

California Fish and Game Commission

March 3, 2015

PO Box 944209

Sacramento, Ca 94244-2090

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is to request your consideration of a change to existing waterfowl refuge hunting regulations regarding the prohibition of carrying more than 25 shotgun cartridges onto state and federal public hunting areas. Although we believe that the prohibition should be eliminated entirely, we recognize that we may not be aware of all the reasons for its existence. Therefore, we request that if it cannot be eliminated, that you give consideration for providing an exemption for older hunters especially those over the age of 65.

The reason we seek this change is quite simple and self-evident to those who have spent much time hunting on public refuges. When a hunter consumes 25 cartridges but has not gathered the daily bag limit but desires to do so, he/she must walk back to their vehicle to pick up another box of cartridges. We have done this many times over the years but the older we get, the more difficult it is and the longer it takes to recover from the physical exertion of two trips to and from the blind (we're talking about days to recover from that exertion not hours as we did when we were younger).

Though our primary concern is the increasingly onerous toll of the physical demands as we age, we ask that you also consider the following issues:

1. It is our understanding that the reason for the current cartridge limit is to discourage "sky busting" (the tendency for some hunters to shoot at birds that are clearly too high for an effective shot). It has been our observation that the current limit does not seem to be effective in preventing "sky busting" and, therefore, does not satisfy its intended purpose.

2. The 25 cartridge limit also seems to fail to recognize some other truths about waterfowl hunting, such as:

a. Most hunters we know frequently fail to gather a daily limit of seven ducks using only 25 cartridges. This truth is compounded greatly, and is even an obvious impossibility, in those areas where both ducks and geese are readily available for harvest because the daily bag limit for geese is now 25.

b. One of the reasons that many hunters fail to attain the daily limit of ducks using only 25 cartridges (besides failing to hit them) is that many birds that are hit are still alive when they come down and make every effort to get to a place of hiding. This requires the hunter to shoot them on the water and I believe that every duck hunter will testify as to the difficulty of an effective shot on the water thus requiring the use of multiple cartridges.

c. Reaction time and hand-eye coordination is diminished for older hunters.

Thank you for your consideration.

William Anderson

William Anderson [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

■ Citrus Heights, Ca 95610

David R. Eagleton

David Eagleton [REDACTED]

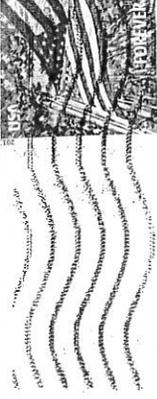
[REDACTED]

Citrus Heights, Ca 95610

cc: Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Waterfowl Association

William Anderson



SACRAMENTO CA 957

03 MAR 2015 PM 7 L

Director, California Department of Fish and
Wildlife
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, Ca 94244-2090

942442090

