



PUBLIC NOTICE

December 21, 2011

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2012 JAN 12 A 10:44

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to Section 2074.4 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC), **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on October 21, 2011, the California Fish and Game Commission accepted for consideration the petition submitted to list the American pika (*Ochotona princeps*) as threatened (Section 670.1, 670.5, Title 14, California Code of Regulations) as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Proposal</u>
American Pika (<i>Ochotona princeps</i>)	List as Threatened

The California Endangered Species Act (FGC, Chapter 1.5, Section 2050 *et seq.*) requires that the Department of Fish and Game notify affected and interested parties that the Commission has accepted the petition for the purpose of receiving information and comments that will aid in evaluating the petition and determining whether or not the above proposal should be adopted or rejected by the Commission. The Commission's October 21, 2011 action has resulted in this species receiving the interim designation of "candidate for listing", effective October 26, 2011, under the California Endangered Species Act. The Department has up to 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether or not the petitioned action is warranted (FGC 2074.6). The Department's recommendation must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department.

Therefore, **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that anyone with data or comments on the taxonomic status, ecology, biology, life history, management recommendations, distribution, abundance, threats, habitat that may be essential for the species, or other factors related to the status of the above species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to:

California Department of Fish and Game
Nongame Wildlife Program
Attn: Dr. Scott D. Osborn
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Please submit 2 hard copies and a digital copy. Comments may also be sent via email to:

pika@dfg.ca.gov

Detection information on the American pika should be sent directly to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). See general data submittal instructions at this link or contact CNDDDB staff directly:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/>

It is requested that responses be received by **March 15, 2012** to allow sufficient time for inclusion in the Department's final report to the Fish and Game Commission. If the Department concludes that the petitioned action is warranted, it will recommend that the Commission adopt the proposal. If the Department concludes that the petitioned action is not warranted, it will recommend that the Commission reject the proposal. Receipt of the report will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery. The report will be made available to the public at that time. Following receipt of the Department's report, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on the Department's recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Scott Osborn, Staff Environmental Scientist, by telephone at (916) 324-3564 or by email at sosborn@dfg.ca.gov.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2012 JAN 17 A 10:23

Sonke Mastrup
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
1416 Ninth Street
Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
(916) 653-5040 Fax
fgc@fgc.ca.gov

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Fish and Game Commission

January 6, 2012

This is to provide you with a copy of the notice of proposed regulatory action relative to Sections 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, and subsections 365(b) and 708.12(d), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Mammal Hunting Regulations, which are published in the California Regulatory Notice Register on December 30, 2011.

Please note the dates of the public hearings related to this matter and associated deadlines for receipt of written comments.

Additional information and all associated documents may be found on the Fish and Game Commission website at www.fgc.ca.gov.

Mr. Dan Yparraguirre, Wildlife Program Manager, Department of Fish and Game, phone (916) 928-6881, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

Jon D. Snellstrom
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

**TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission
Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by sections 200, 202, 203, 220, 332, 460, 1050, 1575, 3452, 3453, 4334, 4370, 4902 and 10502 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 332, 458, 459, 460, 713, 1050, 1575, 3452, 3453, 3950, 3951, 4334, 4370, 4902, 10500 and 10502 of said Code, proposes to amend Sections 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, and subsections 365(b) and 708.12(d), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Mammal Hunting 2012-2013.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

360(a)

Existing regulations provide for the number of license tags available for the A, B, C, and D Zones. This regulatory proposal changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the following table. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Deer: § 360(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts		
Tag Allocations		
Zone	Current	Proposed
A	65,000	30,000-65,000
B	35,000	35,000-65,000
C	8,150	5,000-15,000
D3-5	33,000	30,000-40,000
D-6	10,000	6,000-16,000
D-7	9,000	4,000-10,000
D-8	8,000	5,000-10,000
D-9	2,000	1,000-2,500
D-10	700	400-800
D-11	5,500	2,500-6,000
D-12	950	100-1,500
D-13	4,000	2,000-5,000
D-14	3,000	2,000-3,500
D-15	1,500	500-2,000
D-16	3,000	1,000-3,500
D-17	500	100-800
D-19	1,500	500-2,000

360(b)

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for the X zones. The proposal changes the number of tags for all existing zones to a series of ranges presented in the following table. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting..

Deer: § 360(b) X-Zone Hunts		
Tag Allocations		
Zone	Current	Proposed
X-1	1,275	1,000-6,000
X-2	180	50-500
X-3a	280	100-1,200
X-3b	935	200-3,000
X-4	355	100-1,200
X-5a	60	25-200
X-5b	140	50-500
X-6a	325	100-1,200
X-6b	315	100-1,200
X-7a	230	50-500
X-7b	140	25-200
X-8	240	100-750
X-9a	650	100-1,200
X-9b	325	100-600
X-9c	325	100-600
X-10	400	100-600
X-12	860	100-1,200

360(c)

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags in the Additional Hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for all existing hunts to a series of ranges as indicated in the table below. The proposal provides a range of tag numbers for each hunt from which a final number will be determined, based on the post-winter status of each deer herd. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Due to this, the final recommended quotas may fall below the current proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

Existing regulations for Additional Hunts G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt) and J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 1 and continue for two (2) consecutive days and reopen on October 8 and continue for three (3) consecutive days in order to accommodate for Base operations and other hunt opportunities. The proposal would modify the season to account for the annual calendar shift by changing the season opening dates to October 6 and October 13, respectively, in order to accommodate for Base operations.

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts		
Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4)	2,710	500-5,000
G-3 (Goodale Buck Hunt)	35	5-50
G-6 (Kern River Deer Herd Buck Hunt)	50	25-100
G-7 (Beale Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20 Military*	20 Military *
G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt)	10 Military* & 10 Public	10 Military * and 10 Public
G-9 (Camp Roberts Antlerless Deer Hunt)	15 Military* & 15 Public	0

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts		
Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	400 Military *	400 Military *
G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	500 Military* & DOD**	500 Military *, DOD and as Authorized by the Installation Commander **
G-12 (Gray Lodge Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	10-50
G-13 (San Diego Antlerless Deer Hunt)	300	50-300
G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-50
G-21 (Ventana Wilderness Buck Hunt)	25	25-100
G-37 (Anderson Flat Buck Hunt)	25	25-50
G-38 (X-10 Late Season Buck Hunt)	300	50-300
G-39 (Round Valley Late Season Buck Hunt)	5	5-150
M-3 (Doyle Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	10-75
M-4 (Horse Lake Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	5	5-50
M-5 (East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	5	5-50
M-6 (San Diego Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	80	25-100
M-7 (Ventura Muzzleloading Rifle Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	50-150
M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	5-50
M-9 (Devil's Garden Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	10	5-100
M-11 (Northwestern California Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	20	20-200
MA-1 (San Luis Obispo Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	150	20-150
MA-3 (Santa Barbara Muzzleloading Rifle/Archery Buck Hunt)	150	20-150
J-1 Lake Sonoma Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-25
J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-30
J-4 Shasta-Trinity Apprentice Buck Hunt)	15	15-50
J-7 (Carson River Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-50
J-8 (Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	15	10-20
J-9 (Little Dry Creek Apprentice Shotgun Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	5	5-10
J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	10 Military* & 75 Public	10 Military * and 75 Public
J-11 (San Bernardino Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	10-50
J-12 (Round Valley Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	10-20
J-13 (Los Angeles Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	40	25-100
J-14 (Riverside Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	30	15-75

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts		
Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
J-15 (Anderson Flat Apprentice Buck Hunt)	10	5-30
J-16 (Bucks Mountain-Nevada City Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75
J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	5-25
J-18 (Pacific-Grizzly Flat Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	75	10-75
J-19 (Zone X-7a Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25	10-40
J-20 (Zone X-7b Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	20	5-20
J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	50	20-80

* Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

** DOD = Department of Defense and eligible personnel as authorized by the Installation Commander.

360(d)

Existing regulations provide for the sale of up to ten (10) fund-raising license deer tags annually. The proposed changes are to reflect the repeal of Section 708 and its replacement by Sections 708.1 – 708.17, and the statutory modification of subsection 4332(e) to Section 3953, Fish and Game Code. Additionally, a change to reflect new contact information with the Departments Law Enforcement Division is proposed.

361

Existing regulations provide for the number of hunting tags for existing area-specific archery hunts. The proposal changes the number of tags for existing hunts to a series of ranges presented in the table below. These ranges are necessary, as the final number of tags cannot be determined until spring herd data are collected in March/April. Because severe winter conditions can have an adverse effect on herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed range into the "Low Kill" alternative identified in the 2007 Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting..

Archery Deer Hunting: § 361		
Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt)	1,945	150-3,000
A-3 (Zone X-1 Archery Hunt)	130	50-1,000
A-4 (Zone X-2 Archery Hunt)	20	5-100
A-5 (Zone X-3a Archery Hunt)	35	10-300
A-6 (Zone X-3b Archery Hunt)	90	25-400
A-7 (Zone X-4 Archery Hunt)	135	25-400
A-8 (Zone X-5a Archery Hunt)	15	15-100
A-9 (Zone X-5b Archery Hunt)	5	5-100
A-11 (Zone X-6a Archery Hunt)	55	10-200
A-12 (Zone X-6b Archery Hunt)	110	10-300
A-13 (Zone X-7a Archery Hunt)	50	10-200
A-14 (Zone X-7b Archery Hunt)	25	5-100
A-15 (Zone X-8 Archery Hunt)	50	5-100

Archery Deer Hunting: § 361		
Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
A-16 (Zone X-9a Archery Hunt)	140	50-500
A-17 (Zone X-9b Archery Hunt)	300	50-500
A-18 (Zone X-9c Archery Hunt)	350	50-500
A-19 (Zone X-10 Archery Hunt)	120	25-200
A-20 (Zone X-12 Archery Hunt)	190	50-500
A-21 (Anderson Flat Archery Buck Hunt)	25	25-100
A-22 (San Diego Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-24 (Monterey Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	100	25-200
A-25 (Lake Sonoma Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	35	20-75
A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt)	30	10-100
A-27 (Devil's Garden Archery Buck Hunt)	5	5-75
A-30 (Covelo Archery Buck Hunt)	40	20-100
A-31 (Los Angeles Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	1,000	200-1,500
A-32 (Ventura/Los Angeles Archery Late Season Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	250	50-300
A-33 (Fort Hunter Liggett Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	25 Military* & 25 Public	25 Military* & 25 Public

* Specific numbers of tags are provided for military hunts through a system which restricts hunter access to desired levels and ensures biologically conservative hunting programs.

362

The existing regulation provides for limited hunting of 27 Nelson bighorn rams in specified areas of the State. The proposed change is intended to remove the 'for 2011' column heading to continue the use of existing tag allocations. There is no recommendation to change existing tag allocations. The number of tags allocated for each of the nine hunt zones is based on the results of the Department's estimate of the bighorn sheep population in each zone.

Nelson Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zone	Tag Allocation
Zone 1 - Marble Mountains	4
Zone 2 - Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains	4
Zone 3 - Clark/Kingston Mountain Ranges	2
Zone 4 - Orocopia Mountains	1
Zone 5 - San Geronio Wilderness	2
Zone 6 - Sheep Hole Mountains	2
Zone 7 - White Mountains	4
Zone 8 - South Bristol Mountains	2
Zone 9 - Cady Mountains	3
Open Zone Fund-Raising Tag	1

Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Mountains Fund-Raising Tag	1
Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains Fund-Raising Tag	1
TOTAL	27

This proposal simply removes the year reference (2011) from the table header in subsection (d).

363

Existing regulations provide for the number of pronghorn antelope hunting tags for each hunt zone. This proposed regulatory action would provide for tag allocation ranges for most hunt zones pending final tag quota determinations based on winter survey results that should be completed by March of 2012. The final tag quotas will provide for adequate hunting opportunities while allowing for a biologically appropriate harvest of bucks and does in specific populations. The proposed 2012 tag allocation ranges for the hunt zones are as set forth below.

2012 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Ranges						
<i>Hunt Area</i>	<i>Archery-Only Season</i>		<i>General Season</i>			
	<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>	<i>Period 1</i>		<i>Period 2</i>	
			<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>	<i>Buck</i>	<i>Doe</i>
Zone 1 – Mount Dome	0-10	0-3	0-60	0-20	0	0
Zone 2 – Clear Lake	0-10	0-3	0-80	0-25	0	0
Zone 3 – Likely Tables	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-130	0-50
Zone 4 – Lassen	0-20	0-7	0-150	0-50	0-150	0-50
Zone 5 – Big Valley	0-15	0-5	0-150	0-50	0	0
Zone 6 – Surprise Valley	0-10	0	0-25	0-7	0	0
Big Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Lassen Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-15 Either-Sex		0	
Surprise Valley Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-4 Either-Sex		0	
Likely Tables Apprentice Hunt	N/A		0-5 Either-Sex		0	
Fund-Raising Hunt	N/A		0-10 Buck			

364

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.

2012 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation				
Hunt Name and Type	Bull	Antlerless	Either-Sex	Spike
Apprentice Hunts				
Marble Mountains			0-4	
Northeastern CA			0-4	
Cache Creek	0-2			
La Panza Period 1	0-2	0-2		
Bishop Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Grizzly Island Period 1		0-2		0-2
Grizzly Island Period 2				0-2
Fort Hunter Liggett P1		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett P2		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett P3	0-2			
Archery Only Hunts				
Northeastern California Archery Only			0-20	
Owens Valley Multiple Zone Archery Only	0-10	0-10		
Lone Pine Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Whitney Archery Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Fort Hunter Liggett Archery Only		0-10	0-6	
Muzzleloader Only Hunts				
Bishop Muzzleloader Only Period 1	0-10	0-30		
Independence Muzzleloader Only Period 1	0-10	0-10		
Fort Hunter Liggett Muzzleloader Only	0-6			
Muzzleloader/Archery Only Hunts				
Marble Mountains Muzzleloader/Archery Only			0-10	
General Roosevelt Elk Hunts				
Siskiyou	0-30	0-30		
Big Lagoon	0-10	0-10		
Northwestern California			0-30	
Klamath	0-20	0-20		
Del Norte	0-15	0-20		
Marble Mountains	0-70	0-30		
General Rocky Mountain Elk Hunts				
Northeastern California	0-30	0-10		
General Roosevelt/Tule Elk Hunts				
Mendocino	0-4	0-4		
General Tule Elk Hunts				
Cache Creek	0-4	0-4		
La Panza Period 1	0-12	0-10		
La Panza Period 2	0-12	0-12		
Bishop Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Bishop Period 4	0-10	0-30		
2012 Proposed Elk Tag Allocation				
Hunt Name and Type	Bull	Antlerless	Either-Sex	Spike
Bishop Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Independence Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 4	0-10	0-30		
Lone Pine Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 2	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 3	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Period 4	0-10	0-30		

Tinemaha Period 5	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 1	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 2	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 3	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 4	0-10	0-30		
West Tinemaha Period 5	0-10	0-30		
Tinemaha Mountain Period 1	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 2	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 3	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 4	0-8			
Tinemaha Mountain Period 5	0-8			
Whitney Period 2	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 3	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 4	0-4	0-10		
Whitney Period 5	0-4	0-10		
Grizzly Island Period 1	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 2	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 3	0-3	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 4	0-2	0-12		0-6
Grizzly Island Period 5	0-2	0-12		0-6
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 1		0-16		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 2		0-14		
Fort Hunter Liggett Period 3	0-14			
East Park Reservoir	0-4	0-8		
San Luis Reservoir	0-10	0-10	0-10	
Bear Valley	0-4	0-2		
Lake Pillsbury	0-4	0-4		
Santa Clara	0-4			
Alameda	0-4			
Fund Raising Tags				
Multi-zone	1			
Grizzly Island	1			
Owens Valley	1			
Military Only Elk Tags				
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Early Season	0-2	0-2		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 1		0-16		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 2		0-14		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Period 3	0-14			
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 1		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 2		0-4		
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Apprentice Period 3	0-2			
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Archery Only		0-10	0-6	
Fort Hunter Liggett Military Muzzleloader Only	0-6			

The proposed amendment organizes and re-writes the verbatim in consistent order by subspecies and hunt type.

365(b) and 708.12(d)

Existing subsection 365(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations references a regulatory subsection that was recently renumbered. Existing regulation in 365(b) requires the Department to close the bear hunting season when the department determines that 1,700 bears have been taken pursuant to the reporting requirement in subsection 708(e). Subsection 708(e) was recently repealed by regulatory action and replaced with subsection 708.12(e). The proposed change will reference the new section to ensure that the bear season is properly closed.

Existing subsection 708.12(d), Title 14, California Code of Regulations requires that ONLY Department employees are authorized to validate bear tags and requires the tag be countersigned before transporting such bear except for the purpose of taking it to the nearest person authorized to countersign the license tag on the route being followed from the point where taken. The proposed clarification will allow a person to

legally transport a bear with an unvalidated bear license tag when Department offices are closed.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside, California, on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held in the Redwood Ballroom, Red Lion Hotel, 1929 4th Street, Eureka, California, on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 8:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before April 11, 2012 at the address given below, or by fax at (916) 653-5040, or by e-mail to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Written comments mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on April 10, 2012. All comments must be received no later than April 11, 2012, at the hearing in Eureka, CA. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in ~~strikeout~~-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Sonke Mastrup, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Sonke Mastrup or Jon Snellstrom at the preceding address or phone number. **Brad Burkholder, Department of Fish and Game, (916) 445-1829, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, including the regulatory language, may be obtained from the address above. Notice of the proposed action shall be posted on the Fish and Game Commission website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Circumstances beyond the control of the Commission (e.g., timing of Federal regulation adoption, timing of resource data collection, timelines do not allow, etc.) or changes made to be responsive to public recommendation and comments during the regulatory process may preclude full compliance with the 15-day comment period, and the Commission will exercise its powers under Section 202 of the Fish and Game Code. Regulations adopted pursuant to this section are not subject to the time periods for adoption, amendment or repeal of regulations prescribed in Sections 11343.4, 11346.4 and 11346.8 of the Government Code. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businessmen to Compete with Businesses in Other States.

360(a) - 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. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

360(b) - 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. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

360(c) - 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. The proposed action would adjust tag quotas for existing hunts and modify season dates for two hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

360(d) - 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. The proposed action reflects editorial changes to eliminate inconsistencies between regulation and Fish and Game Code. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

361 - 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. The proposed action adjusts tag quotas for existing hunts. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are economically neutral to business.

362 - 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. The proposed changes allow for the continued hunting of nelson bighorn sheep, there are no changes in the number of tags issued from previous years, so this proposal is economically neutral.

363 - 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.

364 - 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.

365(b) and 708.12(d) - 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. This regulation change is ministerial and is simply required to reflect recent changes to referenced subsections.

- (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 would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the 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.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations may affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: December 30, 2011

Sonke Mastrup
Executive Director