

desired buck ratio objectives stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

The actual tag numbers for each affected hunt will be reflected in the Final Statement of Reasons and will be selected from the range of values provided by this proposal. The number of tags is intended to allow the appropriate level of hunting opportunity and harvest of bucks in the population, while achieving or maintaining the buck ratios at, or near, objective levels set forth in the approved deer herd management plans. These final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from the annual harvest and herd composition counts. However, under circumstances where severe winter conditions adversely effect herd recruitment and over-winter adult survival, final tag quotas may fall below the proposed tag range.

2. Modify Season for Additional Hunt G-8

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 2 and continue for two (2) consecutive days and reopen on October 9 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 1 and October 8, respectively, in order to accommodate for Base operations. No loss of hunter opportunity would result from this action and the proposal is consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

3. Modify Season for Additional Hunt J-10

Existing regulations for Additional Hunt J-10 (Fort Hunter Liggett Junior Either-Sex Deer Hunt) provide for hunting to begin on October 2 and continue for two (2) consecutive days and reopen on October 9 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 1 and October 8, respectively, in order to accommodate for Base operations. No loss of hunter opportunity would result from this action and the proposal is consistent with existing deer herd management plan recommendations.

4. Modify Special Conditions - Tag Application Refunds/Point Reinstatement for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

Existing regulations provide for additional premium deer hunts on several military bases (Hunts G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11 and J-10). Under Special Conditions for these deer hunts, it specifies that in the event the Base

Commander cancels the hunt, tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund. However, current regulations only provide for the refund of deer tag application fees under a very limited set of circumstances and conditions as specified in Section 708.14. These military hunt Special Conditions are in direct conflict with tag application refund policies addressed in Section 708.14 and may create confusion in the event of hunt cancellation.

In addition, existing regulations for these premium deer hunts on military bases do not address the restoration of accumulated or earned preference points for tags issued through the Big Game Drawing in the event of hunt cancellation.

The proposed change would eliminate reference to tag application fee refunds for cancelled military hunts under Special Conditions, thereby eliminating conflict with other regulations and policies. In the event of hunt cancellation, the proposal would also provide for the restoration of accumulated and earned preference points for those tags issued through the Big Game Drawing following procedures described in Section 708.14. Tag exchange options provided under Special Conditions would remain unchanged.

(b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code for Regulation:

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 203, 220, 460, 3452, 3453, and 4334, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 458, 459, 460, 3452, 3453, and 4334, Fish and Game Code.

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

None.

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

2007 Final Environmental Document Regarding Deer Hunting.

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

The Department conducted a public scoping session in Sacramento on October 11, 2006 and November 18, 2010. Public input, discussions and recommendations regarding the environmental document and mammal hunting and trapping regulations were taken at this time.

Additionally, in 2000, the Department of Fish and Game held a total of twenty-three (23) "Deer Stakeholder" meetings throughout the State. The meetings were open to the public and the Department provided information on a variety of deer management strategies and issues including: Deer Assessment Unit

(zone complex) planning and tag draw method alternatives. Attendees were asked to participate in a survey and public comment was also received. The Department also conducted four public meetings at which regulation change concepts and specific proposals for mammals, furbearers, including deer were discussed, and additional public comment was received.

While these meetings were conducted prior to the establishment of current and proposed regulations, the concepts and proposals which were derived through these meetings are still being implemented as part of the current year regulatory process.

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

1. Number of Tags

There is no reasonable alternative to the proposed action.

2. Modify Season for Additional Hunt G-8

Modify season to include all weekdays. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would not accommodate for military operations which primarily occur on weekdays, resulting in daily hunt cancellations, hunter dissatisfaction and the unnecessary restricting of hunter opportunity.

3. Modify Season for Additional Hunt J-10

Modify season to include all weekdays. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would not accommodate for military operations which primarily occur on weekdays, resulting in daily hunt cancellations, hunter dissatisfaction and the unnecessary restriction of hunter opportunity.

4. Modify Special Conditions – Tag Application Refunds/Point Reinstatement for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

An alternative would be to modify subsections within Section 708.14 to provide additional exceptions to the refund policy. This proposal was considered and rejected because it would create more exceptions to the no-refund policy. In addition, it would not resolve issues pertaining to preference point reinstatement, resulting in hunter dissatisfaction.

(b) No Change Alternative:

1. Number of Tags

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current number of tags for the hunts listed may not be responsive to changes in the status of the herds. The deer herd management plans specify objective levels for the proportion of bucks in the herds. These ratios are maintained and managed in part by modifying the number of tags. The no change alternative would not allow management of the desired proportion of bucks stated in the approved deer herd management plans.

2. Modify Season for Additional Hunt G-8

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current season length and timing would be unresponsive to Base operations, scheduled activities and unnecessarily restrict hunter opportunity.

3. Modify Season for Additional Hunt J-10

The no change alternative was considered and found inadequate to attain the project objectives. Retaining the current season length and timing would be unresponsive to Base operations, scheduled activities and unnecessarily restrict hunter opportunity.

4. Modify Special Conditions - Tag Application Refunds/Point Reinstatement for Cancelled Deer Hunts on Military Bases

The no change alternative was considered and rejected. Retaining the existing regulations regarding deer tag application refunds for cancelled military deer hunts would be unresponsive to inconsistencies which currently exist between regulations.

(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 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:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and 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:

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, modify season dates for two hunts and clarifies refund and preference point policies in the event of military hunt cancellation. Given the number of tags available and the area over which they are distributed, these proposals are 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 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.

**INFORMATIVE DIGEST
(Policy Statement Overview)**

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.

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 2 and continue for two (2) consecutive days and reopen on October 9 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 1 and October 8, respectively, in order to accommodate for Base operations.

Existing regulations provide for additional premium deer hunts on several military bases (Hunts G-7, G-8, G-9, G-10, G-11 and J-10). Under Special Conditions for these deer hunts, it specifies that in the event the Base Commander cancels the hunt, tagholders will only have the option of exchanging the unused tag for any remaining deer tag or receiving a refund. However, current regulations only provide for the refund of deer tag application fees under a very limited set of circumstances and conditions as specified in Section 708.14. These military hunt Special Conditions are in direct conflict with tag application refund policies addressed in Section 708.14 and may create confusion in the event of hunt cancellation. In addition, existing regulations for these premium deer hunts on military bases do not address the restoration of accumulated or earned preference points for tags issued through the Big Game Drawing in the event of hunt cancellation. The proposed change would eliminate reference to tag application fee refunds for cancelled military hunts under Special Conditions, thereby eliminating conflict with other regulations and policies. In the event of hunt cancellation, the proposal would also provide for the restoration of accumulated and earned preference points for those tags issued through the Big Game Drawing following procedures described in Section 708.14.

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 *

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
G-8 (Fort Hunter Liggett Antlerless Deer Hunt)	10 Military * and 10 Public	10 Military * and 10 Public
G-9 (Camp Roberts Antlerless Deer Hunt)	15 Military * and 15 Public	15 Military * and 15 Public
G-10 (Camp Pendleton Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	400 Military *	400 Military *
G-11 (Vandenberg Either-Sex Deer Hunt)	500 Military * and 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)	10	5-50
M-5 (East Lassen Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt)	10	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)	15	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

Deer: § 360(c) Additional Hunts Tag Allocations		
Hunt Number (and Title)	Current	Proposed
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 * and 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
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.*