

STAFF SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY 8-9, 2023

19B. DEPARTMENT WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES DIVISION, AND DEPARTMENT ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION DIVISION**Today's Item**Information ☒Action ☐

The Department will highlight items of note since the last Commission meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

The Department will provide a verbal update on items of interest since the last Commission meeting. The Department's annual report regarding Camp Roberts, Camp Pendleton, and Fort Hunter Liggett deer and elk hunts is provided as exhibits 1 and 2. Additionally, Department news releases of interest are provided as exhibits 3 through 5.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. [Department memo, received February 2, 2023](#)
2. [Annual report regarding Camp Roberts, Camp Pendleton, and Fort Hunter Liggett deer and elk hunts, February 2, 2023](#)
3. [Department news release: CDFW Completes Relocation Of All Animals At Wildlife Waystation, dated December 28, 2022](#)
4. [Department news release: CDFW's Ocean Ranch Unit Opens To Waterfowl Hunting, Public Access On Jan. 2, 2023, dated December 29, 2022](#)
5. [Department news release: California and Nevada Get BearWise, dated January 31, 2023](#)

Motion (N/A)

Memorandum

Date: January 27, 2023

Received by Commission,
February 2, 2023

To: Melissa Miller- Henson
Executive Director
Fish and Game Commission

From: Charlton H. Bonham
Director

Subject: **Agenda Item for the February 8-9, 2023, Fish and Game Commission Meeting
Management of Fish and Wildlife on Military Lands**

Pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 3450-3453, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) submits the attached summary of hunts on Military Lands to the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for review. These hunts were reviewed by the Department.

The Department is not proposing any changes for the 2023-2024 season. The attached list includes all ongoing programs on Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Pendleton, and Beale, and Vandenberg Military Lands.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Victoria Barr at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Attachment

cc: Chad Dibble, Deputy Director
Wildlife and Fisheries Division

Scott Gardner, Branch Chief
Wildlife Branch

Victoria Barr, Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Branch

Department report to Commission pursuant to Fish and Game Code § 3450-3453 and section 640, Title 14, California Code of Regulations

The Department annually reviews the hunt programs for Fort Hunter Liggett, Camp Pendleton, Beale AFB and Vandenburg AFB under the Management of Fish and Wildlife on Military Lands program. No season or quota changes have been requested for the 2023 hunt season.

The reported 2022 deer and elk harvest is as of January 9, 2023.

2022 Season Summary

Fort Hunter Liggett (US Army)

A33 – Late Season Archery Either-Sex Deer (Oct 1 – Nov 11)

Tag Quota: 50

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 49

Harvest: 15 total (9 females and 6 males)

G8 – Antlerless Deer (Oct 1, 2,3,9,10)

Tag Quota: 20

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 19

Harvest: 12 total (11 females and 1 males)

J10 – Apprentice Either-Sex Deer (Oct 1, 2,3,9,10)

Tag Quota: 30

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 30

Harvest: 23 total (1 females and 22 males)

447 – Period 3 Bull Elk (Dec 20 – Jan 1)

Tag Quota: 8

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 8

Harvest: 5 total (4 males and 1 sub-adult)

448 – Period 2 Antlerless Elk (Nov 23 – Dec 1)

Tag Quota: 6

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 6

Harvest: 6 total (5 females and 1 sub-adult)

449 – Either-Sex Archery Elk (Jul 30 – Aug 7)

Tag Quota: 6

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 6

Harvest: 6 total (5 males and 1 sub-adult)

450 – Antlerless Archery Elk (Nov 5 – Nov 13)

Tag Quota: 8

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 8

Harvest: 3 total (2 females and 1 sub-adult)

471 – Antlerless Apprentice Elk (Dec 20 – Jan 1)

Tag Quota: 1

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 0

Harvest: 0 total

472 – Bull Apprentice Elk (Dec 20 – Jan 1)

Tag Quota: 1

Military Tags Issued: 0

Public Tags Issued: 1

Harvest: 1 total

Camp Pendleton (US Marine Corps)

G10 – Either-Sex Deer (Sep 3 – Dec 4)

Tag Quota: 250 (Military Only)

Military Tags Issued: 173

Public Tags Issued: 0

Harvest: 58 total (23 females and 35 males)

Beale (US Air Force)

G7 – Either-Sex Deer (Aug 20 – Nov 6)

Tag Quota: 20 (Military Only)

Military Tags Issued: 20

Public Tags Issued: 0

Harvest: 8 total (4 females and 4 males)

Vandenberg (US Space Force)

G11 – Either-Sex Deer (Aug 29 – Oct 1)

Tag Quota: 200 (Military Only)

Military Tags Issued: 200

Public Tags Issued: 0

Harvest: 87 total (55 females and 32 males)

CDFW Completes Relocation Of All Animals At Wildlife Waystation

December 28, 2022



With the relocation of two chimps in early December, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has moved all the animals that had been living at the now-closed Wildlife Waystation in Los Angeles County. These two join eight other chimps moved last month to Chimp Haven, located near Shreveport, Louisiana.

This final move concludes CDFW's involvement in the former animal sanctuary that closed suddenly in 2019. The Wildlife Waystation had operated since the late 1970s as a home for thousands of animals that were abused, abandoned and orphaned. But financial difficulties led to the facility shutting down even though almost 500 animals were still depending on care. As the state agency that regulates sanctuaries and refuges, CDFW stepped in to supervise efforts to find new accredited homes for the wide variety of animals left at the facility. The 42 chimps stranded at Wildlife Waystation proved especially difficult to rehome.

"It was actually relatively easy to find homes for lions, tigers, bears, jaguars, all sorts of primates, birds and reptiles," said CDFW Regional Manager Ed Pert. "Chimpanzees are a difficult species to rehome. After it became illegal to do medical research on chimpanzees in 2015, U.S research facilities have been closing down or rehoming them. There hasn't been enough space at good facilities to take them all in. "

A vast majority of the chimps living at the Wildlife Waystation came from a biomedical lab in New York state that shut down in the late 1990s. The chimps have since been moved to sanctuaries in Washington, Florida, Louisiana and Texas.

The decision by the state to step in was greatly appreciated by people who had spent many years attempting to provide good care for the animals.

“This is not typically what CDFW does,” said Pert. “We had to find unique ways to do things that needed to happen quickly and on an emergency ongoing basis, like buy food for lions, tigers and bears, and get a contract to have water delivered.”

“CDFW covered all the veterinary, health care and food expenses for the animals,” said former Wildlife Waystation Director Deanna Armbruster. “They helped us with security, and other needs from electricity, to heat and water.”

Steady fundraising the past three years also made the relocation of the chimps a possibility. CDFW relied on the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance (NAPSA) to gather donations and secure new chimp living arrangements around the country.

“There were months where we would talk to CDFW and say ‘do we have enough funds to keep these chimps fed for another month?’ It was terrifying,” said NAPSA Program Director Erika Fleury. “We’ve had over \$4 million raised, and thousands of donors helping us to make this happen.”

Fundraising continues through the NAPSA site www.primatesanctuaries.org to offer ongoing care and support to the chimps.

CDFW's Ocean Ranch Unit Opens To Waterfowl Hunting, Public Access On Jan. 2, 2023

December 29, 2022



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce that its Ocean Ranch Unit in Humboldt County, part of the larger Eel River Wildlife Area, will open to waterfowl hunting and general public access beginning Monday, January 2, 2023.

Over the past two years, the unit has been subject to periodic public closures to allow for heavy construction and habitat restoration work to benefit native plant, fish and wildlife species. All restoration efforts are now complete. Improved public access and enjoyment of the property also has been a focus of the work, and the unit now offers a formal trail system, improved parking, a new launch for kayaks and canoes, and interpretive signage.

Waterfowl hunters especially should be aware of changed conditions within the Ocean Ranch Unit, including new trails, deep-water channels and varying wetland habitat features.

A Type C wildlife area, the Ocean Ranch Unit is open to both to walk-in and boat-in hunting. No reservations, hunting passes or entry permits are required beyond a valid California hunting license and a California Duck Validation and Federal Duck Stamp for adult hunters.

California And Nevada Get BearWise

January 31, 2023



New Program Makes It Easier to Live Responsibly with Bears

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) are proud to support BearWise, the innovative North American program that helps people live more responsibly with bears. The BearWise website, www.bearwise.org, offers a wealth of scientifically sound information and practical advice. The state agencies will work closely with the USDA Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and California State Parks to incorporate the BearWise messaging as part of their united effort through the Lake Tahoe Interagency Bear Team. This will ensure that residents and visitors across the Tahoe Basin will receive the same messaging regarding bears and how to manage human-bear conflict across state lines.

“In the Tahoe Basin, growing numbers of both bears and humans are leading to an increase in human-bear encounters and conflicts,” said NDOW Biologist Carl Lackey. “Bears pay no attention to boundaries and have no idea when they cross from public to private lands or from one state to another; that’s why a North American program with consistent messaging that can be used by anyone who lives, works, recreates and travels wherever bears also live makes so much sense.

BearWise Information and Resources

Bearwise.org([opens in new tab](#)) offers a wealth of information on black bear biology and behavior as well as sections on preventing human-bear conflicts at home and outdoors, including vacationing in bear country, bear safety information, guidelines for raising

livestock, bees and crops, tips for dog owners and bird lovers, helpful FAQs, and information about how neighborhoods, communities and businesses can put BearWise to work.

BearWise Resource Center

In addition to "The Six Bear Wise Basics" for both "At Home" and "Outdoors," the BearWise online store offers a variety of handouts and activity sheets people can download for free in addition to items like magnets, door hangers, stickers and signage that can be ordered individually or in bulk.

BearWise Article Bank

The BearWise Article Bank features dozens of articles that focus on bears, bear behavior, and what people can do to prevent conflicts with bears. Articles can be reprinted in newsletters or community newspapers and shared on social media. Anyone can sign up to receive timely news and helpful information.

About the BearWise Program

BearWise was developed by state agency bear biologists who wanted to make sure that no matter where people lived, played, or traveled, they got the same consistent message about coexisting with bears. Today the BearWise program is managed by a team of North American bear biologists and communications professionals and supported by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the BearWise member state wildlife agencies.

For more information and to sign up for email alerts, visit www.bearwise.org

For more information on Lake Tahoe bears, visit: www.tahoebears.org

To report human-bear conflicts:

- In California, contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at 916-358-2917 or report online using the Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) system at apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir.
- Non-emergency wildlife interactions in California State Parks can be reported to its public dispatch at (916) 358-1300.
- In Nevada, contact the Nevada Department of Wildlife at 775-688-BEAR (2327).
- If the issue is an immediate threat, call the local sheriff's department or 911.