

CA Fish & Game Commission  
Wildlife Resources Committee  
January 11 2018, Santa Rosa

# **Predator Policy Workgroup**

## ***Minority Overview***

Presented by  
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A stylized, light blue map of California is positioned in the background, tilted slightly to the right. The map is semi-transparent, allowing the dark blue background to show through. The text is centered over the map.

Given the choice, Californians rather  
not kill an animal if it can be avoided.





**Bring Predator Management into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.  
More representational of The People of the State.**





**Consider predators' intrinsic and ecological value.  
Non-consumptive wildlife use.**





**Ensure policies are based on best available science and most current knowledge.**





**Acknowledge and sanction non-lethal wildlife management principles and practices.**



# The Process

## GROUP MAKEUP

- 6 hunting and agriculture
- 4 conservation and non-lethal wildlife management
- Professional lobbyists

## CHALLENGES

- Difficulty finding common ground
- Resistance to compromise
- Proposals largely representative of Majority interests
- Review group under-utilized



# PREDATOR POLICY WORKGROUP





# Draft Terrestrial Predator Policy

It is the policy of the Fish and Game Commission that:

- I. For the purposes of this policy, terrestrial predators are defined as all native wildlife species in the Order Carnivora, except those in the Family Otariidae (seals, sea lions), the Family Phocidae (true seals), and sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*).
- II. Pursuant to the objectives in Section 1801 of Fish and Game Code, the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) acknowledges that native terrestrial predators are an integral part of California's natural wildlife and possess intrinsic, biological, historical, and cultural value, which benefit society and ecosystems. The Commission shall promote the ecological, scientific, aesthetic, recreational, and educational value of native terrestrial predators in the context of ecosystem-based management while minimizing adverse impacts on wildlife and reducing conflicts that result in adverse impacts to humans, including health and safety, private property, agriculture, and other public and private economic impacts.
- III. The Commission further recognizes that sustainable conservation and management strategies are necessary to encourage the coexistence of humans and wildlife. It is, therefore, the policy and practice of the Fish and Game Commission that:
  - A. Existing native terrestrial predator communities and their habitats are monitored, maintained, restored, and/or enhanced using the best available science. The department shall protect and conserve predator populations.
  - B. Native terrestrial predator management shall be consistent with the goals and objectives of existing management and conservation plans. Management strategies shall recognize the ecological interactions between predators and other wildlife species and consider all available management tools, best available science, affected habitat, species, and ecosystems and other factors. The department shall provide consumptive

# Policy: Minority Group Opinion

## III.

C. Human-predator conflict resolution shall rely on management strategies that **PREVENT**, avoid and reduce conflict that results in adverse impacts to **ECOSYSTEMS** human health and safety, private property, agriculture, and public and private economic impacts. Efforts should be made to minimize habituation of predators especially where it is leading to conflict. Human safety shall be considered a priority. Management decisions regarding human-predator conflicts shall evaluate and consider various forms of lethal and nonlethal controls that are efficacious, humane, feasible and in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations. A diverse set of management tools should be considered including but not limited to recreational take, wildlife control methods, and exclusionary methods.



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# Summary: Tenets of a Sound Predator Policy

- Acknowledge non-consumptive value of predators
- Importance of predators to healthy ecosystems
- Acknowledge importance of humaneness
- Importance of preventing wildlife conflict
- Consider current research and knowledge
- Acknowledge effective non-lethal control practices
- Control methods directed on offending animal(s)

# REGULATIONS



## CATEGORIZATION:

Non-game  
Furbearing  
Game

## DEPREDATION:

Permit requirements  
Non-lethal provisions  
Ag and urban

## USE OF DOGS:

Ethics  
Potential impacts  
Potential benefits / role

## USE OF TRAPS:

Depredation  
Recreation  
Types of traps  
Non-lethal provisions

## RECREATIONAL TAKE:

Take limits  
Seasons  
Methods of take



# Mammal Hunting Regulations

## Subdivision 2. Game, Furbearers, Nongame, and Depredators

### Chapter 1. General Provisions and Definitions

~~§250.1~~ ~~General Provisions Against Taking Resident Game Birds, Game Mammals and~~

~~§251.2~~ ~~General Prohibition Against Feeding Big Game Mammals Wildlife.~~

~~§266.1~~ ~~Use of Dugs for the use of Lead Projectiles and for Dog Training Using Lead Projectiles~~  
~~for the Taking of Wildlife.~~

~~§260.2~~ ~~Issuance of Permit to Take Animals Causing Damage.~~

~~§260.5~~ ~~Shooting Permit to Kill Mountain Lion Causing Damage.~~

~~§260.~~ ~~Prohibition Against Shooting Birds and Mammals from Motor-Driven Air or~~

~~§461.~~ ~~Bridges and Motorboats, Airboats, Sailboats or Snowmobiles.~~

~~§262.1~~ ~~Muskat and Mink.~~

~~§264.2.~~ ~~Permits to Pursue, Drive, Herd, or Take Birds and Mammals.~~

~~§265.3~~ ~~General Provisions Against Taking Big Game Mammals.~~

~~§265.4.~~ ~~Use of Traps.~~

~~§267.5.~~ ~~Trapping Reports.~~

~~§272.6~~ ~~General Provisions.~~

## §401. Issuance of Permit to Take Animals Causing Damage

(a) Application. A person who is a property owner or tenant may apply to the department for a permit to take elk, bear, bobcat, beaver, wild pigs, deer, wild turkeys, or gray squirrels that are damaging or destroying, or immediately threatening to damage or destroy, land or property. A bobcat in the act of injuring or killing livestock may be taken immediately provided the property owner or tenant applies for a permit from the department the next working day following the take.

**The department shall respond to an application as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours after receiving the application. Should the department fail to respond, an application shall be deemed accepted and a permit deemed issued. Should the application occur during a holiday period, the department shall respond within 96 hours.**

**Applications made verbally shall be required to also submit a written or electronic application to create a formal record of the application, this record shall include the time of the initial verbal application.**



## §460. Fisher, Marten, River Otter, Desert Kit Fox and Red Fox.

Fisher, marten, river otter, desert kit fox and red fox may not be taken **for the purpose of recreation or commerce in fur** at any time.

**Create a new section in Chapter 5 (Furbearing Mammals) to establish a season, bag limit, and possession limit for the recreational take of non-native red fox.**

## §465.5 Use of Traps.

(g)(5) Zones Prohibited to the Use of Conibear-type Traps and Snares. Conibear-type traps and snares, except those totally submerged, and deadfall traps are prohibited in the following zones. **Notwithstanding the prohibition on conibear-type traps and snares, foot snares using a pan tension device are not prohibited in the range of the San Joaquin Kit Fox.**



## §461, §464, §478

### **Align season dates:**

**Section 461(a)(1).** Badger and gray fox season dates would change from “November 16 through the last day of February” to “the second Saturday in November through February 28.”

**Section 464(a)(2).** Raccoon season dates, in the balance of the state, would change from “November 16 through March 31” to “the second Saturday in November through February 28.”

**Section 478.** Bobcat season dates would change from “October 15 through February 28” to “the second Saturday in November through February 28.”

We recognize predators are an integral part of their ecosystems and must be held in as equally high regard as other valued species, recognizing they are all one.

To make sound management decisions such as changes in regulations, we must utilize current knowledge and best available science.

Therefore, we recommend the Commission support and promote the ability of the Department to gather and maintain data on predators and the health of their ecosystems.



# Summary: Tenets of Sound Predator Regulations

- **Bring Predator Management into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
- **More representational of The People of the State**
- **Policies based on current science and knowledge.**
- **Incorporate non-lethal principles and practices.**

## **Moving Forward**

Committed to a process  
to modernize wildlife  
policies and regulations.





*Thank you!*