

[Commented via e-mail on 11/5/13 11:03 AM]

While considering the SWAP and re-alignment of CA's wildlife management plan I would like to suggest that the committee serious take into consideration a re-evaluation of the A zone deer hunting region. Especially in the areas north of highway 20 and east of Willits, in the shadows of Sand hedrian mountain.

Specifically the boundary line that runs east of Willits out through commercial street and circles along the Eel river to potter valley and lake Pillsbury. There are many higher altitude regions in this area 1500-2000 ft+ that are much more similar to the mountains east and north of this region than anything to the south. In this pocket the deer are behind the lower elevation coastal and valley deer in their development. Even in the Willits valley it is profound the difference in deer and their development east and west of town with the latter rutting and coming into season much earlier than the deer on the east half of the valley. As well the current boundary line lends itself to an extended period of hunting pressure on the deer that migrate in this specific region. A more defined major boundary line that does not split through a mountainous area that is so similar ecologically all around yet treated so differently by the A zone and B zone hunting seasons. The current line is difficult to enforce, lends itself to poaching and is unfair to the deer population in that area. It may be worth considering. I have previously suggested that fish and game consider the movement of this small north boundary area to the south potentially to the intersection of highway 20 and highway 101 then east. Then from highway 20 Consider using the Potter valley paved road up to Lake Pillsbury as a much clearer boundary and more reflective of the higher altitude and deer in this region. The deer west of Willits and south of highway 101 often go hard horned and deep into the brush much earlier than the deer at these higher elevations. As a result the deer in the higher elevations east of Willits, along the eel river canyon and north of highway 20 stay soft horned and exposed in the open up to 3 weeks into the season.

My previous email suggestion was perceived and studied to suggest that Highway 20 become the north A zone boundary, that was not what I was suggesting as I realize its impact would be much more broad. If nothing else comes of this suggestion I would like to see Fish and game seriously consider using clearer boundaries in some of these regions. Consider breaking up the A zone, taking into account the multiple climate regions it traverses and the migratory patterns of the deer near to the current north boundaries. Consider making the boundaries regions and seasons not so far apart so that the hunting pressure on that regions herd does not span 10 weeks, the deer dropping off of San hedrian through Hearst and into the willits valley get pounded on From early August through the end of October.

Thank you
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