

TITLE 14. Fish and Game Commission Notice of Proposed Changes in Regulations

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission), pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 200, 202, 203, 215, 220, 331, 332 and 1050 of the Fish and Game Code and to implement, interpret or make specific Sections 200, 202, 203, 203.1, 207, 215, 219, 220, 331, 332, 713, 1050, 1055, 1055.1, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 3500, 3682.1, 3683, 3950, 3951, 4302, 4330, 4331, 4332, 4333, 4336, 4340, 4341, 4652, 4653, 4654, 4655, 4657, 4750, 4751, 4752, 4753, 4754, 4755, 4902, 10500 and 10502 of said Code, proposes to amend Section 702 and add Section 715, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, relating to Upland Game Bird Special Hunt Drawing and Application Fee.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

A new Section 715, Upland Game Bird Special Hunt Drawing, is proposed to establish the application and drawing procedures for wild upland game bird hunt reservations in the Automated License Data System (ALDS). ALDS is the central location for the public to apply for all Department licenses and hunting opportunities. The ALDS drawing process provides more accuracy and flexibility to the public and allows applicants to easily select their first, second and third choice wild bird hunts. A fee of \$5.00 per application for the Upland Game Bird Special Hunt Drawing is proposed to be added in Section 702.

Benefits of the regulations

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. ALDS provides a single location for the public to apply for all department hunts including big game and waterfowl hunting opportunities. Data collected and compiled through ALDS will be accessible in a consistent format for the Department's use. Adding the Upland Game Bird Special Hunt Drawing to ALDS will provide the same benefits of fairness and flexibility as well as important information necessary to properly manage upland game bird populations.

The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment in the sustainable management of natural resources. The proposed regulation could reduce the time required to apply for Upland Game special hunting opportunities and will improve the accuracy of the data collection. Adoption of regulations to increase sustainable hunting opportunity provides for the maintenance of sufficient populations of upland game birds to ensure their continued existence.

Non-monetary benefits to the public

The Commission does not anticipate non-monetary benefits to the protection of public health and safety, worker safety, the prevention of discrimination, the promotion of fairness or social equity and the increase in openness and transparency in business

and government.

Consistency with State or Federal Regulations

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200, 202 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found the proposed changes pertaining to reservation drawing selection for wild upland game bird hunting opportunities through ALDS to be consistent with the provisions of Title 14. Therefore the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the Lake Natoma Inn Hotel & Conference Center, 702 Gold Lake Drive, in Folsom, California, on Wednesday August 25, 2016, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that any person interested may present statements, orally or in writing, relevant to this action at a hearing to be held at the Red Lion Inn, 1929 4th Street, Eureka, California, on Wednesday, October 20, 2016, at 8:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard. It is requested, but not required, that written comments be submitted on or before October 6, 2016, at the address given below, or by email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. **Written comments mailed, or emailed to the Commission office, must be received before 5:00 p.m. on October 14, 2016.** All comments must be received no later than **October 20, 2016**, at the hearing in Eureka, California. If you would like copies of any modifications to this proposal, please include your name and mailing address.

The regulations as proposed in strikeout-underline format, as well as an initial statement of reasons, including environmental considerations and all information upon which the proposal is based (rulemaking file), are on file and available for public review from the agency representative, Valerie Termini, Executive Director, Fish and Game Commission, 1416 Ninth Street, Box 944209, Sacramento, California 94244-2090, phone (916) 653-4899. Please direct requests for the above mentioned documents and inquiries concerning the regulatory process to Valerie Termini or Caren Woodson at the preceding address or phone number. **Karen Fothergill, Department of Fish and Wildlife, phone (916) 716-1461 or email Karen.Fothergill@wildlife.ca.gov, has been designated to respond to questions on the substance of the proposed regulations.** Copies of the Initial Statement of Reasons, the regulatory language, the Notice, and other rulemaking documents, may be obtained from either the address above or on the Commission's website at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov>.

Availability of Modified Text

If the regulations adopted by the Commission differ from but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency representative named herein.

If the regulatory proposal is adopted, the final statement of reasons may be obtained from the address above when it has been received from the agency program staff.

Impact of Regulatory Action/Results of the Economic Impact Assessment

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 Business, Including the Ability of California Businesses 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 action automates an existing hunt drawing process through the use of ALDS. This proposal is economically neutral to business.

- (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; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment:

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The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses, or the expansion of businesses in California. The Commission does not anticipate any benefits to worker safety.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Department proposes a modest fee to recover reasonable costs of the drawing as required by statute. The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business 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) 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, Government Code: None.

(h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Effect on Small Business

It has been determined that the adoption of these regulations will not affect small business. The Commission has drafted the regulations in Plain English pursuant to Government Code Sections 11342.580 and 11346.2(a)(1).

Consideration of Alternatives

The Commission must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Commission, or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Commission, would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

Dated: July 5, 2016

Valerie Termini
Executive Director