

Data Supplement to the California Fish and Game Commission

Regarding:

**Recommended 2014 Bighorn Sheep Tag
Allocations**



April 2014

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

In the absence of helicopter survey information, the Department has used ground based surveys (vehicle and foot survey routes) and/or waterhole camera data to base tag quota recommendations to the Commission. Minimum counts have assured that the recommended tag quota in each unit will not exceed 15% of the estimated mature rams in the unit. Two units have a recommended tag quota of 0 and are discussed below.

	Minimum number of mature rams observed	2013 Tag Quota	2014 Proposed Tag Quota Range	2014 Recommended Tag Quota
Marble and Clipper Mountains	32	4	0-4	4
Kelso and Old Dad Peak*	-	3	0-4	0
Clark, Kingston and Mesquite Ranges	7	2	0-2	1
Orocopia Mountains	14	1	0-2	2
San Gorgonio Wilderness	30	1	0-3	2
Sheep Hole Mountains**	0	1	0-2	0
White Mountains	10	3	0-5	1
South Bristol Mountains	8	2	0-3	1
Cady Mountains	14	3	0-4	2
Open Zone Fund-raising Tag	-	1	0-1	1
Marble/Clipper/South Bristol Mountains Fund-Raising Tag	-	1	0-1	0
Kelso Peak/Old Dad Mountains Fund-raising Tag	-	1	0-1	0

*In May 2013, pneumonia was detected in bighorn sheep in the Kelso Peak and Old Dad peak herd units. Though confirmed mortalities are a small percentage of the population, a substantial reduction in the population is suspected. The Department proposes a tag quota of 0 until a standardized survey can be performed in this herd unit to assess the impacts of the disease.

**In January 2014 a ground survey in the Sheep Hole Mountains did not observe any bighorn sheep. The Sheep Hole Mountains consists of extremely rugged terrain, limiting accessibility and sightability. The Department proposes a tag quota of 0 for the current hunt year. A standardized helicopter is recommended as the most efficient way to survey this herd unit.