

State of California  
Fish and Game Commission  
Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action  
Amend Section 360  
Title 14, California Code of Regulations  
Re: Deer Tag Numbers and Season Adjustments

I. Dates of Initial Statement of Reasons

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|--|-------|-------------------|
| (a) Initial Statement of Reasons       | Date: | November 14, 2020 |
| (b) Date of Final Statement of Reasons | Date: | February 11, 2021 |

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: December 10, 2020	Location: Teleconference
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(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: January 12, 2021	Location: Teleconference
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(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: February 10, 2021	Location: Teleconference
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III. Update

The originally proposed regulatory language contained deer tag quota recommendations for specific tag quotas in each hunt zone based on input from Department regional staff and the public to address goals for the units, including deer conservation, providing hunting opportunities, and alleviating depredation concerns. Final tag quotas as set forth in the attached Approved Regulatory Text were adopted by the Commission at its February 10, 2021 meeting.

IV. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting Those Considerations:

Responses to public comments, oral or written, regarding proposed regulatory changes received through February 10, 2021 are included as Attachment A.

V. Location and Index of rulemaking

A rulemaking with attached file index is maintained at:

California Fish and Game Commission  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

VI. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1010 Riverside Parkway  
West Sacramento, California 95605

## VII. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

### (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

#### Number of Tags

No alternatives were identified. Deer license tag quotas must be adjusted periodically in response to a variety of environmental and biological conditions including forage availability, population structure, overwinter survival rates, and landowner interest.

### (b) No Change Alternative

#### Number of Tags

The no-change alternative was considered and rejected because it would not attain project objectives. Deer hunts and opportunity must be adjusted periodically in response to a variety of environmental and biological conditions including forage availability, population structure, and over-winter survival rates. Adjusting tag quotas provides for appropriate harvest levels within the hunt zones.

### (c) Description of Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business

None.

## VIII. Impact of Regulatory Action

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 Businesses, 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.

### (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

The Commission anticipates benefits to the health and welfare of California residents. Hunting provides opportunities for multi-generational family activities and promotes respect for California's environment by the future stewards of the State's resources. The Commission anticipates benefits to the State's environment in the sustainable management of natural resources.

The proposed action will not have significant impacts on jobs or business within California and does not provide benefits to worker safety.

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

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with this 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 Cost: None

## **UPDATED** Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 360, T14, CCR, provide deer hunting zone descriptions, season dates, and license tag quotas. In order to achieve deer herd management goals and objectives and maintain hunting quality, it is periodically necessary to adjust tag quotas, seasons, hunt areas and other criteria in response to dynamic environmental and biological conditions.

### **Benefits of the regulations**

The proposed regulations will contribute to the sustainable management of deer populations in California. The final values for the license tag numbers will be based upon findings from annual harvest and herd composition counts where appropriate.

### **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.

### **Evaluation of Incompatibility with existing regulations**

The Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Sections 200 and 203, has the sole authority to regulate deer hunting in California. Commission staff has searched the California Code of Regulations and has found the proposed changes pertaining to deer tag allocations are consistent with Title 14. Therefore, the Commission has determined that the proposed amendments are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing State regulations.

## **UPDATE**

**At the Fish and Game Commission's February 10, 2021, meeting the Commission adopted the proposed text.**

**There have been no changes in applicable laws or to the effect of the proposed regulations from the laws and effects described in the Notice of Proposed Action.**