

Attachment A

Responses to Public Comments for Changes in the 2014-2015 Elk Hunting Regulations Received by the Fish and Game Commission Between December 11, 2013 and April 16, 2014.

	Name of Commenter	Type/Date	Summary of Comments	Response
1	Peter J. Finnie, Trinity County Fish and Game Advisory Committee	Letter received January 15, 2014	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommends the Department remove all portions of Trinity County that are currently included in the Marble Mountains elk hunt and create a new Trinity County Roosevelt elk hunt zone. 2. Establish a tag quota for the new elk zone based on recent biological herd data. 3. Establish Trinity County as the boundary, or use the B-2 deer zone. 	<p>Reject comments 1, 2, and 3. Although the Department believes the proposed changes may be valid for this zone, they are more reflective of different management objectives which are more appropriately addressed in a resource management plan than through the regulatory process. The Department is currently drafting a new state-wide elk management plan, including area-specific management unit plans, and will include these proposals as part of the management strategy for the Marble Mountain elk zone. When the draft management plan is completed it will be subject to a comprehensive public review process, and following completion of that process and final adoption the Department will implement the appropriate management actions as identified in the final management plan.</p>

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2	Wayne Raupe, California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association	Testimony at Fish and Game Commission meeting, Ventura California, April 16, 2014	<p>1. The Department reconsider the reduction in archery bull tags in the Owens Valley, specifically Lone Pine Period 1 and Tinemaha Period 1.</p> <p>2. Is not in favor of current bull tag allocation in the Owens Valley and believes archery hunters received a larger reduction than other methods.</p>	<p>Reject both comments.</p> <p>The Department uses several tools to evaluate tag distribution including hunter demand (based on number of applications for hunts in the previous year) and animal distribution. In an effort to increase overall cow survival and calf recruitment the Department reduced the overall number of hunting tags available in the Owens Valley area during the 2014 hunting season. This objective, in conjunction with the historical demand for archery tags in the area resulted in the decrease of available archery tags.</p>
3	Bill Gaines, Bill Gaines & Associates	Testimony at Fish and Game Commission meeting, Ventura California, April 16, 2014	<p>1. Provide more time for public comment regarding final tag quota recommendations.</p>	<p>Accept with modification. Time constraints associated with the biology of the animals in question, the calculations associated with establishing population levels and corresponding tag quotas, and the Commission's rule-making calendar/schedule often lead to last minute Department recommendations to the Commission on specific tag quotas. The Department is committed to improving this process and will work with the relevant groups to provide as much information as possible in a timely manner.</p>