

California Fish and Game Commission
Potential Subjects to Address in Next Falconry Regulatory Revisions
Revised September 10, 2014

Falconry regulations were amended in 2013 to transition the federal falconry program to the state by January 1, 2014. With the time constraints the transition process encountered in order to meet the deadline, some recommended amendments had to be held for consideration in a separate and future rulemaking. Since then additional suggestions have been received for changes from both the public and staff attempting to implement the program.

The items identified in this list are in no particular order; staff intent was simply to capture and “park” the various ideas received. This list is intended only to generate dialogue at the Commission’s Wildlife Resources Committee about what the next falconry rulemaking might or might not include.

- Change band distribution to be only from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) License and Revenue Branch instead of from regional offices
- Delete language that requires a band be given to a falconer prior to capture from the wild (need to confirm with federal program whether possible)
- Improve instructions to falconers for procedures to follow in the event of inadvertent take of species, other than threatened or endangered species
- Establish a three year license rather than the current single year license
- Add language about where bands are to be obtained when a raptor has to be re-banded
- Reassess the type of marking/branding devices used
- Allow reporting via the CDFW Automated License Data System rather than the federal, online 3-186A form
- Note where forms can be found online
- Clarification on exam fee if someone fails the first time
- Revise dates associated with drawing
- Clarify the due date for the drawing application
- Revisit obtaining birds, including eagles, from rehabilitation facilities
- Clarify that goshawks can be taken in areas outside the Tahoe Basin
- Designate release instructions for barred owls
- Address the option for allowing depredating raptors (those captured under federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act depredation permits) to be placed with falconers
- Address specialized banding of all falconry raptors
- Address option of requiring a signed-off validation by agency staff (CDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) as part of reporting take in the future, similar to the process for completing deer tags
- Consider additional oversight of apprentice program
- Clarify process for paying inspection fees when two falconers share the same facility