

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Section 362,
Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)
Re: Nelson Bighorn Sheep

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: November 15, 2011
- II. Date of Pre-Adoption Statement of Purpose: March 6, 2012
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons April 16, 2012
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

- (a) Notice Hearing: Date: December 15, 2011
 Location: San Diego, California

- (b) Discussion Hearings: Date: March 7, 2012
 Location: Riverside, California

- (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: April 11, 2012
 Location: Eureka, California

- V. Update:

Existing regulations provide for the limited hunting of Nelson bighorn sheep for the 2011 through 2012 hunt year. On April 11, 2012 the Fish and Game Commission voted to accept editorial changes that would allow for the continued hunting of Nelson bighorn sheep by removing 'for 2011' from the column heading 'Tag Allocation for 2011.' There was no recommendation to change the current tag allocations.

- VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support"

No public comments, written or oral were received during the public comment period.

- VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

- VIII. Location of Department Files:

Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

Editorial Changes

There were no reasonable alternatives to the proposed regulatory action.

(b) No Change Alternative:

Editorial Changes

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not attain project objectives of providing for hunting opportunities. The no change alternative would result in regulations which would not reflect the current hunt year.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently available, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. 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.

(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.

**UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST
(Policy Statement Overview)**

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/Clipper 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 Gorgonio 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

Existing regulations provide for limited hunting of Nelson bighorn rams in 9 hunt zones located in San Bernardino, Inyo, and Riverside counties in 2011.

Pursuant to its April 11, 2012 meeting in Eureka, the Fish and Game Commission adopted the minor editorial change of deleting a specific year from the quota table.