

State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Wildlife Branch

2009-2010 Wild Pig Harvest Report

The 2009-2010 wild pig hunting season ran from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 with no daily bag or seasonal possession limits. The License and Revenue Branch sold 51,982 tags as of April 12, 2011, which includes 40,202 individual resident tags, 650 non-resident tags and 11,130 lifetime tags. Successful hunters returned 3,834 (7.4%) wild pig report cards (Figure 1), which is greater than last year when 3,838 of 57,278 (6.4%) report cards were returned. However, these results are still preliminary, as tag sales continue to be reported, and the total number will increase slightly (decreasing the overall percentage of successful tags).

As in years past, Kern and Monterey Counties lead the wild pig take with 16.7% and 17.5% respectively (Table 1). These numbers are consistent with last year's numbers and with past reports, though in 2007-2008 both counties contributed exceptionally high percentages of the State's total harvest (in that year, Kern was at 30% and Monterey 26%). In San Luis Obispo County pig harvest has stabilized around the average number (283 this year, 280 last year) despite a drop to only 23 reported in 2007-2008.

Much the same as in previous years, most pigs are taken in the Central Region, a primary location for California agriculture and farmland. The Northern Region also produces a significant harvest. Mendocino, Tehama and Shasta, where these harvests occur, consist of rich riparian habitat. These areas are very attractive to wild pigs by providing required habitat elements – food (tubers and lush vegetation), water (which defines a riparian area), shelter (shade trees and wallows to escape the scorching summer sun) and space (ample room to perform all necessary life traits, such as breeding and feeding).

Accessing areas of high pig activity is pivotal to successful hunting – this year private lands harvest accounted for 93% of the State's total harvest, while public lands accounted for only 6% (Figure 2). Of that 6% a large proportion were on military bases such as Fort Hunter Liggett and Camp Roberts. Wild pigs may be using public land less for a variety of reasons. Hunting pressure, not only for pigs but also deer, bear, fowl,

and other species, may push pigs off of public land and onto private land. Private land may consist of lush farmland and crops or it may be a privately managed wildlife habitat, both of which are very attractive to wild pigs. Furthermore, outfitting and guide services operate on much of the private lands reporting pig take. The guides' personnel are on the property much of the year, and their business relies on their ability to locate wild pigs. As such, the success rate of wild pig hunting with the use of guide services are much higher than without, which is also reflected in the land ownership breakdown (Figure 2).

The methods used to take wild pigs in California are consistent with years' past. Rifle hunting represented the most successful hunting method, and accounted for 89% of the total harvest (Figure 3). Archery represented 6% of the harvest, shotgun and pistol each represented 2% and crossbow and muzzleloader combined represent less than 0.5% of the total harvest. Only 7% of successful hunters report using hounds to hunt wild pigs, though this year 8% of returned tags left this information blank (Figure 5).

In general, both genders of wild pigs are harvested equally, though this year saw a bias towards females, which accounted for 54% while males accounted for only 44%. Two percent of the harvest report cards did not indicate a gender. This statistic may indicate hunter selectivity for gender in the harvest, perhaps due to a perception that the meat of females is more palatable, or it may be incidental. Wild pigs typically exhibit a 50:50 gender ratio in the wild, and it is unlikely that the population is actually skewed toward females.

Table 1: Wild Pigs Harvested by County (2009-2010)

County	# Wild Pigs Taken	% of Total Harvest
Alameda	18	0.47%
Calaveras	7	0.18%
Colusa	90	2.35%
Contra	12	0.31%
Fresno	69	1.80%
Glenn	73	1.90%
Humboldt	28	0.73%
Kern	640	16.69%
Kings	10	0.26%
Lake	157	4.09%
Los Angeles	12	0.31%
Madera	30	0.78%
Marin	0	0.00%
Mariposa	35	0.91%
Mendocino	283	7.38%
Merced	29	0.76%
Monterey	672	17.53%
Napa	33	0.86%
Nevada	10	0.26%
Orange	0	0.00%
Riverside	5	0.13%
San Benito	157	4.09%
San Bernardino	5	0.13%
San Diego	6	0.16%
San Joaquin	6	0.16%
San Luis Obispo	283	7.38%
San Mateo	1	0.03%
Santa Barbara	113	2.95%
Santa Clara	87	2.27%
Santa Cruz	6	0.16%
Shasta	98	2.56%
Siskiyou	10	0.26%
Solano	23	0.60%
Sonoma	287	7.49%
Stanislaus	29	0.76%
Sutter	33	0.86%
Tehama	339	8.84%
Trinity	4	0.10%
Tulare	59	1.54%
Tuolumne	1	0.03%
Ventura	9	0.23%
Yolo	3	0.08%
Yuba	3	0.08%
Unknown	59	1.54%
Grand Total	3834	100.00%

Figure 1: Wild Pigs Harvested by Year (2000 – 2010)

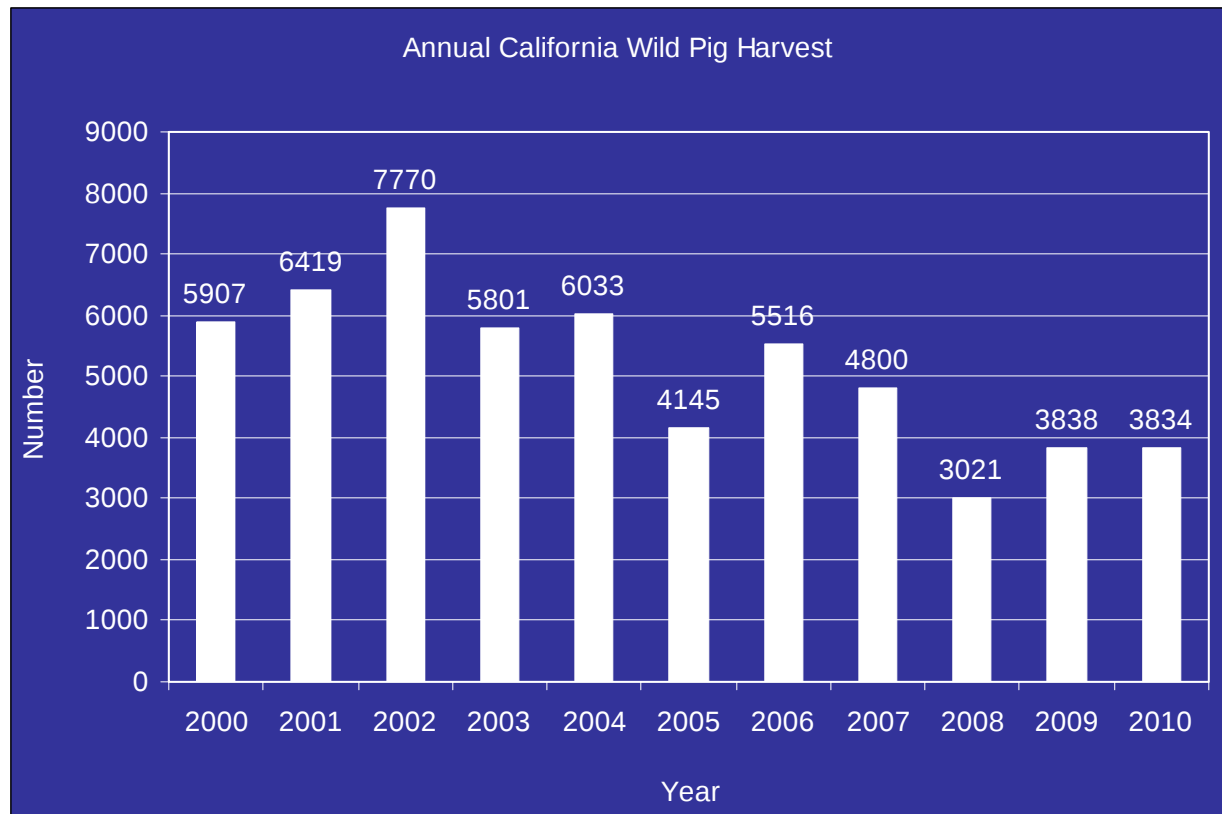


Figure 2: Wild Pig Harvest by Land Ownership (2009-2010)

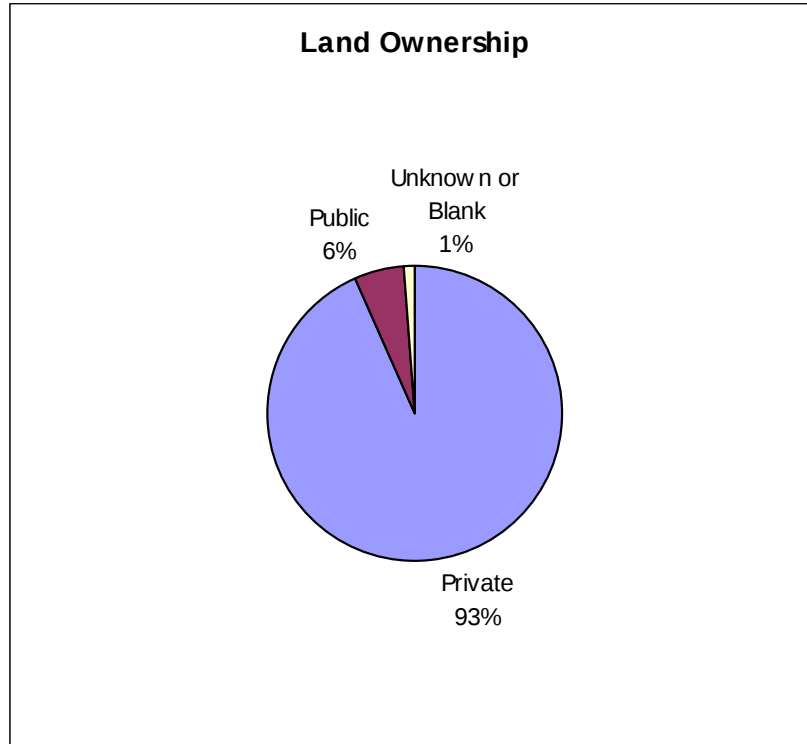


Figure 3: Wild Pig Harvest by Method of Take (2009-2010)

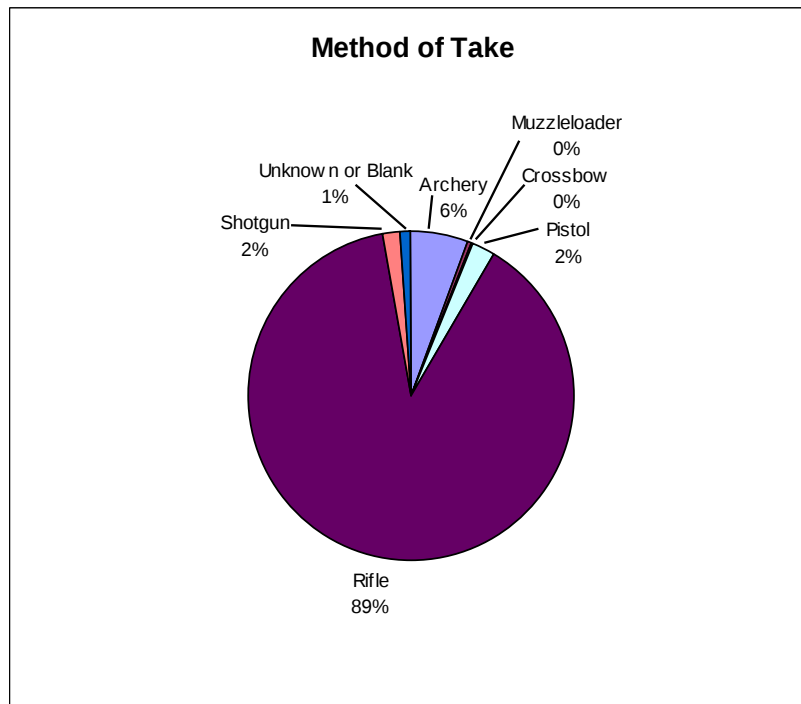


Figure 4: Wild Pig Harvest by Gender (2009-2010)

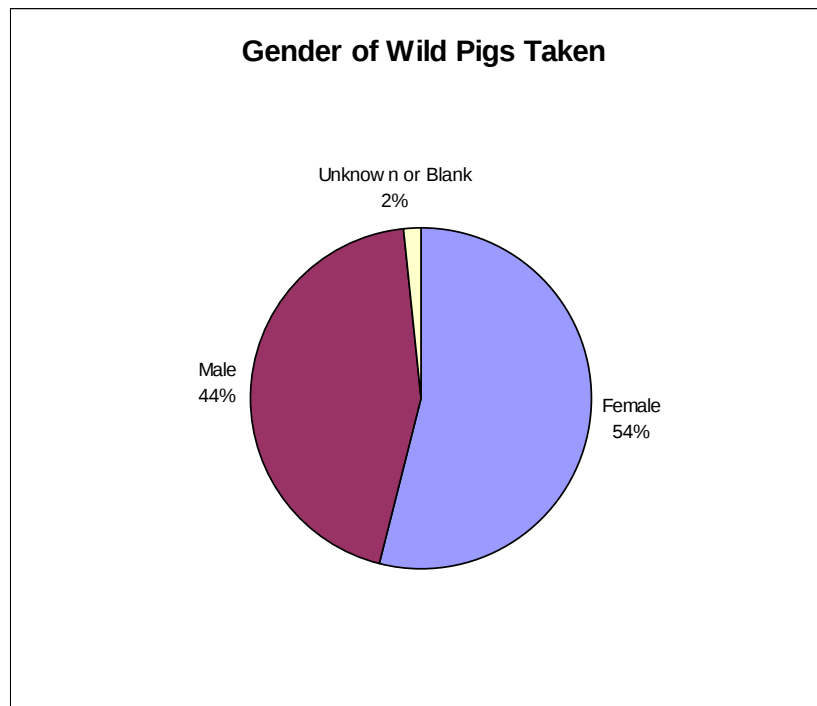


Figure 5: Wild Pig Harvest by Dog Use (2009-2010)

