

Data Supplement to the California Fish and Game Commission

Regarding:

Recommended 2016 Antelope Tag Allocations

**(Updated 2014 Antelope Harvest and Population
Estimates)**



April 2016

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------|--|--------|
| Table 1 | 2016 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation | Page 1 |
| Table 2 | 2015 Pronghorn Antelope Hunt Statistics by Zone | Page 2 |
| Table 3 | 2015 – 2016 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Comparison | Page 3 |
| Figure 1 | Pronghorn Antelope Population Estimates | Page 4 |

Table 1. 2016 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocations

| Hunt Code | Hunt Name | 2015 Tag Allocations | 2016 Tag Proposal | 2016 Tag Allocations |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| APPRENTICE HUNTS | | | | |
| 734 | Apprentice Zone 3 - Likely Tables Period 1 Either-Sex | 5 | 0-5 | 5 |
| 790 | Apprentice Zone 4 - Lassen Period 1 Either-Sex | 5 | 0-15 | 5 |
| 780 | Apprentice Zone 5 - Big Valley Either-Sex | 1 | 0-15 | 1 |
| 766 | Apprentice Zone 6 - Surprise Valley | 4 | 0-4 | 4 |
| ZONE 1 - MOUNT DOME | | | | |
| 710 | General Buck | 0 | 0-60 | 2 |
| 712 | Archery Buck | 0 | 0-10 | 0 |
| ZONE 2 - CLEAR LAKE | | | | |
| 720 | General Buck | 15 | 0-80 | 15 |
| 728 | Archery Buck | 1 | 0-10 | 1 |
| ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES | | | | |
| 730 | Period 1 General Buck | 40 | 0-150 | 45 |
| 732 | Period 2 General Buck | 40 | 0-130 | 45 |
| 738 | Archery Buck | 10 | 0-20 | 15 |
| ZONE 4 - LASSEN | | | | |
| 740 | Period 1 General Buck | 45 | 0-150 | 45 |
| 742 | Period 2 General Buck | 45 | 0-150 | 45 |
| 745 | Archery Buck | 10 | 0-20 | 10 |
| ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY | | | | |
| 750 | General Buck | 20 | 0-150 | 20 |
| 755 | Archery Buck | 1 | 0-15 | 1 |
| ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY | | | | |
| 760 | General Buck | 10 | 0-25 | 10 |
| 765 | Archery Buck | 1 | 0-10 | 1 |
| FUND RAISING ANTELOPE TAGS | | 2 | 0-10 | 2 |

Table 2. 2015 Pronghorn Antelope Hunt Statistics by Zone

| Antelope Hunt Zone | 2015 Applicants | Tags | Applicants/Tags | Success % | Hunt Zone | Sex |
|--------------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 799 | 7103 | | | | Preference Point Only | N/A |
| 720 | 991 | 15 | 66.1 | 87% | ZONE 2 - CLEAR LAKE | BUCK |
| 728 | 70 | 1 | 70.0 | 0% | ZONE 2 - CLEAR LAKE - Archery | BUCK |
| 730 | 2933 | 40 | 73.3 | 83% | ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES PER 1 | BUCK |
| 732 | 2522 | 40 | 63.1 | 93% | ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES PER 2 | BUCK |
| 738 | 322 | 10 | 32.2 | 50% | ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES - Archery | BUCK |
| 740 | 3676 | 45 | 81.7 | 91% | ZONE 4 - LASSEN PER 1 | BUCK |
| 742 | 2466 | 45 | 54.8 | 96% | ZONE 4 - LASSEN PER 2 | BUCK |
| 745 | 419 | 10 | 41.9 | 50% | ZONE 4 - LASSEN - Archery | BUCK |
| 750 | 781 | 20 | 39.1 | 90% | ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY | BUCK |
| 755 | 103 | 1 | 103.0 | 0% | ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY - Archery | BUCK |
| 760 | 1172 | 10 | 117.2 | 90% | ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY | BUCK |
| 765 | 87 | 1 | 87.0 | 0% | ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY - Archery | BUCK |
| 766 | 278 | 4 | 69.5 | 75% | ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY APPRENTICE | EITHER SEX |
| 780 | 144 | 1 | 144.0 | 0% | ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY APPRENTICE | EITHER SEX |
| 790 | 649 | 5 | 129.8 | 100% | ZONE 4 - LASSEN APPRENTICE | EITHER SEX |
| 734 | 612 | 5 | 122.4 | 60% | ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES APPRENTICE | EITHER SEX |
| Total | 17,225 | 253 | 68.1 | 85% | | |

Table 3. 2015 – 2016 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Comparison

| Hunt | 2015 Tags Issued | | | 2016 Recommended Tags | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | General Method Buck | Archery Buck | Either-Sex Apprentice | General Method Buck | Archery Buck | Either-Sex Apprentice |
| Mt. Dome | 0 | 0 | | 2 | 0 | |
| Clear Lake | | | | | | |
| | 15 | 1 | | 15 | 1 | |
| Likely Tables | | | | | | |
| | | 10 | | | 15 | |
| Period 1 | 40 | | | 45 | | |
| Period 2 | 40 | | | 45 | | |
| Apprentice | | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Lassen | | | | | | |
| | | 10 | | | 10 | |
| Period 1 | 45 | | | 45 | | |
| Period 2 | 45 | | | 45 | | |
| Apprentice | | | 5 | | | 5 |
| Big Valley | | | | | | |
| | 20 | 1 | | 20 | 1 | |
| Apprentice | | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Surprise Valley | | | | | | |
| | 10 | 1 | | 10 | 1 | |
| Apprentice | | | 4 | | | 4 |
| Fund Raising | | | | | | |
| | 2 | | | 2 | | |

Figure 1. Pronghorn Antelope Population Estimate

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Number Counted</u> | <u>Basic California Population</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1989 | 7,018 | 7,018 |
| 1990 | 7,493 | 7,493 |
| 1991 | 7,294 | 7,294 |
| 1992 | 7,908 | 7,908 |
| 1993 | 5,085 | 5,085 |
| 1994 | 5,160 | 5,160 |
| 1995 | 5,437 | 5,437 |
| 1996 | 4,681 | 4,681 |
| 1997 | 5,039 | 5,039 |
| 1998 | 4,696 | 4,786 |
| 1999 | 4,811 | 4,960** |
| 2000 | 4,230 | 4,361** |
| 2001 | 2,771 | 2,857** |
| 2002 | 4,273 | 4,405** |
| 2003 | 3,854 | 3,970** |
| 2004 | 4,087 | 4,210** |
| 2005 | 4,307 | 4,436** |
| 2006 | 4,131 | 4,254** |
| 2007 | 3,570 | 3,677** |
| 2008 | 4,039 | 4,160** |
| 2009 | 4,634 | 4,773** |
| 2010 | 3,693 | 3,804** |
| 2011 | 3,836 | 3,951** |
| 2012 | 4,634 | 4,773** |
| 2013 | 3,493 | 3,598** |
| 2014 | 2,437 | 2,366*** |
| 2015 | 3,575 | 3,682** |
| 2016 | 4,439 | 4,572** |

**Population estimate based on adjustment. To obtain the population estimate, the numbers of antelope counted were adjusted by 3% to account for polygons not surveyed.
 ***Department suspects the drought reduced our ability to detect pronghorn because of their apparent absence from traditional winter ranges. The 2014 estimate is reduced because of our inability to find antelope during the 2013 survey of zone 5 polygons, some zone 2 pronghorn probably wintering in Oregon outside the survey polygons during the 2014 survey, and a large, though unknown percentage of zone 3 antelope wintering on the devil’s garden outside of survey polygons during the 2014 survey.

Since 1999, polygons (count blocks) have been stratified to count 18 of the 29 previously identified winter range polygons that had the highest number of antelope based on all surveys completed in 1953 through 1998. This stratification resulted in a set of polygons that averaged 97% of the total population based on the earlier surveys. This reduction in survey effort was done to reduce flight time, reduce costs, and improve flight safety without significantly reducing survey accuracy and utility. Before 1999, an aerial survey using fixed wing aircraft was attempted of all known winter ranges in Lassen, Modoc, Shasta and Siskiyou counties.