

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION  
(Pre-Publication of Notice Statement)

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

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: November 7, 2011

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

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

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

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

III. Description of Regulatory Action:

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulation Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary:

Editorial Changes

The existing regulation contains tag allocations specifically for the year 2011. The proposal is to remove 'for 2011' from the column heading "Tag allocation for 2011" to continue to use the existing tag allocations. There is no recommendation to change the current tag allocations.

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

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 203, 220, 1050, and 4902, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 1050, 3950, and 4902, Fish and Game Code.

(c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change: None.

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

None were identified.

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

None

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change:

Editorial Changes

There are 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.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

None.

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 the 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 changes allow for the continued hunting of nelson bighorn sheep, there are no changes in the number of tags issued from previous years, so this proposal is economically neutral.

- (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)**

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.

<b>Nelson Bighorn Sheep Hunt Zone</b>	<b>Tag Allocation</b>
Zone 1 - Marble 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>

This proposal simply removes the year reference (2011) from the table header in subsection (d).