutive days.

Existing regulations end the fund raising tag in the Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk zone prior to the close of the general season. The proposed regulation modifies the ending date of the fund raising tag to end on the same day as the general hunt. Season shall open on the Wednesday preceding the last Saturday in August and continue for 33 consecutive days.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Marble Mountain Roosevelt elk hunt and Northeastern Rocky Mountain elk hunt. The proposed change expands the Marble Mountain and Northeast zone south to encompass additional area occupied by elk and is consistent with the natural range expansion of elk which has occurred since these hunts were established. The proposal is necessary to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with management objectives for elk

in these areas.

Existing regulations specify the boundary for the Big Lagoon Roosevelt elk hunt. The proposed change modifies the boundary from a power line right of way to a road in order to better distinguish the boundary between zones.

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the West Tinemaha tule elk zone. The proposal modifies the boundary by dividing the zone into two separate zones. This will create a new zone called Tinemaha Mountain. This will allow more precise allocation of tags to allow appropriate harvest between subgroups

Existing regulations specify boundaries for the Lone Pine tule elk zone. The proposal modifies the boundary by dividing the zone along highway 395 into two separate zones. This will create a new zone called Whitney. This will allow more precise allocation of tags to allow appropriate harvest between subgroups.

Existing regulations specify hunts for the Marble Mountain elk hunts. The proposed change adds an additional combination archery and muzzleloader hunt after the existing hunt period. Either-sex tags (range 0-10) would be issued during a season beginning the last Saturday in October and continuing for nine consecutive days. The proposal is necessary to improve hunter opportunity and is consistent with management objectives for elk in the area.

Existing regulations do not offer muzzleloader hunts at Fort Hunter Liggett. The proposed regulation would establish a muzzleloader bull hunt (range 0-6) during a season beginning the first Saturday in November and continuing for nine consecutive days.

Existing regulations do not offer an early season general method bull hunt at Fort Hunter Liggett. The proposed regulation would establish a new hunter for bull tule elk (range 0-2) for military use during a season beginning on the second Tuesday in September and continuing for nine consecutive days.

Existing regulations allow the Owens Valley early season region wide archery tags to be utilized in all the Owens Valley zones (Bishop, Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha, and West Tinemaha). The proposed regulation would limit the zones the tags are valid in to the Bishop, Independence, Lone Pine, Tinemaha Mountain (new), and Whitney (new) zones and change the name of hunt to the Owens Valley early season multiple zone archery hunt.

Existing regulations specify methods of take for each hunt period in the Owens Valley. In an effort to increase hunter success the proposed regulation modifies the period one hunt in the Independence zone from archery to muzzleloader and the Lone Pine zone period one hunt from muzzleloader to archery.

Existing regulations authorize tags that are valid in both the Tinemaha and West Tinemaha zones. In an effort to manage harvest between these groups of elk the proposed regulation would issue tags independently for each zone.

Existing regulations for the Siskiyou Roosevelt elk hunt authorizes either-sex and antlerless tags. In an effort to better manage harvest the proposal would convert the either-sex tags to bull tags.

Existing regulations for the Marble Mountain, Northeastern, and Big Lagoon elk hunts authorizes either-sex general tags. In an effort to better manage harvest and allow more opportunity to hunters the proposal would convert general either-sex tags to bull and antlerless tags.

