



Tracking Number: (_2021-006_)

To request a change to regulations under the authority of the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission), you are required to submit this completed form to: California Fish and Game Commission, (physical address) 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814, (mailing address) P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 or via email to FGC@fgc.ca.gov. Note: This form is not intended for listing petitions for threatened or endangered species (see Section 670.1 of Title 14).

Incomplete forms will not be accepted. A petition is incomplete if it is not submitted on this form or fails to contain necessary information in each of the required categories listed on this form (Section I). A petition will be rejected if it does not pertain to issues under the Commission's authority. A petition may be denied if any petition requesting a functionally equivalent regulation change was considered within the previous 12 months and no information or data is being submitted beyond what was previously submitted. If you need help with this form, please contact Commission staff at (916) 653-4899 or FGC@fgc.ca.gov.

SECTION I: Required Information.

Please be succinct. Responses for Section I should not exceed five pages

1. Person or organization requesting the change (Required)

Organization requesting: County of Siskiyou

Name of primary contact person: Matt Parker – County of Siskiyou Natural Resources

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Division 1, Chapter 2 §200 (Commission's Power to Regulate Taking Fish and Game) and §203 (Bird and Mammal Regulations) and §1050 (Preparation, Issuance, Displaying and Establishment of Fees)

3. Overview (Required) – Existing statute requires a fee to obtain a deer tag. Title 14 Section 702(c)(1) identifies a dollar amount for the tag fee and a separate fee for processing. This processing fee is presumed to be what is also referred to as the tag application fee when described in the Big Game Digest and license sales website when purchasing other big game tags such as elk, antelope, and sheep. It is unclear why the deer tag fee and the processing fee are both required when applying for premium and restricted deer tags. It is unclear what authority the Department has to require the deer tag fee in addition to the processing or application fee in order to apply for a deer tag and obtain a preference point if unsuccessful. There is no refund mechanism if the applicant is unsuccessful and requires applicants to purchase a tag and pay a fee beyond that authorized in Fish and Game Code Section 1050(f). The proposed change would establish an application fee consistent with what is already defined in Section 702 that does not also include the cost of the tag and be consistent with the intent of Fish and Game Code Section 1050(f). The tag fee would become a separate item and paid if the applicant is successful. This would be consistent with how



controlled sheep, elk, and pronghorn hunt fees in California and most if not all other western states.

4. **Rationale (Required) - Deer** tag allocation and associated fees has been unchanged for the last 30 + years while tag definitions have changed. The current tag allocation system was developed when there was an open gate to all zones during the general season. There are now premium, restricted, junior, and additional hunts that make drawing a preferred tag more complicated and difficult. There is growing number of hunters that are forced into selecting a tag choice that they have no real desire or intention of using. It is inequitable with other big game tags where an applicant applies for a tag without being required to pay the full cost of the tag unless successfully drawn.

It is apparent in Fish and Game Code Section 4332 that a fee is required to obtain a deer tag. It is not clear, however, why the entire deer tag fee is required up front and then lumped together with the processing fee (aka application fee) and deemed non-refundable.

While we recognize that there are a lot more deer tags than the other species, there is growing sentiment that the system is cost prohibitive by requiring hunters to pay the same fee for a preference point as hunters who receive a tag. Has the Department looked at this inconsistency compared to the other tags and considered the potential impact to hunter retention? It is unclear to the hunters why the cost of a deer tag is required up front, in addition to the processing fee (as defined in 702) and not refundable while the other tag fees are not required in addition to the processing fee (as defined in 702). It is also not clear why the deer tag fee and the processing fee are then identified as a single fee for a first deer tag or as the drawing application fee. That is a very different approach to how the elk, antelope, and sheep tags are handled despite how each fee is defined in Section 702.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition:** [April 22, 2021.]
6. **Category of Proposed Change**
- Sport Fishing
 - Commercial Fishing
 - X Hunting
 - Other, please specify: [Click here to enter text.]



- 7. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*
 Amend Title 14 Section(s): 702(c)(1) |
 Add New Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#) |
 Repeal Title 14 Section(s): [Click here to enter text.](#) |

- 8. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition** [Click here to enter text.](#)
 Or, Not applicable.

- 9. **Effective date:** If applicable, identify the desired effective date of the regulation.
 If the proposed change requires immediate implementation, explain the nature of the emergency: Hunting year 2022

- 10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: A further economic analysis is needed.

- 11. **Economic or Fiscal Impacts:** Identify any known impacts of the proposed regulation change on revenues to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, individuals, businesses, jobs, other state agencies, local agencies, schools, or housing: The proposed action is expected to increase revenue for the Department by reinitiating big game hunters who will now at least apply for big game drawings that aren't applying currently.

- 12. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:
[Click here to enter text.](#) |

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received: [Click here to enter text.](#) |

FGC staff action:

- Accept - complete
 - Reject - incomplete
 - Reject - outside scope of FGC authority
- Tracking Number

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: _____ |

Meeting date for FGC consideration: _____ |

FGC action:

- Denied by FGC
- Denied - same as petition _____ |
 Tracking Number
- Granted for consideration of regulation change