

California Fish and Game Commission

Wildlife Resources Committee

Meeting Binder



May 16-17, 2023

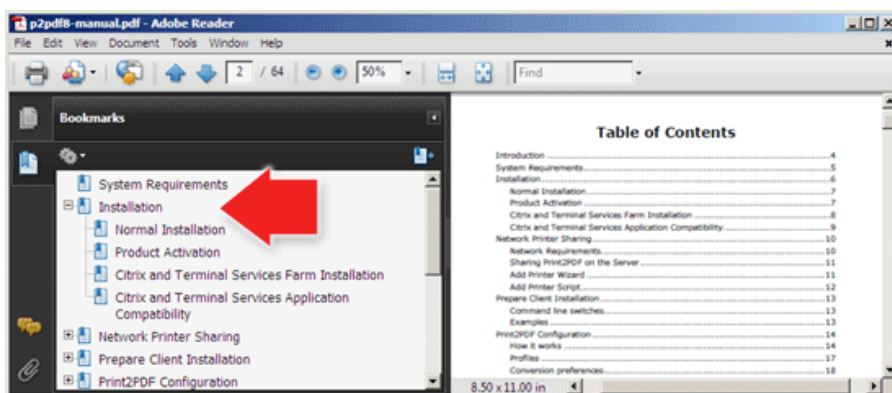
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
EASY GUIDE TO USING THE BINDER

1. Download and open the binder document using your Adobe Acrobat program/app.
2. If a bookmark panel does not automatically appear on either the top or left side of the screen, click/tap on the “bookmark symbol” located near the top left-hand corner.



3. To make adjustments to the view, use the Page Display option in the View tab. You should see something like:



4. We suggest leaving open the bookmark panel to help you move efficiently among the staff summaries and numerous supporting documents in the binder. It's helpful to think of these bookmarks as a table of contents that allows you to go to specific points in the binder without having to scroll through hundreds of pages.
5. You can resize the two panels by placing your cursor in the dark, vertical line  located between the panels and using a long click /tap to move in either direction.
6. You may also adjust the sizing of the documents by adjusting the sizing preferences located on the Page Display icons found in the top toolbar or in the View tab.
7. Upon locating a staff summary for an agenda item, notice that you can obtain more information by clicking/tapping on any item underlined in blue.
8. Return to the staff summary by simply clicking/tapping on the item in the bookmark panel.
9. Do not hesitate to contact staff if you have any questions or would like assistance.

OVERVIEW OF FISH AND GAME COMMISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

- Welcome to this meeting of the Wildlife Resources Committee. The Committee is comprised of up to two Commissioners who co-chair each meeting; members are assigned by the Commission annually.
- Our goal today is informed discussion to guide future decision making, and, we need your cooperation to ensure a lively and comprehensive dialogue.
- We are operating under Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, but it is important to note that the Committee chairs cannot take action independent of the full Commission; instead, the chairs make recommendations to the full Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.
- These proceedings may be recorded and posted to our website for reference and archival purposes.
- Items may be heard in any order pursuant to the determination of the Committee Co-Chairs.
- As a general rule, requests for regulatory change need to be redirected to the full Commission and submitted on the required petition form, FGC 1, titled "Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change" (Section 662, Title 14, CCR). However, at the Committee's discretion, the Committee may request that staff follow up on items of potential interest to the Committee and possible recommendation to the Commission.
- Committee meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to provide comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:
 1. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the Committee.
 2. Provide your name, affiliation (if any), and the number of people you represent.
 3. Time is limited; please keep your comments precise to give others time to speak.
 4. If several speakers have the same concerns, please appoint a group spokesperson.
 5. If speaking during public comment, the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Committee members discuss that item).

INTRODUCTIONS FOR FISH AND GAME COMMISSION WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS

Erika Zavaleta	Committee Co-chair (Santa Cruz)
Anthony Williams	Committee Co-chair (Huntington Beach)

COMMISSION STAFF

Melissa Miller-Henson	Executive Director
Ari Cornman	Wildlife Advisor
Cynthia McKeith	Staff Services Analyst

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Chad Dibble	Deputy Director, Wildlife and Fisheries Division
David Bess	Deputy Director and Chief, Law Enforcement Division
Jay Rowan	Chief, Fisheries Branch
Scott Gardner	Chief, Wildlife Branch
Vicky Monroe	Statewide Conflict Programs Coordinator
Dan Skalos	Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor, Upland/Small Game Unit, Game Conservation Program, Wildlife Branch
Kristi Cripe	Statewide Ecological Reserve Coordinator, Lands Program, Wildlife Branch
Karen Mitchell	Senior Environmental Scientist, Inland Fisheries Conservation and Management Program, Fisheries Branch
Heather Perry	Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Coordinator, Wildlife Health Lab, Wildlife Branch

I would also like to acknowledge special guests who are present:
(i.e., key DFW staff, elected officials, tribal chairpersons, other special guests)

Commissioners
Eric Sklar, President

Saint Helena

Erika Zavaleta, Vice President
Santa Cruz

Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
McKinleyville

Samantha Murray, Member
La Jolla

Anthony Williams, Member
Huntington Beach

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

Fish and Game Commission



*Wildlife Heritage and Conservation
Since 1870*

Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
(916) 653-4899
fgc@fgc.ca.gov
www.fgc.ca.gov

WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Committee Chairs: Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Zavaleta

Meeting Agenda May 16-17, 2023

In Person

Monterey County Fairgrounds
2004 Fairground Rd
Monterey, CA 93940

and

Webinar and Teleconference

To participate in the meeting, you may join via Zoom or by telephone. [Click here](https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=211287&inline) or go to <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=211287&inline> for instructions on how to join the meeting.

Note: Please see important meeting procedures and information at the end of the agenda. Unless otherwise indicated, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife is identified as Department. All agenda items are informational and/or discussion only. The Committee develops recommendations to the Commission but does not have authority to make policy or regulatory decisions on behalf of the Commission.

Call to order

DAY 1 – May 16, 2023, 2:00 PM

1. Approve agenda and order of items

2. Inland sport fishing regulations

Discuss and potentially make a recommendation on a periodic inland sport fishing rulemaking.

3. Wild pig validations

Discuss a future rulemaking regarding the designation and hunting of wild pigs, stemming from statutory changes due to Senate Bill 856 (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2022).

4. Initial vetting and discussion for periodic regulation changes

Discuss potential regulation changes for 2024-25 seasons for:

- (A) Upland (resident) game bird hunting
- (B) Mammal hunting
- (C) Waterfowl hunting
- (D) Central Valley sport fishing
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing

5. General public comment for items not on the agenda

The Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during this item, except to consider whether to recommend that the matter be added to the agenda of a future meeting [Sections 11125, 11125.7(a), Government Code].

DAY 2 – May 17, 2023, 10:00 AM (or 15 minutes after the Commission meeting ends, whichever is later)

6. Bullfrogs and non-native turtles

Discuss potential strategies from the American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtles Stakeholder Engagement Project staff report.

7. Wildlife rehabilitation

Discuss and potentially make recommendations on a potential future rulemaking to make improvements to the regulatory framework for authorizing wildlife rehabilitation, including forms, wildlife care standards, permit revocation and denial standards, and other changes.

8. Public use of wildlife areas and ecological reserves

Discuss and potentially make recommendations on a future rulemaking regarding the public use of Department-managed wildlife areas and ecological reserves.

9. Take of nongame mammals

Discuss issues surrounding the take of nongame mammals.

10. Department updates

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

(A) Wildlife Branch

I. Bear management plan

Commission staff recommends this item be continued to a future meeting.

II. Striped bass slot limits

Commission staff recommends this item be continued to a future meeting.

(B) Fisheries Branch

I. White sturgeon, including discussion of potential management actions

(C) Law Enforcement Division

11. Future agenda items

(A) Review work plan agenda topics and timeline

(B) Potential new agenda topics for Commission consideration

Adjourn

California Fish and Game Commission 2023 Meeting Schedule

Note: As meeting dates and locations can change, please visit www.fgc.ca.gov for the most current list of meeting dates and locations.

Meeting Date	Commission Meeting	Committee Meeting
June 14-15	CalEPA Headquarters Building Coastal Hearing Room, 2 nd Floor 1001 I Street Sacramento	
July 20		Marine Resources Sonoma/San Francisco Bay area
August 21		Tribal Smith River area/North coast
August 22-23	Smith River area/North coast	
September 21		Wildlife Resources Chico area
October 11-12	San Jose area	
November 16		Marine Resources San Diego area
December 12		Tribal San Diego area
December 13-14	San Diego area	

Other Meetings of Interest

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- September 23-27; 2023 – Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- June 2023 – Vancouver, WA
- September 2023 – Spokane, WA
- November 2023 – Garden Grove, CA

Pacific Flyway Council

- August 25, 2023 – Winter Park, Colorado

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- July 9-14, 2023 – Santa Fe, NM

Wildlife Conservation Board

- August 2023 – Sacramento, CA
- November 2023 – Sacramento, CA

Important Committee Meeting Procedures Information

Welcome to a meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission's Wildlife Resources Committee. The Committee is composed of and chaired by up to two Commissioners; these assignments are made by the Commission each year.

The goal of the Committee is to allow greater time to investigate issues before the Commission than would otherwise be possible. Committee meetings are less formal in nature and provide for additional access to the Commission. The Committee follows the noticing requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. It is important to note that the Committee chairs cannot take action independent of the full Commission; instead, the chairs make recommendations to the full Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

The Commission's goal is preserving our outdoor heritage and conserving our natural resources through informed decision-making; Committee meetings are vital in developing recommendations to help the Commission achieve that goal. In that spirit, we provide the following information to be as effective and efficient toward that end. Welcome, and please let us know if you have any questions.

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities needing reasonable accommodation to participate in public meetings or other Commission activities are invited to contact the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Office at (916) 653-9089 or EEO@wildlife.ca.gov. Accommodation requests for facility and/or meeting accessibility and requests for American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event. Requests for Real-Time Captioners should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the event. These timeframes are to help ensure that the requested accommodation is met. If a request for an accommodation has been submitted but is no longer needed, please contact the EEO Office immediately.

Submitting Written Materials

The public is encouraged to attend Committee meetings and engage in the discussion about items on the agenda; the public is also welcome to comment on agenda items in writing. You may submit your written comments by one of the following methods (only one is necessary): **Email** to fgc@fgc.ca.gov; **mail** to California Fish and Game Commission, P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090; or **deliver** to California Fish and Game Commission, 715 P Street, 16th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; or **hand-deliver** to a Committee meeting.

Comment Deadlines

The **Written Comment Deadline** for this meeting is 5:00 p.m. on **May 4, 2022**. Written comments received at the Commission office by this deadline will be made available to Commissioners prior to the meeting.

The **Supplemental Comment Deadline** for this meeting is noon on **May 12, 2023**. Comments received by this deadline will be made available to Commissioners at the meeting.

*The Committee **will not** consider comments regarding proposed changes to regulations that have been noticed by the Commission. If you wish to provide comment on a noticed item, please provide your comments during Commission business meetings, via email, or deliver to the Commission office.*

Note: Materials provided to the Committee may be made available to the general public.

Regulation Change Petitions

As a general rule, requests for regulatory change must be redirected to the full Commission and submitted on the required petition form, FGC 1, *Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change* (Section 662, Title 14, California Code of Regulations). However, at the Committee's discretion, the Committee may request that staff follow up on items of potential interest to the Committee and possible recommendation to the Commission.

Speaking at the Meeting

Committee meetings operate informally and provide opportunity for everyone to comment on agenda items. If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please follow these guidelines:

12. You will be given instructions during the meeting for how to be recognized by the Committee co-chair(s) to speak.
13. Once recognized, please begin by giving your name and affiliation (if any) and the number of people you represent.
14. Time is limited; please keep your comments concise so that everyone has an opportunity to speak.
15. If there are several speakers with the same concerns, please try to appoint a spokesperson and avoid repetitive comments.
16. If speaking during public comment for items not on the agenda (Agenda Item 2), the subject matter you present should not be related to any item on the current agenda (public comment on agenda items will be taken at the time the Committee members discuss that item). As a general rule, public comment is an opportunity to bring matters to the attention of the Committee, but you may also do so via email or standard mail. At the discretion of the Committee, staff may be requested to follow up on the subject you raise.

Visual Presentations/Materials

All electronic presentations must be submitted by the **Written Comment Deadline** and approved by the Commission executive director before the meeting.

1. Electronic presentations must be provided by email to fgc@fgc.ca.gov or delivered to the Commission on a USB flash drive by the deadline.
2. All electronic formats must be Windows PC compatible.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

2. INLAND SPORT FISHING**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Discuss and potentially make recommendations on a periodic inland sport fishing rulemaking.

Summary of Previous/Future Action

- Initial vetting of regulatory proposal January 11-12, 2023; WRC
- **Today's discussion and potential recommendation** **May 16-17, 2023; WRC**

Background

At the January 2023 Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) meeting, the Department proposed several changes to inland sport fishing regulations (Exhibit 1), including for Chorro Creek, Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area, and Los Gatos Creek. Additionally, the Department recommended not changing the North Yuba River sport fishing regulations as proposed in Petition 2021-020 (Exhibit 2); in April 2022, the Commission granted the petition for consideration in a future rulemaking.

Today, the Department will present the details of the proposed rulemaking, including a new proposal regarding Bear Creek (in Shasta and Siskiyou counties). WRC will discuss the proposal and potentially make a recommendation.

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

Commission staff: Consider public comments provided during the meeting and recommend that the Commission support the inland sport fishing rulemaking as presented and discussed today.

Exhibits

1. [Department presentation](#)
2. [Petition 2021-020, received October 4, 2021](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission support the proposed regulation changes for inland sport fishing, as proposed by the Department and discussed today.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

3. WILD PIG VALIDATIONS**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Discuss a future rulemaking regarding the designation and hunting of wild pig, stemming from statutory changes due to Senate Bill 856 (Chapter 469, Statutes of 2022).

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Today's discussion | May 17, 2023; WRC |
| • Potential WRC recommendation | September 21, 2023; WRC |

Background

Wild pig is a non-native, invasive species that causes damage to natural areas, agricultural lands, and other areas throughout California. Additionally, individual pigs are vectors for diseases and can be a public safety hazard.

Signed into law in September 2022, Senate Bill 856 made a number of changes to statutes affecting wild pig management and hunting, including:

- Creating a new category of wildlife called "exotic game mammal" and designating wild pig as such;
- changing wild pig tags to a validation scheme, allowing unlimited take of wild pig;
- eliminating hunting of wild pig in any new contained hunting preserves; and
- prohibiting the intentional or knowing release of any hog, boar, pig or swine to live in a wild or feral state upon public or private land.

The changes specified in SB 856 may require amendments to the Commission's Title 14 regulations to bring the regulations into alignment with amended statute.

Today, the Department will propose regulatory changes to implement the bill (Exhibit 1), for discussion by the Wildlife Resources Committee.

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

1. [Department presentation](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2022 WRC

4. INITIAL VETTING AND DISCUSSION FOR PERIODIC REGULATIONS**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Discuss potential regulatory options for 2024-25 seasons for:

- (A) Upland (resident) game bird hunting
- (B) Mammal hunting
- (C) Waterfowl hunting
- (D) Central Valley sport fishing
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing

Summary of Previous/Future Action

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Today's discussion | May 16-17, 2023; WRC |
| • Potential WRC recommendations | Sep 21, 2023; WRC |
| • Commission considers recommendations | Oct 11-12, 2023 |

Background

This item provides the public an opportunity to engage in initial discussions with the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC), Commission staff, and the Department about proposed regulation changes for five categories of seasons:

- (A) Upland (resident) game bird hunting (2024-25) for various resident upland game bird species.
- (B) Mammal hunting (2024-25) for various big game mammals, including deer, Nelson bighorn sheep, antelope and elk.
- (C) Waterfowl hunting (2024-25) to conform State regulations with federal regulations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopts federal regulations each October based, in part, on recommendations from four regional flyway councils. Migratory waterfowl include American coot, common moorhen, ducks, black brant and geese, among others.
- (D) Central Valley sport fishing (2025) for the American, Feather, Sacramento and Mokelumne rivers to conform State regulations with federal regulations. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) adopts federal Central Valley salmon escapement goals each April based, in part, on recommendations from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC); the Department then proposes regulation changes for consistency with those goals.
- (E) Klamath River Basin sport fishing (2025) to conform State regulations with federal regulations in the Klamath River Basin. NMFS adopts federal Klamath River Basin salmon allocations each April based, in part, on recommendations from PFMC, and then the Department proposes regulation changes based upon those allocations.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2022 WRC

This meeting is an initial opportunity for interested parties to make suggestions to the Department and WRC regarding potential regulation changes in each of the five categories. The second opportunity for discussing ideas with WRC will be its September 2023 meeting, before the respective notice hearings for each rulemaking.

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits (N/A)

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive public comments for items not on the agenda.

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

The Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) receives two types of correspondence or comment under general public comment: requests for the Wildlife Resources Committee to consider new topics and informational items. As a general rule, requests for regulation changes must be submitted to the Commission on petition form FGC 1, *Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change*. However, the WRC may, at its discretion, request staff to follow up on items of potential interest for possible recommendation to the Commission.

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

Staff recommends any potential new agenda items — based on issues raised — be held for discussion under Agenda Item 11, *Future agenda items*.

Exhibits (N/A)**Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

6. BULLFROGS AND NON-NATIVE TURTLES**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Discuss potential strategies from the American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtles Stakeholder Engagement Project staff report.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Project referred to WRC | December 12-13, 2018 |
| • Discussed results and analyses | 2022; WRC, multiple meetings |
| • Discussed staff recommendations | January 11-12, 2023; WRC |
| • Today discuss recommendations | May 16-17, 2023; WRC |

Background

In December 2018, the Commission referred to the Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) a stakeholder engagement plan to track progress addressing issues around non-native American bullfrog (commonly referred to simply as bullfrog) and turtles that are imported into California for food and the pet trade. The plan involved three independent groups developing situation analyses and strategies for addressing the threats, challenges, and opportunities posed by bullfrog and non-native turtles and their impacts on native wildlife. The fourth group identified in the plan is the California State Legislature, which will be engaged in the process now that the work of the three groups is essentially complete. WRC has received regular progress updates.

For the situation analyses and strategies work, the independent groups were formed and composed of representatives from three different spheres of California society that have a vested interest in bullfrog and non-native turtle concerns. The first group was composed of representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, the second from environmental and animal welfare groups, and the third from various commercial sector and industry groups.

The groups met separately and worked on the same task (in parallel) to analyze: (1) threats to California's environment posed by bullfrog and non-native turtles, (2) benefits and cultural values of bullfrog and turtles in California's communities and other intersections with human well-being values, (3) knowledge gaps in our understanding of the relevant systems and operative biological processes, and (4) opportunities for progress in addressing the issues posed by invasive bullfrog and non-native turtles in California's environment. The three groups used a flexible, comprehensive process called the *Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation* to guide their analyses (see <https://conservationstandards.org/about/> for more information). Commission staff sincerely thanks the many participants for their diligence and sharing their expertise.

Previously, staff presented three documents to support WRC discussion: (1) an account of the stakeholder process results, (2) various analyses of that information, and (3) draft options and recommendations. Today, staff will present the final version of a report that consolidates the three earlier documents and represents the final deliverable from the stakeholder engagement

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

process. The recommendations contained within the report are based on stakeholder work to date and public input.

Also included is the executive summary for a report of a research survey of U.S. owners and businesses in the amphibian trade network, conducted by the University of Tennessee, the Pet Advocacy Network (formerly the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council) and others (Exhibit 2). The report provides insights into the size and composition of the U.S. pet businesses that are engaged in the pet amphibian trade, as well as information on their understanding and consideration of amphibian diseases.

Committee Recommendation

WRC Co-Chair Zavaleta has identified some preliminary strategy recommendations of interest to her:

- More resources for DFW (Strategy 1)
- A ban on live imports (Strategy 17)
- Localized eradication (Strategy 15)
- Dispatching bullfrogs in contests (Strategy 23)
- Water and reservoir management (Strategy 27)
- Prevent water contamination via education for private owners and schools (Strategy 32)
- Prevent water contamination via regulation for commercial importers, pet stores, market facilities, etc. (Strategy 32)
- Recommending *against* domestic aquaculture (Strategy 19) and adding bullfrogs or turtles to the restricted species list (Strategies 30 and 31)

Today, WRC will discuss information in the report, various bullfrog and non-native turtle issues and solutions, and a potential future recommendation from WRC to the Commission (to be developed potentially at the September WRC meeting).

Significant Public Comments

The Endangered Habitats League urges WRC to take all steps to protect California ecosystems from invasive bullfrogs and turtles, including instituting import bans (Exhibit 3).

Recommendation

Commission staff: See Exhibit 1 for staff recommendations.

Exhibits

1. *Final Staff Report on the American Bullfrog and Non-Native Turtle Stakeholder Engagement Process*, dated May 12, 2023 (to be distributed separately)
2. [Amphibian Consumer and Business Survey executive summary, undated](#)
3. [Email from Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League, received April 29, 2023](#)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

7. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

Discuss and potentially make recommendations regarding a potential future rulemaking to improve the regulatory framework for authorizing wildlife rehabilitation, including wildlife care standards, permit revocation and denial standards, forms, and other changes.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Initial vetting | September 15, 2022; WRC |
| • Discussion | January 11-12, 2023; WRC |
| • Today's discussion and potential recommendation | May 16-17, 2023; WRC |

Background

In California, a wildlife rehabilitation facility is defined as "a site where activities are undertaken to restore to a condition of good health, for the purpose of release to the wild, animals occurring naturally and not normally domesticated in this state." Currently, 85 wildlife rehabilitation facilities operate under permits issued by the Department. Wildlife rehabilitation permits are issued for a three-year period and include (by reference) international wildlife care standards that each facility must abide by in its operations. The minimum standards, currently referenced in regulation in Section 679, were developed in 2000; revisions to the Commission's wildlife rehabilitation regulations is needed to bring them up to the most current standards of animal care and welfare. The Department is proposing a new rehabilitation manual specific to California, to be incorporated into the proposed regulation, outlining the standards of care (see draft in Exhibit 1).

The permit application system for wildlife rehabilitation facilities consists of paper or PDF applications sent to the Department via mail service or email. Along with each permit, the Department issues a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that outlines specific terms and conditions governing the permit. The proposed regulation will update and introduce several forms (Exhibit 2), allowing integration with the Department's Automated License Data System.

The proposal also updates many other aspects of wildlife rehabilitation in California. Today, the Department will present its updated proposal for changes to the regulations to bring them up to modern standards, including:

- Updating forms and other documents incorporated into the regulation by reference;
- bringing animal care standards to the most modern criteria established by the field, updating facility protocol and standard operating procedure requirements, and establishing specialty rehabilitation guidelines;
- adding and/or updating administrative requirements, such as succession plans, biosecurity plans, and emergency evacuation plans;
- amending Department authorities for permit revocation, suspension and denial; and
- moving to an electronic permitting system.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

The Wildlife Resources Committee will discuss these options and potentially make a recommendation to the Commission regarding changes to wildlife rehabilitation regulations.

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

Commission staff: Based on the Department's presentation and today's discussion, recommend a future rulemaking to address wildlife rehabilitation regulation changes.

Exhibits

1. [Department draft 679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual, dated 2024](#)
2. [Draft proposed new forms](#)
3. [Department presentation](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends the Commission support a future rulemaking to address wildlife rehabilitation, as recommended by the Department and discussed today.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

8. PUBLIC USE OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVES**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Discuss and potentially make recommendations on a future rulemaking regarding the public use of Department-managed wildlife areas and ecological reserves.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Initial discussion January 11-12, 2023; WRC
- **Today's discussion and potential recommendation** **May 16-17, 2023; WRC**

Background

Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code sections 1525, 1526 and 1580, the Commission may adopt regulations designating and governing the public uses of wildlife areas and ecological reserves. Public use of Department-managed lands is prohibited until they are designated as a wildlife area or ecological reserve.

The purposes of wildlife areas are to conserve wildlife and their associated habitats and to allow for compatible recreation. The purposes of ecological reserves are to conserve threatened or endangered plants and/or animals, and/or specialized habitat types, provide opportunities for the public to observe native plants and wildlife, and provide opportunities for environmental research.

Today, the Department will present, and WRC will discuss, additional information on a potential rulemaking to improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, provide resource protection, and manage staff resources on Department lands (see exhibits 1 and 2). Among other things, the Department proposes to prohibit electric bicycles (e-bikes) and drones, define a time for admitting hunters, prohibit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides, and promulgate a number of property-specific regulations.

Significant Public Comments

The Endangered Habitats League expresses concerns over what is described as a growing culture of disrespect for rules that is leading to detrimental impacts of recreation to Department lands, and states that enforcement resources are completely inadequate (Exhibit 3).

Recommendation

Commission staff: Based on the Department's presentation and today's discussion, recommend the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding public uses of wildlife areas and ecological reserves.

Exhibits

1. [Department one-page overview of proposed regulation changes, received May 4, 2023](#)
2. [Department presentation from January 17, 2023 WRC meeting \(for background purposes only\)](#)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

3. [Email from Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League, received May 1, 2023](#)
4. Department presentation for May 17, 2023 (to be provided separately)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends the Commission support a future rulemaking regarding public uses of wildlife areas and ecological reserves, as recommended by the Department and discussed today.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

9. TAKE OF NONGAME MAMMALS

Today's Item

Information ☒

Action ☐

Discuss issues surrounding the take of nongame mammals.

This item is not ready for Wildlife Resources Committee consideration. Staff recommends continuing this item to the September 2023 meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)

Background(N/A)

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation (N/A)

Exhibits (N/A)

Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

10. DEPARTMENT UPDATES**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

Receive updates on Department activities.

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

This is a standing agenda item for the Department to provide updates on activities of interest related to wildlife and inland fisheries. Verbal updates are expected from:

(A) Wildlife Branch**I. Bear management plan**

Commission staff recommends this item be continued to a future meeting as there is no new information to share at this time.

(B) Fisheries Branch**I. White sturgeon, including information on a public meeting held May 16 and discussion of potential management actions****II. Striped bass slot limits**

Commission staff recommends this item be continued to a future meeting as there is no new information to share at this time.

(C) Law Enforcement Division**Significant Public Comments (N/A)****Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits (N/A)****Committee Direction/Recommendation (N/A)**

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**Today's Item****Information** ☐**Action** ☒

- (A) Review Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) work plan agenda topics and timeline
- (B) Potential new agenda topics for Commission consideration.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Commission approved WRC agenda and work plan April 19-20, 2023
- **Today's discussion** **May 16-17, 2023; WRC**
- Commission potentially approves WRC recommendations Jun 14-15, 2023
- Next WRC meeting Sep 21, 2023; WRC

Background

WRC topics are referred by the Commission and scheduled as appropriate. Commission-referred topics and their schedule are shown in the WRC work plan (Exhibit 1). WRC has placed emphasis on issues of imminent regulatory or management importance; thus, scheduling current topics and considering new topics for WRC review requires planning relative to existing workload and timing considerations.

(A) WRC Work Plan and Timeline

Topics anticipated for the September 2023 WRC meeting are shown in the September column of the work plan. Note that readiness considerations may lead to changes in proposed timing and type of anticipated action for Commission consideration at its August 2023 meeting, when it is scheduled to approve the September WRC meeting agenda. Staff welcomes guidance from WRC regarding scheduling specific topics identified in the work plan.

(B) Discuss and Recommend New WRC Topics

Today is an opportunity to identify any potential new agenda topics to recommend to the Commission for referral to WRC. No new topics have been identified by staff for potential referral to WRC at this time.

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

- (A) Review the list of topics identified for the September 2023 WRC meeting in the WRC work plan and the current Commission rulemaking timetable (Exhibit 2), and determine if any topics should be revised or if any additional topics on the work plan should be scheduled for September.
- (B) Identify any new topics to recommend for referral to WRC.

COMMITTEE STAFF SUMMARY FOR MAY 16-17, 2023 WRC

Exhibits

1. [WRC work plan, updated May 8, 2023](#)
2. [Commission Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions, updated May 3, 2023](#)

Committee Direction/Recommendation

The Wildlife Resources Committee recommends that the Commission approve the committee work plan updates as discussed today, to include: _____.



Proposed Changes to Inland Sport Fishing Regulations



Presentation to the Wildlife Resources Committee

May 16, 2023

**Karen Mitchell, Sr. Environmental Scientist
Fisheries Branch**

Overview

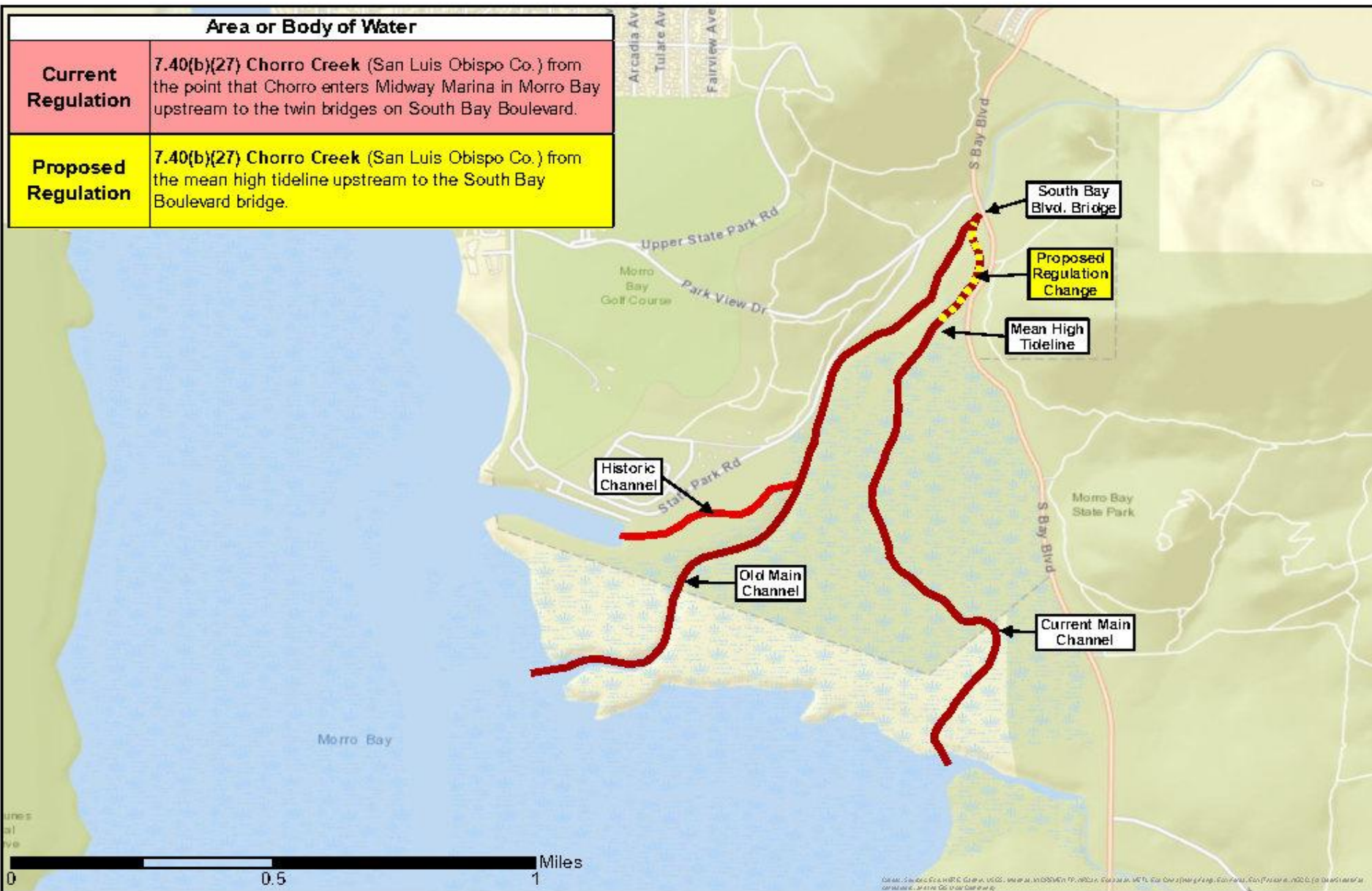
- Chorro Creek (San Luis Obispo Co.)
- Russian River (Sonoma and Mendocino cos.)
- Los Gatos Creek (Santa Clara Co.)
- Bear Creek (Shasta and Siskiyou cos.)
- Proposed Regulation Change Considered but Rejected - Yuba River, North Fork
- Regulatory Timeline

Chorro Creek – San Luis Obispo Co.

Section 7.50(b)(27)

- Lower portion of Chorro Creek open to fishing during steelhead season overlaps with the Morro Bay State Marine Reserve (SMR)
- The Morro Bay SMR is part of California's Marina Protected Areas (MPA) which does not allow fishing
- Propose to align the Chorro Creek fishing boundary with the MPA boundary which is the mean high tide line
- This will reduce approximately 0.75 miles of Chorro Creek to fishing

Chorro Creek Proposed Regulation



Russian River

Section 7.40(b)(79)

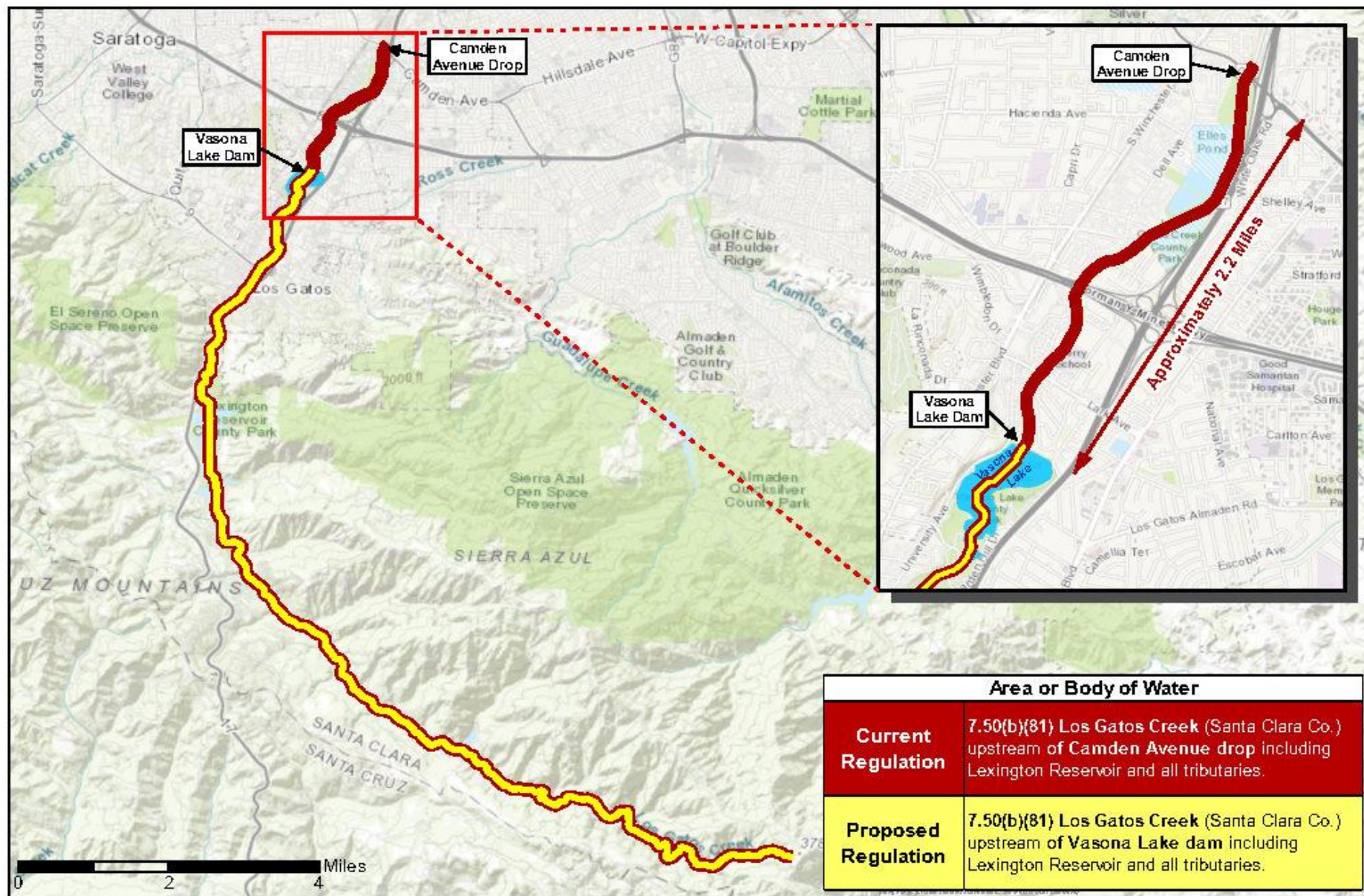
- Fishing is prohibited in the Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area (RRSMRMA)
- Only reference to the RRSMRMA is in the ocean sport fishing regulations booklet
- Anglers fishing for anadromous and freshwater species often don't check the ocean sport fishing regulations booklet
- New subsection will clarify that fishing is not allowed in that portion of the Russian River defined as the RRSMRMA

Los Gatos Creek – Santa Clara Co.

Section 7.50(b)(81)

- Trout and steelhead fishing regulations overlap for 2.13 miles on Los Gatos Creek
- Steelhead fishing boundary is below Vasona Lake
- Trout fishing boundary is above Camden Avenue drop
- Camden Avenue drop is below Vasona Lake
- Steelhead can access Los Gatos Creek above Camden Ave drop in very wet years
- Change trout fishing boundary to Vasona Lake Dam to protect ESA listed Central California Coast steelhead

Los Gatos Creek Proposed Regulation



Bear Creek – Shasta and Siskiyou cos.

Section 7.50(b)(7)

- Two conflicting regulations for Bear Creek in Section 7.50, Special Fishing Regulations
- January 2023, Bear Creek was moved to the Fall River Complex regulations, subsection (b)(47)
- Concurrently, subsection (b)(7), Bear Creek, should have been removed from Section 7.50
- Propose to remove subsection (b)(7), Bear Creek, from Section 7.50

Proposed Regulation Changes Considered but Rejected

- Yuba River, North Fork: Public Petition
 - Petition requests the regulation be returned to catch and release fishing during winter
 - Recent change provides more angling opportunity with reduced bag limits (2 trout) and restrictions to only artificial lures
 - A limited harvest trout fishery should have no long-term effect on the wild trout population
 - Department staff are monitoring the Yuba River to ensure the fishery is not impacted by the new regulation

Regulatory Timeline

- Commission Public Meetings
 - June: Request to go to Notice
 - August: Discussion Meeting
 - October: Adoption Meeting
- January 1, 2024 – New regulations go into effect

Questions / Thank You





RECEIVED AT FISH & GAME
COMMISSION OCTOBER 4, 2021

Tracking Number: (2021-020)

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)

Name of primary contact person:

Robert Latta, Chairperson, Sierra County Fish and Wildlife Commission
Address: Post Office Box 5, Sierra City, CA 96125
Telephone number: 530-414-5134
Email address: blatta@sccn.net

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested:

Fish and Game Code

Division 1. Fish and Game Commission (101-500)

Chapter 2. Regulation of Take and Possession Generally (200-275)

Article 1. Authority (200-219)

200. (a) There is hereby delegated to the commission the power to regulate the taking or possession of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, and reptiles.

205. Any regulation of the commission pursuant to this article which relates to fish, amphibia and reptiles, may apply to all or any areas, districts or portion thereof, at the discretion of the commission, and may do any or all of the following as to any or all species or subspecies:

- (a) Establish, extend, shorten, or abolish bag open seasons and closed seasons.
- (b) Establish, change, or abolish bag limits, possession limits, and size limits.
- (c) Establish and change areas or territorial limits for their taking.
- (d) Describe the manner and means for their taking.



219. Any regulation adopted pursuant to this article may supersede any section of this code designated by number in the regulation, but shall do so only to the extent specifically provided in the regulation. A regulation which is adopted pursuant to this section shall be valid only to the extent that it makes additions, deletions, or changes to this code under the following circumstances:

- (a) The regulation is necessary for the protection of fish, wildlife, and other natural resources under the jurisdiction of the commission.

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations

The purpose of this petition is to correct what appears to be an unintended consequence of the process of simplifying the CDFW freshwater Sport Fishing Regulations that were adopted for the 2021-2022 season as described on page 76 of this year's publication. The proposed changes are in reference to the Special Regulation Section of the North Yuba which is from the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence with Ladies Canyon. This is an approximately 5-mile reach which lies entirely in Sierra County. The proposal is to restore the text of future regulations related to this reach to as how they were written prior to the 2021-2022 changes. In other words, we propose that for the Special Regulation Section of the North Yuba, which is from the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence of Ladies Canyon, the following regulations should be adopted:

Special Regulations for this section apply from the last Saturday in April through November 15. The bag limit is 2 fish. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

From November 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in April, a zero bag limit applies. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.

The following table is provided to add clarity:

Table 1. Regulations for Yuba River, North Fork from the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence with Ladies Canyon - Old, Current, and Proposed Regulations.

Regulation Status	Body of Water	Open Season and Special Restrictions	Daily Bag and Possession Limit
OLD	(211) Yuba River, North Fork (Sierra and Yuba cos.) (A) From the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence with Ladies Canyon Creek.	Last Saturday in Apr. through Nov. 15. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	2 trout
		Nov. 16 through the Friday preceding the last Saturday in Apr. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used.	0 trout
CURRENT	(169) Yuba River, North Fork (Sierra and Yuba cos.) from the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence with Ladies Canyon Creek.	All year. Only artificial lures may be used. *	2 trout *
PROPOSED	(169) Yuba River, North Fork (Sierra and Yuba cos.) from the western boundary of Sierra City to the confluence with Ladies Canyon Creek.	Last Saturday in April through November 15. Only artificial lures with single barbless hooks may be used.	2 trout
		From Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in Apr., a zero trout bag limit applies, and only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used. **	0 trout **

*Not consistent with statewide stream regulations during any time period.

**Consistent with statewide stream regulations from Nov. 16 through the Fri. preceding the last Sat. in April



4. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed changes

There are three main reasons for this proposal:

--Simplicity. Restoring the regulations as to how they were written prior to 2021-2022 would help to achieve the objective of simplicity as the regulations would only be "special" or different from the statewide stream regulations during the "summer" (last Saturday in April through November 15) season. They would be identical to the statewide stream regulations during the remainder of the year or "winter" (November 16 through the Friday before the last Saturday in April) season—which is substantially simpler with respect to take and equipment than how the regulations for that season are written currently.

The critical inconsistencies and therefore the major complications in the regulations as they stand today are related to the "winter" season when the regulations in the "restricted" section of the North Yuba are less restrictive by allowing lures with any number of barbed hooks per lure and a bag limit of 2 fish. Also, those regulations are different from the North Yuba and other streams covered by the general statewide regulation for that "winter" period. Our proposal would improve on that by making the "winter" regulations the same for the entire fork of the river and its tributaries and consistent with the general statewide regulations for the "winter" period.

--Protection of the fishery. The special regulations were the result of research that was initiated approximately 30 years ago under the direction and leadership of Region II biologist John Hiscox. John's regular reports to the Sierra County Fish and Wildlife Commission included data that supported the idea that the special regulations assigned to this section resulted in fish counts that reflected increased fish numbers and sizes.

--Economics. The health of western Sierra County's economy is largely determined by the varied interests of its visitors. Anecdotal evidence provided by those in the region's hospitality industry suggest that fishing attracts visitors, and that opportunities which might include waters restricted to artificial lure and catch and release fishing are attractive to many who might not be interested otherwise.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. Date of Petition: [Click here to enter text.](#)

6. Category of Proposed Change

- ☒ Sport Fishing
- ☐ Commercial Fishing
- ☐ 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): Click here to enter text. |
☐ 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: As soon as is practical. Ideally before publication of 2022-2023 Sportfishing Regulations Handbook, Click here to enter text. |
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: Click here to enter text. |
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: Click here to enter text. |
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

Senate Bill 856 (2022) - Wild Pig Validations

**Presented to the California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee**

May 17th, 2023

Dan Skalos
Upland Game Unit Supervisor
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Senate Bill 856 (2022)

Senator Bill Dodd – Napa

Signed into law September 2022; effective January 1, 2023

Intent: Provide Department and public more tools to “manage” wild pigs



Changes to Fish and Game Code

- Bill impacted 19 code sections
- Created 4 new sections
- Many changes for consistency and administration:
 - Examples: Nonlead ammo requirement, replacing “tag” with validation, establishing validation fee structure, etc.
 - Those sections: 3003.1, 3004.5, 3950, 4150, 4181, 4304, 4651.5(b), 4653, 4654, 4655, 4657



Credit: Force of Nature.com

Changes to Fish and Game Code

- New category of wildlife
 - **“Exotic Game Mammal”**
 - Separates pigs from game and nongame mammals for flexibility in setting regulations



Credit: Times Herald

Definition of wild pig

- Does not have permanent mark (brand/tattoo) or visible tag
- Physical characteristics: coat, head, snout, ears, legs, tail and teeth
- A free-roaming pig, feral pig, or European wild boar having no visible tags, markings, or characteristics indicating that the pig or boar is from a domestic herd



Credit: University of Illinois

Hunting related changes



Fishing & Hunting Licenses

- Established a validation in place of tags
 - Similar fee as one tag, \$27
 - Unlimited take
 - Validation in lifetime licenses - big game package
- Wild pigs can be taken w/two-day nonresident license
- Wild pigs can be taken on free hunt days w/validation

Hunting to reduce damage

- Requires Department to engage landowners to alleviate damage by wild pigs through hunting
 - Shared Habitat Alliance Through Recreational Enhancement Program



Big Game Management Account

- Validation revenues put in Big Game Management Account for expenditure by the Department
- Provides a mechanism for:
 - Habitat restoration
 - Expanding hunting opportunity

Credit: Ron Koeberer



Captive hunting operations

- ***New*** contained hunting preserves for wild pigs are ***prohibited***
- Businesses in operation before January 1, 2022 can continue to operate
 - Cannot expand in size
 - Sale or transfer of existing operations is prohibited



Credit: Texas Outdoors

Live animals: Possession and release

- Exotic game mammals cannot be taken from the wild and possessed in captivity, except under conditions specified by the Commission
- Unlawful to intentionally or knowingly release any swine to live in a wild or feral state upon public or private land

Proposed changes to Title 14 – Transportation and reporting

- *The commission shall adopt regulations governing the transportation of wild pigs and the reporting of any take*
- Minimum reporting requirements specified in code:
 - Name, date and location.
 - Any other information the commission finds would be appropriate...
- **Staff proposed report in ALDS:**
 - Name, Month, County, Number taken
 - Report complete at the end of hunting-license year

Proposed changes to Title 14 – New regs

- **Section 325: Exotic game mammal defined**

- Proposed: “Exotic game mammal” means the following: wild pig, feral pigs, European wild pigs and their hybrids (genus *Sus*)

- **Section 326: Shooting hours on exotic game mammals**

- No proposal at this time
- Big game: ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset



Proposed changes to Title 14 – New Regs

- **Section 327: Methods authorized for taking exotic game mammals**
 - No proposal at this time
 - Default, accept similar conditions as big game, potentially more liberal methods, e.g. crossbows

Depredation

- 760 permits issued in 2022
 - Mainly Department Regions 3 & 4
- **Proposed changes:**
 - Multi-year permit
 - Eliminate tags
 - Survey of permit holders?



Credit: Gulf Coast Media

Department Lands and additional clean-up

- **Sections 551 – 552: Department Lands...**
 - Remove the word “tag” from 551(s)(8) and 551(s)(19)
 - Lands will incorporate these changes
 - Other potential changes may include liberalizing seasons on wildlife areas
 - These changes would be incorporated at a later date
- Extensive clean-up for consistency
 - Numerous sections in Chapters 1 and 3

Questions or Comments?

Contact:

Dan Skalos

Upland Game Unit Supervisor

Dan.Skalos@wildlife.ca.gov





Executive Summary

Amphibian Consumer and Business Survey

**Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, TN**

Contributors: Kevin Cavasos, Neelam C. Poudyal, Matthew Gray, Alexa Warwick, Jesse Brunner, Jonah Piovia-Scott, Nina Fefferman, Molly Bletz, Julie Lockwood, Joshua Jones

Acknowledgements: This study was funded by the University of Tennessee One Health Initiative. Investigators thank industry partners Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), Josh's Frogs, Reptiles by Mack, and their representatives.



Correspondence: A copy of the full report is available upon request from the investigators [N. C. Poudyal (npoudyal@utk.edu) or M. Gray (mgray11@utk.edu)]. To learn more about this research initiatives and partnership, please visit our project website at <https://onehealth.tennessee.edu/pijac/>

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Background

With growing concerns over amphibian populations in recent decades, researchers and stakeholders in the amphibian trade network have become increasingly interested in understanding how shipping and husbandry practices in trade could impact the prevalence of pathogens and beneficial microbes. To fill this knowledge gap, the need for conducting a comprehensive survey of businesses (importers, breeders, retailers, wholesalers) and consumers (i.e., pet owners) involved in amphibian trade was realized.

The University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) collaborated with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and other partners involved in the amphibian trade to identify science-based solutions that promote and foster amphibian wellbeing, minimize revenue losses due to harmful pathogens, and decrease opportunities for pathogen spillover from captive to wild populations. A Memorandum-of-Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum-of-Agreement (MOA) were established in 2021 between UTIA and PIJAC to guide this project, with financial support provided by the UT One Health Initiative to conduct a pilot study. Other amphibian care community partners and collaborators include Josh's Frogs, Reptiles by Mack, Washington State University, Michigan State University, University of Massachusetts-Boston, and Rutgers University.

Information collected in the surveys will be useful in identifying potential opportunities and barriers to developing an industry-led healthy trade program that ensures animal well-being, reducing disease-related financial losses for businesses, and increasing customer satisfaction. Additionally, information will enable researchers to provide recommendations on best strategies to reduce pathogens and increase prevalence of beneficial microbes in trade.

The specific objectives of the study were to: 1) characterize the size and composition of the US pet businesses that are engaged in the pet amphibian trade; 2) understand the awareness and attitudes that amphibian pet businesses and owners have with respect to harmful and beneficial microbes; 3) estimate the value businesses and owners place on amphibians free of pathogens such as *Ranavirus* (*Rv*), *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (*Bd*), and *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans* (*Bsal*); and 4) characterize the current husbandry practices of amphibian pet dealers and owners, and their willingness to engage in proactive strategies that promote beneficial microbes and reduce harmful microbes in their facilities and the broader amphibian pet trade.

Approach

Data needed to meet the objectives of this project were collected by designing and administering an online survey of pet amphibian owners and businesses in the US. In collaboration with the industry partners (PIJAC, Josh's Frogs, Reptiles by Mack), the investigators developed a semi-structured questionnaire survey that included questions addressing numerous aspects of the amphibian trade ranging from awareness and knowledge of pathogens (*Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv*), current husbandry and disposal practices, agreement with statements regarding biosecurity practices, and motivations and values (willingness-to purchase, willingness-to-pay etc.) regarding acquiring pathogen-free amphibians.

The anonymous and voluntary survey instrument and protocols used were approved by the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) Institutional Review Board for human subjects' research (Approval#: UTK IRB-21-06494-XM). The survey questionnaire was then formatted and administered using the Qualtrics

online survey platform. The survey was initially launched in mid-July 2021 with an email message sent from our industry partners to businesses and consumers in their membership list and contacts within their business network. A link to complete the survey was also placed on the project website (<https://onehealth.tennessee.edu/pijac/>) located in the public domain of University of Tennessee.

Of the 478 respondents who initiated the survey over a period of 6 weeks, 392 finished the survey. The first question on the survey was a screening question for respondents to identify their role or relationship with the amphibian trade network. Of the 469 respondents that responded to the question, 85% identified themselves as amphibian pet owners/consumers, 18% as amphibian breeders, 17% as retailers, 4% as wholesalers, and 1% as amphibian importers. Those who identified themselves as consumers or pet owners only were directed to a module specific to consumers only, whereas those identifying themselves as business only were sent to a separate module specific to amphibian businesses. Those who identified themselves as both consumer and business (36% of those that responded to the question) were given an opportunity to complete both modules. This summary presents the results from all the responses completed by September 10, 2021.

Results

Amphibian owner/consumer survey

Consumer characteristics: Of 357 consumer respondents, one-half (50%) of respondents were female, 40% male, 6% non-binary/third gender, and 3% preferred not to say. Eighty-eight percent of respondents identified themselves as White, 1% Asian, 1% Black or African American and 8% identified as another race or ethnicity. About 48% reported being under 35 years old, 34% indicated they were between 35 and 55, and the remaining 17% reported being older than 55. In terms of education attained, 38% reported attending “Some college”, 31% reported having completed a bachelor’s degree, 18% completed a graduate degree, and 12% completed high school.

Ownership history: Participation in the consumer module of the survey was limited to consumers who indicated they either currently owned, or had owned, an amphibian in the past. Fifty-seven percent of consumer respondents reported owning amphibians for more than 4 years, and 64% reported having owned more than 4 amphibians.

Ninety-five percent of consumers indicated they currently own or have previously owned a frog or toad, while 38% reported owning, or having owned a newt/salamander. Thirty-six percent of consumers reported owning more than one species of amphibian and eighty-one percent reported either currently or previously also owning a reptile(s). Thirty-five percent of consumers reported owning amphibians for over 10 years.

Acquisition: Ninety-two percent of consumers indicated they had purchased an amphibian(s), while 24% indicated they had rescued or found a pet amphibian(s) and 19% reported having collected a pet amphibian from the wild. The majority (59%) of consumers reported having purchased an amphibian(s) from an “In-store retailer/pet store”, while 49% reported having purchased from an online retailer. One-half (50%) of consumers reported paying \$1-\$25 per month to care for their pet amphibian while 39% of consumers indicated they spent between \$26-\$75 for their most recently acquired amphibian;

Ownership importance: Consumers were presented with 7 factors potentially influencing their decision to own their most recently acquired amphibian. Scientific or educational value, sense of companionship, and aesthetic and environmental values were relatively more important than religious significance, cultural significance, and family favorites. Most consumers indicated being at least moderately familiar with general knowledge of amphibians, the role of amphibians in the environment, status/trends of amphibian populations, and benefits to humans from amphibians.

Care and disposal of amphibians: Consumers mainly acquired information about caring for their pet amphibian(s) from websites (92%), personal experience (87%), and scientific journals (61%). Ninety-one percent of consumers indicated they had never become unable to keep or been forced to get rid of a pet amphibian. Of those that had been forced to get rid of an amphibian, the most common reason (41%) was family relocation, followed by inability to care for it (22%). No respondents indicated they had released the animal into nature.

Sixty-three percent of consumers indicated their amphibians receive veterinary care or diagnostic tests as needed, and 99% indicated a willingness to seek veterinary care or administer treatment at home if their pet amphibian showed signs of illness. Seventy-nine percent of consumers reported having had a pet amphibian die; 61% of those disposed of the animal through burial.

Awareness of and concerns regarding pathogens: A majority of consumer respondents (63%) indicated that before reading the survey they were unaware of *Bacillus mycoides* or other beneficial microbes, and their ability to impede growth of harmful microbes and increase disease resistance in amphibians. Seventy percent of consumers indicated, prior to reading the survey, they were aware that the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens can be transmitted through the pet trade. Most consumers (64%) indicated they were “not at all concerned” when acquiring their most recent amphibian that the animal may have been previously infected with *Bd*, *Bsal*, or *Rv*, while 23% reported being “very concerned”. Ninety-six percent of consumers reported having never detected harmful pathogens in their amphibians. One respondent reported that *Bsal* was detected in their pet amphibian(s), although this response is highly surprising, because: (1) only a limited number of U.S. laboratories are known to be testing for *Bsal* infection (using qPCR) and confirming the disease *Bsal* chytridiomycosis (via histopathology), (2) it is best practice for laboratories that record positive results for a novel pathogen to have a second laboratory confirm a positive *Bsal* result to minimize uncertainty, and (3) known *Bsal* testing laboratories have been instructed to report results to the North American *Bsal* Task Force, which has not occurred to date.

Perception of threats: Eighty-four percent of consumers agreed the threat of transmission of *Rv*, *Bd*, and *Bsal* pathogens from pets to natural areas is serious and 92% percent somewhat or strongly agreed that protecting natural populations of amphibians from *Rv*, *Bd*, and *Bsal* is important, although only 36% of consumers somewhat or strongly agreed they know what it takes to keep amphibians free of *Rv*, *Bd*, and *Bsal*. The majority of consumers indicated they were extremely likely to take prescribed steps to limit the spread of harmful pathogens to natural areas.

Value of pathogen-free amphibians: Seventy-nine percent of consumers indicated it would be extremely or very important that the animal they acquire be free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv*. Seventy-six percent indicated they would be willing to pay more for an amphibian that is certified free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens.

Business survey

Business characteristics: Of 143 business responding businesses, 59% identified themselves as amphibian breeders, 57% as retailers, 14% as wholesalers, and 5% as amphibian importers. Twenty-five percent of businesses identified as more than one type of business.

Seventy-five percent of amphibian business respondents indicated they deal with both reptiles and amphibians, while 16% deal with amphibians only. Eighty-one percent of businesses reported obtaining their amphibians from breeders, followed by hobbyists (66%), wholesalers (60%), retailers (26%), importers (24%) and wild caught (14%). Eighty-four percent of business respondents indicated they sell to hobbyists, 67% to households, 29% to breeders, 26% to retailers and 11% to wholesalers. Almost a third (29%) of businesses indicated they had been in the amphibian business for over 20 years, while 19% reported having been in business for 11-20 years; another 19% indicated they had been in business for 6-10 years. In terms of annual business sales, 30% reported less than \$5,000 while 20% reported annual sales of over \$1,000,000. Of the remaining businesses, 17% indicated annual sales of \$5,000-\$50,000, 13% reported \$500,000-\$1,000,000, 11% reported \$200,000-\$500,000, and 8% reported \$50,000-\$200,000. The Midwest region of the country accounted for the most business respondents to the survey (33%), followed by the Southeast (20%), with respondents being relatively evenly distributed across the other regions of the country. Eighty-two percent of respondents indicated they only conduct business with buyers and sellers of amphibians in the United States.

Share of amphibian business: Approximately half (51%) of businesses indicated that amphibians accounted for less than 10% of their total sales, while 23% reported amphibians accounted for 10%-25% of total sales, 12% reported 76%-100%, 8% reported 26%-50% and the remaining 6% reported amphibian sales accounted for 51%-75% of their total sales.

Factors important in business decisions: When asked to rate the importance of various factors in making business decisions, a high level of importance was placed on issues of ethics, social concerns, and legal compliance.

Awareness of and concerns regarding pathogens: Most businesses (53%) indicated that before reading the survey they were unaware of beneficial microbes, such as *Bacillus mycoides*, that can inhibit growth of pathogens and increase disease resistance in amphibians. Almost half (47%) of businesses indicated that they would definitely consider administering treatment to their amphibian(s) using “probiotics” such as *Bacillus mycoides*, while 53% indicated they would need more information. Eighty-one percent of businesses indicated, prior to reading the survey, they were aware that the pathogens *Bd*, *Bsal*, *Rv* can be transmitted through the pet trade.

Seventeen percent of businesses indicated a harmful pathogen had been detected at their facility. Two percent of respondents (2 businesses) indicated detecting *Bsal* at their facilities. This response is highly surprising for the same reasons stated above. To date, no known detections of *Bsal* have been reported in North America.

Perception of threats: More than half (55%) of businesses indicated they were very concerned that transmission of pathogens through the trade network of pets or pet products may impact the amphibians in their facility.

Experience and attitudes toward amphibian health: Sixty-three percent of businesses reported having an amphibian die of illness or disease at their facility. The average approximate value of total loss (including treatment, care, and disposal cost) resulting from the illness or death was \$940. Eighty-five percent of businesses indicated they somewhat or strongly agreed the threat of transmission of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens from pets to natural areas is serious, 87% indicated they somewhat or strongly agreed protecting natural populations of amphibians from *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* is important to their business, and 90% somewhat or strongly agreed businesses should actively take part in preventing transmission of *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* in the pet trade network.

Biosecurity practices: While most (92%) businesses indicated they use disinfectants to clean surfaces and tanks, use gloves when handling animals (60%) and quarantine new animals in a separate room (66%), fewer businesses test new acquisitions for pathogens (18%), conduct testing to monitor for disease (22%), or treat recirculating water (23%) or wastewater (24%) prior to disposal. Only a quarter (25%) of respondent businesses indicated having the capacity to improve biosecurity practices at their facility without increasing costs.

Value of pathogen-free amphibians: Eighty-six percent of businesses indicated it was extremely or very important that animals be healthy and free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens when introduced to their facility. Ninety-seven percent indicated they would be interested in acquiring an animal that is certified as free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens and 59% indicated they would be willing to pay more for an animal that is certified as free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens. Of those willing to pay more, 22% indicated they would be willing to pay 1%-5% more, 36% indicated 6%-10% more, and 28% indicated they would be willing to pay 11%-20% more.

Conclusions:

Amphibian businesses and consumers in the United States acquire their animals from a variety of sources and are concerned about the potential for pathogen transmission. Consumers and businesses alike believe that the threat of harmful pathogens to their pets and natural areas is serious, which indicates the severity of risk as perceived by stakeholders. While a substantial portion of respondents showed interest in beneficial microbes, relative lack of awareness about their benefit(s) indicates that some outreach and education may be needed to create a demand for this treatment option. Finally, both consumers and businesses expressed a strong preference for amphibians that are free of harmful pathogens and indicated a willingness to pay a significant price premium to acquire certified disease-free animals. This implies a viability of a market-based certification mechanism to help promote a clean trade, free of the *Bd*, *Bsal*, and *Rv* pathogens, and the long-term sustainability of the amphibian pet industry. Finally, these findings are based on a pilot study of a limited number of respondents and a more detailed study is warranted to enhance the generalizability of these conclusions.

From: Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com>

Sent: Saturday, April 29, 2023 11:14 AM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: Item 6, Wildlife Resources Committee, May 23, 2023, Bullfrogs and non-native turtles

WARNING: This message is from an external source. Verify the sender and exercise caution when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hon Chair and Commission Members:

Endangered Habitats League urges you to take all steps, including import prohibition, to protect California ecosystems from these invasive species.

Thank you

Sincerely,
Dan Silver

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750
dsilverla@me.com
<https://ehleague.org>

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual

1st Edition, 2024



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INTRODUCTION

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This manual provides essential information about native wildlife rehabilitation in California. The purpose of wildlife rehabilitation is to return healthy native wildlife back to suitable habitat in the wild or relieve their suffering through humane euthanasia. This is a demanding, but rewarding, calling for some people. It requires significant time, resources, expertise, and dedication to be a successful wildlife rehabilitator. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) recognizes the value of this service to the public.

A wildlife rehabilitator serves an important and unique role in wildlife conservation in California, specifically by:

- Ensuring humane care and treatment of sick, injured, orphaned, and displaced wildlife for the purpose of their release to suitable habitat in the wild;
- Assisting in disease monitoring, and domestic animal and public health protection;
- Providing valuable public education and outreach to diverse local communities.

The department's Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program oversees the permitting of wildlife rehabilitators and their facilities. The program has established and oversees a strong collaborative network of permitted wildlife rehabilitators. Wildlife rehabilitators are responsible for any costs incurred under their permit. However, the department offers competitive grants awarded annually through its California Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Grants Program.

For wildlife rehabilitation in California to reach its full potential, the department strives to ensure (1) a deeper understanding and appreciation of the ethical standards and expertise maintained by each wildlife rehabilitator; (2) compliance with all laws, regulations, and permit conditions; (3) elimination of mal-imprinting, food conditioning, or habituating rehabilitation animals; and (4) humane euthanasia is provided without hesitation or delay, as appropriate.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This manual contains excerpts from the California Fish and Game Code (Appendix A), and each 679 section of Title 14, of the California Code of Regulations. It does not provide complete coverage of *all* federal, state, or local laws and regulations. It is a wildlife rehabilitator's responsibility to know and obey all applicable laws and regulations in effect while participating in wildlife rehabilitation activity. Changes to any code and/or regulation may occur at any time during the year. Any discrepancies between this document and the code(s) from which it was prepared will be enforced and adjudicated according to the official code(s) and/or regulation(s) in effect on the date the activity takes place.

§ 679.1 DEFINITIONS

(a) For the purposes of Sections 679.1 through 679.9, the following definitions apply:

- 1) American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA). Professional organization that establishes national accreditation and certification standards for veterinary professionals to protect the health and welfare of animals in their care.
- 2) Animal welfare, or welfare of the animal. The state or condition of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives by providing for its physical and behavioral needs, and ability to express its innate behavior.
- 3) Biosecurity practice. Preventative measures taken to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases from one human, animal, or place to others.
- 4) California Veterinary Medical Board. A governmental agency, established in 1893, to regulate veterinary medicine in the state of California, pursuant to the California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act (Chapter 11 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code).
- 5) Chiroptera. Any species of bat native to California.
- 6) Conspecifics. Individual animals of the same species.
- 7) Designee. A person with at least 500 hours of hands-on experience with the humane care, handling, behavior and physiology of rehabilitation animals approved by the permittee as an authorized person to conduct activities at the wildlife rehabilitation facility without the direct supervision of the permittee.
- 8) Enrichment. An item or activity designed to stimulate and encourage a range of innate behaviors of an animal, specific to that species.
- 9) Euthanasia. The humane induction of death with minimal pain, stress, anxiety, or distress to the animal.
- 10) Foster. Adult animal serving as a conspecific surrogate parent or companion animal to a neonate or juvenile wildlife in rehabilitation.
- 11) Habituation. A process that occurs when an animal, not normally domesticated, is repeatedly exposed to anthropogenic stimuli and eventually no longer has a natural behavioral response to that stimulus.
- 12) Humane care. To provide adequate water, food, housing, enrichment, safe handling, medical treatment, euthanasia if necessary, and conditions that maintain the welfare of the animal, with the intent to minimize fear, pain, stress, and suffering.
- 13) Husbandry. The day-to-day care, feeding, and housing of wild animals that takes into account the natural ecology of the species.
- 14) Imprinting. A specialized form of learning by an animal that occurs during a brief period in the animal's early development that provides the animal with a self-identity and social bonds that are rarely reversible.
- 15) Large carnivore. American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) or mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) of the Order Carnivora.
- 16) Neonate. A newborn or newly hatched animal, often unable to thermoregulate or ambulate on its own, and usually requiring parental care such as feeding to survive.
- 17) Non-releasable animal. A wild animal not suitable for return to the wild due to significant physical impairment, inability to consistently express species-appropriate behavior such as hunting or foraging, habituation, or improper imprinting, resulting in limited potential for survival in the wild.

- 18) Orphan. A healthy or ill young animal, still dependent on parental care for survival, that is found under conditions in which parental care is no longer available, such as permanent separation from or death of the parent.
- 19) Patient record. A written daily log in the English language for each wild animal in possession which shall document each animal's health care and contain the following information: date of acquisition; name and address of finder; location found; identifying marks or characteristics; species name; age or age class; sex of animal (if discernable); date and description of physical exam findings; type, date, and duration of any treatments provided; diagnostic test results; and name of person(s) treating the animal.
- 20) Permittee. A person authorized by the department to temporarily possess rehabilitation animals at a wildlife rehabilitation facility, and satellite facilities if approved by the department, for the purposes of rehabilitation under a permit issued pursuant to Section 679.3.
- 21) Qualified handler. A person with at least 300 hours of hands-on experience with the humane care, handling, behavior and physiology, of the species or closely related taxonomic group of the rehabilitation animal.
- 22) Rabies vector species. Wildlife commonly susceptible to rabies (*Rabies lyssavirus*) through the transmission of saliva from an infected animal.
- 23) Raptor. Any species of eagle, northern harrier, or osprey (Order Accipitriformes), Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), or Prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) native to California, or a hybrid thereof pursuant to Section 670 (b).
- 24) Rehabilitation animal. A live individual bird, mammal, reptile, or amphibian of a wildlife species native to California that is not normally domesticated and is taken and temporarily possess for the purposes of rehabilitation at a wildlife rehabilitation facility.
- 25) Rehabilitation. To restore an injured, diseased, displaced, or orphaned animal to a condition of good health for the purpose of its release to suitable habitat in the wild.
- 26) Required record. Any permit, license, log, patient record, plan, or any other written record required to be kept by the permittee or sub-permittee under these regulations, any department permit or memorandum of understanding, or a permit, specialty permit, or sub-permit.
- 27) Satellite facility. A facility authorized pursuant to Section 679.3 and operated by a sub-permittee, that may temporarily possess wildlife, longer than 48 hours, for the purpose of rehabilitation at a location other than the wildlife rehabilitation facility location listed on the permit.
- 28) Specialty rehabilitation permit. Privilege provided to a permittee by the department to temporarily possess one or more of the following types of rehabilitation animals: large carnivores, ungulates, raptors, bats, or venomous snakes.
- 29) Sub-permittee. A person authorized by the department and the permittee to temporarily possess wildlife at a satellite facility, without direct supervision by the permittee, pursuant to Section 679.3.
- 30) Ungulate. Any species of deer, antelope, elk, or wild sheep native to California of the Order Artiodactyla.
- 31) Venomous snake. Any species of snake native to California of the Order Squamata that can produce venom.
- 32) Veterinarian of record. A veterinarian, currently licensed by the State of California, who agrees in writing to provide and direct appropriate veterinary treatment for rehabilitation animals at a wildlife rehabilitation facility.

- 33) Wildlife Health Laboratory (WHL). A laboratory operated by the department to investigate, monitor, and manage wildlife health and disease issues in California, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1008. The WHL was formerly called the “Wildlife Investigations Laboratory.”
- 34) Wildlife rehabilitation facility or Rehabilitation facility: A location approved by the department pursuant to Section 679.3 whereby rehabilitation animals are temporarily possessed for the purposes of rehabilitation.
- 35) Wildlife rehabilitation memorandum of understanding (MOU). An agreement issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1773.2 for the purpose of implementation of the Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Grant.
- 36) Zoonoses. Diseases which can be transmitted from animals to humans through direct or indirect contact; etiologic agents can be viral, bacterial, parasitic, mycotic, or unconventional (prions).

SPECIALTY REHABILITATION DEFINITIONS [SECTION 679.3(B)]

- 1) **Large carnivore rehabilitation.** Rehabilitation of juvenile and neonate black bear or mountain lion.
 - 1. Orphaned cub: A black bear cub of the year unable to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
 - 2. Orphaned kitten: A mountain lion kitten of the year unable to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
 - 3. Orphaned yearling: A black bear cub or mountain lion kitten in its second calendar year of life that is unlikely to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
- 2) **Raptor rehabilitation.** Rehabilitation of adult, juvenile, and neonate raptors.
 - 1. Eagles, Northern Harriers, and Ospreys of the Order Accipitriformes.
 - 2. Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*) and Prairie Falcons (*F. mexicanus*) of the Order Falconiformes.
- 3) **Ungulate rehabilitation.** Rehabilitation of juvenile and neonate ungulates.
 - 1. Orphaned fawn. A deer or pronghorn fawn of the year that is unable to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
 - 2. Orphaned calf. An elk calf of the year that is unable to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
 - 3. Orphaned lamb. A bighorn sheep lamb of the year that is unable to survive in the wild without intervention and is not associated with an adult conspecific.
- 4) **Venomous snake rehabilitation.** Rehabilitation of adult, juvenile, and neonate venomous snakes.
- 5) **Bat rehabilitation.** Rehabilitation of adult, juvenile, and neonate animals of the Order Chiroptera.

§ 679.2 TRANSPORTATION AND POSSESSION

(a) Temporary Confinement of Wildlife.

A person may temporarily confine an injured, diseased, displaced, or orphaned wildlife native to the state of California for the purposes of rehabilitation for up to 48 hours, as authorized below:

(1) A person temporarily confining an animal under this section shall notify the nearest wildlife rehabilitation facility, or the department in writing by email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or telephone at (916) 358-2790, within 48 hours of confining such animal and shall provide the following information:

(A) Name and address of person temporarily confining the animal; species of animal; description of its condition; date and location the animal was found; and the location where the animal is confined.

(B) A person shall release the animal at direction of the department or transfer it to a location the department deems necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, human health and safety, such as but not limited to a wildlife rehabilitation facility, a facility permitted pursuant to Section 671, or departmental office (Appendix A).

(2) A person shall not trap any live mammal, bird, furbearer, reptile, or amphibian for the purposes of rehabilitation, unless authorized pursuant to the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant to the code.

(3) A person shall not temporarily confine or transfer for the purposes of rehabilitation any species that is not native to the state of California, or any animal identified by the department as an invasive pest pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code Section 5260.5, including but not limited to: Eurasian collared dove, European starling, black-throated magpie jay, house sparrow, Japanese white-eye, mute swan, scaly-breasted munia, nutria, wild pig, American bullfrog, African clawed frog, common coqui, red-eared slider, watersnake (*Nerodia*).

(4) A person may temporarily confine a desert tortoise for transportation to a wildlife rehabilitation facility only with written approval from the department pursuant to Section 674 and Fish and Game Code Section 5000.

(b) Temporary Confinement of Large Carnivores, Ungulates, or fully protected species.

No person shall temporarily confine any large carnivore, ungulate, or fully protected species listed pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, and 5050, except as provided below.

(1) A person shall notify the department in writing by email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 358-2790, or the nearest wildlife rehabilitation facility, within 24 hours of temporarily confining an injured, diseased, displaced, or orphaned wildlife that is a large carnivore, ungulate, or fully protected species, and shall include the following information:

(A) Name and address of person temporarily confining the animal; species of animal; description of its condition; date and location the animal was found; and the location where the animal is confined.

(B) At the department's direction, the person shall release the wild animal or transfer it to a location the department deems necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, and/or human health and safety, such as but not limited to a wildlife rehabilitation facility, a facility permitted pursuant to Section 671.1, or departmental office.

(c) Prohibition on Possession of Wildlife.

No person shall temporarily confine or possess any live mammal, bird, furbearer, reptile, or amphibian native to the state of California for more than 48 hours, except as otherwise authorized pursuant to Section 679.3.

(d) Prohibition of Possession of Disabled Wildlife in an Oil/Toxic Spill Area.

No person shall enter a department designated oil/toxic spill area to possess or transport wildlife disabled by an oil spill or other spilled toxic substance for the purpose of rehabilitation unless that person has authorization from the department pursuant to Government Code Section 8670.37.5.

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Wild animals are usually better off without human intervention. The department recommends that a person keep a safe distance and not approach any healthy young wildlife or sick, injured, and displaced wildlife. A wild animal, regardless of condition, will instinctually use its natural defenses (e.g., teeth, beak, claws, talons, quills) to avoid being captured, handled, or confined. Unnecessary human contact can cause permanent harm, injury, or in some cases, even death to the animal or person. Of further concern is the increased risk of disease transmission between human and animal, regardless of the absence or presence of clinical signs of illness.

A person should first contact their nearest wildlife rehabilitation facility, animal services agency, department office (Appendix B), or visit the department's website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov> for information about the wildlife they observe *prior* to attempting to temporarily confine any such wild animal.

§ 679.3 PERMITS FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

(a) Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.

The department may issue a person a wildlife rehabilitation permit valid for 3 years, and amend existing permits with the conditions it determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety.

(1) Limited Scope. A permit issued pursuant to this section does not supersede any federal, state, or local law, or the need for any applicable permit.

(2) Qualifications. Any person, who is a resident of the state of California, can qualify for and be issued a permit if the applicant possesses the qualifications specified in subsections 679.3(b) through (d) and is at least 18 years of age, except for the following reasons:

(A) That person has had a department-issued permit or license denied because of a violation or revoked, and the permit or license has not been reinstated; or

(B) That person has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude within the previous 10 years.

(3) Conferring. The department may confer with any person to verify information on the application, at any stage of the application process, and where applicable may require written proof of that information pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1054(b). An applicant shall provide such information to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov within 30 calendar days of the department's request, or the department shall deny the application.

(4) Initial Approval. A person seeking a permit shall first submit to the department an initial written request for a permit via email to Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov. The request shall include:

(A) Copies of two letters stating there is a need for a new wildlife rehabilitation facility to increase local or regional capacity to possess rehabilitation animals, written within the previous 3 years, on letterhead stationery with a printed name, title, signature, and affiliation of the signatory.

1. One letter shall be submitted by a permittee possessing a valid wildlife rehabilitation permit or sub-permit.

2. The second letter shall be submitted by any of the following persons: (i) a permittee possessing a valid permit pursuant to sections 679.3 or 671.1; (ii) WHL staff, department Regional Manager, or their designee(s); (iii) a licensed veterinarian; or (iv) federal, tribal, state or local agencies with jurisdiction over wildlife or animal care.

(B) The species proposed for rehabilitation at the facility and the approximate maximum number that may be temporarily possessed at one time.

(C) Resume or *curriculum vitae* describing completion of at least 1,000 hours of wildlife rehabilitation experience under the direct supervision of a permittee in California, or experience that the department determines to be equivalent, completed no more than 10 years from the date of the application. The department may consider education in veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, or similar courses, as a substitute for up to 300 hours of the required experience based on the following criteria:

1. the number of hours of education and the curriculum;

2. if a certification, degree, or similar qualification was obtained; and

3. if the education was obtained at an accredited institution or program recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(D) The department shall provide initial approval in writing via email if an applicant meets the requirements pursuant to subsections 679.3(a)(4)(A) through (C). The applicant shall not temporarily possess rehabilitation animals until the department has provided final approval of the proposed wildlife rehabilitation facility.

(5) Wildlife Rehabilitation Examination.

(A) Upon initial approval from the department, an applicant may take the free California state wildlife rehabilitation examination via password-protected html link provided on the department website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab>. Alternatively, an applicant may submit a request to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 358-2790 to take the examination in person at the nearest department office.

(B) An applicant shall correctly answer 80 percent or more of the questions to pass the examination. An applicant who fails the examination may submit a request to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov to retake the examination no sooner than 15 calendar days from the date of the failed examination.

(C) If an applicant fails to pass the examination by the third attempt, or within 3 years from the date of initial approval, the department shall rescind initial approval of the permit request. An applicant may restart the initial approval process no sooner than 1 year from the date of the last failed examination.

(6) Final Approval of Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility.

(A) An applicant who has received initial approval from the department and passed the wildlife rehabilitation examination, as described in subsection 679.3(a), may submit an application packet to the department via the U.S. Postal Service or overnight carrier to the License and Revenue Branch at P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244. The application packet shall contain the following information:

1. Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application Form which provides:

a. Applicant and Facility Information. Applicant name, date of birth, mailing address, phone, and email address; facility name, facility address, phone, email, and website if applicable.

b. Public contact information. If permit is issued which information shall be posted on the department's website.

c. Proposed rehabilitation animals. Indicate which species and/or taxonomic group that the applicant proposes to rehabilitate at the facility and the maximum number of animals by species and/or taxonomic group able to be temporarily possessed at one time.

d. Other applicable permits. The applicant shall demonstrate possession of, or intention to possess, a valid federal migratory bird permit to temporarily possess any bird species native to California for the purposes of rehabilitation.

e. Facility Operation Plan. The applicant shall submit to the department a written plan that describes the proposed facility's standard operating procedures for each of the following:

(i) Record-keeping system to maintain required records, such as patient records and controlled substance logs.

(ii). Animal intake process, including initial evaluation and triage.

- (iii). Euthanasia protocol, including description of euthanasia methods for various animals, list of qualified personnel, plan for the storage of controlled substances, and carcass disposal.
- (iv). Protocol for handling public reports by phone or email.
- (v). Staff and volunteer training protocol.
- (vi). Animal husbandry protocols pursuant to Section 679.5(a).
- (vii). Biosecurity protocols pursuant to Section 679.5(a).
- (viii) Succession plan for the continued care of rehabilitation animals if the permittee is no longer able to provide care for any foreseeable reason or due to health, safety, or financial reasons.

f. Declaration of Caging and Enclosure. Photographs of each type of enclosure sufficient to demonstrate that the enclosure(s) will (i) be appropriate for the types of rehabilitation animals that the applicant intends to possess and (ii) comply with the standards listed in the department's 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual (incorporated by reference) and available on the department website at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab>. Diagrams, blueprints, or other plans may be substituted for photographs. The applicant shall provide the following information for each type of enclosure:

- (i). Dimensions (length, width, height) in feet and inches.
- (ii). Type of materials used for each new construction enclosure, such as concrete or wood.
- (iii). Type of material(s) used for each prefabricated enclosure.

g. Restricted species. The applicant shall provide a list of current non-releasable animals held under a restricted species permit issued by CDFW, or having been possessed prior to January 1, 2012, pursuant to a department Memorandum of Understanding.

h. Resume or *curriculum vitae*. The applicant shall demonstrate completion of at least 1,000 hours experience pursuant to Section 679.3(a)(4)(C) above. Documentation shall include the dates and description of experience, education and training; and the name, affiliation, telephone number, email, and mailing address of 3 references that the department may contact.

2. Veterinarian of Record Agreement. Signed by a licensed veterinarian in good standing pursuant to the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act, that shall include the following required information:

- a.** Veterinarian name, veterinarian license number, license expiration date, telephone number, email address, name and address of employer.
- b.** Review, agree, and initial the following list of veterinarian responsibilities:
 - (i) Provide veterinary consultation to the permittee or their designee for rehabilitation animals requiring veterinary medical services.
 - (ii) Provision, storage, and documentation of controlled and non-controlled substances pursuant to US Drug Enforcement Agency and California Veterinary Medical Board codes and regulations.
 - (iii) Provide protocols, training, and certification for staff to perform humane euthanasia of rehabilitation animals deemed non-releasable or unfit for captive placement.

(iv) Ethical consideration of the natural history and welfare of the rehabilitation animal when determining a treatment plan for successful release, humane euthanasia, or permanent placement.

(v) Rely on the rehabilitator to best address the husbandry needs of the patient.

c. Identify the veterinarian services that will be provided from the following list: physical examination, initial stabilization, initial diagnosis, pre-release examination, prescribing medication (general), prescribing medication (controlled substances), surgical services, fracture/wound care, diagnostic services, laboratory work, euthanasia, necropsy, carcass storage/disposal, staff/volunteer training, biosecurity protocol(s), pest management plan, emergency action plan, other.

d. List of species of which the veterinarian of record is unwilling or unable to provide veterinary services.

3. List of Authorized Persons. An applicant shall provide to the department a list of all individuals identified by the applicant as a qualified person, qualified handler or designee pursuant to Section 679.1.

a. Identify the activities that each authorized person may conduct under the permit from the following list: diet preparation, animal feeding, wildlife handling, enclosure cleaning, medical treatment, euthanasia (pentobarbital), euthanasia (other method), carcass disposal, wildlife transport/release.

b. Provide proof of proper training for any authorized person performing euthanasia using pentobarbital pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 4827(d).

4. Facility Emergency Action Plan. An applicant shall provide to the department a written plan for the proposed facility describing evacuation steps in the event of an emergency. The Emergency Action Plan shall be titled, with a revision date, and describe the designated actions required to ensure animal welfare and human safety pursuant to Government Code Section 3220, that shall include the following:

a. List of animal re-capture equipment, such as nets, gloves, darting equipment and chemical immobilization drugs (if applicable);

b. List of mobile transport cages sufficient to transport all proposed rehabilitation animals, that shall include the quantity, size dimensions, and brief description of each transport cage, specifically (i) intended animal use (species, size or type), (ii) weight capacity, and (iii) maximum number of animals per cage;

c. List of emergency animal supplies that shall be designated for each rehabilitation animal in the case of an evacuation or other emergency, that shall include: 5 days minimum supply of special diet, food receptacles, water receptacles, portable water containers, specialty feeding supplies, heating source such as heating pad, cooling source such as ice pack, bedding, cleaning supplies, biosecurity supplies, and veterinary medical supplies;

d. List of first aid kits, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, emergency exit signs (if applicable), emergency eye wash stations and where they will be located in the facility;

- e. List of exit route assignments and location(s) off the premises identified as a safe staging area in case of an evacuation, including primary and secondary evacuation route(s); and
- f. List of emergency telephone numbers that shall include local first responders, animal services, public health agencies, the WHL, nearest department regional office, and other relevant points of contact.

5. Authorization to Access Property. A written statement signed and dated by the owner of the property where the proposed facility will be located stating that the property owner agrees that the facility and rehabilitation animals may be inspected by the department pursuant to Section 679.7.

6. Proof of proper permit(s), or written statement that the applicant will not be violating any ordinance(s), from a local agency with jurisdiction over zoning that allows the applicant to temporarily possess rehabilitation animals at the proposed facility.

7. Payment of a non-refundable application processing fee of \$65.41 and a refundable inspection fee of \$181.28 to the department and adjusted annually pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 713.

(7) Issuance of Permit. The department shall issue a permit if the applicant meets all standards pursuant to subsections 679.3, 679.4, and 679.5, and the requirements established in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual.

(A) The department shall inspect the proposed facility, prior to issuing a permit, pursuant to Section 679.7. The department shall deny a permit if the applicant has failed to allow an inspection of the proposed facility; or the facility fails to meet all applicable requirements described in sections 679.3, 679.4, and 679.5; or pursuant to Section 679.9(a).

(B) The department shall determine which species and/or taxonomic order of rehabilitation animal the applicant is authorized to temporarily possess based on conditions the department determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, human health and safety; except if a permit is denied pursuant to section 679.9(a).

(C) The department shall provide to the applicant, upon request by the applicant and issuance of the permit, a Wildlife Rehabilitation MOU for eligibility to apply for funding through the department's competitive grant program established pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 1773.1.

(8) Renewal of Permit. A permittee may submit to the department an application packet to renew a permit, no later than 60 calendar days before the permit expires, via the U.S. Postal Service or overnight carrier to the License and Revenue Branch at P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244 that shall include the following:

(A) The required information listed in Section 679.3(a)(6)(A)1 through 7 above;

(B) The name, satellite facility address, mailing address, telephone, and email address of any sub-permittee listed under the permit;

(C) If the department requires greater than 60 calendar days to renew a permit, the department may provide written approval to the permittee to continue temporarily possessing rehabilitation animals under the expired permit if the department finds that the overall welfare of the animal(s) will be maintained while the application to renew is being processed.

(b) Specialty Rehabilitation Authorization.

The department may amend a permit to allow the permittee to conduct specialty rehabilitation of the species or taxonomic group listed below, if the department determines that the amendment shall protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety.

(1) See the definitions provided in Section I for the purposes of this subsection.

(2) Required Training. An applicant who has received initial approval from the department and passed the free California state wildlife rehabilitation examination, specialty rehabilitation section, provided online by the department as described in subsection 679.3(a) and (b), may submit to the department an application packet via the U.S. Postal Service or overnight carrier to the License and Revenue Branch at P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244, that shall contain the following information:

(A) Proposed specialty rehabilitation animals. A list of specialty rehabilitation animals that the applicant proposes to rehabilitate at the facility and the maximum number of animals by species or taxonomic group able to be temporarily possessed at one time.

(B) The required information listed in Section 679.3(a)(6)(A)1 through 7 above notwithstanding the following additional requirements:

1. The applicant shall demonstrate at least 500 hours of experience with species in the same taxonomic group or closely related taxa of the same Order as the proposed specialty rehabilitation animals, completed within 5 years from the date of initial application, and under direct supervision of a permittee or designee, permitted pursuant to sections 679.3 or 671.1. The department may consider education in veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, or similar courses, as a substitute for up to 100 hours of the required experience.

2. The applicant shall include one letter of recommendation from a permittee or designee, permitted pursuant to sections 679.3 or 671.1. The permittee or designee providing a letter of recommendation shall have a minimum of 2 years of experience with species in the same taxonomic group or closely related taxa of the same Order as the proposed specialty rehabilitation animals.

(C) Qualified handlers. List of qualified handlers for each species of proposed specialty rehabilitation animal that shall include the name, total hours and date(s) of relevant experience or training completed within 5 years from the date of initial application, and the species qualified to handle.

1. The applicant shall provide the following minimum number of qualified handlers for each type of specialty rehabilitation animal: 2 qualified handlers for bats, 3 qualified handlers for large carnivores, ungulates, and raptors.

2. The applicant requesting approval to rehabilitate venomous snakes shall provide (i) a minimum of 2 qualified handlers possessing venomous snake handling certification; (ii) written venomous snake escape protocol; and (iii) the nearest available source of antivenin in the event of a bite.

(3) Final Approval.

The department shall amend the permit to authorize the permittee to conduct specialty rehabilitation of the species or taxonomic group of specialty rehabilitation animal(s) requested, if the applicant meets all standards pursuant to subsections 679.3, 679.4, and 679.5. A permittee shall temporarily possess such specialty rehabilitation animals only at the wildlife rehabilitation facility and/or satellite facility location(s) approved by the department.

(c) Sub-Permit.

The department may amend a permit to authorize a sub-permittee to operate a satellite facility under that permit, at the discretion of the department, if the department determines that the amendment shall protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety.

(1) Requirements. A permittee may request approval from the department to add a sub-permittee under their permit no sooner than 12 months after the issuance of a new permit.

(A) A permittee shall have no more than 10 sub-permittees at any time; notwithstanding a written determination by the department to the permittee that more than 10 sub-permittees are needed to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety.

(B) A sub-permittee shall operate a satellite facility under no more than one permit at any time.

(C) The permittee shall provide to the department within 10 business days written notification via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov of any change to a satellite facility, including but not limited to, removing satellite facility, or change of physical address.

(2) Initial Request. A permittee seeking to add a sub-permittee shall first submit to the department a request in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov that shall include the following information:

(A) Name, date of birth, telephone number, email, and mailing address of the proposed sub-permit.

(B) Location of proposed satellite facility. A sub-permittee shall operate a satellite facility located in the same county or an adjacent county to the permittee.

(C) Proposed rehabilitation animals. A brief list of species or taxonomic group of rehabilitation animal the sub-permittee is qualified to temporarily possess.

(3) Initial Approval. The department shall provide initial approval in writing via email if an applicant meets the requirements listed in Section 679.3(c)(1) through (2) above. The applicant shall not temporarily possess rehabilitation animals at a satellite facility until the department has provided final approval of the proposed sub-permit.

(4) Application Packet. A permittee shall submit to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov the required information listed below.

(A) Information listed in subsections 679.3(a)(5) and 679.3(a)(6)(A)1.a. through g.

(B) Resume or *curriculum vitae*. The applicant shall demonstrate the sub-permittee has completed at least 750 hours experience or experience that the department determines to be equivalent, completed no more than 10 years from the date of the application. The department may consider education in veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, or similar courses, as a substitute for up to 200 hours of the required experience based on the following criteria:

1. the number of hours of education and the curriculum;
2. if a certification, degree, or similar qualification was obtained; and
3. if the education was obtained at an accredited institution or program recognized by the U.S. Department of Education.

(5) Final Approval. The department shall authorize a permittee to allow a sub-permittee to operate a satellite facility under the permit if the applicant has demonstrated that the sub-permittee meets all standards pursuant to subsections 679.3, 679.4, and 679.5.

(6) Inspections. The permittee or their designee shall visit each satellite facility at least twice each calendar year, no sooner than every 3 months within that calendar year. The permittee or their designee shall retain a written record of each inspection pursuant to the inspection standards listed in Section 679.7(a)(1)(A) through (K); and submit such written record to the department with the annual report.

(d) Long-Term Possession of Rehabilitation Animals.

A permittee or sub-permittee may request in writing to the department via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov for approval to possess a rehabilitation animal for more than 180 days.

(1) The department may authorize the permittee or sub-permittee to temporarily possess a rehabilitation animal for more than 180 days if the department determines that continued possession is necessary for the welfare of the animal.

(2) The department may require a permittee or sub-permittee to provide additional information, such as patient records, estimated duration of confinement, and a licensed veterinarian's written plan for long-term care of the animal.

(e) Transition Period. The department shall allow a permittee issued a permit prior to January 1, 2024, to operate under their permit conditions and existing memorandum of understanding until December 31, 2024. Thereafter, all permittees, sub-permittees, and their designees shall comply with all requirements pursuant to sections 679.1 through 679.9.

PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

A person interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator in California shall first establish contact with a currently permitted wildlife rehabilitator or their designee to gain the required experience and expertise. Other relevant experience may also be gained at an accredited zoo, animal sanctuary, restricted species permitted facility, and/or veterinary hospital. A working relationship shall also be established with a veterinarian licensed in the state of California who is willing to accept the role of Veterinarian of Record under the permit. The Veterinarian of Record shall have experience with wildlife, animals of similar taxa, or other relevant experience.

TABLE 1. CRITICAL REQUIREMENTS WHEN CHOOSING A WILDLIFE REHABILITATION MENTOR

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Shall be in good standing with the department;▪ Shall have accessible written personnel training protocols;▪ Shall have accessible written standard operating procedures;▪ Shall provide regular communication and constructive feedback;▪ Shall have knowledge of the scientific and common names of common native wildlife in California.

A person interested in becoming a wildlife rehabilitator in California must also possess – or be in the process of possessing – any other required state or federal permits (Appendix C) *prior* to being granted a wildlife rehabilitation permit by the department.

To prepare for and pass the free California state wildlife rehabilitation examination, a person shall demonstrate basic wildlife rehabilitation concepts, standard practices and procedures, diseases of concern, and the life history of common native wildlife in California. This broader knowledge is critical, as a wildlife rehabilitator may regularly receive calls, questions, or even the animal itself, of a species outside their area of expertise. Several valuable reference resources are available including field guides, natural history books, academic, scientific and conservation organizations (Appendix D).

The California state wildlife rehabilitation examination administered online by the department (i) has 100 definition, multiple-choice, and true-false questions; and (iii) 120 minutes maximum allotted to complete all questions. The department provides sample questions from the actual examination with an answer key (Appendix E) to help applicants prepare for the examination. A person seeking

permission from the department to temporarily possess any specialty rehabilitation animal, must also take and pass the free California state specialty rehabilitation examination. The California state specialty rehabilitation examination is (i) administered online; (ii) consists of 40 definition, multiple-choice, and true-false questions; and (iii) 90 minutes maximum is allotted to complete all questions.

The applicant shall communicate with the department's Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program staff as regularly as needed to prepare a complete application package. Standardized forms, templates, and resources shall be provided to the applicant, upon request. The department shall be available by email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov to respond to questions and provide technical assistance to prospective and current wildlife rehabilitators in California.

§ 679.4 FACILITY AND CAGING STANDARDS

(a) Provisions Related to the Operation of a Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility.

- (1) Responsibility for Costs Incurred.** The permittee, sub-permittee, and their designee shall be responsible for any and all costs incurred in connection with the treatment, confinement or transportation of any rehabilitation animal; or for costs incurred by the department or its designee related to the re-capture, or elimination of the threat, of an escaped animal.
- (2) Liability.** The permittee, sub-permittee, and/or their designees shall indemnify, defend and save harmless the State, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims and losses occurring or resulting to any person or property in connection with the treatment, confinement or transportation of wildlife.
- (3) Continuing Education.** All wildlife rehabilitation facility personnel, whether professional or volunteer, shall satisfactorily complete 12 hours of wildlife rehabilitation training each year, including trainings such as California natural history, species identification, wildlife handling and restraint, animal husbandry, veterinary treatment, rehabilitation standards, enrichment techniques, facility management, and relevant laws and regulations. Training resources and guidance are available on the department's Wildlife Rehabilitation Program at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab>.
- (4) Display of Permit and Emergency Action Plan.** The permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee shall display the permit, or a copy of the permit issued by the department, and any other required permit(s), in a location at the facility that is visible to all staff, volunteers, and the public. The written emergency action plan specified in section 679(b)(5)(A)(7) shall be kept in a conspicuous place and readily available in the event of an emergency such as an escape, an attack, or an evacuation.
- (5) Compliance With Other Restrictions.** These regulations, or any permit issued pursuant thereto, do not authorize possession of any wild animal in violation of any other Federal, state, city, or county law, ordinance or regulation, including but not limited to any California Department of Health Services Rabies Control regulations.
- (6) Facility Changes.** The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall notify the WHL in writing via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov of any change of facility name or address, change in management, or modification to enclosures within 10 days of the change.

FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

At the discretion of the wildlife rehabilitator or their designee, facility information may be provided as a public resource on the department's webpage at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab>. A permittee or their designee may choose *not* to make their facility information available to the public in this manner. Wildlife rehabilitators are voluntarily providing a service, and as such: (i) are not legally or ethically obligated to pick up, transfer, or accept any animal from a member of the public; (ii) may choose when, where, and at any given time, if willing and able to pick up or receive an animal; (iii) may decline to rehabilitate any animal they do not feel comfortable having in their facility; and (iv) may refer someone to another facility, local agency, or the department.

A wildlife rehabilitator, their designee(s), staff and/or volunteers may also regularly receive other types of wildlife calls or reports from the public. The department recommends that wildlife rehabilitators establish protocol(s) to refer members of the public more easily to the appropriate resource for more information and/or assistance. This approach may serve to alleviate the volume of non-wildlife rehabilitation calls that may be received at the wildlife rehabilitation facility. The department strives to provide resources to the public for general information, technical assistance, and reporting purposes.

TABLE 2. PUBLIC REPORTING RESOURCES

- For information about human-wildlife interactions and/or conflict, refer to the department's Human-Wildlife Conflict Program webpage at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/HWC>.
- To report a wildlife incident, property damage, and/or conflict to the department's Wildlife Incident Reporting System at: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir>
- To report a wildlife mortality or disease to the department's Wildlife Health Laboratory at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/WHL>
- For information about invasive species, refer to the department's Invasive Species Sighting Report System at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Report>
- Refer calls about domestic or feral animals to the local animal services division or humane society.

(b) Caging Requirements for Rehabilitation Animals.

Permittees and sub-permittees shall comply with the specific outdoor enclosure and caging size requirements listed in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual.

- (1) All enclosures shall be completely enclosed unless otherwise specified.
- (2) All enclosures shall be constructed to prevent ingress or egress at will by any predator.
- (3) All enclosures shall be constructed to prevent ingress or egress at will by any rehabilitation animal. Outdoor enclosures for birds, species of the Order Carnivora, and specialty rehabilitation animals shall have a double-door entry system to prevent animal escape.
- (4) Only compatible animals shall be held in the same enclosure if the required floor space is provided.
- (5) Species-appropriate enrichment and proper housing shall be provided for each rehabilitation animal that is suitable to their developmental stage, medical condition, and stage of rehabilitation.
- (6) All enclosures shall have a sheltered retreat or hide for each animal to be fully hidden and ingress and egress at will.
- (7) An artificial heat source shall be provided that is sufficient to maintain the minimum ambient air temperature if the ambient air temperature falls below that necessary to maintain the welfare of the animal.
- (8) All enclosures shall be provided with sufficient drainage to prevent standing water from accumulating.
- (9) Olfactory and visual separation shall be maintained between non-conspecific rehabilitation animals and domestic animals and restricted species. Suitable barriers shall be constructed so that animals cannot intermingle or gain access to each other.
- (10) Rehabilitation animals shall have minimal direct human contact and shall not be displayed to the public. Every reasonable effort shall be made to prevent imprinting on humans.

CAGING REQUIREMENTS

Wildlife rehabilitators must know the basic ecology, behavior, and life history of the species of each rehabilitation animal they temporarily possess. This knowledge is required in order to construct and maintain all caging requirements, that shall include but not be limited to the type(s) of enrichment required for each animal (e.g., behavioral, environmental). Further, different enclosure types shall be used for rehabilitation animals at *each* stage of their rehabilitation prior to release to the wild.

- Neonate¹ – Confine newborn or newly hatched animals in a manner that limits mobility to prevent injury, allow for medical treatment, recovery, and observation prior to pre-release conditioning.
- Limited Mobility² – Confine juvenile or adult rehabilitation animals in a manner that limits

mobility to prevent injury, allow for medical treatment, recovery, and observation prior to pre-release conditioning.

- Pre-Release³ – Confine juvenile or adult rehabilitation animals in a manner that allows full mobility to exercise and display natural behaviors such as flying, hunting, or foraging.

Mammal Requirements

TABLE 3. OUTDOOR ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MAMMALS

Order Insectivora

1. Mole, Shrew

- a. Moles and shrews shall not be housed in an outdoor enclosure. Each animal shall only be housed in an indoor enclosure constructed of smooth-surface plastic or glass to prevent animal escape by digging or climbing.
- b. Enclosures shall be covered by a shade cloth or similar protective covering to provide each animal protection from full-spectrum light or natural sunlight.

Order Lagomorpha

1. Rabbit, Hare

- a. Each animal shall be provided (i) fibrous food, wood, bone, or similar tooth-resistant materials to gnaw on; and (ii) a sheltered retreat or hide for each animal to be fully hidden and ingress and egress at will.
- b. Floors shall be constructed of concrete covered with hay, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- c. Walls shall be constructed of 16-gauge chain link or welded steel wire covered with hardware cloth and buried at least 12 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.

Order Rodentia

1. All Rodents

- a. Each animal shall be provided fibrous food, wood, bone, or similar tooth-resistant material to gnaw.

2. Native Rat, Mice, Vole

- a. Each animal shall only be housed in an indoor enclosure constructed of smooth-surface plastic or glass to prevent animal escape by digging or climbing. Animals shall not be housed in an outdoor enclosure.
- b. Floors shall be covered with hay, paper bedding, mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.

3. North American Beaver

- a. Each enclosure shall have a pool constructed of metal or concrete covering at least ½ of the required floor space, filled with fresh water at least 2½ feet deep in the shallow portion of the pool. Each animal shall be able to ingress and egress at will from the pool.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 9-gauge chain link or welded steel wire buried at least 6 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.
- c. Floors shall be constructed of concrete covered with heavy-duty rubber drainage mats, mulch, or non-abrasive sand.

4. North American Porcupine

- a. Each animal shall be provided (i) at least 2 tree limbs of various diameter for climbing; and (ii) an elevated platform at least 2 feet high.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 9-gauge chain link or welded steel wire buried at least 6 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.
- c. Floors shall be constructed of concrete and covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.

5. Squirrel, Chipmunk

- a. Each enclosure shall be fully enclosed with walls constructed of welded steel wire.

- b. Floor shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with wood shavings, mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- c. Each tree or flying squirrel shall have (i) a minimum of 2 tree limbs of various diameters for climbing; and (ii) an elevated platform at least 4 feet high.

Order Carnivora**1. Badger**

- a. Floors shall be constructed of concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 9-gauge chain link or welded steel wire anchored or buried at least 6 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.

2. Bobcat

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 tree limbs of various diameters greater than or equal to 2 inches for climbing and scratching; and (ii) an elevated platform at least 4 feet high.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire and buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.
- c. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.

3. Ringtail

- a. Each animal shall have a minimum of two sheltered retreats or hides for each animal to be fully hidden and ingress and egress at will.
- b. Each enclosure shall have at least 4 tree limbs of various diameters greater than or equal to 2 inches and/or elevated perches at least 4 feet high for climbing.
- c. Enclosures shall be fully enclosed with walls constructed of concrete or 11-gauge chain link buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.
- d. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.

4. Raccoon

- a. Enclosures shall be constructed of stainless steel. Enclosures and any related items used for raccoons shall be designated solely for raccoons to prevent risk of transmitting raccoon roundworm to other animals. The most effective method to kill roundworm eggs is to flame-sterilize cages and enclosures between use. Roundworm eggs cannot be killed by conventional cleaning or disinfectants.
- b. Each animal shall have at least 4 tree limbs of various diameters greater than or equal to 2 inches for climbing.
- c. Enclosures shall be fully enclosed with walls constructed of concrete or 11-gauge chain link buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.
- d. Floors shall be constructed of concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.

5. Skunk

- a. Enclosures shall be constructed of stainless steel. Enclosures and any related items used for skunks shall be designated solely for skunks to prevent risk of transmitting skunk roundworm to other animals. The most effective method to kill roundworm eggs is to flame-sterilize cages and enclosures between use. Roundworm eggs cannot be killed by conventional cleaning or disinfectants.
- b. Each animal shall have a minimum of *two* sheltered retreats or hides for each animal to be fully hidden and ingress and egress at will.
- c. Floors shall be constructed of concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate at least 10 inches deep.
- d. Walls shall be constructed of 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire covered with hardware cloth and buried at least 12 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.

6. Weasel, Marten

- a. Each animal shall have at least 4 tree limbs of various diameters greater than or equal to 2 inches for climbing.
- b. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- c. Walls shall be constructed of 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire covered with hardware cloth and anchored or buried at least 6 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.

7. River Otter

- a. Each enclosure shall have a pool constructed of metal or concrete covering at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the required floor space, filled with fresh water at least 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep in the shallow portion of the pool. Each animal shall be able to ingress and egress at will from the pool.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 9-gauge chain link or welded steel wire buried at least 6 inches to prevent animal escape by digging.
- c. Floors shall be constructed of concrete and covered with heavy-duty rubber drainage mats, mulch, non-abrasive sand, or natural substrate.

8. Fisher

- a. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 11-gauge chain link or welded steel and anchored or buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.

9. Coyote

- a. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire and anchored or buried at least 12 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.
- c. The bottom half of the walls shall be covered with plywood, corrugated metal, plexiglass, heavy-duty plastic, or similar smooth surface to prevent animal escape by climbing.

10. Fox

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 tree limbs of various diameter greater than or equal to 2 inches for climbing; and (ii) an elevated platform at least 4 feet high.
- b. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- c. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire anchored or buried at least 12 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.
- d. The bottom half of the walls shall be covered with plywood, corrugated metal, plexiglass, heavy-duty plastic, or similar smooth surface to prevent animal escape by climbing.

Order Marsupialia**1. Opossum**

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 tree limbs of various diameter greater than or equal to 2 inches for climbing; and (ii) an elevated platform at least 4 feet high.
- b. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate.
- c. Walls shall be constructed of concrete, or 11-gauge chain link or welded steel wire and anchored or buried at least 6 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.

TABLE 4. CAGING SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR MAMMALS

Animal Type	Neonate ¹		Juvenile ² (Limited Mobility)		Juvenile ² (Pre-Release)		Adult ³ (Limited Mobility)		Adult ³ (Pre-Release)	
	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#

INSECTIVORA										
Shrew, Mole	1' x 2' x 1'	8	1' x 2' x 2'	8	2' x 2' x 2'	8	1' x 2' x 1'	1	2' x 2' x 2'	6
LAGOMORPHA										
Hare	1' x 2' x 1'	4	2' x 3' x 2'	4	20' x 20' x 6'	6	1.5' x 3' x 2'	1	20' x 20' x 6'	4
Rabbit	1' x 2' x 1'	6	2' x 1' x 1'	6	4' x 4' x 6'	6	1.5' x 2' x 2'	1	4' x 4' x 6'	4
RODENTIA										
Squirrel, Flying	1' x 2' x 1'	4	2' x 1' x 1'	4	4' x 4' x 8'	4	1' x 1' x 1'	1	4' x 8' x 8'	4
Squirrel, Tree	1' x 2' x 1.5'	5	1' x 2' x 1.5'	5	4' x 4' x 6'	5	2' x 2' x 2'	1	4' x 4' x 6'	5
Squirrel, Ground	1' x 2' x 1'	6	4' x 6' x 2'	6	4' x 6' x 6'	6	2' x 2' x 2'	1	4' x 6' x 6'	4
Chipmunk	1' x 2' x 1'	8	1' x 2' x 1.5'	8	3' x 6' x 6'	8	1' x 1' x 1'	1	3' x 6' x 6'	8
N.A. Porcupine	1' x 2' x 1'	1	3' x 6' x 3'	1	6' x 8' x 8'	1	3' x 6' x 3'	1	6' x 8' x 8'	1
N.A. Beaver	1' x 2' x 1.5'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	3	8' x 12' x 6'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	1	8' x 8' x 6'	2
Rat, Mice, Vole	1' x 2' x 1'	8	1' x 2' x 1.5'	8	2' x 6' x 2'	8	2' x 1' x 1'	1	2' x 4' x 2'	8
CARNIVORA										
Canidae										
Coyote, Fox	2' x 3' x 2'	6	3' x 6' x 3'	6	16' x 24' x 8'	6	3' x 6' x 3'	1	16' x 24' x 8'	4
Procyonidae										
Raccoon	1' x 2' x 1.5'	4	3' x 3' x 3'	4	12' x 16' x 8'	4	2' x 3' x 3'	1	12' x 16' x 8'	4
Ringtail	1' x 2' x 1.5'	4	3' x 3' x 3'	4	12' x 16' x 8'	4	2' x 3' x 3'	1	12' x 16' x 8'	1
Mustelidae										
Weasel, Marten	1' x 2' x 1'	6	3' x 3' x 3'	4	4' x 8' x 6'	4	3' x 3' x 3'	1	6' x 8' x 6'	4
River Otter	1' x 2' x 1.5'	3	6' x 12' x 6'	3	10' x 20' x 6'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	1	10' x 20' x 6'	3
Skunks	1' x 2' x 1.5'	6	2' x 4' x 3'	6	10' x 12' x 6'	6	3' x 3' x 3'	1	10' x 12' x 6'	6
Badger	1' x 2' x 1.5'	3	3' x 3' x 3'	3	12' x 16' x 6'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	1	12' x 16' x 6'	3
Felidae										
Bobcat	2' x 3' x 2'	4	3' x 6' x 3'	4	16' x 24' x 8'	4	3' x 6' x 3'	1	16' x 24' x 8'	2
MARSUPIALIA										
Opossum	1' x 2' x 1'	10	3' x 3' x 3'	10	10' x 12' x 6'	10	3' x 3' x 3'	1	10' x 12' x 6'	4

BIRD REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 5. OUTDOOR ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR BIRDS

1. All Birds

- Each enclosure shall have (i) a shallow pan at least 12" x 18" filled with a minimum of 1" of water, dirt or bathing dust depending on species for each animal to preen; (ii) a minimum of 3 stationary perches placed at different heights for each animal to perch; and (iii) a minimum of 3 tree limbs of various diameters placed at different heights for each animal to perch.
- Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, non-abrasive sand, or similar natural substrate.
- Ceilings shall be covered with soft nylon netting or hardware cloth to prevent access to the rafters or injury to each animal.
- Walls shall be constructed of ½" x ½" welded steel wire covered with soft nylon netting or hardware cloth to prevent injury to birds.

2. Woodpeckers

- Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 wood logs placed vertically or at an angle at a minimum height of 4' for each animal to climb; and (ii) at least 2 hollow logs for each animal.

3. Hummingbirds

- a. Each enclosure shall have at least 3 feeder stations for each animal placed at varying heights at least 2' high to reduce competition and prevent injury to each animal.

6. Kingfishers

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 branches for each animal to perch and hunt; and (ii) one pool covering at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the required floor space, filled with fresh water at least 4" deep, with a minimum of 6 live fish no larger than 4" long inside the pool for each animal.

7. Swifts

- a. A minimum of 2 walls of the enclosure shall be covered with wood cork or similar coarse covering to allow each animal to cling to the walls at will.

8. Nighthawks, Nightjars

- a. Each animal shall have (i) at least 3 flat rocks with a minimum size of 6" x 12" to perch; and (ii) at least 1 water container placed at a minimum height of 2' off the ground. No containers of water shall be left on the ground to prevent injury or death to each animal.

9. Roadrunners

- a. Each animal shall have at least 1 woven basket-style nest placed at a minimum height of 2' for each animal to ingress and egress at will.

10. Corvids

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 2 wood logs with a minimum length of 3' placed on the enclosure floor for each animal; (ii) at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of the enclosure floor covered with pebbles or stones; and (iii) a minimum of 3 pinecones, shells, or similar enrichment items for each animal.

11. Waterbirds

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) a pool constructed of metal or concrete covering at least $\frac{1}{2}$ of the required floor space, filled with water at least 2' deep in the shallow portion of the pool; and (ii) a filtration and/or overflow system to maintain the quality of water in the pool. Each animal shall be able to ingress and egress at will from the pool.
b. The water temperature, depth, and salinity of each pool shall be appropriate to the species of waterbird housed in that enclosure.

12. Raptors

- a. Walls shall be constructed of vertical pressure-treated wood slats or solid wood.
b. Ceilings shall be constructed of pressure-treated wood slats, vinyl-coated 11-gauge chain link, or welded steel wire.

TABLE 6. CAGING SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR BIRDS

Bird Type	Neonate ¹		Juvenile ² (Limited Mobility)		Juvenile ² (Pre-Release)		Adult ³ (Limited Mobility)		Adult ³ (Pre-Release)	
	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#
Apodiformes										
Swifts	4" W x 2" H	8	2' x 2' x 2'	10	16' X 16' X 8'	20	1' x 1' x 1'	1	16' X 16' X 8'	20
Hummingbirds	3" W x 2" H	2	2' x 2' x 2'	5	2' x 4' x 6'	6	6" x 12" x 6"	1	4' x 4' x 8'	4
Caprimulgiformes										
Nighthawks, Nightjars	6" x 8" x 8"	4	2' x 3' x 3'	4	8' x 16' x 8'	8	1' x 1' x 1'	1	8' x 16' x 8'	4
Columbiformes										
Dove, Pigeon	6" W x 3" H	3	1' x 2' x 1'	3	8' x 16' x 8'	12	1' x 1' x 1'	1	8' x 16' x 8'	12
Coraciiformes										

Kingfishers	5" W x 3" H	1	2' x 3' x 3'	3	8' x 16' x 8'	8	1' x 1' x 1'	1	8' x 16' x 8'	4
Cuculiformes										
Cuckoos	8" W x 4" H	3	3' x 3' x 3'	3	8' x 16' x 8'	8	2' x 2' x 2'	1	8' x 16' x 8'	6
Passeriformes										
Songbirds	4" W x 2" H	6	2' x 2' x 2'	6	4' x 4' x 8'	6	6" x 12" x 6"	1	4' x 4' x 8'	4
> 5"									4' x 8' x 8'	6
< 5"	6" W x 3" H	4	3' x 4' x 3'	6	4' x 8' x 8'	8	1' x 1' x 1'	1		
Swallows	4" W x 2" H	5	3' x 4' x 3'	8	8' x 16' x 8'	20	6" x 12" x 6"	1	8' x 16' x 8'	20
Corvids	6" W x 3" H	4	3' x 4' x 3'	4	8' x 16' x 8'	8	1' x 1.5' x 1.5'	1	8' x 16' x 8'	6
> 17"	10" W x 5"	4			10' x 20' x			1		6
< 17"	H		3' x 4' x 4'	4	8'	6	1.5' x 2' x 2'		10' x 20' x 8'	
Quail, Grouse	1.5' x 1.5' x 1.5'	12	2' x 2' x 3'	12	8' x 8' x 8'	10	2' x 2' x 2'	4	8' x 8' x 8'	4
Piciformes										
Woodpecker	6" W x 4" H	6	3' x 3' x 3'	6	8' x 8' x 8'	8	1.5' x 1.5' x 1.5'	1	8' x 8' x 8'	4
> 12"									8' x 16' x 8'	4
< 12"	8" W x 6" H	4	3' x 3' x 6'	4	8' x 16' x 8'	6	2' x 2' x 2'	1		
Raptors										
Small Raptor	1.5' x 2' x 1.5'	6	6' x 6' x 6'	6	8' x 16' x 8'	4	1.5' x 2' x 1.5'	4	8' x 16' x 8'	4
Medium Raptor	1.5' x 2' x 2'	4	8' x 8' x 8'	4	12' x 30' x 12'	3	1.5' x 2.5' x 2'	3	12' x 30' x 12'	3
Large Raptor	1.5' x 2.5' x 2'	6	8' x 16' x 8'	4	12' x 50' x 12'	4	1.5' x 2.5' x 2'	4	12' x 50' x 12'	4
Very Large Raptor	3' x 3' x 3'	6	12' x 12' x 8'	4	16' x 100' x 16'	4	3' x 3' x 3'	4	20' x 100' x 16'	4

HERPTILE REQUIREMENTS

1. All Amphibians and Reptiles

- Each enclosure shall have (i) full-spectrum UV light or provide access to natural sunlight for each animal; (ii) a basking rock for each animal to lay on for the purposes of thermoregulation; and (iii) a shallow pan of water no more than 1" deep and large enough for each animal to ingress and egress at will.
- Floors shall be constructed of non-abrasive natural substrate or concrete covered with dirt or other non-abrasive natural substrate.

SPECIALTY REHABILITATION REQUIREMENTS

TABLE 7. ENCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALTY REHABILITATION ANIMALS

Large Carnivores

1. All Large Carnivores

- Each enclosure shall (i) mimic the natural environment to prevent habituation of each animal; and (ii) have a minimum of 1 tree limb at least 6' long and 1 scratch block at least 6' long for each animal.
- Each enclosure shall have for each animal to be fully hidden and ingress and egress at will, at least 1 lockable den constructed of concrete at least 4" or high-density polyethylene plastic pipe of a size at least 18" in diameter, 4' long, 4" thick, and secured vertically or horizontally to interior structure.
- Each enclosure shall have ground-level access for transport crates to allow for safe transfer of each animal to and from the enclosure.
- Walls shall be constructed of (i) concrete at least 4" deep; (ii) 9-gauge chain link or welded steel wire with mesh no larger than 2" in diameter, anchored or buried at least 12 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging; or (iii) vertical steel bars at least 5/8" in diameter spaced no more 4" apart, buried at least 12 inches deep to prevent animal escape by digging.

- e. Wall posts shall be constructed of (i) at least 1 7/8" schedule 40 steel pipe with (i) vertical posts spaced no more than 5' apart, set in concrete at least 2 1/2' thick to prevent animal escape by digging; and (ii) horizontal bottom posts no more than 3" from the concrete floor.
- f. Fencing shall be secured along the edges and bolted to the framework at least every 1'.
- g. The top of each outdoor enclosure shall be covered at least 1/4 with exterior grade plywood, fiberglass, or similar material to provide shade.

2. Black Bear

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 1 elevated wooden platform between 2' and 4' high for each animal; and (ii) a pool constructed of metal or concrete at least 3'x 3', filled with fresh water at least 2' deep, that each animal shall be able to ingress and egress at will.

3. Mountain Lion

- a. Each enclosure shall have at least (i) 1 elevated wooden platform at least 4' high for each animal; and (ii) 1 feeding area that is physically separate from the den site.

Large Ungulates**1. All Ungulates**

- a. Enclosures shall have (i) floors constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with mulch, dirt, or other natural substrate; and (ii) a roofed shelter with three walls constructed of 4x4 wood or galvanized steel.
- b. Fence posts shall be constructed of 4x4 wood or galvanized steel, spaced no more than 12' apart.

2. Elk

- a. Enclosures shall have a 7-foot vertical fence constructed of 9-gauge woven wire or chain link with mesh not more than 6 inches in diameter or equivalent.

3. Deer, Bighorn, Pronghorn

- a. Enclosures shall have a 6-foot vertical fence constructed of 11-gauge woven wire with mesh not more than 6 inches in diameter or equivalent.

Raptors**1. All Raptors**

- a. Each enclosure shall have at least (i) 3 stationary perches placed at different heights for each animal to perch; (ii) 3 tree limbs of various diameters placed at different heights for each animal to perch; and (iii) 2 elevated feeding platforms with a minimum of 4' placed at various heights for each animal to feed.
- b. Each enclosure shall have a shallow pan constructed of plastic or metal; or area on the ground at least 4' x 4' filled with a minimum of 3" water, dirt, or bathing dust for each animal to preen.
- c. Walls shall be (i) constructed of vertical pressure-treated wood slats, solid wood, or 1/2" x 1/2" welded steel wire covered with soft nylon netting or hardware cloth to prevent animal injury; and (ii) buried at least 12" to prevent animal escape by digging.
- d. Ceilings shall be constructed of pressure-treated wood slats, vinyl-coated 11-gauge chain link, or welded steel wire and covered at least 1/4 with shade cloth, plastic tarp, or similar material to provide shade and cover for each animal.
- e. Floors shall be constructed of natural substrate or concrete covered with at least 6" of mulch, dirt, non-abrasive sand, or similar natural substrate.

2. Osprey

- a. Each enclosure shall have at least one pool covering at least 1/4 of the required floor space, filled with fresh water at least 2' deep, with a minimum of 4 live fish between 4" to 12" long for each animal to hunt. Each animal shall be able to ingress and egress from the pool at will.

Bats

1. All Bats

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 4 food bowls for every 10 animals; (ii) at least 4 shallow water bowls filled with no more than 1" water and hung from the walls at least 4' high to prevent animal injury or drowning; and (iii) at least ½ of the enclosure ceiling covered with shade cloth to protect animals from UV- or direct sunlight.
- b. Walls shall be constructed of steel wire mesh with openings no larger than ½" x ½" and covered with hardware cloth or lightweight mesh to allow flying insects to enter.

2. Crevice-Dwelling Bats

- a. Each enclosure shall have (i) at least 1 bat box for every 10 animals placed on a wall near the ceiling at a minimum height of 6'; and (ii) soft mesh or shade cloth hung inside the enclosure for each animal to climb and hide.

3. Foliage Roosting Bats

- a. Each enclosure shall have a minimum of 4 tree branches for every 10 animals secured to the ceiling to allow each animal to hang freely for roosting purposes.

Venomous Snakes

1. Venomous snakes shall only be kept in an indoor enclosure (i) inside a lockable building; (ii) that is locked when not providing care or treatment for the welfare of each animal; and (iii) that has a floor constructed of concrete or glass covered with mulch, dirt, non-abrasive sand, or other natural substrate.
2. Each enclosure shall be clearly and conspicuously posted with a notice providing the following information: (i) the common and scientific name of the species contained inside; (ii) the number of animals of each species contained inside; (iii) a warning labelled "Venomous"; (iv) location of the nearest available source of antivenin; and (v) instructions on how to treat a venomous bite.
3. An animal removed from its enclosure for any purpose shall be kept in an enclosed container with (i) a secure locked lid; (ii) airholes or similar means of ventilation; and (iii) returned to its enclosure as soon as is practicable.
4. Snake tongs, snake tube, snake bags, and personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be used each time an animal is handled for any purpose.
5. A permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee shall provide notification to the department in writing by email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov within 48 hours of any venomous snake bite of a human or escape of any venomous snake from its enclosure.

TABLE 8. CAGING SIZE REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIALTY REHABILITATION ANIMALS

Type of Animal	Neonate ¹		Juvenile ² (Limited Mobility)		Juvenile ² (Pre-Release)		Adult ³ (Limited Mobility)		Adult ³ (Pre-Release)	
	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#	W x L x H	#
BATS										
Crevice dwelling	6" x 8" x 6"	4	1' x 1.5' x 1'	4	8' x 16' x 8'	4	1' x 1.5' x 1'		8' x 16' x 8'	4
Foliage roosting	6" x 8" x 6"	4	1' x 1.5' x 1'	4	10' x 20' x 8'	4	1' x 1.5' x 1'		10' x 20' x 8'	4
LARGE CARNIVORES										
Mountain Lion	2' x 2.5' x 2'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	3	20' x 36' x 13'	3	Not Allowed		Not Allowed	
Black Bear	1.5' x 2' x 2'	3	3' x 6' x 3'	3	20' x 36' x 13'	3	Not Allowed		Not Allowed	
UNGULATES										

Deer, Pronghorn, Bighorn Sheep	4' x 4' x 4'	2	10' x 15' x 8'	4	30' x 50' x 8'	6	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
Elk	6' x 6' x 4'	2	12' x 20' x 8'	4	50' x 80' x 8'	6	Not Allowed	Not Allowed
RAPTORS [ACCIPITRIFORMES]								
Falcon	1.5' x 2' x 1.5'	5	6' x 6' x 6'	5	8' x 16' x 8'	3	1.5' x 2' x 1.5'	3
Eagle, Osprey, Northern Harrier	3' x 3' x 3'	4	12' x 12' x 8'	4	16' x 100' x 16'	4	3' x 3' x 3'	4

(c) Variances to Caging Requirements.

Permittees and sub-permittees shall submit to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov any request for deviation in construction design or construction materials of the specific caging requirements listed herein.

- (1) The department may approve such deviations to these requirements on a case-by-case basis only if the department finds that the overall security and/or welfare of the animal(s) involved will be maintained.
- (2) Documentation of approved deviations shall be provided by the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee, to any inspector pursuant to Section 679.7. Deviations shall be approved and documented by the department; such documentation is a required record.
- (3) The department may require additional or alternative site-specific conditions necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, and/or human health and safety.
- (4) The department shall deny a variance to the caging requirements if the department determines, at its discretion, that the nonstandard caging or enclosure fails to maintain the overall security and welfare of the animal(s) involved. The permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee may appeal the department's final decision to the commission pursuant to Section 679.9(f).

§ 679.5 HUMANE CARE AND TREATMENT STANDARDS

(a) Care of wildlife in possession.

Every person who temporarily possesses a rehabilitation animal shall comply with the following provisions:

(1) Food. Food shall be accessible to all animals in the enclosure; and supplied in sufficient quantity and nutritive value to maintain the welfare of the animal. Animals shall be provided with a diet with consideration for the age class, species, and condition of each animal. Food receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary. Adequate measures shall be taken to prevent mold, contamination, deterioration, or caking of food.

(2) Water. Potable water shall be accessible to rehabilitation animals at all times or provided as often as necessary for the welfare of the animal as directed by a licensed veterinarian. Water receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitary. Adequate measures shall be taken to prevent mold and contamination.

(3) Cleaning of enclosures. Waste material shall be removed from enclosures at least once per day or the case of large pasture areas, large flight cages, or large natural habitat enclosures as often as necessary for the welfare of the animal as directed by a licensed veterinarian.

(4) Biosecurity practices. Programs of pest and parasite control, and communicable disease prevention shall be established and maintained by the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee pursuant to Section 679.3(a)(6)(A); and shall be reviewed annually by the veterinarian of record.

(A) The enclosure of a rehabilitation animal with, or suspected to have, a communicable disease, shall be disinfected in compliance with the direction the department or a licensed veterinarian once the animal has been removed from the enclosure.

(5) Handling. Animals shall be handled expeditiously and carefully so as not to cause unnecessary discomfort, stress, or physical harm to the animal or to cause the animal to imprint on people.

(6) Display of Animals. The permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee shall not display to the public, either physically or via social media, any rehabilitation animal that is temporarily possessed or confiscated as part of a legal or enforcement action; or in a manner that does not ensure the welfare of the animal; or increases the risk of habituation or imprinting of that animal.

(A) Any person handling a rehabilitation animal for physical display or via social media shall wear proper PPE.

(B) Rehabilitation animals presented for physical display or via social media shall only be referenced by intake number to distinguish the animal.

(7) Notification Requirement for Diseased Animals. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall report to the department by telephone at (916) 358-2790 or via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov within 48 hours of receiving a rehabilitation animal that is suspected of having a disease of concern listed in the department's 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual; and shall include the following information:

(A) Common species name, scientific name if known, sex if known, age class, suspected disease of concern, clinical signs, any known human or animal exposure.

(B) The carcass shall be refrigerated for up to 48 hours, or frozen and made physically available for up to 10 business days to the department or their designee, at the

direction of the department, if the department determines it necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety.

(8) Notification Requirement for Unlawful Take of Animals. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall report to the department by telephone at (888) 334-2258 or via text to 847411 (tip411) by texting "CALTIP" within 48 hours of becoming aware of receiving a rehabilitation animal that the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee believes has been harmed in violation of Penal Code Section 597, unlawfully taken or possessed pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 86, or if the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee believes any other violation has occurred. The report shall include the following information:

(A) Common species name, scientific name if known; sex if known; age class; suspected violation; reporting party contact information, location where the animal was found; and any other available pertinent information.

(B) The carcass shall be refrigerated for up to 48 hours, or frozen and made physically available for up to 10 business days to the department or their designee, at the direction of the department.

(9) Notification Requirement for Unauthorized Animals. A permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall notify the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 358-2790 within 48 hours if they receive any animal they are not authorized to possess. The department shall direct the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee to transfer the animal to another facility, euthanize, release to the wild, or take other reasonable measures.

(b) Treatment of wildlife in possession.

Every person who temporarily possesses a rehabilitation animal shall comply with the following provisions:

(1) Animal intake. Permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall maintain and adhere to an animal intake protocol to ensure the humane care and welfare of each animal, that shall include the following requirements:

(A) triage criteria based on medical condition, age class, and species;

(B) adequate holding conditions that provide appropriate confinement and protection from direct sunlight, precipitation, and temperature extremes;

(C) for a facility with business hours open to the public, clearly post sign(s) on the premises providing written after-hours instruction for persons temporarily confining any animal pursuant to Section 679.2.

(2) Daily observation. Permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall record written observation of a rehabilitation animal's condition each day that shall include general behavior, medical condition, and veterinary treatment. Each enclosure shall be labelled with the identification of each species in that enclosure, number of animals of each species, and identification of each individual animal as designated by the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee.

(3) Veterinary surgery. A licensed veterinarian shall perform veterinary medical or surgical intervention of a rehabilitation animal only for the purposes of its release to the wild, in coordination with the permittee, sub-permittee or designee, pursuant to Business and Professional Code Section 4826.2.

(A) The permittee or sub-permittee shall submit a request to the department in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov or by telephone at (916) 358-2790 for consultation with the WHL for non-routine surgical intervention, such as a limb amputation of a bipedal species, wing amputation of any bird, or medical procedures that the department or a licensed veterinarian can reasonably determine will prevent

releasing the rehabilitation animal to the wild and/or fail to maintain the welfare of the animal.

(4) Cross-foster. If a permittee, sub-permittee, or designee is in possession of an adult conspecific animal possessed pursuant to sections 671.1(b) or 679.3(b), such an animal may be used to foster neonate and juvenile conspecific animals for the purposes of facilitating such foster animal's return to the wild.

(5) Egg incubation. A permittee, sub-permittee, or designee may incubate native avian eggs for the purposes of rehabilitation, except for non-native avian species, such as European starling, English house sparrow, Eurasian collared dove, mute swan, or rock pigeon; domestic, feral or hybrid birds; fish, reptile, or amphibian eggs; eggs of any species listed pursuant to Section 671; or eggs of unknown species or origin. This section shall not preclude the need for other required permits, such as a federal migratory bird permit and federal or state scientific collecting permits.

(c) Written Record Requirement.

The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall maintain legible written records in the English language, though they may be accompanied by translations in other languages, for each rehabilitation animal as described below.

(1) Intake history. An intake history shall include the date and time of intake to the facility; name, phone, and address of the finder; date and location where the animal was found; and if the animal caused harm or injury to any person or domestic animal.

(2) Patient record. A patient record that shall include the following information:

- (A)** intake number;
- (B)** common species name, and scientific name if known;
- (C)** age class and sex, if known;
- (D)** identifying physical marks or characteristics;
- (E)** microchip, band, tag, or permanent identifier if applicable;
- (F)** description of medical condition(s), intervention(s) and treatment(s);
- (G)** daily observations recorded pursuant to subsection 679.5(b)(2);
- (H)** name and signature of the person(s) treating the wild animal;
- (I)** patient outcome that includes date of transfer to another facility, euthanasia, dead on arrival, death in care, or release to the wild.

(3) Annual report. The permittee or designee shall provide to the department in writing via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov an annual report for the prior calendar year no later than January 31, even if no activity occurred under the permit. The permittee or designee may utilize this form, or the annual report form generated by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (WRMD). The annual report shall include the following required information:

1. total number of animal intakes;
2. summary table of animal patient outcome: Released to the wild (R), transferred to another facility (T), in care (IC), euthanized (E), dead on arrival (DOA), died in care (DC);
3. current list of authorized persons and sub-permittees, if applicable;
4. total number of animals possessed pursuant to Section 671.1; and
5. annual report for each sub-permittee.

(4) Availability of records. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall retain required records for 5 years from the date issued and make those records available inspection immediately on demand by the department or its designee.

(d) Animals not returned to the wild.

(1) Euthanasia.

The permittee and sub-permittee shall determine, in conjunction with a licensed veterinarian, circumstances when the welfare of an animal will be better served by euthanasia rather than attempting or continuing treatment, release to the wild, or placement pursuant to section 671.1. The permittee and sub-permittee shall comply with the following requirements:

(A) A permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall complete a minimum of 4 hours of euthanasia training as provided by a licensed veterinarian, registered veterinary technician, or the California Animal Welfare Association prior to euthanizing any animal.

1. Permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall maintain written proof that all personnel involved in the euthanasia of any wild animal has completed such training.

2. Only methods of euthanasia described in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual available on the department's webpage at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab> shall be used.

3. The veterinarian of record shall maintain a current inventory of controlled substances and drugs prescribed to any rehabilitation animal, in coordination with the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee, and be liable for the possession, storage, administration, tracking, and disposal of any such substance, pursuant to the United States Controlled Substances Act, the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act, and Health and Safety Code Section 1718. The department shall not be liable for improper storage, misuse, or theft of any controlled substance or drug prescribed by a licensed veterinarian to a rehabilitation animal.

4. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall dispose of any animal carcass in accordance with federal, state, and local ordinances, code, and regulations.

5. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall submit to the department any request to taxidermy or donate a carcass or parts thereof to a zoological garden, museum, college, university or other educational/research institution, or wildlife exhibitor in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov.

a. The department shall provide to the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee notification in writing by email within 10 business days of the department decision to approve or deny the request to taxidermy or donate a carcass.

b. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall transfer any carcass and/or parts approved by the department to taxidermy or donate with written documentation of lawful possession, which shall accompany such specimens at all times. This documentation shall include the following information:

(i) permitholder name, telephone, email, mailing address, permit number or GO ID, facility name and location;

(ii) species scientific name and common name;

(iii) brief description of carcass or parts transferred;

(iv) date and method of take such as euthanasia, natural or unknown causes;

(v) recipient name, telephone, email, mailing address, title and affiliation, facility or entity name and location, permit number or GO ID if applicable.

- c. A fully protected species shall not be possessed unless such carcass or parts thereof was obtained pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050, or 5515.

(2) Permanent Placement.

The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall provide to the department, in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov, notification and request for potential permanent placement of a rehabilitation animal by the department pursuant to section 671.1, within 5 business days of the animal being considered not suitable for release to the wild. The written notification shall include the following information:

(A) Requesting party name, department permit number, mailing address, phone, email, facility physical address, and facility name.

(B) Animal information. Common and/or scientific species name; intake number; microchip, band, tag or other permanent identifier, if applicable; age class; sex; intake date; date of most recent examination; name of person performing examination.

(C) Animal condition. Brief description of why the rehabilitation animal may be considered not suitable for release to the wild, which may include but not be limited to: permanent visual impairment; inability to walk, perch or fly; amputated leg, foot, digit, tail, or wing; unable to perform natural behaviors; permanent damage to skin, scales/scute, fur, or feathers; permanent severe and/or chronic pain; neurologic issues; habituated, human imprinted, or food conditioned; known or suspected to have any disease; spinal injury causing paralysis or paresis; unable to eat, drink and/or ambulate on its own; and other.

(D) Animal temperament. Identify the temperament of the animal from the following list: Human handling causes little behavioral stress to the animal; human handling causes behavioral stress to the animal; capable of providing species appropriate care for neonate or juvenile conspecifics in a captive setting as a potential surrogate.

(E) Animal welfare requirements. Identify any requirements necessary to maintain the welfare of the animal, including but not limited to required medication, medical treatment, limited activity, special diet or modified feeding, must be housed with other animals or housed alone.

1. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall have the rehabilitation animal examined by a licensed veterinarian for any animal identified as requiring medication, medical treatment, limited activity, special diet or modified feeding to maintain the welfare of that animal if permanently placed pursuant to Section 671.1.

2. If applicable, the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall provide the name, license number and expiration date, employer address, phone, and email of the licensed veterinarian.

(F) Proposed facility placement. Identify the name and location of any proposed facility for captive placement of the rehabilitation animal, if applicable.

(G) The department shall evaluate the request and the required information, and respond to the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee within 10 business days in writing by email of the department's denial or approval of the request.

1. The department shall place a non-releasable rehabilitation animal in a facility pursuant to Section 671.1 only in such cases where the department determines at its discretion that (i) all conditions necessary to protect the welfare of the animal for the remainder of its natural life are met; (ii) all

conditions necessary to protect human health and safety are met and (iii) a facility selected by the department is available to receive the animal.

2. The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee shall euthanize a non-releasable rehabilitation animal if the department determines that not all conditions necessary to protect the welfare of the animal, human health, and safety are met; or a facility selected by the department cannot receive the animal for any reason.

(e) Animals not native to California.

A permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee shall not temporarily possess for rehabilitation purposes any animal listed pursuant to Section 679.2(a)(3). The department recommends euthanasia, at the discretion of the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee.

(1) Virginia opossums, Eastern gray squirrels, Eastern fox squirrels, rock pigeons, although not native to the state of California, may be rehabilitated and released to the wild, at the discretion of the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee.

(2) Red foxes shall not be released into the wild unless determined by the department or its designee to be a native Sierra Nevada Red Fox.

(3) Barred owls shall not be released into the wild for any reason.

CARE REQUIREMENTS

A wildlife rehabilitator shall only intake rehabilitation animals of a species that they are prepared to temporarily possess. Correct species identification, dietary and enrichment, and proper cleaning and sanitation of enclosures are critical components of any care and treatment plan. Lack of familiarity with a species life history and/or proper handling techniques specific to the species can result in harm to the rehabilitation animal and human handler(s). In general, a rehabilitation animal shall be temporarily possessed for no more than 180 days (approximately 6 months) and potential veterinary medical and/or surgical intervention options shall be evaluated and undertaken within this context.

A wildlife rehabilitator shall transfer a rehabilitation animal to another wildlife rehabilitation facility for any foreseeable reason or due to animal welfare, health, safety, or financial reasons that may include but not be limited to:

- The condition of the animal is outside the available scope of expertise or experience.
- The caging and/or enclosures do not meet the requirements for the animal.
- The animal requires conspecific companionship for its welfare and release to the wild.
- The animal is a special rehabilitation animal, invasive, or restricted species that requires other permit(s) and/or authorization by the department to temporarily possess.
- The diagnostic or treatment equipment required to properly rehabilitate the animal are not available.
- Facility capacity for intaking and temporarily possessing any rehabilitation animal has been reached.

A wildlife rehabilitator and their designee(s) shall transfer rehabilitation animals only to other facilities located within the department's defined region to reduce the risk of disease transmission to healthy wild populations elsewhere in the State.

FEEDING REQUIREMENTS

A wildlife rehabilitator shall maintain an area for rehabilitation animal food preparation that is separate from the area where human food is prepared by a minimum distance of 6 feet. All food prepared for a rehabilitation animal shall meet the following requirements:

- Animal food shall be stored in an air-tight plastic or glass container with a tight-fitting lid to

prevent spillage of contents or access to the contents by any animal.

- Each food container shall be clearly labeled with the type of food, if it is perishable, and the discard date.
- Feeding and water schedule shall be posted for each rehabilitation animal with dates and times.
- Food shall be presented in a manner that mimics the natural feeding behaviors of each species, and that is consistent with the animal condition and stage of rehabilitation of each rehabilitation animal.
- Food and water receptacles shall be properly sized and placed within the enclosure in a manner that reduces the likelihood of tipping or spilling the contents, according to enclosure size, animal condition, and stage of rehabilitation of each rehabilitation animal.
- Food and water receptacle shall be kept clean and sanitized in a manner that minimizes organic waste contamination of the receptables and their contents.

A wildlife rehabilitator shall know the life stage and species-specific dietary needs and nutritional requirements of each rehabilitation animal. The most common nutritional deficiency observed in rehabilitation animals is metabolic bone disease. This disease can be prevented by maintaining a special diet with Calcium to Phosphorous (Ca:P) ratios and Vitamin D levels that are appropriate for each rehabilitation animal, based on life history, species, age, and condition of the animal. Clinical signs of this disease can be severe due to how the endocrine, skeletal, gastrointestinal, urinary, vascular, and nervous systems are affected. A proper diet can mean the difference between recovery and release to the wild or euthanasia.

A wildlife rehabilitator shall also closely observe neonate and juvenile animals and allow them to feed independently, as soon as reasonable. Young animals, especially bear cubs and fawns, are at increased risk of food conditioning or habituation during any stage of rehabilitation. A rehabilitation animal that is determined to be permanently habituated shall not be released to the wild. Such an animal is at greater risk of being harmed or injured during a human-wildlife interaction, less likely to survive in the wild, and potentially dangerous to humans or domestic animals.

TABLE 9. SPECIES NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Mammals

1. Mole, Shrew - Insectivore
2. Lagomorphs – Herbivore
3. Native Rat, Mice, Vole – Granivore
4. North American Beaver – Granivore
5. North American Porcupine – Granivore, frugivore
6. Tree Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Ground Squirrel, Chipmunk – Granivore, insectivore, omnivore.
7. Badger – Carnivore, granivore
8. Bobcat, mountain lion – Carnivore
9. Ringtail – Carnivore, insectivore, occasionally granivore
10. Raccoon, opossum – Omnivore
11. Skunk – Carnivore, insectivore, granivore
12. Weasel, Martin – Carnivore, occasionally granivore
13. River Otter – Piscivore, carnivore
14. Fisher – Carnivore
15. Black bear, coyote, fox – Omnivore
16. Bats – Species specific: nectivore, insectivore
17. Ungulates - Herbivores

Birds

1. Songbirds – Species specific: granivore, nectivore, frugivore, insectivore, omnivore.

2. Woodpeckers – Insectivore, omnivore
3. Native Doves and Pigeons – Granivore, frugivore
4. Hummingbirds – Nectivores, insectivores
5. Kingfishers – Piscivores, other aquatic organisms (i.e., shrimp, tadpoles)
6. Swifts – Insectivores
7. Cuckoos – Insectivores
8. Nighthawks and Nightjars – Insectivore
9. Roadrunners – Carnivore, insectivore, occasionally granivore
10. Corvids - Omnivores
11. Waterbird – Species specific: herbivore, granivore, insectivore, carnivore, omnivore
12. Raptors – Carnivore, piscivore

Herptiles

1. Frog, Toad, Salamander – Carnivore, insectivore
2. Snake – Carnivore

TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

A wildlife rehabilitator shall know how to effectively triage rehabilitation animals upon intake, recognize which animals require care first (i.e., urgent life-threatening conditions), and respond with the correct treatment. Some conditions are not treatable, and the rehabilitation animal must be euthanized as soon as humanely possible. For many animals, the best initial treatment is to (i) keep the animal isolated from other animals; (ii) temporarily confined in a warm, quiet, dark enclosure; (iii) examined closely for signs of disease or major trauma; and (iv) stabilized with fluid therapy.

A wildlife rehabilitator shall develop standard operating procedures that reduce an animal's exposure to unnecessary human interaction, prolonged handling or physical restraint, anthropogenic noise (e.g., human voice, radio), or other disturbance. Rehabilitation animals can be exposed to significant stress during treatment at any stage of rehabilitation. Prolonged or severe stress can affect the welfare of the animal and may affect when and how it can be released to the wild. Measures shall be taken during treatment to reduce a rehabilitation animal's risk of habituation or imprinting on humans. Treatment plans shall involve a critical assessment of the potential impact of each treatment, procedure, and anticipated recovery process on the welfare of the animal. Inferences about the impact shall be evidence based on scientific literature or derived from similar species or situational scenarios.

Wildlife rehabilitators shall not practice veterinary medicine unless they hold a current veterinary license in California.

CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

Waste material shall be removed from enclosures at least once per day or in the case of large pasture areas, large flight cages, or large natural habitat enclosures as often as necessary to maintain the welfare of each rehabilitation animal. Organic waste material must be removed prior to using any disinfectant or cleaning products. Wildlife rehabilitators, their designee(s), staff and/or volunteers shall carefully adhere to the directions for proper use of any disinfectant or cleaning products. The enclosure of any rehabilitation animal known or suspected to have zoonotic disease shall be disinfected in compliance with the direction of the department.

Individuals shall use proper PPE and have adequate ventilation while cleaning. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) shall be kept on site where chemicals are being used; any bottles/containers where diluted solutions are stored shall be labeled with the chemical name, dilution, and date mixed. As with all chemicals, read instructions for proper dilution, use, storage, and disposal.

TABLE 10. COMMON DETERGENTS AND DISINFECTANTS

Detergents

Dish soap, laundry detergent - Uses: Initial washing of enclosures, food and water bowls.

Alcohols

Ethanol, isopropyl alcohol - Uses: antiseptic on intact skin, cleaning instruments.

Aldehydes

Formaldehyde, Wavicide-01, Cidex® - Uses: Cold sterilization and disinfection.

Biguanides

Chlorhexidine-based products - Uses: Surgical skin preparation, wound care, antiseptic, disinfection.

Herbal-based Solutions

Concrobium® Broad Spectrum Disinfectant II - Uses: General cleaning and disinfection of hard surface.

Hypochlorites

Chlorine bleach (sodium hypochlorite) - Uses: Disinfection of nonmetallic surfaces.

Iodophores

Example: Betadine™ Solution (povidone-iodine) - Uses: Surgical preparation, disinfection, wound care.

Phenols

Examples: Hil-Phene®, Lysol® - Uses: General disinfectant, foot baths.

Quaternary Ammonium Compounds

Examples: Kennel Kare®SC, KennelSol®, Parvosol®II RTU- Uses: General cleaning and disinfection.

Oxidizing Agents

Peroxide-based compounds, Rescue®, Virkon S™ - Uses: Disinfection of hard, nonmetal surfaces.

Stabilized Chlorine Dioxides

Examples: Oxine®, Oxyfresh®Cleansing Gelé - Uses: General cleaning and disinfection.

DISEASES OF CONCERN

Communicable diseases can be caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, protozoans, vectors, or other agents, and may be transmitted between wildlife of the same or related species in the same area, domestic animals, or humans.

Wildlife rehabilitators are often at the forefront of emerging disease surveillance and monitoring. As such, they can play a significant role in protecting human and wildlife health. A wildlife rehabilitator shall monitor for, and report to the department and proper reporting agency (e.g., Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Public Health, Animal Services Division) any suspected or confirmed case of a disease of concern and if known or suspected exposure has occurred.

TABLE 11. DISEASES OF CONCERN IN CALIFORNIA [ZOO NOTIC]

1. Chronic Wasting Disease - Neurologic prion disease in deer, elk, and other cervids. Clinical signs include progressive weight loss, loss of awareness, and loss of natural fear of humans.
2. Deer Epizootic Hemorrhagic Diseases – Viral diseases in deer that include Deer adenovirus-1, bluetongue virus, and epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus. Clinical signs have significant variability from no signs to acute death. Deer adenovirus-1 is especially fatal to fawns and young deer.
3. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus (HPAI) – Viral disease caused by Type A influenza viruses naturally found in birds and mammals. Clinical signs include lethargy, tremors, head tilt, and death.
4. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus - Viral disease that affects domestic and wild lagomorphs (rabbit, hare). It can spread quickly and can cause high mortality in affected populations. Clinical signs include swelling, bleeding from the nostril, lethargy, neurologic symptoms, and acute death.
5. Rabies Virus– Viral disease in mammals transmitted via saliva. The most common rabies vector species are bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Clinical signs include loss of fear response, aggression, excessive drooling, lethargy, and paralysis.
6. Snake Fungal Disease – Fungal disease in snakes caused by *Ophidiomyces ophidiicola*. Clinical signs include poor body condition, scabs, skin ulcers or nodules, crusted or discolored scales, swollen or disfigured face, and cloudy eyes.
7. White Nose Syndrome – Fungal disease of bats caused by *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. It can cause up to 100% mortality in bat colonies during hibernation. Clinical signs include white powdery

fungus on the muzzle, ears, wings, or limbs; emaciation, abnormal behavior; and acute death.

Wildlife rehabilitators, their designee(s), staff and/or volunteers are at increased risk of disease exposure. Knowledge of potential risks, symptoms, and biosecurity practices is critical. Any person in regular close contact with rehabilitation animals shall inform their medical providers to facilitate accurate diagnosis and timely treatment. Diagnostic testing is generally required to confirm disease diagnoses, regardless of symptoms. Medical alert cards for wildlife professionals are available from the U.S. Geological Survey website at: <https://www.usgs.gov/media/files/medical-wallet-card-wildlife-professionals>.

TABLE 12. OTHER COMMON DISEASES

1. Staphylococcus and streptococcus infection – Bacterial infections commonly spread by direct or indirect contact with infected skin. Clinical signs can include no signs, to dermal lesions and sepsis.
2. Leptospirosis (*Leptospira spp.*) – Bacterial infection transmitted via contaminated water or urine from infected mammals. Clinical signs can include kidney damage, liver damage, and death.
3. Cryptosporidiosis (*Cryptosporidium spp.*) - Gastrointestinal disease caused by a protozoan parasite that infects various animals. Clinical signs can include diarrhea, lethargy, and poor growth rates.
4. Salmonellosis (*Salmonella spp.*)– Bacterial infection found in mammals, bird, reptiles, and amphibians. Clinical signs can include dermal lesions, lethargy, and acute death.
5. Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*) – Bacterial infection primarily found in lagomorphs and rodents, transmitted via ticks and flies. Clinical signs can include lethargy, ulcers, diarrhea, and acute death.
6. Psittacosis (*Chlamydophila psittaci*) – Bacterial infection of birds transmitted via droppings or nasal discharge. Clinical signs can include lethargy, ocular or nasal discharge, and pneumonia.
7. Brucellosis (*Brucella spp.*) – Bacterial infection of mammals transmitted via milk or birthing fluids from infected animals. Clinical signs range in animals from inapparent disease to abortion.
8. Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*) – Bacterial infection in mammals, namely ungulate species. Clinical signs can include respiratory disease, arthritis, and acute death.
9. Hantavirus - Viral infection in rodents transmitted via aerosolized urine and feces. Clinical signs can range from inapparent disease in rodents to acute and severe respiratory disease in humans.
10. Valley Fever (*Coccidioidomycosis*) – Fungal infection transmitted via inhalation of fungal spores from contaminated soil or infected animal. Clinical signs can include lethargy, chills, and respiratory disease.
11. Toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*) – Parasitic infection caused by a protozoan parasite transmitted via feces or contaminated meat. Clinical signs can include lethargy, diarrhea, seizures, and death.
12. West Nile Virus - Viral infection in birds and humans transmitted via mosquitos. Clinical signs can include lethargy, neurologic disease, and death.
13. Raccoon roundworm (*Baylisascaris procyonis*) – Parasitic infection in raccoons transmitted via feces. Roundworm eggs can lay dormant for years prior to infecting a host. Raccoons typically have no clinical signs; clinical signs in other species can include blindness, neurologic disease, and death.
14. Skunk roundworm (*B. columnaris*) – Parasitic infection in skunks transmitted via feces. This parasite behaves similarly to *B. procyonis*. Skunks typically have no clinical signs; clinical signs in other species can include blindness, neurologic disease, and death. Note: Speciation of *Baylisascaris* is often not performed; some presumptive cases of *B. procyonis* may be *B. columnaris*.

EUTHANASIA REQUIREMENTS

Wildlife rehabilitators shall establish and maintain euthanasia procedures that are consistent with code and regulations. A rehabilitation animal shall be at a facility for only as long as it takes for it to heal or mature sufficiently to survive in the wild. A rehabilitation animal shall be deemed non-releasable if it cannot be released to the wild due to impairment caused by any of the following conditions:

- Permanent visual impairment (e.g., blindness in one or both eyes, reduced vision).
- Inability to walk, perch or fly.

- Amputated leg, foot, digit, tail, or wing (at or above humero-ulnar joint).
- Unable to perform natural behaviors (e.g., forage, hunt, climb, dig).
- Permanent damage to skin, scales/scute, fur, or feathers.
- Permanent severe and/or chronic pain (e.g., joint injury/arthritis).
- Neurologic issues (e.g., seizures).
- Habituated, human imprinted, or food conditioned.
- Known or suspected to have any disease.
- Spinal injury causing paralysis or paresis.
- Unable to eat, drink and/or ambulate on its own.

Such animals shall be euthanized or, in some cases, placed in captivity if deemed to be a suitable candidate (e.g., ambassador animal, education animal). For many rehabilitation animals, euthanasia rather than a life in captivity, is the most compassionate outcome.

TABLE 13. ACCEPTABLE EUTHANASIA TECHNIQUES FOR REHABILITATION ANIMALS

<p>1. Chemical Methods</p> <p>a. Pentobarbital sodium [preferred method] – Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>b. Potassium chloride [prior anesthesia required] - Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>2. Inhalant Gas Methods</p> <p>a. Anesthetic gas [e.g., isoflurane, nitrous oxide, desflurane, halothane, sevoflurane] – Small animals only (< 15 lbs.) - Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>b. Carbon dioxide [no amphibians] – Bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>3. Physical Methods</p> <p>a. Firearm [safety requirements] – Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>b. Blunt force trauma to head [if no other method available] – Small animals only (< 10 lbs.) - Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>c. Cervical dislocation [prior anesthesia preferred] – Small animals only (< 0.5 lbs.) - Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>d. Decapitation [if no other method available] - Amphibian, bird, small mammal, reptile</p> <p>e. Exsanguination [prior anesthesia required] - Amphibian, bird, mammal, reptile.</p> <p>f. Pithing [secondary method] - Amphibian, reptile.</p> <p>g. Thoracic compression [secondary method] – Small animals only – Bird, mammal.</p>

Acceptable methods of animal carcass disposal shall be based on the condition of the carcass, cause of mortality, species, and location of the wildlife rehabilitation facility. A wildlife rehabilitator and their designee(s) shall dispose of any rehabilitation animal that is euthanized or dies of natural causes pursuant to all federal, state, and local jurisdiction requirements. An animal that has been chemically euthanized must be disposed of in a way that prevents scavenging by free roaming domestic or wild animals.

Carcass disposal method may include any of the following: (i) incineration at a qualified facility; (ii) rendering at a qualified facility; (iii) burying to a sufficient depth to prevent excavation; (iv) transfer to an entity with a valid permit or department authorization to possess; or (v) transfer to the National Eagle Repository at the direction of the USFWS.

§ 679.6 RELEASE OF ANIMALS INTO THE WILD

(a) Requirement for Release of Wildlife Back into the Wild.

Rehabilitated wildlife may be released back into the wild only as directed by the department.

(1) The permittee, sub-permittee, or veterinarian of record as appropriate, shall confirm that an animal is in good physical health and displays species-specific and age-appropriate behaviors prior to returning it to suitable habitat. This section does not authorize any person, facility or organization to accept, possess, or relocate wildlife, except as otherwise authorized by these regulations.

(2) The department may require the marking of rehabilitation animals upon their release, including but not limited to large carnivores, ungulates, or other species of interest for the purposes of research or management, and to protect animal welfare, native wildlife, and/or human health and safety.

(A) In the instance whereby the department requires the marking of a rehabilitation animal, the department shall provide equipment, such as satellite collars, bands and/or tags, and written instructions to the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee for their use. Released rehabilitation animals must be marked according to those instructions.

(B) The permittee, sub-permittee, or designee may request of the department in writing via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov:

1. Permission to use their own bands or tags to mark a rehabilitation animal upon their release for the purposes of research or management, the tracking of an individual rehabilitation, and to protect animal welfare, native wildlife, and/or human health and safety.
2. Written protocol describing the marking process, management and use of data, and list of personnel who are trained to affix such band or tag to the rehabilitation animal.

(3) Any healthy wild animal trapped, temporarily confined, or removed from buildings, or otherwise taken or trapped in accordance with Fish and Game Code sections 4152 or 4180 shall either be immediately released in the area where it was taken or disposed of as directed by the department. Animals captured or taken pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, sections 401 and 402 are not candidates for rehabilitation.

(4) The permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee shall notify the department in writing via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov if a rehabilitation animal is deemed non-releasable pursuant to subsection 679.5(d)(4).

RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

Rehabilitation and release shall only be undertaken when the animal has a reasonable chance for survival in the wild. Rehabilitation animals shall be released as soon as the animal is deemed physically and behaviorally fit and conforms to the natural history of its species. A wildlife rehabilitator or their designee(s) shall release mammals and birds to suitable habitat within 50 miles of their place of origin, if known. A wildlife rehabilitator or their designee(s) shall first obtain authorization from the department prior to the release of any large carnivore or ungulate specialty rehabilitation animal at a location designed by the department.

A wildlife rehabilitator or their designee(s) shall release amphibians and reptiles to suitable habitat at their place of origin, without exception, to reduce the risk of disease transmission to healthy wild populations. A non-native species of amphibian or reptile or any native species of amphibian or reptile known to have been in captivity (e.g., pet or research specimen), or otherwise exposed to non-rehabilitation animals in captivity, shall not be released to the wild.

Wildlife rehabilitators and their designee(s) shall use the following criteria to evaluate if a rehabilitation animal is a suitable candidate for release to the wild.

TABLE 14. REHABILITATION ANIMAL CRITERIA FOR RELEASE TO THE WILD

1. Recovery from primary injury or illness.
2. Pre-release conditioning completed.
3. No exposure to infectious diseases and parasites during rehabilitation.
4. Exhibiting natural behaviors (e.g., hunting, foraging, conspecific recognition, predator avoidance).
5. Acclimated to weather and seasonal timing of release.
6. Availability of suitable habitat.
7. Permission to release animal at selected site (e.g., public, private property).

§ 679.7 INSPECTION OF WILDLIFE REHABILITATION FACILITY

(a) Inspection Standards.

(1) The department, or its designee, shall conduct inspections of any wildlife rehabilitation facility, enclosure, equipment, required records, and rehabilitation animals of the following persons: (i) applicants pursuant to Section 679.3, (ii) permittees renewing a permit that has been expired more than 6 months, (iii) permittees that move a facility to a new location; (iv) deviation in construction design or construction materials pursuant to Section 679.4. The department or its designee shall require review of the following information to conduct the inspection:

(A) Permitholder Information: facility name, date inspected, address, permit holder name, inspected by, and veterinarian of record.

(B) Inspection Type: initial, renewal, facility changes, new location, reinspection of inadequate facilities, or specialty rehabilitation addendum inspection.

(C) Species Groups: mammals (small, medium, large), specialty rehabilitation, birds (songbirds, waterbirds, other raptors), amphibians, and reptiles.

(D) General Administration and Procedures: hours of operation, phone call procedures (direct from public, answering service etc.), accepting wildlife directly from public, domestic animals on property, field response to injured/distressed wildlife, and treatment of rabies vector species.

(E) Policies and Safety: admissions, intake procedures, rabies vector species, epizootic/zoonotic disease transmission prevention and control, fire alarms/emergency exits, fire extinguishers (date serviced if applicable), emergency contacts and procedures posted, separate human food storage and break area, PPE available for handling wildlife, and footbaths.

(F) Required Records: records available for inspection pursuant to Section 679.5(c)(4).

(G) Personnel and Training: number of paid staff, number of volunteers, training opportunities, training records for staff and volunteers, safety manual for staff and volunteers, and permit provided to staff and volunteers.

(H) Animal Care, Handling, Euthanasia, and Disposal: additional consulting veterinarians; controlled substances, lockbox, and log; euthanasia, on site, staff euthanasia certification, process for euthanasia determination; surgical services on site; release criteria; indoor and outdoor caging standards; carcass storage and disposal; disinfection of caging, equipment, and supplies.

(I) Enclosures: minimum caging requirements, appropriate construction material, double door with locks, enclosure free of hazards such as sharps or toxins, visual barriers, predator proof, and appropriate substrate.

(J) Environmental Conditions and Enrichment: adequate ventilation, temperature control, photo period appropriate for the species, protection from elements (e.g., hide boxes, wind barriers etc.), water runoff/drainage, hide boxes, species specific enrichment, appropriate shelter/housing, shelves/perches, species adequately separated, measures to prevent habituation by caregivers, and pond/pool/bath when applicable.

(K) Food, Water, and Safety: pursuant to Section 679.5(a) separate area for wildlife food preparation, food is labeled and in pest-proof containers, food stored safely to prevent spoilage, perishable foods are dated with discard date, feeding schedule is posted for each animal with times, food is presented in appropriate manner, food and water dishes are clean/sanitized and not easily tipped or oversized, cleaning and disinfecting supplies are properly labeled, regular water schedule, organic/waste disposal, and pest management plan.

(L) Satellite Operations: number of satellite facilities, list of sub-permittees, and satellite inspection records/frequency of inspections.

(2) The department may conduct unannounced visits to inspect facilities, equipment, or wildlife possessed by the permittee or sub-permittee, and may enter the facilities of any permittee or sub-permittee when the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee are present, during a reasonable time of the day and on any day of the week. The department may inspect, audit, and/or copy any required record at any time. Permittees and sub-permittees shall allow and facilitate access to all areas of the rehabilitation facility to inspectors.

(3) The department shall deny the issuance of, or revoke, the permit of a permittee or sub-permittee, pursuant to Section 679.9, who (i) fails to meet all requirements and standards listed in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual; (ii) refuses to be available to participate in a facility inspection; or (iii) refuses to allow an inspection after three reasonable attempts by the department.

(A) Animals seized by the department pursuant to Section 679.7(a)(3) shall be subject to the provisions of Section 679.8.

(4) The department shall reinstate a permit denied or revoked pursuant to subsection 679.7(a)(3) if the permittee or sub-permittee allows the department to inspect the facility, equipment, wildlife possessed by the permittee or sub-permittee, or required records, and no violations of these regulations nor any permit conditions are observed during that inspection.

(5) The department may designate any employee of a federal, state, tribal, or local agency with jurisdiction over public safety, wildlife or animal care as an inspector authorized to carry out inspections on behalf of the department pursuant to Section 679.7.

(b) Re-inspection.

If the department identifies a violation during an inspection, the department shall require that the applicant, permittee, or sub-permittee, provide for one or more additional inspections within a specified time period prior to issuing, renewing, or amending a permit.

(1) The department shall provide a list of required facility changes to the permittee, sub-permittee, or designee, in writing via email within 30 days post initial inspection. The required facility changes shall be addressed within 60 days via receipt of proof of service; or additional time if needed and as determined by the department to best address required modifications.

(2) The department shall remove rehabilitation animals if the department determines that it is necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and/or safety pursuant to sections 679.3(b) and 679.8(b).

(3) The permittee or sub-permittee shall submit to the department in writing via email at RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov a request for re-inspection by the department or its designee of the wildlife rehabilitation facility or satellite facility.

(4) The department may return rehabilitation animals for temporary possession by the permittee or sub-permittee if during the re-inspection the department finds no further violations of sections 679, all inclusive.

§ 679.8 SEIZURE OF ANIMALS BY THE DEPARTMENT

(a) Seizure of Live Animals Possessed Pursuant to a Valid Permit or Sub-Permit.

The department shall seize any rehabilitation animal possessed by a permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee, if a permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee, has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code, these regulations, Penal Code section 597, or the terms and conditions of the permit or sub-permit, unless the department finds:

- (1) an action other than a seizure, such as a written warning issued to the permittee, is expected to cause the permittee to cure an existing violation or not violate in the future; or
- (2) the violation either did not adversely impact, and is not likely to adversely impact, animal welfare; native wildlife; agricultural interests of this state; or human health or safety.

(b) Seizure of Live Animals Possessed by a Person with an Invalid Permit or Sub-Permit.

A live animal possessed by a person whose permit or sub-permit has been denied or revoked pursuant to Section 679.9, or whose permit or sub-permit has expired for any reason, shall be transferred, humanely euthanized, or released pursuant to Section 679.6.

(c) Animals Seized Pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b).

The department shall require one of the following outcomes, as determined by the department at its sole discretion to be in the best interest of the animal, and is necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and safety:

- (1) seized in place;
- (2) transferred to a facility operated or permitted by the department, or to a person authorized to possess such animal;
- (3) humanely euthanized; or
- (4) released to the wild.

(d) Costs Incurred Pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b).

Costs incurred by either the department or another party for actions taken pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) shall be paid by the person from whom the live animal was seized. The department or other party may initiate a civil action for cost recovery.

§679.9 DENIAL AND REVOCATION OF PERMITS

(a) Denial of an Application.

The department shall deny the issuance of a new permit or renewal of a permit if either:

- (1)** the applicant fails to comply with any provision of subsections 679.3, 679.4. or 679.5; or
- (2)** the applicant, any sub-permittee, or their designee, has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, any applicable federal or state law, Penal Code sections 597, or the terms and conditions of the permit or a sub-permit, or has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, unless the department finds:
 - (A)** An action other than a denial, such as a written warning issued to the applicant, would likely cause the applicant to cure an existing violation or not violate in the future; or
 - (B)** The violation has either not severely adversely impacted or is not likely to severely adversely impact the welfare of wildlife possessed by the permittee; native wildlife; agricultural interests of this state; or human health or safety.

(b) Denial of a Sub-Permit.

The department shall deny a permittee approval to add a sub-permit if either:

- (1)** the applicant fails to demonstrate compliance with Section 679.3(c), or:
- (2)** the permittee, their designee or any authorized person, has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, any applicable federal or state law, Penal Code sections 597, or the terms and conditions of the permit, or has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, unless the department finds:
 - (A)** An action other than a denial, such as a written warning issued by the department to the applicant, would likely cause the applicant to cure an existing violation or not violate in the future; or
 - (B)** The violation has either not severely adversely impacted or is not likely to severely adversely impact the welfare of wildlife possessed by the permittee; native wildlife; agricultural interests of this state; or human health or safety.

(c) Revocation of a Permit.

The department shall revoke a permit if a permittee or sub-permittee, any employee or volunteer of the permittee or sub-permittee, has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, Penal Code sections 597, or the terms and conditions of the permit or a sub-permit, or has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, unless the department finds:

- (1)** An action other than a revocation, such as a written warning issued to the permittee, would likely cause the permittee to cure an existing violation or not violate in the future; or
- (2)** The violation has either not severely adversely impacted or is not likely to severely adversely impact the welfare of wildlife possessed by the permittee; native wildlife; agricultural interests of this state; or human health or safety.

(d) Revocation of a Sub-Permit. The department shall revoke a sub-permit if either:

- (1)** The permit is no longer valid;
- (2)** The permittee notifies CDFW in writing via email at Rehabwildlife@wildlife.ca.gov of the removal of a sub-permittee from the permit for any reason; or
- (3)** The permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee, has violated any provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto, Penal Code sections 597, or the terms

and conditions of the permit or a sub-permit, or has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude, unless the department finds:

- (A) An action other than a revocation, such as a written warning issued to the permittee, would likely cause the permittee to cure an existing violation or not violate in the future; or
- (B) The violation has either not severely adversely impacted or is not likely to severely adversely impact the welfare of wildlife possessed by the permittee; native wildlife; agricultural interests of this state; or human health or safety.

(e) Proof of Service and Method of Service.

A notification of a denial or revocation issued pursuant to this section, or a notification of a denial of a variance request pursuant to section 679.7(b) shall include a proof of service indicating the date the Department sent the notification. The department may send such a notification by United States Postal Service, overnight carrier, or electronic mail.

(f) Request for Reconsideration.

Any applicant or permittee whose application for a permit or sub-permit is denied, whose permit or sub-permit is revoked, whose variance request is denied, or who receives a notice of modification, may submit a written request for reconsideration to the department.

- (1) The request for reconsideration shall set forth the reasons why the Department should reconsider the denial, revocation, or notice of modification, and may include any relevant documents.
- (2) The request for reconsideration shall contain a statement signed and dated by the applicant or permittee under penalty of perjury that states in effect, "I declare under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this request for consideration is true and correct."
- (3) The request for reconsideration shall either be postmarked, if sent by the United States Postal Service or overnight carrier, or received by the department, if sent by electronic mail, no later than 30 days after the date on the proof of service described in paragraph (d). The department shall not accept a request for reconsideration that is submitted after the 30 day deadline or is not signed under penalty of perjury.
- (4) The department shall consider any information submitted with the request for reconsideration, and within 60 business days may, in its sole discretion, sustain, reverse, or amend its permitting decision, including based upon a mistake of fact or law, or because the permittee or applicant has taken corrective actions to meet all requirements and standards pursuant to department direction.
- (5) Any person denied a permit under these regulations may request a hearing before the commission to show cause why their permit request should not be denied.

(g) Effect of this Section on the Seizure, Transfer, Euthanasia, or Release of Wildlife.

Nothing in this section shall affect the seizure, transfer, euthanasia, or release of wildlife pursuant to Section 679.8.

APPENDIX A. CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME CODE EXCERPTS

§1050. General License Provisions

(a) All licenses, permits, tags reservations, and other entitlements authorized by this code shall be prepared and issued by the department.

§2000. Taking And Possessing In General

It is unlawful to take any bird, mammal, fish, reptile, or amphibian except as provided in this code or regulations made pursuant thereto. Possession of a bird, mammal, fish, or reptile or parts thereof in or on the fields, forests, or waters of this state, or while returning therefrom with fishing or hunting equipment is prima facie evidence the possessor took the bird, mammal, fish or reptile or parts thereof.

§2120. Regulations Governing Wild Animals

(a) The commission, in cooperation with the Department of Food and Agriculture, shall adopt regulations governing both (1) the entry, importation, possession, transportation, keeping, confinement, or release of any and all wild animals that will be or that have been imported into this state pursuant to this chapter, and (2) the possession of all other wild animals. The regulations shall be designed to prevent damage to the native wildlife or agricultural interests of this state resulting from the existence at large of these wild animals, and to provide for the welfare of wild animals and the safety of the public.

§2121. Escape or Release of Wild Animals

No person having possession or control over any wild animal under this chapter shall intentionally free, or knowingly permit the escape, or release of such an animal, except in accordance with the regulations of the commission.

§2122. Regulations for Guidance of Enforcement Officers

The commission shall promulgate regulations in cooperation with the State Department of Food and Agriculture for the guidance of enforcing officers. Such regulations shall include a list of the wild animals for which permits that may be issued under this chapter will be refused, and the disposition of such wild animals illegally imported into this state.

§2127. Eligible Local Entities

(a) The department may reimburse eligible local entities, pursuant to a memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to this section, for costs incurred by the eligible local entities in the administration and enforcement of any provision concerning the possession of, handling of, care for, or holding facilities provided for, a wild animal designated pursuant to Section 2118.

(b) The department may enter into memorandums of understanding with eligible local entities for the administration and enforcement of any provision concerning the possession of, handling of, care for, or holding facilities provided for, a wild animal designated pursuant to Section 2118.

(c) The commission shall adopt regulations that establish specific criteria an eligible local entity shall meet in order to qualify as an eligible local entity.

(d) For the purposes of this division, “eligible local entity” means a county, local animal control officer, local humane society official, educational institution, or trained private individual that enters into a memorandum of understanding with the department pursuant to this section.

§2150.2. Establishment of Fees

The department shall establish fees for permits, permit applications, and facility inspections in amounts sufficient to cover the costs of administering, implementing, and enforcing this chapter.

§2150.4. Inspection of Wild Animal Facilities

(a) The department or an eligible local entity shall inspect the wild animal facilities, as determined by the director's advisory committee, of each person holding a permit issued pursuant to Section 2150 authorizing the possession of a wild animal.

(b) In addition to the inspections specified in subdivision (a), the department or an eligible local entity, pursuant to the regulations of the commission, may inspect the facilities and care provided for the wild animal of any person holding a permit issued pursuant to Section 2150 for the purpose of determining whether the animal is being cared for in accordance with all applicable statutes and regulations. The department shall collect an inspection fee, in an amount determined by the department pursuant to Section 2150.2.

(c) No later than January 1, 2009, the department, in cooperation with the committee created pursuant to Section 2150.3, shall develop, implement, and enter into memorandums of understanding with eligible local entities if the department elects not to inspect every wild animal facility pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b). Eligible local entities shall meet the criteria established in regulations adopted pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 2157.

§2192. Regulation and Enforcement

Notwithstanding Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18900) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 11356 of the Government Code, or any other provision of law, regulations of the commission relating to the construction, fixtures, and other minimum caging standards adopted by the commission for the confinement of live wild animals pursuant to this chapter are not building standards subject to the approval of the State Building Standards Commission.

§3005.5. Methods of Taking

It is unlawful to capture any game mammal, game bird, nongame bird, nongame mammal, or furbearer, or to possess or confine any live game mammal, game bird, nongame bird, nongame mammal, or furbearer taken from the wild, except as provided by this code or regulations made pursuant thereto. Any bird or mammal possessed or confined in violation of this section shall be seized by the department. The commission may promulgate regulations permitting the temporary confinement of game mammals, game birds, nongame birds, nongame mammals, or furbearers for the purpose of treating the animals, if injured or diseased.

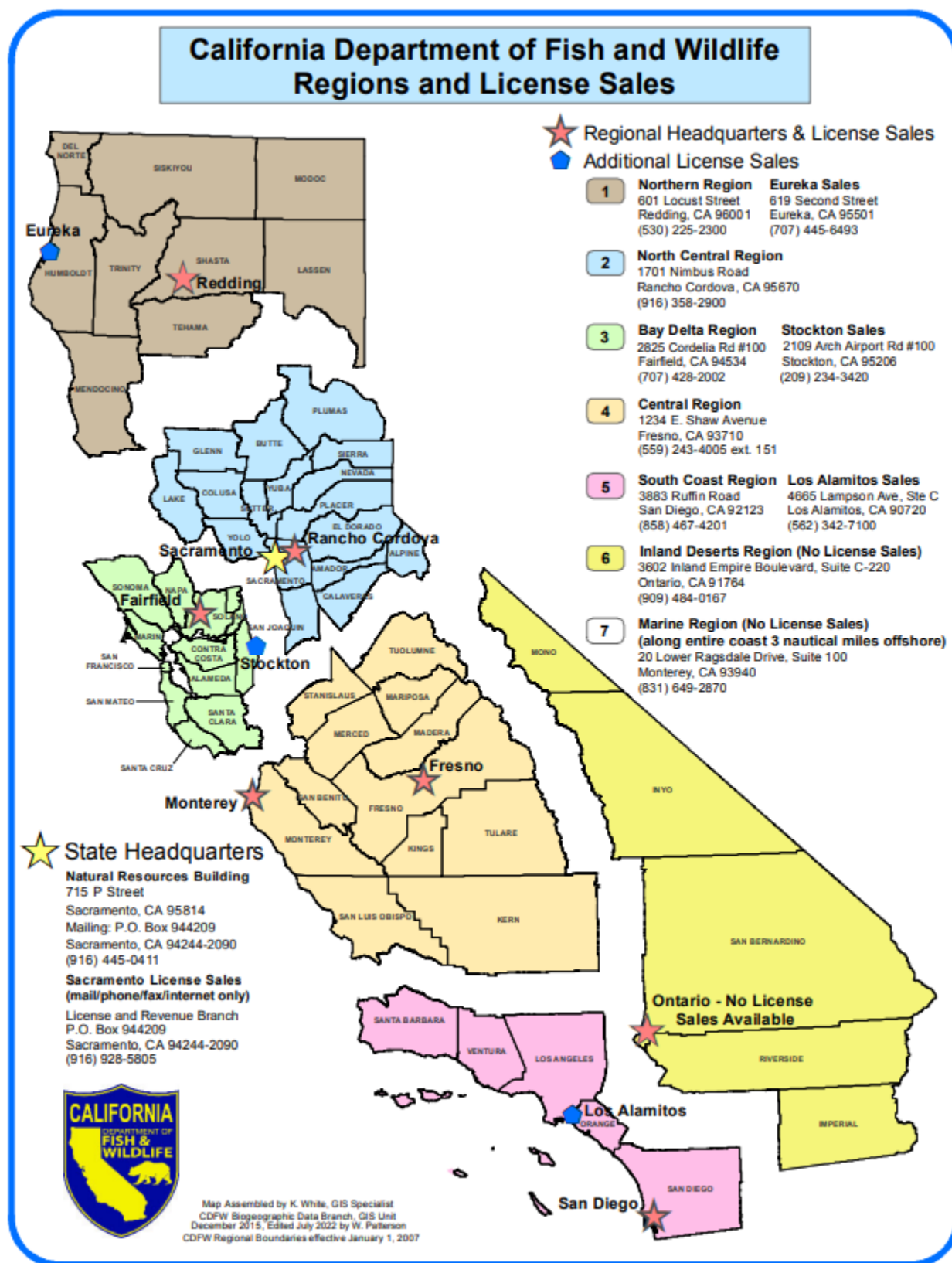
§3800. Nongame Birds

(a) All birds occurring naturally in California that are not resident game birds, migratory game birds, or fully protected birds are nongame birds. It is unlawful to take any nongame bird except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations of the commission or, when relating to mining operations, a mitigation plan approved by the department.

§4150. Nongame Mammals

All mammals occurring naturally in California which are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission.

APPENDIX B. CDFW REGIONAL OFFICE



APPENDIX C. OTHER STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS

Wildlife Rehabilitation	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
California native wildlife rehabilitation	Native Wildlife Rehabilitation	CDFW	Title 14 CCR 679.1-679.9	3 years	CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation
Migratory bird and eagle rehabilitation	Migratory Bird Rehabilitation	USFWS	50 CFR 21.31	5 years	USFWS Migratory Bird Permit
Educational Animals	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
CA non-releasable native wildlife and birds	Restricted Species	CDFW	Title 14 CCR 671	1 year	CDFW Restricted Species
Non-releasable migratory bird	Special Purpose Education	USFWS	50 CFR 21.27	3 years	Educational Bird
Non-releasable wildlife	Class C Exhibitor	USDA	Animal Welfare Act	Varies	Licenses
Salvage & Taxidermy	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
Possession of dead wildlife or parts for educational purposes	Scientific Collecting Permit	CDFW	Title 14 CCR 650		Scientific Collecting Permits
Migratory bird parts for educational purposes	Special Purpose Salvage	USFWS	50 CFR 21.27		Migratory Bird Salvage
Research	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
Possession of live animal or parts for scientific purposes	Scientific Collection	CDFW	Title 14 CCR 650		Scientific Collecting Permits
Migratory bird banding	Federal Bird Banding	USGS	50 CFR-10, 13, 21		BBL
Migratory bird data collection	Scientific Collection	USFWS	50 CFR-21.23		Scientific Collection
Falconry	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
Falconry	Falconry License	CDFW	Title 14 CCR 395	Annual	Falconry
Falconry	Falconry License	USFWS	50 CFR 21.82		UFWFS Falconry
Eagle Protection Act	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
Native American, Eagle Parts (religious)	Eagle Parts for Native American Religious Purposes	USFWS	50 CFR-22-22	Lifetime	Eagle – Religious
Native American, Eagle Aviary	Native American Eagle Aviary	USFWS	50 CFR-22-60	3 years	Eagle Aviary
Educational & Taxidermy Eagles	Eagle Exhibition	USFWS	50 CFR-22-50	3 years	Eagle Exhibition
Reptiles	Permit Name	Agency	Regulations	Valid Period	Website
Desert Tortoise Adoption	Desert Tortoise Application	CDFW	40, 43, 674	Lifetime	Tortoise Application

APPENDIX D. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION RESOURCES

1. American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), 2020. AVMA guidelines for the euthanasia of animals. AMVA, Schaumburg, IL. <https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>
2. Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). AZA Animal Care Manuals. AZA, Silver Spring, MD. <https://www.aza.org/animal-care-manuals>
3. Baicich, P. & Harrison, C. 1997. A Guide to the Nests, Eggs and Nestlings of North American Birds, 2nd edition. NY: Academic Press.
4. Benyus, Janine M. 1989. Field Guide to Wildlife Habitats of the Western United States. Fireside Publishers.
5. California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators: <https://ccwr.org/>
6. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program webpage: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Rehab>
7. California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act, 2022 Edition, California Veterinary Medical Board. https://www.vmb.ca.gov/laws_regs/vmb_act.pdf
8. Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel. 2010. National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Veterinary Infection Control Committee. <http://nasphv.org/Documents/VeterinaryStandardPrecautions.pdf>
9. International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, <https://theiwrc.org/>
10. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Market Place for Beginner to Advanced Wildlife Rehabilitation References, <https://www.nrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx>
11. Principles of Wildlife Rehabilitation: The Essential Guide for Novice and Experienced Rehabilitators, 2nd Edition. 2002. Adele Moore & Sally Joosten. NWRA/ 667 PP. <https://www.nrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx>.
12. Reid, F. 2006. Peterson Field Guide to Mammals of North America. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
13. Sibley, D. A. 2016. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Western North American 2nd Ed. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group.
14. Standards in Wildlife Rehabilitation, 2021, Miller, E.A. DVM, ED., NWRA/IWRC, <http://www.theiwrc.org/resources/guidelines-for-wildlife-rehabilitation><https://www.nrawildlife.org/store/default.aspx>
15. United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Wildlife Health Center, Publications: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/nwhc/publications>
16. Kleiman, D.G., Thompson, K.V., Baer, C.K. 2010. Wild Mammals in Captivity, Principles and Techniques for Zoo Management, 2nd Ed.
17. Miller, Erica A., and Rosenhagen, Nicki. *Chapter 14: Native Wildlife from Exotic Animal Formulary* 6th Edition Elsevier Health Sciences, 2022.

APPENDIX E. CDFW WILDLIFE REHABILITATION EXAMINATION (SAMPLE QUESTIONS)

DEFINITIONS

1. _____. Preventative measures taken to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases from one human, animal, or place to others.
2. _____. An item or activity designed to stimulate and encourage a range of innate behaviors of an animal, specific to that species.
3. _____. A process that occurs when an animal, not normally domesticated, is repeatedly exposed to anthropogenic stimuli and eventually no longer has a natural behavioral response to that stimulus.
4. _____. A specialized form of learning by an animal that occurs during a brief period in the animal's early development that provides the animal with a self-identity and social bonds that are rarely reversible.
5. _____. A facility authorized pursuant to Section 679.3 and operated by a sub-permittee, that may temporarily possess wildlife, longer than 48 hours, for the purpose of rehabilitation at a location other than the wildlife rehabilitation facility location listed on the permit.

TRUE/FALSE

6. Wildlife rehabilitators are authorized to trap and remove “nuisance” wildlife to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
7. Wildlife rehabilitators are not obligated to accept all animals into rehab and may decline any animals or species they so choose.
8. Authorized CDFW personnel may inspect a rehabilitator's facility and records at any reasonable time.
9. A wildlife rehabilitator may exhibit rehabilitation animals under their Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit.
10. It is permissible to take abandoned baby birds to school programs after rehabilitating them and just prior to release.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

11. Which of the following information is NOT required in the Wildlife Rehabilitation Annual Report submitted to CDFW?
 - a. Summary of patient outcome (e.g., how many were released, euthanized)
 - b. Name and mailing address of people who submitted animals
 - c. Species of animals received
 - d. Number and type of non-releasable animals held under a restricted species permit
12. Which of the following descriptions describes neonate altricial birds?
 - a. Virtually naked, helpless, and blind
 - b. Covered with a thick down layer
 - c. Active and relatively self-sufficient
 - d. Unable to vocalize
 - e. Virtually naked but having excellent eyesight
13. Most nestling songbirds fledge at:
 - a. 10-14 days
 - b. 7-10 days
 - c. 28-30 days
 - d. 18-21 days
 - e. 24-28 days

14. Which characteristic will NOT help you identify a very young bird?
- a. Foot type/shape
 - b. Length of tail feathers
 - c. Mouth color
 - d. Beak shape
 - e. None of the above will help you identify the bird
15. Which of the following mammals is NOT a rodent?
- a. Beaver
 - b. California ground squirrel
 - c. Nutria
 - d. Cottontail rabbit
 - e. All of the above are rodents

ANSWER KEY

- 1. Biosecurity practice
- 2. Enrichment
- 3. Habituation
- 4. Imprinting
- 5. Satellite facility
- 6. False
- 7. True
- 8. True
- 9. False
- 10. False
- 11. b
- 12. a
- 13. d
- 14. b
- 15. e



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The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may issue a person a wildlife rehabilitation permit and amend existing permits with the conditions it determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and/or safety. Any person can qualify for and be issued a permit if the applicant possesses the qualifications specified in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 subsections 679.3(b) through (d) and is at least 18 years of age, except for any previous permit holder that has had that permit revoked at any time pursuant to CCR Title 14 subsections 679.9(c) and (d). A permit shall be valid for 3 years from the date it is issued by CDFW, and may be renewed pursuant to CCR Title 14, Section 679.3(b)(6)(B). The permit application fee is \$65.41 and is adjusted annually. Permit renewal applications must be submitted 90 days prior to the date of permit expiration.

- ☐ **New Permit Application – Complete Sections 1-7**
- ☐ **Permit Renewal Application (CDFW Permit #: _____) – Complete Sections 1-3, 5-9**
- ☐ **Specialty Permit Application (CDFW Permit #: _____) – Complete Sections 1-2, 4-8**

1. APPLICANT AND FACILITY INFORMATION			
Applicant Name (Last, First)		Date of Birth	GO ID #
Mailing Address		City	State ZIP
Primary Phone	Secondary Phone	Email Address	
Facility Name			County
Facility Address (physical)		City	State ZIP
Facility Phone	Facility Email	Facility Website	

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE

I understand that any information provided to CDFW in this application and any additional information provided to CDFW related to this application will be subject to the Public Records Act and may be publicly available.

I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this application and any additional information that may be provided to CDFW related to this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I cannot hold the State of California liable for any harm or damage to any person or property in connection with any activities performed under the permit. I certify that I agree to be responsible for any costs incurred for any activities performed under the permit. I understand that this permit is a privilege that may be revoked at any time for cause, and that I may be subject to inspection, at a reasonable time, without notification. I understand that wildlife remains the property of the State and is subject to control by the State.

CDFW reserves the right to verify the undersigned claims. Should this verification reveal intentional falsehood by the claimant, the undersigned may be legally obligated to compensate the State for costs associated with verification.

With accordance to [California Civil Code §1633.5\(b\)](#), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it.

Applicant Signature: _____

Print Name

Title

Date

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2. PUBLIC CONTACT INFORMATION

If issued a permit, what facility information may be listed on the CDFW Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program webpage at <http://wildlife.ca.gov/wildliferehab> as a public resource:

- ☐ Facility Physical Address
- ☐ Facility Telephone
- ☐ Facility Website / Email
- ☐ Type of Wildlife Accepted

3. PROPOSED REHABILITATION ANIMALS

Indicate the species proposed for rehabilitation at the facility and the approximate maximum number (capacity) that may be temporarily possessed at one time. See the CDFW 679 Manual for caging and housing standards. **IMPORTANT:** A CDFW specialty rehabilitation permit is required to rehabilitate bats, large carnivore, ungulate, venomous snake, and certain raptors.

AMPHIBIANS	CAPACITY	REPTILES	CAPACITY
Frogs		Lizards	
Toads		Tortoises	
Newts, Salamanders		Turtles	
		Snakes, Non-Venomous	

MAMMALS

SMALL MAMMALS	CAPACITY	SMALL MAMMALS	CAPACITY
Native Rodents		Moles and Shrews	
Squirrels, Tree		Rabbits and Hares	
Chipmunks, Ground Squirrels (Small species)		Martens	
Squirrels, Ground (Large species)		Weasels	

MEDIUM MAMMALS	CAPACITY	MEDIUM MAMMALS	CAPACITY
Badger		Ringtail	
Porcupine		Raccoon	
Beaver		Skunk	
Fisher		Opossum	
Marmot and Mountain Beaver		River Otter	
Fox, Gray and Sierra Nevada Red		Fox, Kit	
LARGE MAMMALS	CAPACITY	LARGE MAMMALS	CAPACITY
Bobcats		Coyotes	

MIGRATORY BIRDS

WATERBIRDS	CAPACITY	WATERBIRDS	CAPACITY
Native Swan, Duck, Geese		Gulls and Shorebirds	
Marine and Seabirds		Cranes, Egrets, Herons, Rails	
RAPTORS	CAPACITY	RAPTORS	CAPACITY
Owls, Small Species		Vultures	
Owls, Medium Species		Hawks	
Owls, Large Species		Kites	
Falcons (American Kestrel, Merlin)			

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PASSIFORMES	CAPACITY	PASSIFORMES	CAPACITY
Corvids, Crows, and Ravens		Quail and Grouse	
Corvids, Jays and Magpies		Songbirds	
OTHER AVIFAUNA	CAPACITY	OTHER AVIFAUNA	CAPACITY
Cuckoos		Nighthawks, Nightjars	
Kingfishers		Woodpeckers	
Hummingbirds		Swifts	
Native Doves and Pigeons			

4. PROPOSED SPECIALTY REHABILITATION ANIMALS

A CDFW specialty rehabilitation permit is required to temporarily possess and rehabilitate bats, large carnivore (black bear, mountain lion), ungulate (deer, elk, pronghorn, wild sheep), venomous snake, or the following raptors: eagle, harrier, osprey, peregrine and prairie falcons. Indicate the species proposed for rehabilitation at the facility and the approximate maximum number (capacity) that may be temporarily possessed at one time. See the CDFW 679 Manual for caging and housing standards.

LARGE CARNIVORE	CAPACITY	LARGE CARNIVORE	CAPACITY
Black Bear		Mountain Lion	
UNGULATE			
Deer		Bighorn Sheep	
Elk		Pronghorn Antelope	
BATS			
Crevice dwelling species		Foliage roosting species	
VENOMOUS SNAKES			
Rattlesnakes			
RAPTORS			
Eagles			
Harriers			
Osprey			
Falcons (Peregrine and Prairie)			

4A. QUALIFIED HANDLERS

Qualified handlers are required to have 300 hours of handling experience specific to each specialty species. Provide the following minimum number of qualified handlers for each proposed specialty rehabilitation animal: venomous snakes = 2 handlers, bats = 2 handlers, raptors = 2 handlers, large carnivores = 3 handlers, ungulates = 3 handlers.

FULL NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION	TRAINING COURSE NAME (Total Hours/Date Completed)	SPECIES



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5. RESUME / CURICULUUM VITAE

New applicants must demonstrate completion of at least 1,000 hours experience under the direct supervision of a current wildlife rehabilitation permittee in California or experience that CDFW determines to be equivalent. Experience must be completed within a 3-year period, but no more than 10 years, from the date of application. Provide the dates and description of experience, name, affiliation, telephone, email, and mailing address of 3 references that CDFW may contact to confirm qualifications. CDFW may consider education in veterinary medicine, wildlife rehabilitation, or similar courses, as a substitute for up to 300 hours of the required experience.

5A. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION EXPERIENCE

Facility Name:		Facility Address:	
Contact Name and Title:		Phone:	Email:
Start Date:	End Date:	Time Base (F/T, P/T):	Total Hours:

EXPERIENCE PERFORMING THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

Diet Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Biosecurity Practices	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Neonate Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Euthanasia Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Juvenile Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Carcass Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Adult Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Wildlife Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Enclosure Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Transport/Release	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Animal Enrichment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Public Education	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%
Medical Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	%	Other (please describe)			

Species handled at the facility:

5B. WILDLIFE REHABILITATION EDUCATION/TRAINING

Certificate/License/Degree(s): <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes _____		Course Name(s):	
Institution or Program Name:			
Address:		Website:	
Start Date:	End Date:	Phone:	Email:
Instructor(s):			Total Hours:

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6. FACILITY OPERATION PLAN

Each applicant must describe and/or attach the standard operating procedure, protocol, or plans for each aspect of the proposed facility's operations, as listed below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Record-Keeping System, to maintain required records pursuant to CCR Title 14 subsections 679.5(c) and 679.7(a): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal Intake Process pursuant to CCR Title 14 Section 679.5(b) and (c): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Euthanasia Protocol, including qualified personnel, euthanasia methods, controlled substance storage, and carcass disposal, pursuant to CCR Title 14 Section 679.5(d): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Reporting Protocol for handling public reports, calls, emails, and requests consistent with the guidelines established in the 679 Manual standards: _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Training Protocol for staff and volunteers and consistent with the requirements listed pursuant to CCR Title 14 sections 679.4(a)(3) and 679.5(d) (1)(A): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Animal Husbandry Protocols to maintain the health and welfare of each type of rehabilitation animal pursuant to Section 679.5(a): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biosecurity Practices including sanitation and communicable disease prevention measures pursuant to Section 679.5(a): _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Succession plan to ensure continuity of care for rehabilitation animals if no longer able to provide care for any foreseeable reason, or due to health, safety, or financial reasons pursuant to CCR Title 14 Section 679.3(b)(6)(A): _____ _____

7. DECLARATION OF ENCLOSURES

Provide photographs, diagrams, blueprints, or other plans, for each *type* of enclosure that demonstrates it (i) is appropriate for each type of proposed rehabilitation animals, and (ii) meets all standards listed in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual. The following information is required:

7A. AMPHIBIANS

Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					

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7B. REPTILES					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7C. SMALL MAMMALS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7D. MEDIUM MAMMALS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7E. LARGE MAMMALS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7F. RACCOONS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7G. WATERBIRDS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					
7H. RAPTORS					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					

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7I. PASSIFORMES

Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					

7J. OTHER AVIFAUNA

Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					

7K. SPECIALITY REHABILITATION ANIMALS

Species					
Dimensions					
Quantity					
Material					
Substrate					

8. LIST OF NON-RELEASABLE ANIMALS (RESTRICTED SPECIES PERMIT 671)

Renewal applicants must provide a list of current non-releasable animals held under a restricted species permit issued by CDFW, or having been possessed prior to January 1, 2012, pursuant to a CDFW Memorandum of Understanding. Use an additional page, as needed.

Species	Total Number	Address	Year(s) Acquired

9. LIST OF SUB-PERMIT (SATELLITE FACILITIES)

Renewal applicants must provide a list of current satellite permittees operating a satellite facility under the primary permit up for renewal. Satellite facilities are locations where wildlife is temporarily confined longer than 48 hours, for the purpose of rehabilitation at a location other than the wildlife rehabilitation facility location listed on the permit. Use an additional page, as needed.

Name	Address	Phone / Email

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APPLICATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST (Required Documents)

- ☐ Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit Application (DFW 470, REV. 04/01/23)
- ☐ Veterinarian of Record Agreement (DFW 471, New 01/24/23) signed by a licensed veterinarian in good standing pursuant to the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act.
- ☐ List of Authorized Persons (DFW 472, New 01/24/23), including any facility personnel, staff or volunteers, who may directly handle, temporarily confine, and transport a rehabilitation animal to and from the wildlife rehabilitation facility. Additionally lists of sub-permittees, locations, and wildlife housed.
- ☐ Facility Emergency Action Plan (DFW 473, New 01/24/23) outlining the plan of action in case of an emergency that includes, but is not limited to list of animal capture equipment; transport cages; animal emergency supplies to transfer with animals; quantity and location of each first aid kit, smoke and carbon monoxide detector, and fire extinguisher in the facility; location(s) off the premises identified as a safe staging area in case of evacuation; and emergency telephone numbers (e.g., local first responders, animal control, public health agencies).
- ☐ Authorization to Access Property (DFW 474, New 01/24/23). A signed and dated statement from the owner of the property where the proposed wildlife rehabilitation facility will be located, stating that the property owner agrees that the facility and rehabilitation animals may be inspected by the department without advance notice, pursuant to Section 679.7.

The application packet and non-refundable processing fee of \$65.41 via check or credit card authorization shall be submitted to CDFW via US Postal Service at:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
ATTN: License and Revenue Branch
P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

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Wildlife Rehabilitators are required to have a Veterinarian of Record who oversees veterinary care, and to submit this agreement to the CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator with their permit application. The Veterinarian of Record Agreement must be signed by a licensed veterinarian in good standing pursuant to the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act and CCR Section 679.3(b)(6)2. The Veterinarian of Record shall adhere to all regulations related to Humane Care and Treatment Standards of rehabilitation animals pursuant to CCR Subsection 679.5.

☐ Permittee – Complete Sections 1 and 3 ☐ Veterinarian of Record – Complete Sections 2, 4-5

1. PERMITTEE INFORMATION				
Full Name (First)		(Last)	(M.I.)	
Title	Primary Phone		Primary Email	
Facility Name			Facility Phone	
Facility Physical Address		City	State	ZIP

2. VETERINARIAN INFORMATION	
Full Name (First)	(Last) (M.I.)
Veterinary License Number (Expiration Date)	
Name of Employer	Employer Address
Primary Phone	Email

3. PERMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES	Initial
Maintain a current schedule of availability for a licensed veterinarian to assess rehabilitation animals requiring veterinary medical treatment.	
Provide all required records and information regarding the rehabilitation animal so that the veterinarian can (i) make an informed assessment of the clinical status of the animal, and (ii) make determinations regarding the treatment plan and outcome of the animal.	
Adhere to the veterinarian of record's instructions, or other pre-approved licensed veterinarian, regarding medication use and treatment prescribed or discuss alternatives with the veterinarian of record before altering said medications and treatments.	
Administration of drugs or prescribed treatment contrary to the veterinarian of record instructions, is a violation of the agreement, and the veterinarian may choose to terminate it.	

4. VETERINARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES	Initial
Provide veterinary consultation to the permittee and/or their designee for rehabilitation animals requiring veterinary medical services including: (i) medical assessment, (ii) rehabilitation plan, including diagnostics and treatment, and (iii) follow-up plan for care.	
Provision, storage, and documentation of controlled and non-controlled substances pursuant to US Drug Enforcement Agency and California Veterinary Medical Board codes and regulations.	
Provide protocols, training, and certification for staff to perform humane euthanasia of rehabilitation animals deemed non-releasable or unfit for captive placement.	
Ethical consideration of the welfare and natural history of a rehabilitation animal when determining a treatment plan for successful release, euthanasia, or placement.	
Rely on the rehabilitator to best address the husbandry needs of the patient.	



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5. VETERINARIAN SERVICES PROVIDED (check all that apply):			
Physical examination	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initial Diagnosis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Initial Stabilization	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Prescription Drugs	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Dispensing Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Euthanasia	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Administering Medication	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Follow-up Exams	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Diagnostic Imaging	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Lab Work	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Surgical Services	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Fracture & Wound Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Necropsy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Carcass Storage & Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Staff & Volunteer Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Biosecurity Protocols	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Pest Management Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Emergency Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Pre-release Exams	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Other:	
Species you are <u>not</u> willing to handle or provide services for: _____			

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND SIGNATURE

I understand that any information provided to CDFW in this application and any additional information provided to CDFW related to this application will be subject to the Public Records Act and may be publicly available.

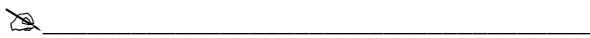
I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this application and any additional information that may be provided to CDFW related to this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I cannot hold the State of California liable for any harm or damage to any person or property in connection with any activities performed under the permit. I understand that may be subject to inspection, at a reasonable time, without notification. I understand that wildlife remains the property of the State and is subject to control by the State.

I understand the veterinary client patient relationship and responsibilities associated with providing veterinary medical care for rehabilitation animals. I acknowledge that this agreement does not authorize the veterinarian of record to act as a wildlife rehabilitator. I certify that I shall comply with all codes, regulations, the California Veterinary Medical Practice Act, and the standards listed in the CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation 679 Manual. I acknowledge that any violation of these requirements can result in revocation of the permit. I understand that the permittee may select a new veterinarian of record for any reason and shall notify the department of any such change in writing within 10 business days."


CDFW reserves the right to verify the undersigned claims. Should this verification reveal intentional falsehood by the claimant, the undersigned may be legally obligated to compensate the State for costs associated with verification.

With accordance to [California Civil Code §1633.5\(b\)](#), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it.

Veterinarian

 _____
Signature Print Name Date

Permittee

 _____
Signature Print Name Date

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**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT LIST OF AUTHORIZED PERSONS****DRAFT**

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may issue a person a wildlife rehabilitation permit and amend existing permits with the conditions it determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and/or safety pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Subsection 679.3. A permittee shall provide to CDFW a current list of persons authorized to conduct certain activities under their permit. The permittee shall provide CDFW with a current list of persons authorized to conduct certain activities under the wildlife rehabilitation permit: The permittee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the code and regulations, permit conditions, and standards listed in the 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual.

1. APPLICANT AND FACILITY INFORMATION					
Permittee Name (Last, First)		Date of Birth		Permit #	
Primary Phone		Secondary Phone		Email Address	
Facility Name				County	
Facility Address (physical)		City		State	ZIP
Facility Phone		Facility Email		Facility Website	
2. AUTHORIZED PERSONS					
List all properly trained individuals approved by the permittee or sub-permittee to conduct certain activities (check all that apply) under the wildlife rehabilitation permit. A <i>designee</i> may conduct wildlife rehabilitation activities without supervision from the permittee; <i>qualified persons</i> may conduct activities only under direct supervision of the permittee or their designee. Provide proof of training and/or certification for any authorized person performing euthanasia using a controlled substance* pursuant to CCR Section 679.5(d)(1).					
Full Name		Primary Phone		Email	
Title (if applicable)		Designee <input type="checkbox"/> -or- Qualified Person <input type="checkbox"/>			
Diet Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (controlled substance*)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y
Animal Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (other method)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y
Wildlife Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Carcass Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y
Enclosure Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Transport/Release	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y
Medical Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y
Species of rehabilitation animal(s) authorized to handle:					

NOTE: CDFW requires a separate process for authorization of a *sub-permittee* to temporarily confine wildlife at a satellite facility (DFW 476).

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**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT LIST OF AUTHORIZED PERSONS**

DFW 472 (REV. 01/01/24) Page 2 of 3

DRAFT**2. AUTHORIZED PERSONS [Continued]**

Full Name			Primary Phone		Email	
Title (if applicable):			Designee <input type="checkbox"/> -or- Qualified Person <input type="checkbox"/>			
Diet Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (controlled substance*)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Animal Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (other method)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Wildlife Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Carcass Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Enclosure Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Transport/Release	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Medical Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	

Species of rehabilitation animal(s) authorized to handle:

Full Name			Primary Phone		Email	
Title (if applicable):			Designee <input type="checkbox"/> -or- Qualified Person <input type="checkbox"/>			
Diet Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (controlled substance*)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Animal Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (other method)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Wildlife Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Carcass Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Enclosure Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Transport/Release	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Medical Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	

Species of rehabilitation animal(s) authorized to handle:

Full Name			Primary Phone		Email	
Title (if applicable):			Designee <input type="checkbox"/> -or- Qualified Person <input type="checkbox"/>			
Diet Preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (controlled substance*)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Animal Feeding	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Euthanasia (other method)	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Wildlife Handling	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Carcass Disposal	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Enclosure Cleaning	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Transport/Release	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
Medical Treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	Other (describe): _____	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	

Species of rehabilitation animal(s) authorized to handle:

NOTE: Use additional pages, as needed, to provide to CDFW a complete and current list of authorized persons.

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DFW 472 (REV. 01/01/24) Page 3 of 3

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The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may issue a person a wildlife rehabilitation permit and amend existing permits with the conditions it determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and/or safety pursuant to CCR Title 8, Section 3220 and Title 14 Section 679.3. A permittee and sub-permittee shall establish and maintain a written action plan describing evacuation steps and those designated actions during an emergency required to ensure animal welfare and human safety.

1. APPLICANT AND FACILITY INFORMATION			
Applicant Name (Last, First)		Date of Birth	Permit # (if applicable)
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP
Primary Phone	Secondary Phone	Email Address	
Facility Name		County	
Facility Address (physical)	City	State	ZIP
Facility Phone	Facility Email	Facility Website	

1A. EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN CHECKLIST [REQUIRED INFORMATION]	
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of animal capture equipment
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of mobile transport cages
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of emergency animal supplies
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of first aid kits, smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, and their locations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of emergency telephone numbers
<input type="checkbox"/>	List of exit route assignments and location(s) off the premises, including evacuation routes.

2. ANIMAL RE-CAPTURE EQUIPMENT			
Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Nets for Birds		Catch pole	
Nets for Bats		Leads / leashes	
Nets for Mammals		Bite sticks	
Nets for Reptiles/Amphibians		Animal handling / Bite gloves	
Net gun		PPE gloves	
Live trap		PPE eyewear	
Animal control pole		PPE footwear	
Animal grasper / Y pole		Dart gun (if applicable)	
Snake tongs		Darts (if applicable)	
Animal shields		Pole Syringe aka jab stick	
Other		Chemical immobilization drugs	

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3. MOBILE TRANSPORT CAGES

Item	Brief Description [intended animal use, max weight, max number of animals]	Size Dimensions	Quantity
Large animal carrier, metal			
Large animal carrier, plastic			
Large animal carrier, soft sided			
Medium animal carrier, metal			
Medium animal carrier, plastic			
Medium animal carrier, soft sided			
Small animal carrier, metal			
Small animal carrier, plastic			
Small animal carrier, soft sided			
Small animal carrier, cardboard			
Terrarium, mesh			
Reptile / snake bucket			
Aquariums, glass			
Aquariums, plastic			
Animal bags (e.g., snakes)			
Stock trailers (e.g. ungulates)			
Other			

4. EMERGENCY ANIMAL SUPPLIES

Item	Brief Description	Quantity
Special diet supply (5 days min.)		
Food receptacles		
Water receptacles		
Portable water container(s)		
Specialty feeding supplies (e.g., neonatal bottle, syringe)		
Heating source (e.g., heating pad)		
Cooling source (e.g., portable fan)		
Bedding		
Cleaning supplies		
Biosecurity supplies (e.g., for sanitation)		
Veterinary medical supplies (e.g., emergency “go” kit)		
Transport Cage Tie Downs (e.g., bungee cords, ratchet straps)		

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5. FACILITY SAFETY

Item	Location at facility	Quantity
First aid kits		
Smoke detectors		
Carbon monoxide detectors		
Fire extinguishers		
Emergency exit signs		
Emergency eye wash station(s)		
'Animals on Premise' sign(s)		
Hard-wired/landline telephone *Cellular service may be disrupted in an emergency		

5A. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Personnel shall be alerted using a primary method of notification [check all that apply]

<input type="checkbox"/> Audible alarms (e.g., airhorn)	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone tree (e.g., cellular phone, landline)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire alarm system	<input type="checkbox"/> Radio communication device (e.g., walkie talkie)
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile alert app (e.g., CodeRed, Watch Duty)	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual alarm/signal (e.g., flashing lights)
<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal notification (e.g., intercom system)	Other _____

5B. EMERGENCY CONTACTS

[Call 9-1-1 in the event of an emergency]

Important Contacts	Telephone	Address
Local Law Enforcement		
Local Fire Department		
Local Ambulance / Paramedics		
Local Animal Control		
Public Health Department		
Poison Control Center		
Tree Trimming / Brush Removal Service		
Facility Maintenance / Contractor Service		
Utility Company (Electric)		
Utility Company (Water)		
Utility Company (Gas)		
Utility Company (Telephone/Internet)		
Nearest Hospital		
CDFW Wildlife Health Laboratory		
CDFW Regional Office		
Other:		

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6. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES	
Designated Role	Name
Assembly Area Lead(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintain current personnel list and have readily accessible during an emergency.- Roll call at designated assembly area: Name, building/room location, status.- Report any injury, facility damage, or other pertinent information to Responder Liaison(s).	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
Responder Liaison(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Primary point of contact for the First Responder(s).- Share the following information (if known):<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature of the emergency (e.g. fire)• Location of the emergency• Number of persons hurt and/or unaccounted.• Number and type of animals hurt and/or unaccounted	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
First Aider(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Trained personnel able to provide first aid to affected persons during an emergency.- Record shall include the name, date of certification, and training type. Examples:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPR/AED First-Aid Training• Bloodborne Pathogens Training• Hazardous Waste Training• Other (briefly describe)	1. _____ Name Certification Date Training Type 2. _____ Name Certification Date Training Type 3. _____ Name Certification Date Training Type 4. _____ Name Certification Date Training Type 5. _____ Name Certification Date Training Type
Animal Evacuation Lead(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Record of personnel assigned to evacuate rehabilitation animal by type and/or condition (as applicable)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• E.g., Baby Bird Nursery Lead• E.g., Small Mammal Nursery Lead• E.g., Isolation/Quarantine Animal Lead• E.g., Bear Cub Hibernation Den Lead• E.g., Flight Cage Bird Lead• E.g., Fawn Pen Lead• E.g., Interior Cage/Enclosure(s) Lead• E.g., Outdoor Cage/Enclosure(s) Lead	1. _____ Name Animal Type (brief description) 2. _____ Name Animal Type (brief description) 3. _____ Name Animal Type (brief description) 4. _____ Name Animal Type (brief description) 5. _____ Name Animal Type (brief description)

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6A. ANIMAL EVACUATION

Immediate Release Criteria

Briefly list the type and/or condition of rehabilitation animals able to be *immediately released* in case of emergency (e.g., flighted birds, pre-release animal, certain animals with full mobility)

Evacuation Transport Criteria

Briefly list the type and/or condition of rehabilitation animals *requiring evacuation* off the premises in case of emergency (e.g., neonates, animals with limited mobility, hibernating animals, cubs, fawns)

6B. PERSONNEL EVACUATION

Briefly describe required action(s) for personnel in case of an emergency requiring an evacuation from the facility and/or premises. Consider evacuation requirements for persons with disabilities unable to evacuate on their own, as appropriate. NOTE: Certain emergency situations may require a “shelter-in-place” order if it is safer to remain inside the facility rather than evacuate.

6C. ASSEMBLY AREA [ON THE PREMISES]

Briefly describe the designated location outside the facility for personnel to conduct roll call and bring rehabilitation animals requiring transport off the premises in case of an evacuation.

6D. STAGING LOCATION [OFF THE PREMISES]

Briefly describe the designated location(s) off the premises for personnel to transport rehabilitation animals in case of an evacuation. Consideration should be made for the type and/or condition of rehabilitation animals requiring evacuation and long-term versus short-term evacuation orders.

Location 1	
Location 2	
Location 3	

6E. EVACUATION ROUTES

Briefly describe the primary and secondary evacuation route(s) for personnel and rehabilitation animals to be evacuated off the premises.

Primary evacuation route	
Secondary evacuation route(s)	

7. ACTION PLAN RECORDS

Date(s) of Revision					
- Update essential components of the plan					
Date(s) of Annual Review					
- All personnel, new staff/volunteers					
Date(s) of Emergency Action Training					
- E.g., Evacuation drill, tabletop exercise					

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE

"I understand that any information provided to CDFW in this form and any additional information provided to CDFW related to this form will be subject to the Public Records Act and may be publicly available.

I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this application and any additional information that may be provided to CDFW related to this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that I cannot hold the State of California liable for any harm or damage to any person or property in connection with any activities performed under the permit. I certify that I agree to be responsible for any costs incurred for any activities performed under the permit. I understand that this permit is a privilege that may be revoked at any time for cause, and that I may be subject to inspection, at a reasonable time, without notification. I understand that wildlife remains the property of the State and is subject to control by the State.

With accordance to [California Civil Code §1633.5\(b\)](#), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it."

CDFW reserves the right to verify the undersigned claims. Should this verification reveal intentional falsehood by the claimant, the undersigned may be legally obligated to compensate the State for costs associated with verification.

 ***Applicant:*** _____

Signature

Print Name

Date

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**WILDLIFE REHABILITATION PERMIT - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCESS PROPERTY**

DFW 474 (REV. 01/01/24)

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The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) may issue a person a wildlife rehabilitation permit and amend existing permits with the conditions it determines are necessary to protect native wildlife, animal welfare, human health, and/or safety pursuant to California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 679.3. The department may conduct unannounced visits to inspect any facility, equipment, or wildlife possessed by the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee, and may enter the facilities when the permittee, sub-permittee, or their designee are present, during a reasonable time of the day, on any day of the week, pursuant to CCR Section 679.7.

1. APPLICANT AND FACILITY INFORMATION

Name (Last, First)		Date of Birth
Primary Phone	Secondary Phone	Email Address
Facility Name	Permit # (if applicable)	County

2. PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION

Name (Last, First)		Email Address	
Primary Phone		Secondary Phone	
Property Address (Physical)	City	State	ZIP
Mailing Address (If different)	City	State	ZIP

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE

"I understand that any information provided to CDFW in this application and any additional information provided to CDFW related to this application will be subject to the Public Records Act and may be publicly available.

I hereby give permission for the Department, or its designee, to enter my property to conduct inspections of any wildlife rehabilitation facility, enclosures, equipment, written records, and/or rehabilitation animals. I hereby allow the Department access to all areas of the facility. I understand that the permittee is responsible for ensuring compliance with all federal, state, and local code and regulations. I understand that I cannot hold the State of California liable for any harm or damage to any person or property in connection with any activities performed under the permit. I understand that wildlife remains the property of the State and is subject to control by the State.

I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this application and any additional information may be provided to CDFW related to this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

CDFW reserves the right to verify the undersigned claims. Should this verification reveal intentional falsehood by the claimant, the undersigned may be legally obligated to compensate the State for costs associated with verification. CDFW requires the signature of the property owner and shall not accept any form signed by a designee or third party for permission to enter the property.

With accordance to [California Civil Code §1633.5\(b\)](#), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it."

 Property Owner Signature: _____

Print Name_____
Title_____
Date**DRAFT**



DRAFT

Calendar Year: _____ (Due by January 31)

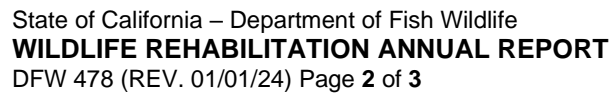
Wildlife rehabilitation permittee and sub-permittee(s) shall provide to the Department an annual report for all wild animals possessed under the permit for the prior calendar year, pursuant to CCR Section 679.5(c)(1)(C). Failure to submit an annual report may result in permit revocation by the Department. Submission of an annual report is required even if no activity occurred during the prior calendar year. The permittee and sub-permittee(s) may utilize this form, or the annual report form generated by the Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (WRMD). Annual report shall be submitted by email to: RehabWildlife@wildlife.ca.gov; or mail report to: CDFW Wildlife Health Laboratory, ATTN: Wildlife Rehabilitation Program, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

☐ **CDFW Annual Report - Complete All Sections** ☐ **WRMD Report - Complete Sections 1-2, 4**

1. APPLICANT AND FACILITY INFORMATION							
Applicant Name (Last, First)			Primary Phone:		Secondary Phone:		
679 Permit #		671 Permit # (if applicable)		Federal Permit # (if applicable)			
Mailing Address			City		State	ZIP	
Facility Name				County			
Facility Address (physical)			City		State	ZIP	
Email			Facility Website				
2. Summary Table							
Disposition: R: Released, T: Transferred, P: Pending, E: Euthanized, D: Deceased, RU: Reunited.							
	R	T	P	E	D	RU	Total
Amphibians							
Reptiles							
Birds							
Mammals							
Total							

3. Wildlife Intakes. Total number received must equal disposition totals.							
Species	Total # Received	Released	Transferred	Pending	Euthanized	Deceased	Reunited

DRAFT



DRAFT

3. Wildlife Intakes. Total number received must equal disposition totals (Continued)

[illegible]

4. Non-Releasable Wildlife

List all non-releasable wildlife held under a CDFW 671 permit, acquired prior to January 1, 2012, or otherwise transferred by the Department to the permittee or sub-permittee(s). Please indicate if this information will be submitted via a different format, such as electronic spreadsheet.

[illegible]

DRAFT




DRAFT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE

"I understand that any information provided to CDFW in this annual report and any additional information provided to CDFW related to this report will be subject to the Public Records Act and may be publicly available. I affirm and attest under penalty of perjury that the information provided in this report and any additional information that may be provided to CDFW related to this report is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge."

CDFW reserves the right to verify the undersigned claims. Should this verification reveal intentional falsehood by the claimant, the undersigned may be legally obligated to compensate the State for costs associated with verification.

With accordance to [California Civil Code §1633.5\(b\)](#), I acknowledge that by providing my electronic signature for this form, I agree that my electronic signature is legal binding equivalent to a handwriting signature. I hereby confirm that my electronic signature represents my execution or authentication of this form, and my intent to be bound by it."

 Signature: _____

Print Name

Title

Date

DRAFT



Title 14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

Vicky Monroe & Heather Perry, PhD
Wildlife Health Laboratory
Conflict Programs
Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program

Presented to the Commission Wildlife Resource Committee Meeting (May 17, 2023)



T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

CURRENT REGULATIONS

- Paucity of existing regulatory framework under which the Department oversees the Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Program:
 - **85** Wildlife Rehabilitation Facilities
 - **500+** Satellite Facilities
 - **~3,000** Volunteers
 - **100,000+** Wild Animal intakes





T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

PROPOSED CHANGES

- Revoke Section 679
- Add new Sections 679.1 through 679.9
 1. Definitions
 2. Transportation and Confinement of Live Wild Animals
 3. Permits for Wildlife Rehabilitation
 4. Humane Care and Treatment Standards
 5. Facility and Caging Standards for Rehabilitation Animals
 6. Release of Animals Into the Wild
 7. Inspection of Rehabilitation Facilities
 8. Seizure of Animals by the Department
 9. Denial and Revocation of Permits; Effect on Seizure of Animals



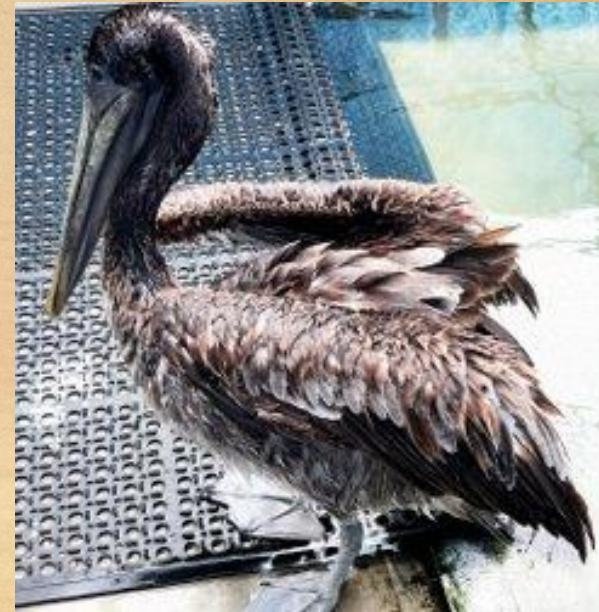


T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

GOALS AND BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

- Meets Department mission and goals to protect, conserve, and manage the state's most vulnerable wildlife resources
- Consistency with most current standards & scientifically based requirements
- Increased public awareness & appreciation of the ethical standards maintained by Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Increased recognition of the service provided by California's Wildlife Rehabilitators
- Updated permit & renewal process to better meet the needs of California's Wildlife Rehabilitators





T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

- Requires adherence to the most current standards in wildlife rehabilitation to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, human health & safety (i.e., enhanced biosecurity, caging requirements, disease reporting, etc.)

Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

- Requires site-specific conditions necessary to protect native wildlife, agriculture interests, animal welfare, human health & safety (i.e., enhanced biosecurity, caging requirements, disease reporting, etc.)

Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

- Better supports efforts to successfully rehabilitate & release wildlife to the wild
- Meets Department goals for conservation & management of native wildlife



T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

Alternatives to Regulation Change

- No alternatives have been identified. Intent of the proposed change is to correct current deficiencies within the existing regulation.
- No change will result in continued use of standards that fail to meet current scientifically-based requirements, techniques, and best practices.

Reasonable Alternatives that Would Lessen Adverse Impact on Small Business

- Provides transition period clause to allow Wildlife Rehabilitators issued a permit prior to Jan 1, 2024, to operate under existing permit conditions & MOU until Dec 31, 2024.
- Establishes variance requirements & process to request a deviation in construction design or construction materials of specific caging requirements.
- Department will approve variances on a case-by-case basis if conditions are met to maintain animal welfare, human health and safety.



T14 CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

Documents to be Incorporated into Regulation Change

- Primary Permit Application, Form DFW 470 (Replaces FG 542)
- Veterinarian of Record Agreement, Form DFW 471 (New)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation List of Authorized Persons, DFW 472 (New)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility Emergency Action Plan, DFW 473 (New)
- Authorization to Access Property, DFW 474 (New)
- Primary Facility Inspection Form, DFW 475 (New)
- Satellite Facility Inspection Form, DFW 476 (New)
- Sub-Permit Application, DFW 477 (New)
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Annual Report, DFW 478 (New)
- 679 Native Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual, DFW 479 (New)
- Certification of Animal Condition (Non-Releasable), DFW 484A (New)
- Transfer of Possession (Chain of Custody), DFW 484B (New)



T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED CHANGES PRIOR TO NOTICE PUBLICATION

- California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators Annual Meeting, November 5-6, 2022
- Department 679 Survey for Wildlife Rehabilitators, November 2022
- Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting, January 12, 2023
- Department Wildlife Rehabilitation Program Annual Meeting, March 16, 2023
- Department Solicitation to Review Proposed 679 Subsections, May 2023
- Department Solicitation to Review 679 Wildlife Rehabilitation Manual, May 2023
 - 5 Working Groups comprised of Wildlife Rehab Volunteers:
 - Specialty Rehab & Mammal Working Groups
 - General Avian, Waterbird & Raptor Rehab Working Groups
- Wildlife Resources Committee Meeting, May 17, 2023
- Department Solicitation to Review Updates to Proposed Changes, June-July 2023

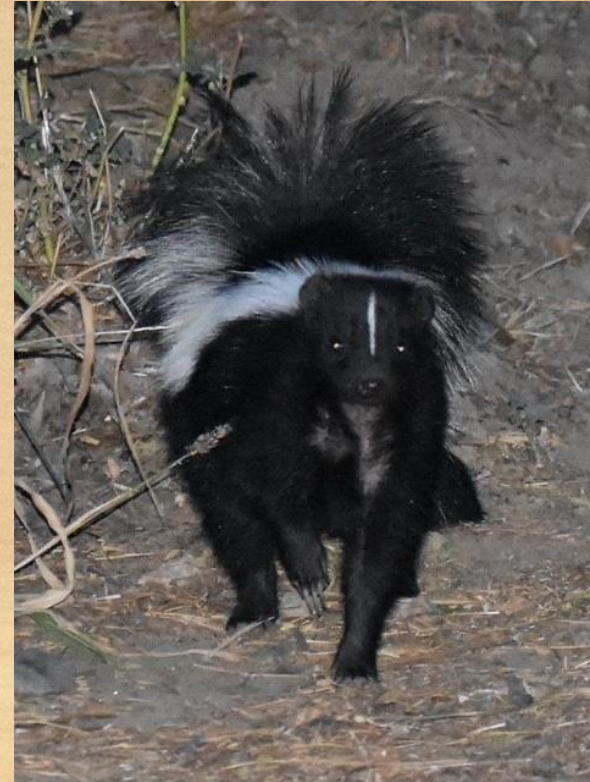


T14, CCR, Section 679

Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation

SOME FEEDBACK TO DATE

- Clarification on experience & training requirements: permittee, sub-permittee, qualified handler, designee
- Clarification on facility discretion regarding non-native species
- Clarification on facility emergency & successional planning process
- Clarification on specialty rehabilitation permit process
- Clarification on the transition stage & variance request process





2023 PROPOSED RULEMAKING

CDFW Lands property specific proposed regulations will:

- Protect natural resources
- Clarify existing regulations
- Create opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting & fishing
- Maintain safety for visitors and staff
- Designate one property as an Ecological Reserve
- Designate two properties as Wildlife Areas

Natural Resource Protection	Wildlife Viewing, Hunting, Fishing	Safety & Clarification
1 Prohibit swimming or boating in sensitive habitat.	8 Open hunts or change hunts on specific properties to special hunts as designated by the Department.	16 Clarify that drones are considered under already prohibited aircraft without a Special Use permit.
2 Prohibit horse and pack stock on specific properties.	9 Open new hunts on specific properties or clarify existing hunt opportunities.	17 Clarify what type of fires/stoves can be used on one property.
3 Limit hunting or hunted species to protect listed species habitat.	10 Allow horse and/or bicycle use on select properties or units in specific areas where designated.	18 Close specific portions of areas for public safety, or remove closure no longer needed.
4 Prohibit wood collection on two wildlife areas.	11 Clarify fishing regulations to align with other regulations or for safety.	19 Update boating regulations for several Wildlife Areas to maintain safety during different seasons.
5 Prohibit off road vehicles on specific units of an area with existing access.	12 Authorize hunting of specific species on specific properties.	20 Define when or if camping, trailers can be used on specific properties.
6 Prohibit electric bicycle use except where posted as allowed.	13 Designate three new properties providing opportunities for public access.	21 Update dog trials and/or dog training on specific properties.
7 Close properties during certain times of the year to protect resources or define when property is open for public access.	14 Designate an end time for entering during waterfowl season as 3:00 p.m.	22 Ban use of neonicotinoid pesticides on CDFW Lands.
	15 Define special drawing criteria for specific properties.	23 Remove archery from Type A Wildlife Area.

Region 1

Ash Creek WA - 7
Big Springs Ranch WA - 13
Butte Valley WA - 10
Eel River WA - 4, 5
Fay Slough WA - 15
Honey Lake WA - 7, 10
Horseshoe Ranch WA - 10
Lake Earl WA - 18, 19
Shasta Valley WA - 10, 14, 19, 20
South Spit WA - 4
Tehama WA - 9, 10
Willow Creek WA - 7, 10

Region 2

Daugherty Hill WA - 10, 20
El Dorado WA - 10, 13, 15
Feather River WA - 18
Gray Lodge WA - 9, 14
Hallelujah Junction WA - 18
Sacramento River WA - 9,
Upper Butte Basin WA - 12, 14, 20

Region 3

Clifton Court Forebay - 11, 17, 18, 19
Eden Landing ER - 19
Fagan Marsh ER - 11, 19
Grizzly Island WA - 14, 15
Knoxville WA - 15
Napa-Sonoma Marsh WA - 2, 21
Petaluma Marsh WA - 2
Redwood Shores ER - 1, 11, 19
Watsonville Slough ER - 10

Region 4

Bakersfield Cactus ER - 10
Carrizo Plains ER - 3, 10
Chorro Creek ER - 8
Elkhorn Slough ER - 7, 11
Kerman ER - 3, 8
Los Banos WA - 2, 9, 12, 14, 18, 21, 23
Mendota WA - 2, 14, 19, 20
Morro Dunes ER - 7
North Grasslands WA - 2, 9, 12, 14, 18, 19, 21
O'Neill Forebay WA - 9, 12, 18, 21
Stone Corral ER - 3

Region 5

Batiquitos Lagoon ER - 11
Boden Canyon ER - 8
Bolsa Chica ER - 11
Boulder Creek ER - 9
Burton Mesa ER - 8
Peace Valley ER - 8, 13
San Dieguito Lagoon ER - 11
Upper Newport Bay ER - 11

Statewide

Proposals related to all properties - 6, 16, 23

Proposals related to all Type A/B WA - 14

Region 6

Did not propose any property specific changes; however, item 14 will make changes to Imperial WA.

2023 Proposed Rulemaking *CDFW Lands*



Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resource Committee
January 12, 2023

Presented by:
Kristi Cripe
Senior Environmental Scientist
Statewide Ecological Reserve
Coordinator



Peace Valley
(proposed Ecological Reserve)

2023 Proposed Rulemaking CDFW Lands

This regulation package proposes site-specific changes to Title 14, California Code of Regulations

- General Regulations for Public Use on CDFW Lands (Section 550)
 - prohibit e-bikes and drones on Department lands
 - define a time limit for entry on hunt days
- Wildlife Areas (Sect. 551) and Ecological Reserves (Sect. 630)
 - 3 property designations
 - improve public safety
 - increase recreational opportunities
 - provide resource protection
- TBD – Ban on Neonicotinoid Pesticides on CDFW Lands



Peace Valley
proposed Ecological Reserve

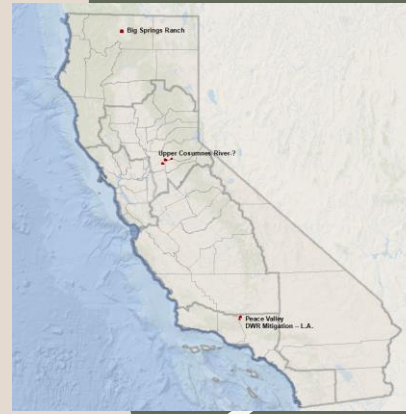


Property Designations

Section 551 (Wildlife Areas) and Section 630 (Ecological Reserves)

Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area

- Siskiyou County, acquired from The Nature Conservancy
- Type A or B Wildlife Area
- Hunting waterfowl, upland game, junior hunts
- Management plan in process
- This property will be a candidate for renaming once consultations with Tribes have been completed.



Big Springs Ranch
proposed Wildlife Area

El Dorado Wildlife Area

- El Dorado County, acquired from the Ervin Ranch Partnership
- Type C Wildlife Area
- Located in the Upper Cosumnes River watershed
- Intent is to provide hunting, fishing, and wildlife-viewing
- This property will be a candidate for renaming in the next package once consultations with Tribes have been completed.
- Additional regulations to consider with designation
 - (j) Bicycles
 - (l) Wildlife Areas with Boat and/or Horse and Pack Stock
 - (q) Type C Wildlife Areas with Shoot Day Restrictions and/or Special



El Dorado Ranch
proposed Wildlife Area

Peace Valley Ecological Reserve

- Los Angeles County, acquired from Dept of Water Resources 30 years ago as mitigation for the State Water Project
- Adjacent to the Angeles National Forest
- Designation of this property would provide a special hunt program location in Los Angeles County and additional access to other public lands that are open to hunting
- CDFW may be receiving adjacent property from DWR as additional mitigation for State Water Project.
- Additional regulations to consider with designation
 - 630(d) Ecological Reserves with Hunting as a Designated Public Use



Peace Valley
proposed Ecological Reserve

Sect. 550 – General Use Regulations

- 550(c) Visitor Entry and Responsibilities.

(2) On all Units during the waterfowl and pheasant season, no permits will be issued after 3:00 p.m.

(4) Electric bicycles and motorized transportation devices (including but not limited to motorized bicycles, scooters, and carts) are prohibited except where posted as allowed.

- 550(aa) Aircraft. No visitor shall operate any aircraft, **drone or other unmanned aircraft system (UAS)**, hovercraft, or hot air balloon within department lands except as authorized by a Special Use Permit issued by the department.



Peace Valley
proposed Ecological Reserve



Property Specific Regulations

Section 551 (Wildlife Areas) and Section 630 (Ecological Reserves)

Section 551-Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Wildlife Areas

- 551(b) Wildlife Area Designations
- 551(i) Dog Training and/or Dog Trials:
- 551(j) Bicycles
- 551(k) Off-Highway Vehicles
- 551(l) Boats and Horses
- 551(m) WA with camping trailers
- 551(n) Fire restrictions
- 551(o) Closures and Restriction
- 551(p) Type AB shoot restrictions
- 551(q) Type C shoot restrictions
- 551(r) Firearm Restrictions on Type
- 551(s) additional hunt Type AB
- 551(t) additional hunts Type C
- 551(u) Archery
- 551(w) Lands Pass
- 551(x) Waterfowl Reservations
- 551(y) Fishing
- 551(z) Wood cutting



Big Springs Ranch
proposed Wildlife Area

Section 551 -Wildlife Area Regulations

(I) DOG TRAINING &/OR DOG TRIALS

- Change in season to avoid conflicting with proposed deer hunting
 - Los Banos WA
 - North Grasslands WA
 - O'Neil Forebay WA
- New dog training opportunity
 - Napa-Sonoma Marsh WA

(J) BICYCLES

- Proposes to allow bicycle use year-round in designated areas.
 - Butte Valley WA
 - Honey Lake WA
 - Horseshoe Ranch WA
 - Shasta Valley WA
 - Tehama WA
 - Willow Creek WA
- Update text
 - Daugherty Hill WA - Allowed on all Units from May 10 through September 15.
- Proposed El Dorado WA
 - Allowed on trails and roads. No organized group events. Group size not to exceed 8 bicycles.

(K) OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

- Restrict access to Ocean Ranch Unit of Eel River WA
 - Require written permission from the regional manager to enter the Ocean Ranch Unit of Eel River Wildlife Area. Currently the regulation allows off road vehicles on the entire Eel River Wildlife Area.

§ 551 - Wildlife Area Regulations

(L) BOATS AND HORSES

- Horses prohibited on
 - Los Banos WA
 - Mendota WA
 - Napa-Sonoma Marsh WA
 - North Grasslands WA
 - Petaluma Marsh WA
- Horses allowed on existing trails or other details
 - Daugherty Hill WA
 - Proposed El Dorado WA
- Boats
 - Update text of several properties to clarify boat type, motor type, parking of boat trailer, time of year and when boating is open during specific hunts.
 - Clifton Court Forebay
 - Mendota WA
 - North Grasslands WA
 - Shasta Valley WA
 - Sacramento River WA
 - Lake Earl WA New: Recreational boarding equipment is prohibited (including but not limited to windsurfing, sailboarding, kiteboarding, parasailing, and paragliding).

(M) WA WITH CAMPING TRAILERS

- Daugherty Hill WA remove camping
- Mendota WA update trailers, permit and days.
- Shasta Valley WA Allowed only in check station parking lot.
- Upper Butte Basin WA remove “during waterfowl season” so that camping can be allowed for other hunts as well.

(N) FIRE RESTRICTIONS

- Clifton Court Forebay new
Fires are prohibited except for the use of portable gas stoves.

Section 551 - Wildlife Area Regulations

(O) DESIGNATED CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS ON WILDLIFE AREAS

- Ash Creek WA proposed change would close to all public uses from September 16 until the opening of waterfowl season.
 - Clifton Court Forebay No hunting from shore, no hunting within 150 yards of the water control gates or public fishing area/pier.
 - Daugherty Hill WA add text: The Black Swan sub-unit of the Yuba Narrows Unit is closed to hunting.
 - Feather River WA remove last line regarding O'Connor Lakes
 - Gray Lodge WA Reduce pheasant hunting to the opening weekend and subsequent upland game shoot days.
 - Hallelujah Junction WA add text: Ranch House area closed to all visitor use.
 - Honey Lake WA remove closure from March 1- August 15.
 - Lake Earl WA Delete entry was for Aleutian goose.
 - Los Banos WA No archery hunting is allowed at any time.
 - Los Banos, North Grasslands & O'Neill WA
 - Closed to deer hunting except with a department issued entry permit. Deer may be taken with shotgun and slug only (see subsection 353(d)).
- Detailed example:
- Willow Creek WA –New
 - Closed to all public uses from September 16 until the opening of waterfowl season. During the waterfowl and pheasant hunt seasons the wildlife area will be closed to all public with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays for hunting only. Portions may be closed to the public entry from March 1 through August 15. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field.

Section 551 - Wildlife Area Regulations (cont'd)

(P) TYPE A OR B AREAS WITH SHOOT DAY OR SHOOTING HOURS RESTRICTIONS DURING WATERFOWL SEASON

- Grizzly Island WA remove flight forecast and update text to read: Open to waterfowl hunting, starting on the first Sunday in December for the remainder of the waterfowl season by permit only, and for special drawing pig hunts.

(R) FIREARM RESTRICTIONS ON TYPE C WILDLIFE AREAS

- O'Neill Forebay WA Rifles, pistols, and shotgun slugs are prohibited except for take of deer.

(Q) TYPE C AREAS WITH SHOOT DAY RESTRICTIONS AND/OR SPECIAL DRAWING REQUIREMENTS

- Clifton Court Forebay delete self-registration requirement.
- Edit and update text
 - Fay Slough WA
 - Knoxville WA
 - O'Neill Forebay WA
- Proposed El Dorado WA
 - Special draw entry permits are required for the first nine days of the spring turkey season

(S) ADDITIONAL HUNTER OPPORTUNITIES ON TYPE A & TYPE B WILDLIFE AREAS

- New species, hunt and permit details
 - Los Banos WA deer & quail
 - North Grasslands WA deer & quail
 - Mendota WA quail
 - Tehama WA deer*
 - Upper Butte Basin WA turkey & quail

(T) SPECIES RESTRICTIONS FOR HUNTING ON TYPE C WILDLIFE AREAS:

- New species, hunt and permit details
 - O'Neill Forebay WA deer

Section 551 - Wildlife Area Regulations

(U) TYPE A WA WHICH ALLOW ARCHERY EQUIPMENT DURING WATERFOWL SEASON PER SUBSECTION 550(CC)(4)

- Remove Los Banos WA

(X) ADDITIONAL WATERFOWL RESERVATION REGULATIONS

- Change in season to avoid conflicting with proposed deer hunts
 - Los Banos WA
 - North Grasslands WA
 - O'Neil Forebay WA

(Y) FISHING REGULATIONS ON WILDLIFE AREAS

- Clifton Court Forebay New entry: Fishing from shore only. No wading into water. No fishing from boats.

(Z) WOODCUTTING

- The Department suggest an adjustment to subsection heading to include either Memorandum of Understanding with regional manager approval or to add additional language to the subsection similar to State Parks, that excludes mechanical means of collection but allows wood that can be picked up and carried by hand.
- Remove South Spit WA— no wood there to collect
- Adjust or remove Eel River Wildlife Area

Section 630 Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Ecological Reserves

- 630(b) Ecological Reserves: Designate one property
- 630(d) Hunting
- 630(e) Fishing
- 630(f) Swimming Boating
- 630(g) Bikes and Horses
- 630(h) Closure and Restrictions



Upper Newport Bay
Ecological Reserve
Orange County

Sect. 630 - Ecological Reserve Regulations

(D) ER WITH HUNTING AS A DESIGNATED PUBLIC USE

- Updates and edits to existing hunting opportunities
 - Boden Canyon ER
 - Kerman ER
 - Stone Corral ER
- New hunting opportunities on ER's
 - Boulder Creek ER
 - Burton Mesa ER
 - Chorro Creek ER
 - Proposed Peace Valley ER

(E) FISHING RESTRICTIONS & ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS ON ER

- Fishing allowed in designated areas only.
 - Batiquitos Lagoon ER
 - Bolsa Chica ER
 - San Dieguito Lagoon ER
- Allowed from boats only
 - Fagan Marsh ER
 - Redwood Shores ER - Only lightweight, hand-carried boats
- Remove allowed from boats
 - Upper Newport Bay ER to be consistent with MPA regulations
- Elkhorn Slough ER allow for fishing in the Elkhorn Slough Marine Conservation Area.

Sect. 630 - Ecological Reserve Regulations

(F) SWIMMING AND/OR BOATING

- Fagan Marsh ER- update
 - Allowed but only lightweight non-motorized boats may be operated within the reserve
- Eden Landing ER
 - additional text to clarify when motorized boats can be used.
- Redwood Shores ER
 - Change to swimming prohibited
 - Changing boating to Allowed but boats must be launched from outside of the reserve.

(G) BICYCLES, HORSES, PACK STOCK, AND/OR HORSEBACK RIDING

- Propose allowing bicycle and horse use on established trails or designated areas only.
 - Bakersfield Cactus ER New
 - Carrizo Plains ER New (South Chimineas Units of the Carrizo Plains, certain dates) New
- Watsonville Slough ER New
 - Reserve Allow bicycle use year-round on Lee Road Trail
- Carrizo Plains ER New
 - Allow the use of horses on existing roads and trails on the American and South Chimineas .
- Morro Dunes ER New
 - Allow the use of horses on a designated trail on the Pecho Unit of Morro Dunes ER. All use of horses on the Bayview Unit will remain prohibited. The purpose of the change is to allow horses to use an existing trail across the Pecho Unit which connects designated equestrian trails on Montana de Oro State Park.

Sect. 630 - Ecological Reserve Regulations

(H) DESIGNATED CLOSURES AND RESTRICTIONS ON ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

- Elkhorn Slough ER New
 - Pets are prohibited, except when they remain inside a motor vehicle. Visitors must stay on established trails, paths, or other designated areas. The Reserve is closed to visitor access and use on Mondays and Tuesdays and all days from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM.
- Morro Dunes ER New
 - Allow general public access on Morro Dunes ER on designated trails during daylight hours.



Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve Orange County



Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve
Santa Barbara County

Ban on Neonicotinoid Pesticide Use on CDFW Lands

- CDFW does not currently use neonicotinoid pesticides on CDFW lands, but in response to Commission petition 2017-008, will propose a formal change to Title 14 to make this policy clear in regulation
- The specific location of this change in Title 14 is unknown at this time



Credit: [UC Berkeley Bee Lab](#)

2023 Proposed Rulemaking *CDFW Lands*



Thank you!

Questions?

Kristi Cripe

Statewide Ecological Reserve Coordinator

Kristi.Cripe@wildlife.ca.gov



Peace Valley
(proposed Ecological Reserve)

From: Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com>

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:29 AM

To: FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

Subject: Item 8, Wildlife Resources Committee, May 23, 2023, Public use of wildlife areas and ecological reserves

Honorable Chair and Commission Members:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) is concerned over the detrimental impacts of recreation in wildlife areas and ecological reserves. There is a growing culture of disrespect for rules, manifested by going off-trail, loss of native vegetation, erosion, repeated fence-cutting, etc. There is serious degradation of natural resources and adverse effects on wildlife. *Enforcement resources are completely inadequate.* "Compatible" recreation is becoming an unobtainable if worthy goal. While mountain bikers are often prime offenders, problems are not limited to this user group. Wildlife areas and ecological reserves must serve their primary purpose and not become a substitute for recreation-oriented parks.

Thank you for considering these issues.

Yours truly,
Dan Silver

Dan Silver, Executive Director
Endangered Habitats League
8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592
Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267

213-804-2750

dsilverla@me.com

<https://ehleague.org>

California Fish and Game Commission
Wildlife Resources Committee (WRC) Work Plan
Scheduled Topics and Timeline for Items Referred to WRC
Updated May 8, 2023

TOPICS	CATEGORY	Jan 2023	May 2023	Sep 2023
Periodic Regulations				
Upland (Resident) Game Birds	Regulatory		X	X/R
Mammal Hunting	Regulatory		X	X/R
Waterfowl Hunting	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Central Valley Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing	Annual Regulatory		X	X/R
Inland Sport Fishing	Regulatory	X/R	X/R	X
Regulations & Legislative Mandates				
Falconry	Referral for Review			
Restricted Species	Regulatory			
Wildlife Rehabilitation	Regulatory	X/R	X/R	
Wildlife Areas/Public Lands	Regulatory	X	X/R	
Wild Pig Validations	Regulatory		X	X/R
Special Projects				
American Bullfrog and Non-native Turtle Stakeholder Engagement Project	Referral for Review	X	X	X/R
White Sturgeon	Information/ Regulatory		X	X
Discussions and Updates				
Take of Nongame Species	Referral for Review		X	

KEY: X Discussion scheduled X/R Recommendation potentially developed and moved to FGC

California Fish and Game Commission: Perpetual Timetable for Anticipated Regulatory Actions

May 3, 2023

Regulatory Change Category	Title 14 Section(s)	FGC Teleconference May 17, 2023	WRC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area May 17, 2023	FGC Sacramento June 14, 2023	FGC Sacramento June 15, 2023	MRC Sonoma / San Francisco Bay Area July 20, 2023	TC Fortuna August 21, 2023	FGC Fortuna August 22, 2023	FGC Fortuna August 23, 2023	WRC Chico Area September 21, 2023	FGC San Jose Area October 11, 2023	FGC San Jose Area October 12, 2023	MRC San Diego Area November 16, 2023	TC San Diego Area December 12, 2023	FGC San Diego Area December 13, 2023	FGC San Diego Area December 14, 2023	WRC TBD January 2024	FGC TBD 1 February 2024	FGC TBD 2 February 2024	MRC TBD March 2024	TC TBD April 2024	FGC TBD 1 April 2024	FGC TBD 2 April 2024
Central Valley Sport Fishing (Annual)	7.40(b)(4), (43), (66), (80)	A	V			E 7/16				R													
Klamath River Basin Sport Fishing (Annual)	5.87, 7.40(b)(50)	A	V				E 8/15			R													
Waterfowl (Annual)	502		V			E 7/1				R													
Inland Sport Fish Updates (Annual)	7.40(b)(27), 7.40(b)(79), 7.50(b)(81)			N				D		V	A						E 1/1 / R						
Game Fish Contests	230					E 7/1																	
Pre-Existing Structures in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), and Special Closures	632				N				D							A							
Implementation of AB 817 (Electronic Display of Licenses)	700.4					E 7/1																	
Recreational Hoop Net Regulations Emergency	29.80	EE 5/2																					
Recreational Hoop Net Regulations Emergency (First 90-Day Extension)	29.80	E 5/2					EE 7/31																
Recreational Hoop Net Regulations Emergency (Second 90-Day Extension)	29.80				A		E 7/31					EE 10/29											
Commercial and Recreational Take of California Spiny Lobster; Recreational Hoop Net Requirements for Take of Crustaceans	29.80, 29.90, 29.91, 121, 121.5, 122, 122.1, 122.2, 705									E 9/1													
Elk Hunting	364, 364.1					E 7/1																	
Bighorn Sheep Hunting	362					E 7/1																	
Special Hunts Permits and Draw	702, 715			D				A									E 1/1						
Mitigating Risks for Chronic Wasting Disease Importation and Movement	257.5, 475, 676, 681, 712, 714			N				D			A						E 1/1						
Klamath River Dam Removal Sport Fishing	5.87, 7.40(b)(50), 7.50(b)(73), 8.02							N							D				A		E 4/1		
Commercial Take of Pacific Herring; Lampara Bait Nets ⁷	163, 163.1				N				D / A								E 1/1						
2023 Lands Updates ^{3, 4}	550, 551, 630		R					N			D				A						E 4/1		
California halibut emergency	28.15	A		EUF									EE 11/28										
Southern California Steelhead 2084 Emergency (second 90-day extension)	749.13	EE 5/14																					

Rulemaking Schedule to be Determined	Title 14 Section(s)	FGC Teleconference May 17, 2023	WRC Monterey / Santa Cruz Area May 17, 2023	FGC Sacramento June 14, 2023	FGC Sacramento June 15, 2023	MRC Sonoma / San Francisco Bay Area July 20, 2023	TC Fortuna August 21, 2023	FGC Fortuna August 22, 2023	FGC Fortuna August 23, 2023	WRC Chico Area September 21, 2023	FGC San Jose Area October 11, 2023	FGC San Jose Area October 12, 2023	MRC San Diego Area November 16, 2023	TC San Diego Area December 12, 2023	FGC San Diego Area December 13, 2023	FGC San Diego Area December 14, 2023	WRC TBD January 2024	FGC TBD 1 February 2024	FGC TBD 2 February 2024	MRC TBD March 2024	TC TBD April 2024	FGC TBD 1 April 2024	FGC TBD 2 April 2024
Santa Cruz Harbor Salmon Fishing (FGC Petition 2016-018)	TBD																						
European Green Crab (FGC Petition 2017-006)	TBD																						
Possess Game / Process Into Food	TBD																						
American Zoological Association / Zoo and Aquarium Association	671.1																						
Night Hunting in Gray Wolf Range (FGC Petition #2015-010)	474																						
Mammal Hunting: Big Game ⁹	TBD																						
Wild Pig (SB 856)	TBD																						
Shellfish Aquaculture Best Management Practices	TBD																						
Ridgeback Prawn Incidental Take Allowance	120(e)																						
Possession of Wildlife and Wildlife Rehabilitation	679																						
North Yuba River Special Fishing Regulations (FGC Petition 2021-020) ⁸	TBD																						

KEY
FGC = California Fish and Game Commission MRC = FGC Marine Resources Committee WRC = FGC Wildlife Resources Committee TC = FGC Tribal Committee OAL = Office of Administrative Law
EM = Emergency EE = Emergency Expires E = Anticipated Effective Date (RED "X" = expedited OAL review) EUF = Effective Upon Filing w/ Secretary of State

N = Notice Hearing D = Discussion Hearing A = Adoption Hearing V = Vetting R = Committee Recommendation
3 = Includes FGC Petition 2017-008 4 = Includes FGC Petition 2018-003 6 = Includes FGC Petition 2019-012 7 = Includes FGC Petition 2020-015 8 = To be included in a future sportfishing regulations update 9 = Includes Petition 2021-017