

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

2010-2011 Wild Pig Take Report

The 2010-2011 wild pig hunting season ran from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 with no daily bag or seasonal possession limits. During this season, successful hunters returned 3,574 wild pig report cards (Figure 1), which is slightly fewer than last year when 3,836 were returned. Thus far, this represents 12.03% of the reported tag sales resulting in successful take. As of October 31, 2011, the License and Revenue Branch (LRB) reported selling 29,718 wild pig tags. This figure includes 22,581 resident tags, 178 non-resident tags and 6,959 lifetime tags. These numbers are preliminary, and LRB will continue to update them as tag sales are tallied. In the past few years sales have ranged between 55,000 and 60,000 tags with success rates between 5% and 8% (see previous years' [reports](#) and view the ten year summary [PDF](#) on the LRB website for more details).

The counties with the highest reported take were Kern (591, 16.5%), Monterey (505, 14.1%), Tehama (348, 9.7%) and Mendocino (303, 8.5%) (Table 1). This is consistent with reports from the past several years, though in the 2009-2010 season Monterey County accounted for a slightly greater percentage (672, 17.5%), while Mendocino County had fewer pigs reported (283, 7.4%). For the first time in several years, hunters reported taking pig in both Lassen and Placer Counties (Lassen had one reported in the 2006-2007 season, Placer had two in 2007-2008).

Across the state, the areas with the highest numbers of pigs taken were: the Central Region (coming mainly from Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and San Benito counties), the Northern Region (from Tehama and Mendocino counties), and a few counties in the North-Central Region (Colusa and Lake). Though they did not account for a large percentage, Santa Barbara County in the Southern Region, and both Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties in the Bay-Delta Region each contributed over 100 pigs to this season's total.

Geographically, these areas occur along the Coast Range, the Central Valley and the Klamath Mountains. Only a small percentage of pigs were taken in the higher Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountain ranges and the drier southern deserts. This reflects the

required habitat elements for wild pigs – food (tubers, lush vegetation and acorns among many other items), water, shelter (shade trees and wallows) and space to perform all necessary life traits from feeding to breeding and rearing young.

The majority of pig were reported taken on private lands (93%), while public land accounted for 6% and the remaining 1% was not reported (Figure 2). Though wild pigs do utilize public lands they may do so less readily than private spaces for several reasons. These include hunting pressure on public land (both for pigs and for other species such as deer, bear and wild turkey) and the high quality habitat created by farmlands and privately managed wildlife areas. Since available water is an important component of wild pig habitat, some public lands may be less attractive to them than agricultural areas. In addition, many of the private lands offering pig hunts utilize guides who know the terrain and pigs' behavior well, and their ability to locate pigs on the property increases the success rate for hunters.

The methods of take reported for the 2010-2011 showed no major changes since recent seasons (see prior Wild Pig Take Reports). The most common method of take for wild pigs was rifle, which accounted for 87% of reported successes (Table 3). Archery was the second most common method with 6% of the harvest, while shotgun and pistol accounted for 2% each. Muzzleloaders made up 1% of this year's reported take, while crossbows were the reported method for 12 pigs, just 0.3% percent. Only 6% of hunters reported using dogs to harvest pigs, though 6% of returned tags were left blank in that regard (Figure 4).

The genders of harvested pigs were nearly equal, as is the usual trend, with slightly more male pigs reported (Figure 5). Male pigs accounted for 51% of the 2010-2011 harvest, while females were 47% and 2% of returned tags were blank or illegible. Though the trend of slightly higher male harvest over the last several years may indicate minor hunter selectivity, it is also possible that this is an artifact of behavioral differences between genders or merely random chance. Wild pig populations generally exhibit a gender ratio close to 50:50, because there is no known bias in birth ratio or juvenile survival.

Figure 1. Annual California Wild Pig Take (2001-2011)

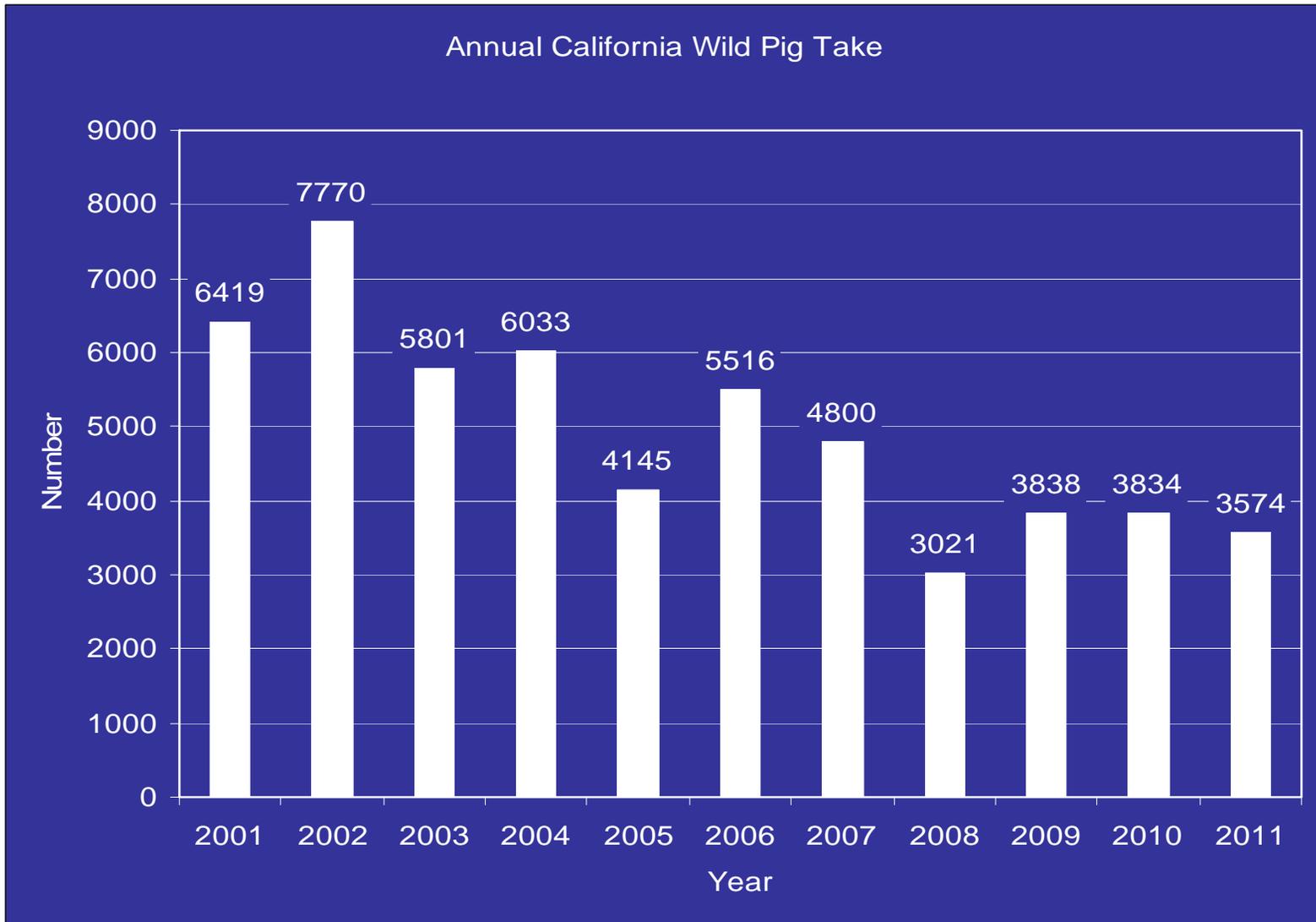


Table 1. Wild Pig Take by County (2010 – 2011)

County	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Kern	591	16.54%
Monterey	505	14.13%
Tehama	348	9.74%
Mendocino	303	8.48%
San Luis Obispo	272	7.61%
Sonoma	269	7.53%
Santa Barbara	150	4.20%
Colusa	134	3.75%
San Benito	127	3.55%
Lake	116	3.25%
Santa Clara	114	3.19%
Shasta	73	2.04%
Glenn	63	1.76%
Fresno	58	1.62%
Tulare	43	1.20%
Napa	40	1.12%
Humboldt	38	1.06%
Merced	36	1.01%
Stanislaus	33	0.92%
Madera	28	0.78%
Mariposa	23	0.64%

County	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Solano	22	0.62%
Contra Costa	19	0.53%
Sutter	17	0.48%
Alameda	16	0.45%
Nevada	13	0.36%
Kings	11	0.31%
Yolo	11	0.31%
Los Angeles	10	0.28%
Trinity	9	0.25%
San Diego	8	0.22%
Butte	5	0.14%
Santa Cruz	5	0.14%
Ventura	5	0.14%
San Bernardino	4	0.11%
Calaveras	3	0.08%
San Joaquin	3	0.08%
Siskiyou	3	0.08%
Placer	2	0.06%
Riverside	2	0.06%
Yuba	2	0.06%
Lassen	1	0.03%

Unknown: 39 (1.09%)	Total: 3, 574
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Figure 2. Wild Pig Take by Land Ownership (2010 – 2011)

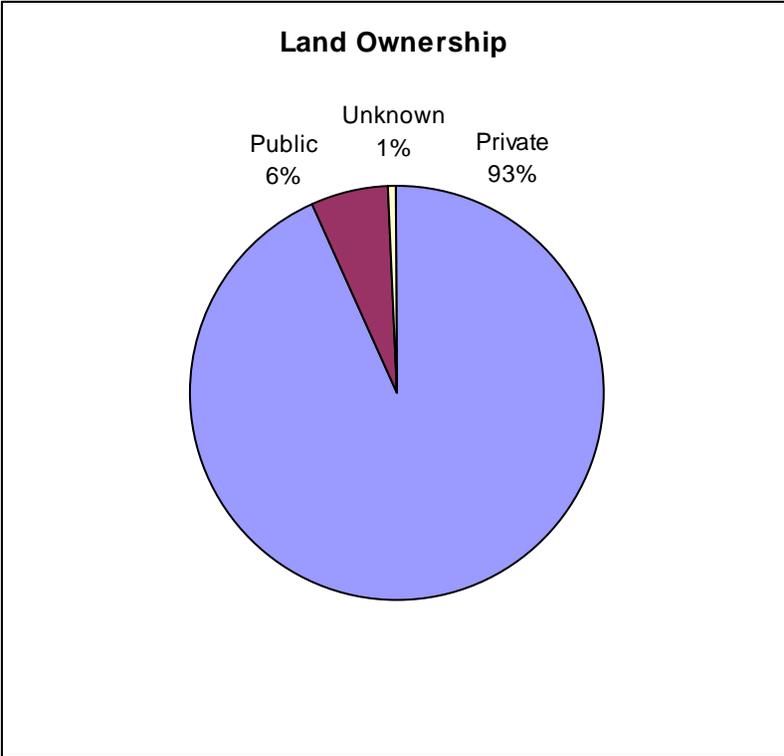


Figure 3. Wild Pig Take by Method (2010 – 2011)

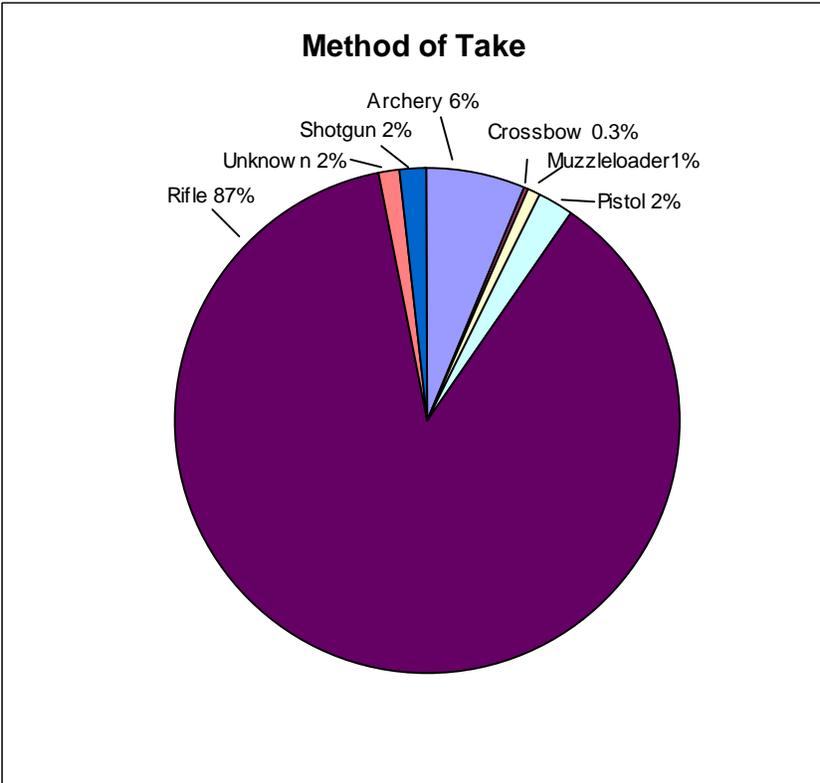


Figure 4. Wild Pig Take Using Dogs (2010 – 2011)

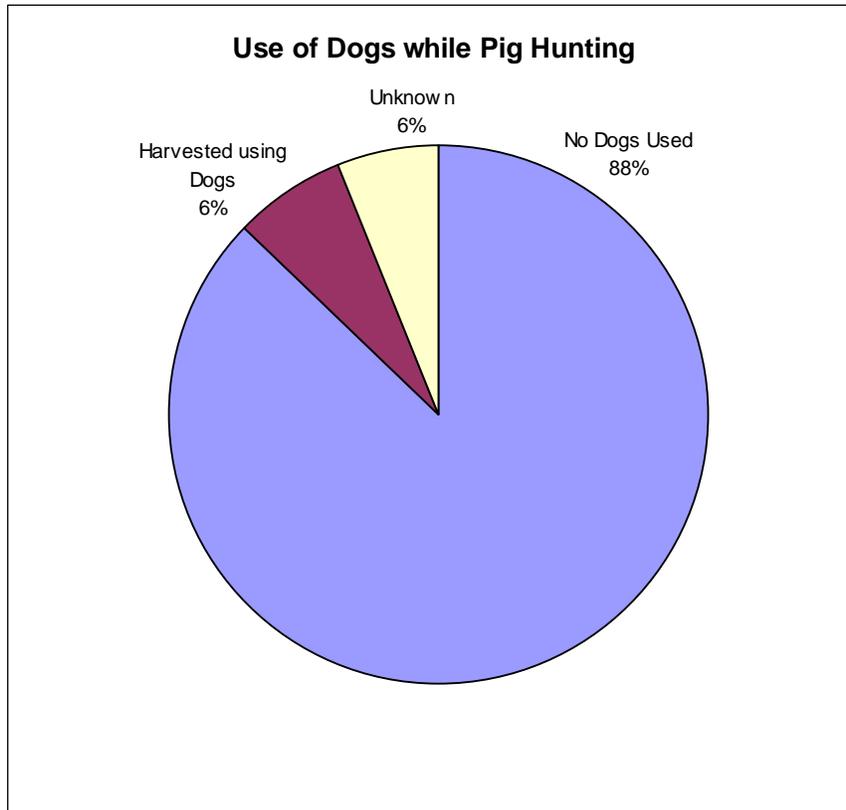


Figure 5. Wild Pig Take by Gender (2010 – 2011)

