

Attachment #1

Project Description

The project involves elk hunting for 2016 (Section 332, Fish and Game Code). Specifically, the Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing to adjust tag quotas On existing elk hunts, establish new hunt zones, modify season dates, modify existing hunt boundaries, add additional hunts within existing zones, and modify existing hunts.

Existing law (Section 3950, Fish and Game Code) designates elk (genus *Cervus*) as a game mammal in California. Section 332, Fish and Game Code, provides that the Commission may fix the area or areas, seasons and hours, bag and possession limit, sex, and total number of elk that may be taken pursuant to its regulations. Section 203.1, Fish and Game Code, requires the Commission to consider populations, habitat, food supplies, the welfare of individual animals, and other pertinent facts when establishing hunting regulations for elk.

State law (Section 207 of the Fish and Game Code) requires the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to review mammal hunting regulations and the Department of Fish and Game (Department) to present recommendations for changes to the mammal hunting regulations to the Commission at a public meeting. Mammal hunting regulations adopted by the Commission provide for hunting elk in specific areas of the State [Section 364 and 364.1, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR)].