

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

2011-2012 Wild Pig Take Report

The 2011-2012 wild pig hunting season ran from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 with no daily bag or seasonal possession limits. During this season, successful hunters returned 2,948 wild pig report cards (Figure 1), which is significantly lower (17.54%) than the previous year when 3,574 were returned. This represents 4.89% of the reported tag sales resulting in successful take. As of July 1, 2012 the License and Revenue Branch (LRB) reported selling 60,349 wild pig tags, which is not significantly higher than the previous year when 58,236 tags were sold. This figure includes 51,990 resident tags, 1,192 non-resident tags and 8,269 lifetime tags. Over the past five years tag sales have averaged 58,945 tags with success rates between 4.33% and 6.70% (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 Monterey (541, 18.35%), San Luis Obispo (401, 13.60%), Tehama (257, 8.72%), and Mendocino (243, 8.24%) (Table 1). Atypical of past years, Kern county had a decreased reported harvest of 163 pigs taken (5.53%) which is a drop of at least 10.93% compared to last year's harvest of 591 pigs. San Luis Obispo's contribution towards this year's harvest is greatly increased from the previous three years' harvest numbers which averaged 278 pigs harvested. 15 counties had no reported pig harvest.

From a statewide perspective, the areas with the highest number of pigs taken were: the Central Region with 1519 pigs taken (mainly from Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Kern, and San Benito counties), the Northern Region with 568 pigs taken (mainly from Tehama and Mendocino counties), and a few counties in the North-Central Region (Colusa, Glenn, and Lake) and Bay Delta Region (Sonoma). Though they did not account for a large percentage, Santa Barbara County in the Southern region and Fresno County in the Central Region each contributed close to 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 pigs were reported taken on private lands (92.6%), while public land accounted for 5.0%, military land for 2.2%, and the remaining 0.2% was not reported (Figure 2). Though wild pigs do utilize public lands they may do so less readily than private lands for several reasons. These include hunting pressure on public land (both for pigs and 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 2011-2012 season 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 90.0% of reported successes (Figure 3). Archery was the second-most common method with 5.2% of the harvest, with shotgun and pistol/revolver accounting for 2.3% and 1.5 % of the harvest, respectively. Muzzleloaders and crossbows accounted for 0.4% each of this year's reported take with 13 pigs each. Only 0.2% of hunters did not report the method used to harvest. The number of hunters reporting use of dogs to harvest wild pigs did not change significantly, with 6.5% reporting use of dogs and only 0.8% of returned tags were left blank in that regard (Figure 4).

The genders of harvested pig was slightly different than in previous years, with close to ten percent more male pigs being harvested versus female pigs (Figure 5). Male pigs accounted for 55.1% of the harvest, while females were 44.6% and 0.3% 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 (2002-2012)



Table 1. Wild Pig Take by County (2011-2012)

County	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
Monterey	541	18.35%
San Luis Obispo	401	13.60%
Tehama	257	8.72%
Mendocino	243	8.24%
Sonoma	208	7.06%
Kern	163	5.53%
Colusa	135	4.58%
San Benito	122	4.14%
Glenn	100	3.39%
Lake	99	3.36%
Fresno	98	3.32%
Santa Barbara	91	3.09%
Santa Clara	69	2.34%
Stanislaus	58	1.97%
Tulare	43	1.46%
Shasta	39	1.32%
Merced	35	1.19%
Madera	32	1.09%
Sutter	26	0.88%
Napa	21	0.71%
Solano	19	0.64%
Yolo	19	0.64%
Humboldt	18	0.61%
Nevada	18	0.61%
Mariposa	14	0.47%
Alameda	13	0.44%
Riverside	11	0.37%
Trinity	9	0.31%
Contra Costa	8	0.27%

County	Number Harvested	Percent of Harvest
San Joaquin	7	0.24%
Los Angeles	6	0.20%
Ventura	5	0.17%
Kings	4	0.14%
San Diego	3	0.10%
Santa Cruz	3	0.10%
Butte	1	0.03%
Del Norte	1	0.03%
Mono	1	0.03%
Orange	1	0.03%
Placer	1	0.03%
San Bernadino	1	0.03%
Siskiyou	1	0.03%
Tuolumne	1	0.03%
Alpine	0	0.00%
Amador	0	0.00%
Calaveras	0	0.00%
El Dorado	0	0.00%
Imperial	0	0.00%
Inyo	0	0.00%
Lassen	0	0.00%
Marin	0	0.00%
Modoc	0	0.00%
Plumas	0	0.00%
Sacramento	0	0.00%
San Francisco	0	0.00%
San Mateo	0	0.00%
Sierra	0	0.00%
Yuba	0	0.00%

Unknown: 2 (0.07%)

Total: 2,948

Figure 2. Wild Pig Take by Land Ownership (2011-2012)

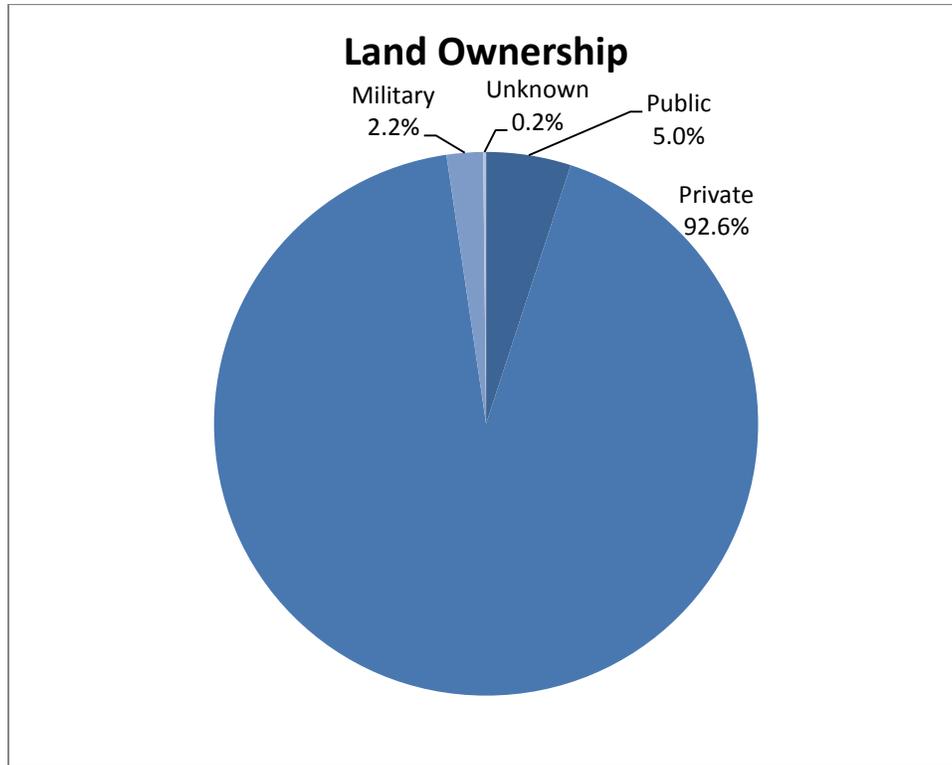


Figure 3. Wild Pig Take by Method (2011-2012)

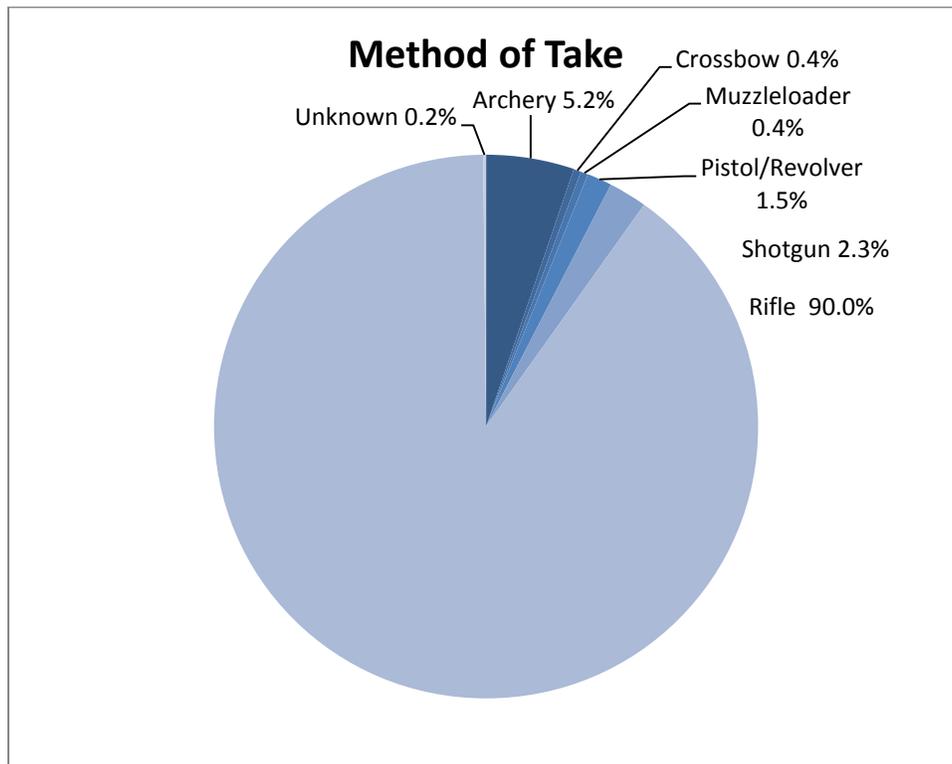


Figure 4. Wild Pig Take Using Dogs (2011-2012)

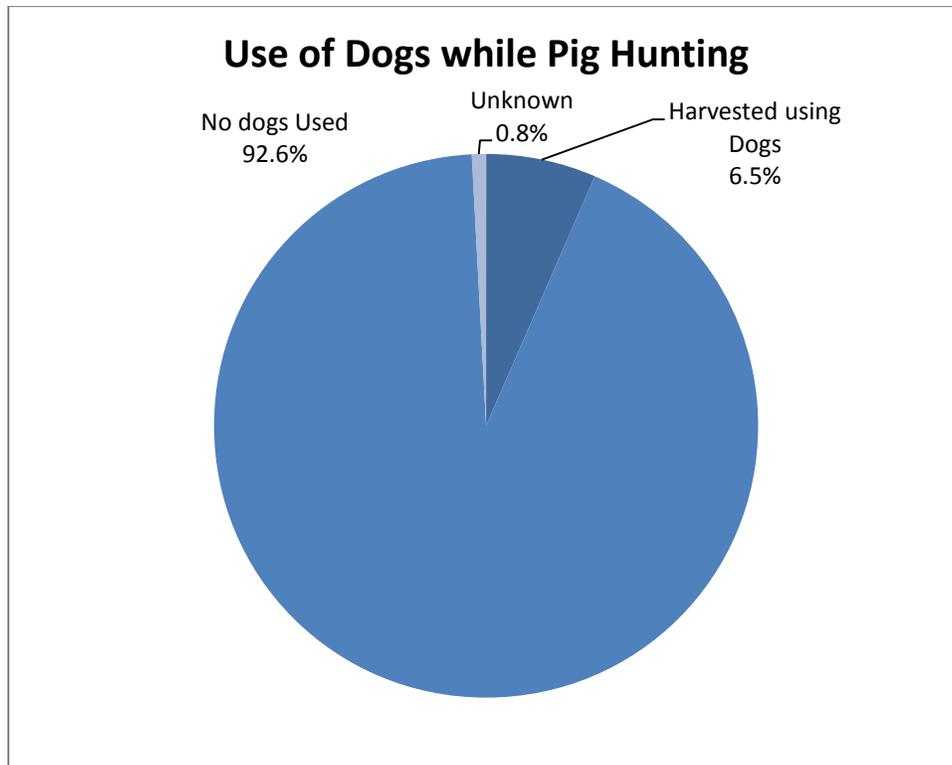


Figure 5. Wild Pig Take by Gender (2011-2012)

