

Data Supplement to the California Fish and Game Commission

Regarding:

Recommended 2017 Pronghorn Tag Allocations

**(Updated 2016 Antelope Harvest and Population
Estimates)**



April 2017

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

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Table 1. 2017 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocations

Hunt Code	Hunt Name	2016 Tag Allocations	2017 Tag Proposal	2017 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	2	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	45	0-150	45
732	Period 2 General Buck	45	0-130	45
738	Archery Buck	15	0-20	15
ZONE 4 - LASSEN				
740	Period 1 General Buck	45	0-150	35
742	Period 2 General Buck	45	0-150	35
745	Archery Buck	10	0-20	5
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. 2016 Pronghorn Antelope Hunt Statistics by Zone

Antelope Hunt Zone	2016 Applicants	Tags Issued	Tags Reported	Harvest	Success %	Hunt Zone	Sex
799	7,474					Preference Point Only	N/A
710	171	2	2	2	100%	ZONE 1 - MOUNT DOME	BUCK
720	947	15	15	13	87%	ZONE 2 - CLEAR LAKE	BUCK
728	88	1	1	0	0%	ZONE 2 - CLEAR LAKE - Archery	BUCK
730	2,989	45	44	32	71%	ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES PER 1	BUCK
732	2,067	45	45	39	87%	ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES PER 2	BUCK
738	329	15	14	8	53%	ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES - Archery	BUCK
740	3,660	45	45	44	98%	ZONE 4 - LASSEN PER 1	BUCK
742	2,980	45	45	43	96%	ZONE 4 - LASSEN PER 2	BUCK
745	466	10	10	4	40%	ZONE 4 - LASSEN - Archery	BUCK
750	1089	20	20	17	85%	ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY	BUCK
755	65	1	1	0	0%	ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY - Archery	BUCK
760	1060	10	10	9	90%	ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY	BUCK
765	89	1	1	1	100%	ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY - Archery	BUCK
766	189	4	4	4	100%	ZONE 6 - SURPRISE VALLEY APPRENTICE	EITHER SEX
780	146	1	1	1	100%	ZONE 5 - BIG VALLEY APPRENTICE	EITHER SEX
790	685	5	5	5	100%	ZONE 4 - LASSEN APPRENTICE	EITHER SEX
734	540	5	5	4	80%	ZONE 3 - LIKELY TABLES APPRENTICE	EITHER SEX
Total	25,034	270	268	226	84%		

Table 3. 2016 – 2017 Pronghorn Antelope Tag Allocation Comparison

Hunt	2016 Tags Issued			2017 Recommended Tags		
	General Method Buck	Archery Buck	Either-Sex Apprentice	General Method Buck	Archery Buck	Either-Sex Apprentice
Mt. Dome	2	0		2	0	
Clear Lake						
	15	1		15	1	
Likely Tables						
		15			15	
Period 1	45			45		
Period 2	45			45		
Apprentice			5			5
Lassen						
		10			5	
Period 1	45			35		
Period 2	45			35		
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**
2017	2,966	3,055**

**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. Survey totals in 2017 show a reduced number of animals and this is due to survey conditions and snow accumulation.

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.