

Staff Summary for October 13-16, 2026

5. Department Lands**Today's Item**Information ☐Action ☒

Consider authorizing publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations related to Department lands.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

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| • Granted Petition 2018-016 (Hope Valley Wildlife Area) | April 17-18, 2024 |
| • Granted Petition 2025-12 (Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area) | April 15-16, 2026 |
| • Wildlife Resources Committee initial vetting | January 13, 2026; WRC |
| • Wildlife Resources Committee vetting and recommendation | May 14, 2026; WRC |
| • Today's notice hearing | October 13-16, 2026 |
| • Discussion hearing | December 15-16, 2026 |
| • Adoption hearing | February 10-11, 2027 |

Background

Current Commission regulations in sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630 and 702 provide the regulatory framework for the use of lands owned, managed, and/or administered by the Department, including wildlife areas and ecological reserves. The Department requests that the Commission make a number of amendments to the regulations (Exhibit 1) and has provided supporting documents for Commission consideration, including a draft initial statement of reasons (Exhibit 2) and draft proposed regulatory language (Exhibit 3).

Proposed Changes

The draft proposed amendments would, in part:

- Clarify that the application of neonicotinoid pesticides to Department lands is prohibited for everyone, not just Department personnel
- Make amendments to hunting regulations on Department lands
- Define trail cameras and prohibit their use on Department lands, except as authorized by the Department
- Update language regarding issuing entry permits for vacancies left after all reservations are filled during waterfowl season, and specify the order of the methods (numerical order of reservation; vacancy drawing; first-come, first-served) that may be used to issue entry permits for areas that conduct vacancy drawings and for areas that do not conduct vacancy drawings
- Make amendments to specific regulations on selected properties regarding hunting, angling, boating, camping, horse riding, bicycling (see Exhibit 9), and dog training

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- For the Department Lands Pass Program, add Big Springs Ranch and remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area (WA) (see exhibits 7 and 8), Crescent City Marsh WA, Eel River WA, Elk Creek Wetlands WA, Elk River WA, Fay Slough WA, Lake Earl WA, Mad River Slough WA, South Spit WA, Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve (ER), Bolsa Chica ER, Buena Vista Lagoon ER, San Elijo Lagoon ER, Upper Newport Bay ER, Cache Creek WA, and South Spit WA, and continue exclusion of the Crescent Unit of the Grizzly Island WA from the program (see Exhibit 2 for the rationale for each property)
- Revise language to reflect existing federal regulations for seven national wildlife refuges, and reorganize information in consistent order across all nine refuges
- Provide a link to current application fees, clarify that fees are required for each event, and update the fees listed to the 2027 permit fees

Further details on these amendments, and a complete description of all Department-recommended amendments, are available in exhibits 2 and 3. The Department has provided a document summarizing all the recommendations (Exhibit 6).

Today, the Department will present its recommendations for amendments to Department lands regulations (Exhibit 5).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)

Recommendation

Commission staff: Authorize publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations related to Department lands as recommended by WRC and the Department

Committee: Support a rulemaking regarding Department lands based on the Department's recommendation made during the WRC meeting.

Department: Authorize publication of a notice of intent to amend regulations as detailed in the draft initial statement of reasons and draft proposed regulatory language.

Exhibits

1. [Department memo](#) transmitting initial statement of reasons, received October 7, 2026
2. [Draft initial statement of reasons](#), dated September 2, 2026
3. [Draft proposed regulatory language](#)
4. [Draft economic and fiscal impact statement](#) (STD 399)
5. [Department presentation](#)
6. Department handout, ["2026 Recommended Rulemaking Package for Department Lands"](#), received October 7, 2026
7. [Petition 2018-016\(a\)](#): Request to remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Department Lands Pass Program
8. [Transcription from discussion about Hope Valley Wildlife Area](#) during April 17, 2024 Commission meeting

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9. [Petition 2025-012](#): Request to modify regulations for the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area to allow bicycle use on roads and levees during waterfowl season

Motion

Move by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission authorizes publication of a notice of its intent to amend Section 540, et al., related to Department lands.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

MEMORANDUM

Received October 7, 2026
Original signed copy on file

Date: October 7, 2026

To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission

From: Meghan Hertel, Director

Subject: Submission of Initial Statement of Reasons for the October 13-16, 2026 Fish and Game Commission Meeting, Amend Sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Re: Department Lands

Please find attached the Initial Statement of Reasons to amend Sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. The proposed amendments improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations that govern public use of land owned, managed, and/or administered by the Department. Additionally, the regulation changes would make site-specific changes for certain properties to improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, provide resource protection, and manage staff resources. These proposed amendments will allow the Department to pursue its mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and habitat upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Michelle Selmon, Lands Program Manager, at michelle.selmon@wildlife.ca.gov. The Department point of contact for this rulemaking is Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist, Kristi Cripe, Lands Program Ecological Reserve Coordinator, who can be contacted via email at LandsProgram@wildlife.ca.gov.



ec: **Department of Fish and Wildlife**

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State of California
Fish and Game Commission
Initial Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action

Amend Sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Department Lands

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: September 2, 2026

II. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings

(a) Notice Hearing

Date: October 13-16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: December 15-16, 2026

Location: Sacramento

(c) Adoption Hearing

Date: February 10-11, 2027

Location: Sacramento

III. Description of Regulatory Action

(a) Statement of Specific Purpose of Regulatory Change and Factual Basis for Determining that Regulation Change is Reasonably Necessary

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, “Department” refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and “Commission” refers to the California Fish and Game Commission.

The proposed regulation changes would improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations that govern public use of lands owned, managed, and/or administered by the Department (sections 540, 550, 550.5 and 552). Additionally, the proposed regulation changes would make site-specific changes for certain properties to improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, provide resource protection, and manage staff resources (subsections 551(b) through (y) and 630(b) through (d)).

A map showing the distribution of properties with property-specific regulations and the proposed wildlife area is included as Attachment 1.

Background

Both wildlife areas and ecological reserves are often used for environmental education and scientific research. The designation of Department lands as wildlife areas or ecological reserves, and the authorization of public uses on those lands, is the responsibility of the Commission as set forth in California Fish and Game Code (FGC) sections 1526, 1580, and 1584.

Wildlife areas (Section 551) are acquired for the conservation of wildlife and the habitats on which they depend, and to provide opportunities for recreational uses compatible with those conservation goals (FGC sections 1525 through 1530, and 1745). Currently, the Department owns, manages and/or administers Department wildlife areas (subsection

551(b)), public hunting on federal areas (subsection 551(c)), and other agency areas (subsection 551(d)).

Ecological reserves (Section 630) are acquired primarily for the purpose of protecting threatened or endangered native plant and animal species or specialized habitat types (FGC Section 1580). Certain public uses, deemed compatible with those purposes, are authorized for ecological reserves. Typically, public uses include hiking on established trails to observe native plants and wildlife (FGC Section 1584). Hunting, fishing, and other uses may be allowed on an individual basis (FGC subdivision 1745(d)).

Since 1988, lands passes have been required for that segment of the public that uses Department lands, except for those that possess hunting, fishing, or trapping licenses, pursuant to the Native Species Conservation and Enhancement Act of 1988 (FGC sections 1750 through 1772).

Current Regulations

Current regulations that govern public uses of lands owned, managed and/or administered by the Department are found in sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702:

- Section 540 contains regulations that prohibit the use of neonicotinoid pesticides on Department lands.
- Section 550 contains regulations that pertain to all Department lands.
- Section 550.5 contains more detailed regulations about reservations, passes, and permits required for specified uses of Department lands.
- Section 551 contains regulations that pertain to the Department's wildlife areas.
- Section 552 contains regulations that pertain to nine national wildlife refuges (that are also designated as wildlife areas), where the Department administers and operates hunting programs.
- Section 630 contains regulations that pertain to the Department's ecological reserves.
- Section 702 contains regulations that pertain to Department hunting applications, lands applications, tags, seals, permits, special use permits, reservations, passes, and fees.

Proposed Regulations

Amendments to Section 540, Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands:

Current regulation in Section 540 specifies that the application of a neonicotinoid pesticide to Department lands by the Department is prohibited, and current regulation in subsection 550(r) specifies that no visitor shall apply, leave, dump, bury, release or dispose of any pesticide, herbicide, or hazardous substance, material or waste in, on or from Department land. This proposed amendment deletes "by the department" in Section 540. While the Commission believes the current language encompasses lessees, permittees, or other

non-visitors working on Department lands that may be employed or otherwise associated with the Department, comments from the public have revealed that fact may not be clear given the current phrasing. The proposed amendment is necessary to further clarify that the application of neonicotinoid pesticides by any person (such as a lessee who may be considered neither the Department nor a visitor) is prohibited on Department lands, and reflects the Department's continuing commitment to prohibiting the use of this pesticide on Department lands.

Amendments to Section 550, General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands:

Subsection (b)(10): Current regulations specify the definition of a “reservation” as a randomly drawn application that assures entry onto a wildlife area, when presented with the appropriate entry pass. The proposed amendment changes “entry pass” to “entry permit and/or pass” to recognize that authorized entry may be granted through an entry permit, pass, or both rather than implying that an entry pass is the only acceptable authorization. This amendment also retains consistency with referenced subsection 550.5(c).

New subsection (b)(19): Wildlife area staff set hunter limits to balance hunter opportunity with hunter safety and hunting experience quality. Based on an area's limits, the reservation process randomly draws a specified number of applications for hunting on a specific date. However, it is common for there to be multiple unfilled reservations when hunters decide not to hunt on that site on the reservation date. The proposed regulation adds language to define “vacancy drawing” as a random drawing or first-come first-served opportunity to fill hunting vacancies remaining when hunt reservations remain unclaimed after the reservation expiration time on some Type A wildlife areas or national wildlife refuges. The proposed regulation is necessary to allow the Department to provide hunting opportunities to hunters without a reservation by filling spots that would otherwise be vacant. The proposed regulation also specifies that hunters wishing to enter a vacancy drawing must do so in person the evening before or morning of the hunt day, depending on the area and that hunters shall enter no more than one vacancy drawing per hunt day. These restrictions are necessary to prevent hunters from traveling between multiple areas to submit entries at several locations on the same day in order to ensure that the opportunity is available on an equitable basis. Entering a vacancy drawing “in person” ensures Department staff can verify the identification of the individual and further prevents the possibility of entering more than one vacancy drawing per hunt day. Requiring hunters to enter the vacancy drawing the evening before or morning of the hunt day increases likelihood of participation. The subsection further specifies that an entry permit is not guaranteed. Specifying that an entry permit is not guaranteed is necessary because the number of hunters allowed on an area is dependent on the area's predetermined limit.

Subsection (c)(2)(F)(2): Current regulations in this subsection specify that where an entry permit is required for hunting, a hunting pass must be presented with a photo identification at the time of entry for issuance of an entry permit. However, current

regulations in subsection 550.5(c)(7) exempt a visitor with a junior hunting license from the requirement to have a hunting pass. The proposed amendment clarifies that hunters, with the exception of junior hunters, must present a hunting pass. This change is necessary for consistency with subsection 550.5(c)(7). Additionally, the proposed amendment specifies that hunters 18 years of age and older must also present a photo identification at time of entry for issuance of an entry permit. This update is necessary to prevent adult hunters from using hunting passes purchased by other hunters, and because hunters younger than 18 may not possess a photo ID.

Subsections (c)(3) and (c)(3)(A): Current regulations specify that employees of the Department are authorized to refuse entry or issuance of entry permits, revoke permits, and/or eject any visitor from Department land under specified circumstances. The proposed amendments specify that the Department is authorized to refuse issuance of “entry permits and/or passes”. This change is necessary for consistency with subsections (b)(10) and (c)(5)(A)2. Additionally, the proposed amendments add “ban” to the types of actions the Department may take. This change is necessary for consistency with proposed amendments to subsections (c)(5)(A)3. and (c)(5)(A)4.

Subsections (c)(5)(A)3. and (c)(5)(A) 4.: Current regulations specify the penalties which may result if a visitor fails to comply with sections 550, 551, 552 or 630, including denial of permission to enter, revocation of a pass or permit already issued, ejection from Department lands for up to one year, and citation or arrest. The proposed amendments specify that a visitor’s failure to comply with an authorization, condition, or term of a permit or entitlement issued pursuant to sections 550, 550.5, 551, 552 or 630, the provisions of Section 550, or failure to comply with any related provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto may result in the specified penalties. The addition of Section 550.5 to the list of sections referenced and the addition of “authorization, condition or term of a permit or entitlement” are necessary to specify that the regulations pertaining to reservations, entry permits, fees, passes, and special use permit regulations also apply, and noncompliance may result in penalties. The addition of “failure to comply with any related provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted thereto” is necessary to ensure all relevant requirements within Title 14 and the California Fish and Game Code are adhered to.

In addition, the proposed amendments add a one-year ban to the types of penalties. This amendment is necessary to allow Department employees to ban from Department lands any visitor for egregious violations of the regulations or engagement in activities that appear to threaten the general safety or welfare of the property or persons thereon. The proposed amendments specify that an ejection will be applied for 24 hours and a ban will be applied for one calendar year to establish a clear, standardized enforcement period. This clarification establishes consistency, reduces ambiguity regarding the duration of a ban, and supports the equitable treatment of individuals subject to enforcement measures.

Subsection (cc): Current regulations in this subsection specify regulations related to the use and possession of firearms, archery and other propulsive equipment on Department lands.

Current subsection (cc)(1): Current regulations specify that nothing in the section prohibits the lawful possession of a concealed firearm by an active peace officer, a retired peace officer authorized to carry a concealed firearm, or pursuant to a concealed carry permit. The proposed amendments move current subsection (cc)(1) to subsection (cc)(3) without change,

Current subsection (cc)(2): Current regulations in subsection (cc)(2) specify that possession, discharge, and use of firearms or archery equipment is prohibited on Department lands except within Department-designated hunting areas or shooting sites, or with a permit issued by the Department, or as authorized for dog training in a designated area, or when fishing with bow and arrow tackle as defined in subsection 550(b)(12) and allowed in subsection 550(h), and specifies that the prohibition includes air or gas operated devices or guns and all other propulsive devices. The proposed amendments move current subsection (cc)(2) to subsection (cc)(1) and move language regarding the exceptions to separate subsections. Language specifying that the prohibition includes air or gas operated devices or guns and all other propulsive devices is retained in new subsection (cc)(1) and revised to reflect the new sentence structure.

New subsections (cc)(1)(A) and (B): The proposed amendments move current language specifying “within department-designated hunting areas or shooting sites” to new subsections (cc)(1)(A) and (cc)(1)(B) and revise the language. Proposed new subsection (cc)(1)(A) states “[w]ithin department-designated hunting areas for hunting purposes”. Proposed new subsection (cc)(1)(B) states “[w]ithin department-designated shooting areas for target shooting purposes.” It is necessary to specify “for hunting purposes” and “for target shooting purposes” to clearly establish authorized use of the land and reduce ambiguity about what activities are permitted. It also supports consistent enforcement and accountability by distinguishing authorized recreational activities from other potentially unauthorized uses.

New subsection (cc)(1)(C): The proposed amendments move current language specifying “with a permit issued by the department” to new subsection (cc)(1)(C) and revise the language to state “[w]ith a permit issued by the department for purposes listed on the permit.” It is necessary to specify “for the purposes listed on the permit” to prevent deviation from permitted activities.

New subsection (cc)(1)(D): The proposed amendments move current language specifying “as authorized for dog training in a designated area” to new subsection (cc)(1)(D) and revise the language to state “[a]s authorized for dog training in a department-designated area.” The addition of “department” is necessary for clarifying the authority to identify areas where dog training is permitted. This also prevents ambiguity about whether areas designated by other entities or practices would qualify as an authorized area for dog training.

New subsection (cc)(1)(E): The proposed amendments move current language specifying “when fishing with bow and arrow tackle as defined in subsection 550(b)(12) and allowed in subsection 550(h)” to new subsection (cc)(1)(E) and revise the language to state “[b]ow and arrow tackle as defined in subsection 550(b)(12) may be used for fishing purposes when allowed in subsection 550(h)” for clarity.

Current subsection (cc)(3) specifies regulations addressing general non hunting uses of firearms, archery and other propulsive equipment. The proposed amendments move this subsection to subsection (cc)(2) and add language in subsection (B) to further clarify that target shooting is prohibited on all Department lands except at designated shooting areas listed in subsections 551(v) and 630(j). This change is necessary to address ongoing violations on properties that do not have designated shooting areas and thus are not listed in subsections 551(v) and 630(j).

New subsection (ff): Current regulations in subsection 550(v) prohibit visitors from leaving equipment unattended. The proposed regulation defines trail cameras, for the purposes of this regulation, as a device that is not manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video or location data or uses a heat-, motion- or timelapse-activated feature. This definition is necessary to reduce ambiguity in the application and enforcement of the regulations by distinguishing trail cameras and other remotely operated devices from manually operated equipment. Additionally, this definition is necessary to account for evolving trail camera technologies that may utilize different methods to detect or record data. The proposed regulation specifies that the use or possession of trail cameras on Department lands is prohibited except as authorized by the Department. Prohibiting use of trail cameras reduces static and real time technical advantages over wildlife, it decreases adverse impacts on sensitive habitats, such as water sources, and it alleviates concerns from adjacent private landholders. This proposal addresses disturbance to wildlife, human impacts from crowding cameras at sensitive resources and aligns with fair and equal hunting opportunity. Prohibition is consistent with other state and federal land regulations, such as those of Arizona Game and Fish, Nevada Department of Wildlife, and National Parks.

Amendments to Section 550.5, Reservations, Entry Permits, Fees, Passes, and Special Use Permits:

Subsection 550.5(c)(9): Current regulations specify that any required entry permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis and/or by a reservation drawing to be held at a designated Department office. The proposed amendments revise the language to specify that any required entry permits will be issued first in numerical order to hunters with a reservation, then in sequential order to hunters with a number issued via a vacancy drawing for areas that conduct vacancy drawings, and then on a first-come, first-served basis. The proposed amendments are necessary to include permits that are issued to hunters who participate in the vacancy drawing process, and to include drawings that take place at other Department facilities such as check stations, not just Department offices.

Amendments to Section 551, Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas:

[Note: The addition or deletion of properties listed in the following subsections results in the renumbering of subsequent subsections to maintain alphabetical order. Unless otherwise noted, the descriptions below of the proposed regulatory text follow the new numbering as indicated in the proposed regulatory text.]

Subsection 551(b) lists the wildlife areas owned and operated by the Department, specifies the county/counties in which the wildlife areas are located, and whether the wildlife areas are Type A, Type B, or Type C. The names of the management units are provided for wildlife areas with individual management units.

Subsection (b)(7): The proposed regulation adds Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area, located in Siskiyou County, as a Type B wildlife area. The Department acquired this property to protect critical cold water aquatic habitat for a variety of anadromous fish, including the state and federally listed coho salmon.

Subsection (b)(22) Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area: The proposed amendments add Santa Clara County to list of counties; Santa Clara County was omitted unintentionally.

Subsection (b)(25) Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area: The proposed amendments add Butte and Nevada counties to the list of counties. This property has had additional acquisitions that extend into Butte and Nevada counties.

Subsection (b)(36) Feather River Wildlife Area: The proposed amendments delete the Shanghai Bend Management Unit from the list of management units for this wildlife area. The Shanghai Bend Management Unit has been transferred to Sutter County.

Subsection (b)(89) San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area: The proposed amendments add Santa Clara County to list of counties; Santa Clara County was omitted unintentionally.

Subsection 551(i): General regulations applicable to the use of dogs for hunting, dog training and dog trials on all Department lands are specified in subsection 550(n). The regulations in subsection 551(i) specify wildlife area-specific regulations for dog training and/or dog trials.

Subsection (i)(8) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area: Current regulations specify that dog training is allowed only in the designated portion of the area and the authorized dates for dog training. The proposed amendments specify that dog training is allowed in the Ringstrom Bay Unit only. This change is necessary to clarify where dog training is allowed. No changes are proposed for the authorized dates for dog training.

Subsection 551(j): General regulations applicable to bicycle use on all Department lands are specified in subsection 550(bb). The regulations in subsection 551(j) specify wildlife area-specific regulations for bicycle use.

Subsection (j)(1) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations allow

bicycle use only on roads open to vehicles on the proposed Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area. The proposed regulations are similar to bicycle use regulations on other Type B wildlife areas in the region. This property is located in rural Siskiyou County. Outside of waterfowl season, much of the visitor use comes from residents of surrounding communities. Public transportation does not provide access to the area, and residents use bicycles to access fishing outside of waterfowl season. Allowing bicycle use provides more access to the surrounding communities. The use of bicycles in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals of this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Subsection (j)(8) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area: Current regulations allow bicycles only on the designated Bay Trail on the Green Island Unit, and the posted public access easement on the Southern Crossing Unit at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. The proposed amendments allow hunters to use bicycles to access Pond 1 and Pond 1A during waterfowl season on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday only. This is necessary to allow hunters to access waterfowl hunting opportunities via bicycle rather than on foot while utilizing the existing roads and levees. The use of bicycles in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals of this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat. This proposal was developed in response to a petition ([#2025-12](#)) submitted to the Commission by a member of the public requesting bicycle access to this property during waterfowl season. The Commission granted the petition at its April 2026 meeting.

Subsection 551(l): General regulations applicable to horses, pack stock, and horseback riding on all Department lands are specified in subsection 550(o). General regulations applicable to boats and swimming on all Department lands are specified in subsection 550(z). The regulations in subsection 551(l) specify wildlife area-specific regulations for boats, horses and pack stock.

Subsection (l)(3) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations prohibit horses and pack stock on the proposed Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area. Allowing horses and pack stock is inconsistent with the conservation goals of this area. Prohibiting horses and pack stock is consistent with other managed wetland properties.

Subsection (l)(10) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area: Current regulations specify that the use of boats is allowed on wildlife areas except as restricted in subsection (l), and no boating restrictions are currently specified for this wildlife area. The proposed amendments prohibit boats on Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. This activity is not compatible with the marsh within this property.

Subsection (l)(36) Volta Wildlife Area: Current regulations specify that the use of horses is allowed on wildlife areas except as restricted in subsection (l), and no horse restrictions are currently specified for this wildlife area. The proposed amendments prohibit horses and pack stock on Volta Wildlife Area. These activities are not compatible with managed wetland habitats. Prohibiting horses and pack stock is consistent with other managed wetland properties.

Subsection 551(m): General regulations applicable to camping, motorhomes and camp trailers on all Department lands are specified in subsection 550(p). The regulations in subsection 551(m) specify wildlife area-specific regulations for camping, motorhomes and camp trailers.

Subsection (m)(6) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area: Current regulations allow camping only during waterfowl season on this wildlife area. The proposed amendments allow camping during waterfowl season or the night before a hunt day. The Department recommends extending camping the night before additional hunts to accommodate hunters who travel from across California for junior deer hunts, turkey hunts, and other upland game hunts. For example, the junior deer hunt is 9 days and allowing camping the night before a hunt allows folks who have traveled long distances to camp onsite and creates more opportunity for hunters who may not be able to afford travel plus lodging. Allowing camping activities in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals of this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat.

Subsection 551(o) specifies wildlife area-specific designated closures and restrictions.

Subsection (o)(5) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations include the following closures and restriction for this wildlife area: Only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests (non-hunting guests or junior hunters) may enter the wildlife area to hunt in designated areas on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season; Big Springs and Little Springs creeks are closed to waterfowl hunting; and the entire property is closed to big game hunting except with a Department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing in addition to a valid deer tag for the applicable deer hunting zone. Allowing hunting opportunities in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. Limiting access to only hunters and their guests on designated areas during waterfowl season on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays is necessary for public safety. The proposed closure to all waterfowl hunting on Big Springs and Little Springs creeks is necessary to protect critical cold water aquatic habitat for salmon. Limiting big game hunting to deer only through a special drawing allows the Department to provide limited hunting opportunities, including junior hunting opportunities, while continuing to improve upland habitat and allowing fishing-related and other activities.

Subsections (o)(12), (o)(14), (o)(15), and (o)(34): The proposed amendments correct the referenced subsection legal citation from “502(e)(1)(B)(5)” to “502(e)(1)(B)5.” This change is necessary for clarity and consistency with the Commission’s subsection numbering format.

Subsection (o)(16) Feather River Wildlife Area: Current regulations specify that the wildlife area is closed to hunting February 1 through June 30 except for the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted and that the Shanghai Bend Unit is closed to hunting. The proposed amendments delete the language regarding the Shanghai Bend Unit closure from this subsection. The Shanghai Bend Management

Unit has been transferred to Sutter County.

Subsection (o)(44) Putah Creek Wildlife Area: Current regulations refer to Zone A archery deer season and provide a citation to Section 360. The proposed amendment corrects the citation from Section 360 to Section 361. This change is necessary to reference the accurate section.

Subsection (o)(55) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area: Current regulations specify that only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests may enter the wildlife area on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during waterfowl season. The proposed amendments direct users to see subsection 551(y) for fishing closures for Shasta Valley Wildlife Area. This change is necessary to draw attention to the closure of Bass Lake and Trout Lake to fishing during waterfowl season.

Subsection 551(p): General regulations applicable to hunter access, species open for hunting, and shoot days for Type A and Type B wildlife areas are specified in subsections 551(e)(1) and (2). General pheasant, dove, quail and snipe hunting seasons are specified in Section 300. Subsection 551(p) specifies wildlife area-specific shoot day and shooting hours restrictions during waterfowl season on Type A and Type B wildlife areas.

Subsection (p)(1) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations include the following shoot day and shooting hours restrictions for this wildlife area: Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during the pheasant season and by special drawing only; quail and snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days; dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season. Allowing hunting opportunities in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. This proposal supports hunter recruitment and creates new hunting opportunities in the region.

Subsections 551(q), (r), and (t) specify Type C wildlife area-specific shoot day restrictions and special drawing requirements, firearm restrictions, and species restrictions, respectively.

Subsections (q)(18), (r)(38), and (t)(18) Perris Reservoir State Recreation Area: The proposed regulations correct the name of the property by adding "State Recreation Area."

Subsection 551(s): General regulations applicable to hunter access, species open for hunting, and shoot days for Type A and Type B wildlife areas are specified in subsections 551(e)(1) and (2). General quail and turkey hunting seasons are specified in Section 300 and regulations regarding special drawings are specified in Section 715. Subsection 551(s) specifies additional hunter opportunities on Type A and Type B wildlife areas.

Subsection (s)(2) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations allow deer hunting through a special drawing only and require a Department-issued entry permit. In addition, the proposed regulations allow quail hunting on waterfowl hunt

days. The addition of deer and quail hunting in this limited manner is consistent with the land use and conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. These proposals support hunter recruitment and create new hunting opportunities in the region.

Subsection (s)(6) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area: Current regulations allow turkey hunting only through a special drawing during the spring season. The proposed regulations allow turkey hunting during fall turkey season on waterfowl shoot days only and during the spring turkey season only through a special drawing. This change is necessary to provide for the hunts conducted through Department regional manager authority pursuant to subsection 550(i)(2). The addition of fall turkey hunting in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. This proposal supports hunter recruitment and hunting opportunities in the area.

Add new subsection (s)(21) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations add a new opportunity for mentored deer and turkey hunting through a Department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing. The addition of deer and turkey hunting in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. This proposal supports recruitment and creates an opportunity for new hunters to experience hunting through a mentored opportunity. The proposed regulations also specify that deer may be only taken with shotgun and slug (see subsection 353(d)). The terrain on this property is relatively flat and allows for deer hunting at shorter distances than mountain terrain, therefore a shotgun and slug limitation is appropriate for deer hunting. Deer hunting is also limited to shotgun and slugs on other wildlife areas in the Central Valley, such as Los Banos Wildlife Area and Gray Lodge Wildlife Area.

Subsection 551(w) Subsection 551(w) specifies the wildlife areas that require a daily or annual lands pass for authorized uses other than hunting (lands pass). General regulations regarding the lands pass are specified in subsection 550.5(c)(11).

Subsection (w)(4) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area: The proposed regulations add Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area to the Lands Pass Program. The property will have similar public uses as other Type B wildlife areas in the region that participate in the lands pass program. This addition will generate revenue to fund conservation and management activities at this property. Please see section “VI. Impact of Regulatory Action” of this document for further explanation of why adding Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area is considered cost effective.

Subsection (w)(7) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area: Under current regulations, Grizzly Island Wildlife Area is included in the list of wildlife areas that require a lands pass for uses other than hunting. The proposed amendments exclude the Crescent Unit of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area from requiring a lands pass. This change is necessary because there is no public access to the Crescent Unit.

Current subsections (w)(5) and (w)(28) Cache Creek Wildlife Area and South Spit

Wildlife Area: Under current regulations, Cache Creek and South Spit wildlife areas are included in the list of wildlife areas that require a lands pass for uses other than hunting. They were erroneously selected for the program since they were already under management with Bureau of Land Management, therefore the lands pass was never implemented on these properties.

Current subsections (w)(6) through (w)(10), (w)(18), and (w)(20) Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area, Eel River Wildlife Area, Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area, Elk River Wildlife Area, Fay Slough Wildlife Area, Lake Earl Wildlife Area, and Mad River Slough Wildlife Area: Under current regulations, Crescent City Marsh, Eel River, Elk Creek Wetlands, Elk River, Fay Slough, Lake Earl, and Mad River Slough wildlife areas are included in the list of wildlife areas that require a lands pass for uses other than hunting. The proposed amendments remove these seven properties from the lands pass program. These properties are located within the California Coastal Zone and have been suspended from the program since 2018 due to concerns from the California Coastal Commission about conflicts with the California Coastal Act of 1976.

Current subsection (w)(15) Hope Valley Wildlife Area: Under current regulations, Hope Valley Wildlife Area is included in the list of wildlife areas that require a lands pass for uses other than hunting. The proposed change removes Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the lands pass program and is necessary because a separate management agreement with Alpine County, currently under development and anticipated to be in place soon, will cover maintenance of this property.

Subsection 551(x): General regulations applicable reservations for hunting activities on wildlife areas are specified in subsection 550.5(a). Subsection 551(x) specifies additional waterfowl reservation regulations for specific wildlife areas, including the number of hunters per reservation and when the reservation expires.

Subsections (x)(3) and (x)(27) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area: Current regulations for these wildlife areas specify the number of hunters per reservation as “Two adults; each adult hunter may bring up to two junior hunters or two non-shooters or one of each.” The proposed amendments for Gray Lodge Wildlife Area and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area reduce number of hunters per reservation to up to three persons. This change is necessary because not all blinds can accommodate six people. The proposed language provides greater predictability for members of the public that draw a reservation. Having a standard number informs the hunters ahead of time how many people they can bring and that it won’t be dependent on what blinds are available when they get to the wildlife area. This change provides clarification for hunters to know exactly how many people they can bring on their reservation.

Subsections (x)(18) and (x)(19) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Freitas North Unit) and San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Freitas South Unit): Current regulations for these areas do not specify when entry permits will be issued. The proposed regulations for San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Freitas North Unit and Freitas South Unit specify that entry permits are issued at 2:00 a.m. This change is

necessary to align with an existing federal closure from 8 pm to 2 am for this property.

Subsection 551(y): General regulations concerning visitor entry hours for Department lands are provided in subsection 550(c)(2)(C) and general fishing regulations for Department lands are provided in subsection 550(h). Subsection 551(y) specifies property-specific fishing regulations in addition to the general regulations regarding fishing and hours of operation.

Subsection (y)(4) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area: Current regulations do not specify any property specific fishing regulations for this wildlife area. The proposed regulation specifies that fishing on Bass Lake is closed from October 1 through January 31 and that fishing on Trout Lake is closed from October 1 through the last Saturday in April. During waterfowl season (specified in Section 502), Bass Lake is designated as a closed zone providing waterfowl a sanctuary area. Closing fishing on Bass Lake from October 1 through January 31 is necessary because disturbance by anglers would add undue stress to waterfowl using the area and eliminate this area as a sanctuary for wildlife. Waterfowl season ends generally the end of January; fishing would be allowed after waterfowl season on Bass Lake.

Closing fishing on Trout Lake from October 1 through the last Saturday in April is necessary because this lake is too small to support both hunting and fishing at the same time. For public safety, Trout Lake needs to be closed to fishing during waterfowl season. Keeping the lake closed to fishing until the last Saturday in April provides nesting waterfowl (mainly Canada Geese) undisturbed brood habitat until eggs are hatched and goslings are mobile.

Amendments to Section 552, Public Use Regulations for National Wildlife Refuges That Are Also Designated as Wildlife Areas

Subsections (a)(1) through (a)(9):

The proposed amendments organize content to present categories in the same order across the nine national wildlife refuges (NWR) that are also designated as wildlife areas. Categories include: (A) Units, (B) Area Firearms Restrictions, (C) Hunt Days, (D) Authorized Species to Be Hunted, (E) Special Restrictions, (F) Bicycles, (G) Fishing, (H) Camping, (I) Day Use Hours, (J) Public Access, (K) Areas Open for Hunting, and (L) Fires on gravel bars. If a certain category is not applicable to a property, the proposed regulatory language states “[subsection reserved]” in order to maintain consistency in the order of subsections and to allow for future language to be added into the category in a future rulemaking without needing to renumber subsequent subsections.

Subsection (a)(1) Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, Type A:

There are no proposed amendments to the regulatory language other than reordering the subsections and updating a cross reference. The proposed amendments renumber current subsections (a)(1)(A) Area Firearms Restrictions, (a)(1)(B) Hunt Days, (a)(1)(C) Authorized Species to be Hunted, and (a)(1)(H) Day Use Hours as subsections (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(C), (a)(1)(D) and (a)(1)(I), respectively; renumber current subsection

(a)(1)(D) as subsection (a)(1)(E)1. and update a cross reference; move current subsections (a)(1)(G) Special Restrictions, (a)(1)(E) Camping and (a)(1)(I) Fishing to subsections (a)(1)(E), (a)(1)(H), and (a)(1)(G), respectively. Current subsection (a)(1)(F) Bicycles is unchanged.

Subsection (a)(2) Delevan National Wildlife Refuge, Type A:

Subsection (a)(2)(F): Current regulations do not specifically allow or prohibit bicycles on this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(bb) apply. The proposed regulation prohibits bicycles on Delevan National Wildlife Refuge. This change is necessary to minimize wildlife disturbance, prevent habitat degradation, and protect public safety.

Reorganization: The proposed amendments move current subsections (a)(2)(F) Special Restrictions, and (a)(2)(E) Camping to subsections (a)(2)(E) and (a)(2)(H), respectively; renumber current subsections (a)(2)(A) Area Firearms Restrictions, (a)(2)(B) Hunt Days, and (a)(2)(C) Authorized Species to be Hunting as subsections (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), and (a)(2)(D), respectively; and renumber current subsection (D) as subsection (E)1. and update a cross reference. Current subsection (a)(2)(G) Fishing is unchanged.

Subsection (a)(3) Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Type A:

Subsection (a)(3)(B) Firearm Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(3)(A) specify that only shotguns are permitted and that a hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(3)(A) as subsection (a)(3)(B) and add language specifying it shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas. This change is necessary to minimize the risk of accidental discharge and protect public safety. It also creates a clear and enforceable safety standard by limiting the handling of loaded firearms to designated areas.

Subsection (a)(3)(C) Hunt Days: Current regulations in subsection (a)(3)(B) specify that the hunt days for waterfowl, coots and moorhens are Saturdays and Wednesdays during the open seasons and the hunt days for pheasant are waterfowl hunt days during the regular pheasant season. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(3)(B) as subsection (a)(3)(C) and add language to specify that the hunt days for snipe are Saturdays and Wednesdays during the open season. This change is necessary to manage hunting pressure and maintain compatibility with other authorized refuge purposes.

Subsection (a)(3)(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Current regulations in subsection (a)(3)(C) specify that the authorized species to be hunted are waterfowl, coots, moorhens and pheasants. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(3)(C) as subsection (a)(3)(D) and add snipe to the list of authorized species to be hunted. This change is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR), Section 32.24. Changes to make state regulations consistent with federal regulations will avoid confusion for the

public and for staff from both agencies who coordinate hunt programs.

Subsection (a)(3)(E)1. Special Restrictions: Current regulations do not specify the hours for retaining an entry permit or remaining on the wildlife refuge. The proposed amendments specify that it shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset. This change is necessary to let hunters know that they need to return their permits and exit the property within one and one half hours after sunset. This is necessary to address issues with hunters remaining on the property after it is closed. This change is also necessary to minimize disturbance to wildlife during sensitive periods, protects public safety, and facilitates effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(3)(E)2. Special Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(3)(D) specify that hunters assigned to the spaced blind unit must remain within 100 feet of the numbered steel post (blind site) except when pursuing crippled birds, placing decoys, or traveling to and from the parking area. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(3)(D) as subsection (a)(3)(E)2. and change “crippled birds” to “downed birds,” to maintain consistency with other Department regulations that use the term “downed birds”, allowing hunters to pursue dead birds, not just crippled birds for consistency with wanton waste prohibition and hunter ethics.

Subsection (a)(3)(E)3. Special Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(3)(E) specify that only nonmotorized boats are permitted. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(3)(E) as subsection (a)(3)(E)3. and delete the subsection heading, “Boats.”

Subsection (a)(3)(F) Bicycles: Current regulations do not specifically allow or prohibit bicycles on this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(bb) apply. The proposed regulation prohibits bicycles on Kern National Wildlife Refuge. This change is necessary to minimize wildlife disturbance, prevent habitat degradation, and protect public safety

Subsection (a)(3)(G) Fishing: The proposed amendment rennumbers current subsection (a)(3)(F) as subsection (a)(3)(G).

Subsection (a)(3)(H) Camping: Current regulations do not specifically allow or prohibit camping on this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(p) apply. The proposed regulation prohibits camping on Kern National Wildlife Refuge. This change is necessary to alert users that there are no designated camping areas on this property. Prohibiting camping reduces disturbance to wildlife, prevent habitat degradation, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(3)(I) Day Use Hours: Current regulations do not specify the day use hours for this property. The proposed regulation specifies that day use hours are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities. This change is necessary to protect wildlife during sensitive periods, reduce disturbance, ensure public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(4) Merced National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

Subsection (a)(4)(A) Units: Current regulations do not specify the units for this property. The proposed regulations specify the Merced National Wildlife Refuge units: Merced Unit, Lonetree Unit, Arena Plains Unit (closed to hunting), and Snowbird Unit (closed to hunting). This addition describes unit names and notes if the unit is closed for hunting. This is necessary to provide reference to regulations related to specific units. Identifying which units are open or closed to hunting provides hunters with clear boundaries and facilitates consistent enforcement of the regulations for the different units.

Subsection (a)(4)(B) Firearm Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(4)(A) specify that only shotguns are permitted and that a hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. The proposed amendment renumbers subsection (a)(4)(A) as subsection (a)(4)(B) and adds language specifying it shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas. This change is necessary to minimize the risk of accidental discharge and protect public safety. It also creates a clear and enforceable safety standard by limiting the handling of loaded firearms to designated areas.

Subsection (a)(4)(C) Hunt Days: The proposed amendment renumbers current subsection (a)(4)(B) as subsection (a)(4)(C).

Subsection (a)(4)(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Current regulations specify that the authorized species to be hunted are waterfowl, coots, and moorhens. The proposed regulations add language specifying that snipe hunting is allowed on all units only on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders. The addition of snipe to the list of species is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations in 50 CFR 32.24. The restrictions on when and where snipe hunting is allowed are necessary to apply a refuge-wide approach and specify that the hunt occurs only under circumstances where hunting has already been determined to be compatible with the purposes of the refuge.

Subsection (a)(4)(E)1. Special Restrictions: Current regulations do not specify the hours for retaining an entry permit or remaining on the wildlife refuge. The proposed amendments specify that it shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset. This change is necessary to let hunters know that they need to return their permits and exit the property within one and one half hours after sunset. This is necessary to address issues with hunters remaining on the property after it is closed. This change is also necessary to minimize disturbance to wildlife during sensitive periods, protects public safety, and facilitates effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(4)(E)2. Special Restrictions: Current regulations provide for hunting only from assigned blinds. The proposed regulation specifies that in assigned blind areas, hunters must hunt from assigned blinds, and that in assigned zone areas, hunters must hunt from within assigned zones. This change is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations that now provide assigned zone areas

and assigned blind areas in 50 CFR 32.24. Greater consistency between the state and federal regulations avoids confusion for the public and for the staff from both agencies who cooperate on managing this wildlife refuge.

Subsection (a)(4)(E)3. Special Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(4)(F) specify that hunters must hunt from assigned blinds, except to retrieve downed birds, place decoys, and travel to and from the parking area and that shooting from outside of the blind is prohibited. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(4)(F) as subsection (a)(4)(E)3. and add language to specify this restriction applies to hunters assigned to blinds. This change is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations in 50 CFR 32.24 that now provide assigned zone areas and assigned blinds. Greater consistency between the state and federal regulations avoids confusion for the public and for the staff from both agencies who cooperate on managing this wildlife refuge.

Subsection (a)(4)(E)4. Shooting Hours: Current regulations in subsection (a)(4)(C) specify the shooting hours for waterfowl. The proposed regulations move subsection (a)(4)(C) to subsection (a)(4)(E)4.

Subsection (a)(4)(F) Bicycles: Current regulations in subsection (a)(4)(E) specify that bicycles are allowed on this property. The proposed regulations move subsection (a)(4)(E) to subsection (a)(4)(F).

Subsection (a)(4)(H) Camping: Current regulations do not specifically allow or prohibit camping on this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(p) apply. The proposed regulation prohibits camping on Merced National Wildlife Refuge. This change is necessary to alert users that there are no designated camping areas on this property. Prohibiting camping reduces disturbance to wildlife, prevent habitat degradation, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(4)(I) Day Use Hours: Current subsection (a)(4)(G) is renumbered as subsection (a)(4)(I).

Subsection (a)(5) Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

Subsections (a)(5)(B), (a)(5)(C), (a)(5)(D) and (a)(5)(I): The proposed amendments renumber subsections (a)(5)(A) Area Firearms Restrictions, (B) Hunt Days, (C) Authorized Species to be Hunted, and (H) Day Use Hours as subsections (B), (C), (D), and (I), respectively.

Subsection (a)(5)(E)1. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(5)(D) as subsection (a)(5)(E)1. and update a cross reference.

Subsection (a)(5)(E)2. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(5)(G) to subsection (a)(5)(E)2.

Subsection (a)(5)(F) Bicycles: Current subsection (a)(5)(F) is unchanged.

Subsection (a)(5)(G) Fishing: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(5)(I) to subsection (a)(5)(G).

Subsection (a)(5)(H) Camping: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(5)(E) to subsection (a)(5)(H).

Subsection (a)(6) Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Type C.

Subsection (a)(6)(A) Units: Current regulations list the units for this property. The proposed amendments correct grammar and punctuation errors.

Subsection (a)(6)(B) Area Firearms Restrictions. Current regulations in this subsection specify the firearms restrictions for this property. The proposed amendment updates the subsection heading from “Area Firearm Restrictions” to “Area Firearms Restrictions” for consistency with terminology used in Section 552 for other national wildlife refuges.

Subsection (a)(6)(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: The proposed amendments move current subsections (a)(6)(K) and (a)(6)(K)1. to subsections (a)(6)(D) and (a)(6)(D)1., respectively, and update a cross reference.

Subsection (a)(6)(E)1. Special Restrictions, Personal Property: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(M) to subsection (a)(6)(E)1.

Subsection (a)(6)(E)2. Special Restrictions, Falconry: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(I) to subsection (a)(6)(E)2. and add a subsection heading.

Subsection (a)(6)(E)3. Special Restrictions, Commercial Guiding: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(L) to subsection (a)(6)(E)3.

Subsection (a)(6)(E)4. Special Restrictions, Dogs: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(F) to subsection (a)(6)(E)4.

Subsection (a)(6)(F) Bicycles: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(E) to subsection (a)(6)(F).

Subsection (a)(6)(G) Fishing: Current regulations do not specify fishing regulations. The proposed regulation specifies that fishing is permitted in designated areas. This change is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations in 50 CFR 32.24. Greater consistency between the state and federal regulations avoids confusion for the public and for the staff from both agencies who cooperate on managing this wildlife refuge.

Subsection (a)(6)(H) Camping: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(G) to subsection (a)(6)(H).

Subsection (a)(6)(I) Day Use Hours: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(6)(D) to subsection (a)(6)(I).

Subsection (a)(6)(J) Public Access: Current subsection (a)(6)(C) is renumbered as subsection (a)(6)(J).

Subsection (a)(6)(J)1. Public Access: Current regulations in subsection (a)(6)(C)1. specify that the Ohm, McIntosh Landing North and South, North Ord, Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary, and Hartley Island units are closed to public access. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(6)(C)1. as subsection (a)(6)(J)1. and delete the Ohm Unit from this list for consistency with its addition to subsection (a)(6)(J)2.

Subsection (a)(6)(J)2. Public Access: Current regulations in subsection (a)(6)(C)2. specify that access is only allowed by boat on the La Barranca, Blackberry Island, Todd Island, Mooney, Flynn, Heron Island, Foster Island, Phelan Island, Jacinto, Dead Man's Reach, South Ord, Llano Seco Island 1 & 2, and Afton units. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(6)(C)2. as subsection (a)(6)(J)2., correct a spelling error, and add the Ohm Unit to the list of properties. The addition of the Ohm Unit to this subsection is necessary to protect and manage important wildlife habitat and resources consistent with the purposes of the refuge. Specifying the unit will establish clear management boundaries and effective enforcement.

Subsection (a)(6)(J)3. Public Access: Current regulations in subsection (a)(6)(C)3. specify the units that allow access on foot or by boat only. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(6)(C)3. as subsection (a)(6)(J)3. and correct a punctuation error.

Subsection (a)(6)(J)3.a. Public Access: Current regulations in subsection (a)(6)(C)3.a. specify that on the Packer and Drumheller North units, only boats up to 14 feet in length are allowed. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(6)(C)3.a. as subsection (a)(6)(J)3.a., add language to allow canoes in addition to the currently allowed boats up to 14 feet in length, and specify that only electric motors are allowed. This change is necessary for consistency with existing federal regulations in 50 CFR 26.34.

Subsection (a)(6)(J)4. Public Access: Current regulations in subsection (a)(6)(C)4. specify that all units that are open to public hunting may only be accessed by boat, except for Sul Norte, Codora, Drumheller North, Drumheller Slough, Capay and Bogg's Bend, which may be accessed only on foot or by boat. The proposed amendments renumber subsection (a)(6)(C)4. as subsection (a)(6)(J)4., correct a punctuation error, and revise "which may be accessed only on foot or by boat" to read "which hunters may access only on foot or by boat." The revised language clarifying hunters' access is necessary to clarify the intent of the language. It is also necessary to establish a clear and enforceable limitation on access to the designated areas, as well as reduce disturbance to wildlife and habitat, prevent unauthorized vehicle use, and ensure that access is consistent with refuge management objectives.

Subsections (a)(6)(K) through (a)(6)(K)7. Areas Open to Hunting in Accordance with State and Federal Regulations: The proposed amendments renumber current subsections (a)(6)(J) through (a)(6)(J)7. as subsections (a)(6)(K) through (a)(6)(K)7.

Subsection (a)(6)(L) regarding fires on gravel bars: The proposed amendment moves current subsection (a)(6)(H) to subsection (a)(6)(L).

Subsection (a)(7) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

Subsection (a)(7)(A): The proposed amendments add text to describe San Luis National Wildlife Refuge units: San Luis Unit, Blue Goose Unit, Kesterson Unit, West Bear Creek Unit, East Bear Creek Unit, and Freitas Unit. This is necessary to provide reference to regulations associated with specific units.

Subsection (a)(7)(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(7)(A) specify that only shotguns are permitted and that a hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. The proposed amendment renumbers subsection (a)(7)(A) as subsection (a)(7)(B) and adds language specifying it shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas. This change is necessary to minimize the risk of accidental discharge and protect public safety. It also creates a clear and enforceable safety standard by limiting the handling of loaded firearms to designated areas.

Subsection (a)(7)(C) Hunt Days: The proposed amendment renumbers current subsection (a)(7)(B) as subsection (a)(7)(C).

Subsection (a)(7)(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Current regulations in subsection (a)(7)(C) specifies regulations regarding authorized species to be hunted and includes language specifying that snipe hunting is allowed only within the San Luis Unit free roam area, and only on waterfowl shoot days when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders. The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(7)(C) as subsection (a)(7)(D) and allow snipe hunting on all units on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders. This change is necessary to apply a refuge-wide approach for snipe hunting and expand hunting opportunities while maintaining compatibility with the purposes of the refuge.

Subsection (a)(7)(E)1. Special Restrictions: Current regulations do not specify the hours for retaining an entry permit or remaining on the wildlife refuge. The proposed amendments specify that it shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one- and one-half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection (a)(7)(H).2. (Camping and trailers). This change is necessary to minimize disturbance to wildlife during sensitive periods, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement. While day users typically are prohibited from remaining on the wildlife refuge later than one half hours after sunset per (renumbered) 552(a)(7)(I),

this site is primarily accessed by boat or by traversing challenging terrain, so a time extension beyond day use hours is provided.

Subsection (a)(7)(E)2. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments move the first two sentences of current subsection (a)(7)(F) to subsection (a)(7)(E)2.

Subsection (a)(7)(E)3. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments move the third and fifth sentences of current subsection (a)(7)(F) to subsection (a)(7)(E)3. and divide the language into three sentences for clarity. The fourth sentence of current subsection (a)(7)(F) regarding maximum boat speed limit on the Freitas units is deleted. This change is necessary to reflect the Department's inability enforce a speed limit on the navigable San Joaquin River.

Subsection (a)(7)(E)4. Special Restrictions: The last three sentences of current subsection (a)(7)(F) are moved to subsection (a)(7)(E)4.

Subsection (a)(7)(F) Bicycles: The proposed amendment rennumbers current subsection (a)(7)(E) as subsection (a)(7)(F).

Subsection (a)(7)(G) Fishing: Current subsection (a)(7)(G) is unchanged.

Subsection (a)(7)(H) Camping and Trailers: Current regulations in subsection (a)(7)(D) specify that camping and trailers are prohibited on the San Luis, Blue Goose, and the West Bear Creek units. The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(7)(D) to subsection (a)(7)(H)1. and add subsection (a)(7)(H)2. specifying that camping and trailers are prohibited on the Kesterson Unit, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed; tents are prohibited; and no person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves. Allowing camping the night before waterfowl shoot days on the Kesterson Unit is necessary to allow folks who have traveled long distances to camp onsite and create more opportunity for hunters who may not be able to afford travel plus lodging. Allowing camping activities in this limited manner is consistent with the conservation goals of this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or wildlife habitat. Limiting camping to vehicles, motorhomes, and trailers within the check station parking area, prohibiting tents and limiting fires to gas stoves is necessary to reduce disturbance to wildlife, prevent habitat degradation, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(7)(I) Day Use Hours: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(7)(H) as subsection (a)(7)(I).

Subsection (a)(8) Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

Subsection (a)(8)(A) Units: Current regulations do not specify the units for this property. The proposed regulations specify the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge units: Hazard Unit, Union Unit. This is necessary to provide reference to regulations associated with specific units.

Subsection (a)(8)(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Current regulations in subsection (a)(8)(A) specify that only shotguns are permitted, that a hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field, and that firearms must be unloaded when being transported between parking areas and blind sites. The proposed amendment renumbers subsection (a)(8)(A) as subsection (a)(8)(B) and replaces language specifying that “[f]irearms must be unloaded when being transported between parking areas and blind sites” with language specifying, “it shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.” This change is necessary for consistency with language in subsections for other national wildlife refuges to minimize the risk of accidental discharge and protect public safety. It also creates a clear and enforceable safety standard by limiting the handling of loaded firearms to designated areas.

Subsections (a)(8)(C) and (a)(8)(D): The proposed amendments renumber subsections (a)(8)(B) Hunt Days, and (a)(8)(C) Authorized Species to be Hunted, as subsections (a)(8)(C) and (a)(8)(D), respectively.

Subsection (a)(8)(E)1. Special Restrictions: Current regulations do not specify the hours for retaining an entry permit or remaining on the wildlife refuge. The proposed amendments specify that it shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset. This change is necessary to let hunters know that they need to return their permits and exit the property within one and one half hours after sunset. This is necessary to address issues with hunters remaining on the property after it is closed. This change is necessary to minimize disturbance to wildlife during sensitive periods, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(8)(E)2. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(8)(D) as subsection (a)(8)(E)2.

Subsection (a)(8)(E)3. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(8)(E) as subsection (a)(8)(E)3.

Subsection (a)(8)(F) Bicycles: Current regulations do not specify bicycle use regulations for this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(bb) apply. The proposed regulation specifies that bicycles are allowed on designated roads and parking areas only. This change is necessary to minimize wildlife disturbance, prevent habitat degradation, and protect public safety.

Subsection (a)(8)(G) Fishing: The proposed amendments renumber current subsections (a)(8)(F) through (a)(8)(F)2. as subsections (a)(8)(G) through (a)(8)(G)2.

Subsection (a)(8)(H) Camping: Current regulations do not specifically allow or prohibit camping on this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(p) apply. The proposed regulation prohibits camping on the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge. This change is necessary to alert users that there are no designated camping areas on this property. Prohibiting camping reduces

disturbance to wildlife, prevent habitat degradation, protect public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(8)(I) Day Use Hours: Current regulations do not specify day use hours for this property. The proposed regulation specifies that the day use hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting opportunities. This change is necessary to protect wildlife during sensitive periods, reduce disturbance, ensure public safety, and facilitate effective refuge management and enforcement.

Subsection (a)(9) Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

Subsections (a)(9)(B), (a)(9)(C) and (a)(9)(D): The proposed amendments renumber subsections (a)(9)(A) Area Firearms Restrictions, (a)(9)(B) Hunt Days, and (a)(9)(C) Authorized Species to be Hunted, as subsections (B), (C) and (D), respectively. A punctuation error is corrected in subsection (a)(9)(D).

Subsection (a)(9)(E)1. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(9)(D) as subsection (a)(9)(D)1. and update a cross reference.

Subsection (a)(9)(E)2. Special Restrictions: The proposed amendment move current subsection (a)(9)(F) to subsection (a)(9)(D)2.

Subsection (a)(9)(F) Bicycles: Current regulations do not specify bicycle use regulations for this property; therefore, the general regulations in subsection 550(bb) apply. 50 CFR 32.24 prohibits the use of bicycles to access hunt areas. The proposed regulation specifies that bicycles are prohibited. This change is necessary to minimize wildlife disturbance, prevent habitat degradation, protect public safety, and to provide for consistency between the state and federal regulations to avoid confusion for the public and for the staff from both agencies who cooperate on managing this wildlife refuge.

Subsection (a)(9)(G) Fishing: The proposed amendments move current subsection (a)(9)(H) to subsection (a)(9)(G).

Subsection (a)(9)(H) Camping: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(9)(E) as subsection (a)(9)(H).

Subsection (a)(9)(I) Day Use Hours: The proposed amendments renumber current subsection (a)(9)(G) as subsection (a)(9)(I).

Amendments to Section 630, Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves

Subsection 630(b) lists the ecological reserves owned and operated by the Department, specifies the county/counties in which the wildlife areas are located, and whether the ecological reserves are adjacent to or share sensitive marine environments with marine protected areas, marine managed areas, and/or special closures that are defined in Section 632.

Subsection (b)(95) Palo Verde Ecological Reserve: The proposed amendments add Imperial County to list of counties. Recent acquisitions have expanded this property into Imperial County.

Subsection 630(c) lists the ecological reserves that require a daily or annual lands pass for authorized uses other than hunting.

Subsections (c)(1), (c)(3), (c)(4), (c)(8) and (c)(9): Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve, San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve, and Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. Under current regulations, Batiquitos Lagoon, Bolsa Chica, Buena Vista Lagoon, San Elijo Lagoon, and Upper Newport Bay ecological reserves are included in the list of ecological reserves that require a lands pass for uses other than hunting. The proposed amendments remove these five properties from the lands pass program. These properties are located within the California Coastal Zone and have been suspended from the program since 2018 due to concerns from the California Coastal Commission about conflicts with the California Coastal Act of 1976.

Subsection 630(d) lists the ecological reserves with hunting as a designated public use.

Subsection (d)(5) Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve: Current regulations specify that hunting is allowed but only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the Department and that deer hunting is restricted to archery only. The proposed amendments expand hunting opportunities by removing time, designated areas and archery only restriction for deer. These amendments are consistent with the conservation goals for this area and would not cause a negative impact on wildlife or habitat. This proposal supports hunter opportunities in the area and is consistent with hunting regulations on surrounding United States Forest Service land.

Subsection (d)(21) Eden Landing Ecological Reserve: Current regulations specify that waterfowl hunting is allowed but only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the Department. The proposed amendments add language specifying that hunters may not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl hunting. This is a standard limitation on Type A wildlife areas during waterfowl season as described in 550(cc)(4)(D). The Department requests this same limitation for this ecological reserve to address ongoing issues on this property. This property offers about 10 special hunt days during waterfowl season.

Amendments to Section 702, Hunting Applications, Tags, Seals, Permits, Reservations and Fees; Department Lands Applications, Passes, Special Use Permits, and Fees.

Subsection 702(d). Current regulations specify the required forms, including revision dates, and fees for permits for special use of Department lands.

Subsections (d)(1)(A) through (d)(1)(A)3. Special Use Permit Forms: Current regulations specify the name of the permit application and attachments A, B, and C and include the revision date of “1/26”. The proposed amendments update the

revision dates to 7/27 for consistency with the revised Form DFW 730 as described below.

Subsections (d)(1)(B) through (d)(1)(D) Special Use Permit Fees: Current regulations list the permit fees for Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 special use permits. The proposed amendments add “2027” in front of the name of each type of permit and the associated fees are adjusted to reflect the 2027 fee calculation. Fee calculations are shown in Attachment A.

Subsection (d)(2) Special Use Permit Fee Adjustment: Current regulations specify that special use permit fees shall be subject to annual adjustment pursuant to Section 699. The proposed amendments add language to specify that the fees shown in subsection (d)(1) are the 2027 fees and that in subsequent years, the applicant will pay the fee as adjusted by the Department annually under the authority granted through FGC sections 713 and 1050. This is necessary to reduce the need for an annual regulation update of the fees to adjust the year and the fee amount.

Form DFW 730

The Permit Application for Special Use of Department Lands Form DFW 730 (REV. 01/2026) is proposed to be amended as described below:

1. The form revision date is proposed to be updated from “01/26” to “07/27” to reflect the date of the revised form and the anticipated effective date of the proposed regulation changes.
2. The designated year of the permit fee and the types of permit fees are proposed to be deleted and a link is proposed to be added in order to allow applicants to access the most up-to-date fees. The proposed changes will allow the same version of form to be used year after year without requiring annual updates to the form simply to update the fees.
3. The contact information for the Department’s Land Program is proposed to be updated by replacing the phone number with the program’s email address. This is necessary to avoid relying on an individual staff member’s phone number and ensures inquiries can be monitored and addressed by the appropriate program staff.
4. In item 1 field “Requested Date(s) of Use (You may request multiple events on one property over a period of 12 months or less):” the proposed amendment clarifies that each event requires a fee. This is necessary to inform applicants who are adding multiple events to one application that each event on the application will require a fee.
5. On the second page of form DFW 730, under item 5, and on page 4 under item 2, Types of Special Use Permits, the cross reference to dog trials regulations is corrected.
6. On page 4, under item 3, Fees and Costs for Special Use Permits, the comma in the phrase “permits, are” is removed on the fourth line of the paragraph.
7. On page 6, under item 9, the reference to Government Code Section 14988 is corrected to Section 14998.8.

8. On page 7, under item 17, the word “insure” is corrected to “ensure.” In addition, references to Title 2, Section 7285, the Fair Employment Housing Council, and Division 4 of Title 2 are corrected to Title 2 Section 11000, the Civil Rights Council, and Division 4.1 of Title 2, respectively.

Non-substantive Changes

Throughout the regulatory language and the permit application form, non-substantive revisions and minor editorial changes are proposed to improve clarity and consistency.

(b) Goals and Benefits of the Regulation

It is the policy of the state to provide for the beneficial use and enjoyment of wildlife and native plants by all citizens of the state.

The proposed regulations will allow the Department to pursue its mission to manage California’s diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

(c) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code, Government Code, Public Resources Code, and Penal Code for Regulation

Section 540:

Authority cited: Sections 1526, 1580, 1581 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 1526, 1580, 1581, 1584 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Section 550:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 205, 1050, 1530, 1583, 1745, 1764, 1765, 3003.1, 3004.5, 3039, 4001, 4004, 4150 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1301, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 25455, 26150 and 26155, and subdivision (a)(13) of Section 26230, Penal Code.

Section 550.5:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 1050, 1530, 1764, 1765, 3031 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1764, 1765, 2006, 2020, 10504 and 12000, Fish and Game Code; and Section 14998.8, Government Code.

Section 551:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 205, 355, 1050, 1530, 1583, 1745, 1764, 1765, 3003.1, 3039, 4001, 4004, 4150 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1301, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code; Sections 5003 and 5010, Public Resources Code; and Sections 25455, 26150 and 26155, Penal Code.

Section 552:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 265, 710, 710.5, 710.7, 1050, 1530, 1764, 1765 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Section 630:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 1050, 1530, 1583, 1587, 1745, 1764, 1765 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Section 702:

Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 265, 331, 332 and 1050, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 203, 203.1, 265, 331, 332, 713, 1050, 1055, 1055.1, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1745, 3950, 3951, 4302, 4330, 4331, 4332, 4333, 4336, 4340, 4341, 4652, 4653, 4654, 4655, 4657, 4750, 4751, 4752, 4753, 4754, 4755, 4902, 10500 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.

(d) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change: None.

(e) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change

Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change, #2025-12: Modify the bicycle regulations on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area to allow bicycle use on roads or levees for transportation between parking lots and hunting areas during the waterfowl season (Attachment 2)

Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area Management Summary. August 2026. (Attachment 3)

(f) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication.

Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, January 13, 2026, Sacramento, California

Wildlife Resources Committee meeting, May 14, 2026, Sacramento, California

IV. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action

(a) Alternatives to Regulation Change

No alternatives were identified by or brought to the attention of Commission staff that would have the same desired regulatory effect.

(b) No Change Alternative

Without the proposed changes, proposed property-specific regulations that improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, and provide resource protection will not be implemented. Improvements to existing regulations that clarify current regulations will not

be incorporated. The designation of a new wildlife area would not take place. This property will offer public use opportunities, such as special hunts, wildlife viewing and educational activities.

V. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed.

VI. Impact of Regulatory Action

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulations designate a new wildlife area which will offer public use opportunities, such as special hunts, wildlife viewing and educational activities; specify property-specific regulations that improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, and provide resource protection. In addition, the proposed changes add one property, remove one active property and remove fourteen inactive properties from the State Lands Pass Program. The proposed regulations are largely administrative in nature to improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations that govern public use of Department lands and are not anticipated to affect the demand for goods and services related to outdoor recreation in California.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California; Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents, Worker Safety, and the State's Environment

The Commission does not anticipate any impacts on the creation or elimination of jobs, the creation of new business, the elimination of existing businesses or the expansion of businesses in California. The proposed changes add one property, remove one active property and remove fourteen inactive properties from the State Lands Pass Program. The addition and removal of these properties from the State Lands Pass Program is unlikely to have any new direct economic impacts that would cause businesses to expand their operations, create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses, nor are they expected to have any benefits to worker safety. The amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves is unlikely to have any new direct economic impacts that would cause businesses to expand their operations, create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses, nor are they expected to have any benefits to worker safety.

The Commission anticipates that the proposed regulations will allow the Department to

pursue its mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public, ultimately benefiting the State's environment and the health and welfare of California residents.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The Commission is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action. The proposed addition of one property, removal of one active property and removal of fourteen inactive properties from the State Lands Pass Program and the amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves will have any new direct economic impacts on private individuals or businesses. Non-consumptive users who desire to visit the new Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area will need to purchase a Lands Pass if they do not already have one. (Both annual and one-day lands passes are valid for entry on any lands pass property.) The fee for a 2026 annual lands pass is \$33.48; the fee for a 2026 one-day pass is \$5.97. However, the non-consumptive users will no longer need to possess a Lands Pass to visit Hope Valley Wildlife Area.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

The Department finds that it would be practical and cost effective to add Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area to the properties that require a Lands Pass for visitor entry. This assumes that the benchmark for being "cost effective" is that, at the very least, the program does not cost more to implement than the revenue that it generates. The Department evaluated Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area using criteria that affect the practicality and cost effectiveness of requiring visitors to possess a Lands Pass when visiting it:

- Biological, cultural or geologic features of interest to the public
- Existing public use opportunities and facilities (interpretive kiosks, wildlife viewing platforms, trails, tour loops, restrooms, parking areas, etc.)
- The number of visitors each year and types of public use
- Infrastructure, materials, equipment or contracts that might be necessary to implement the Lands Pass Program at the property (e.g. parking lot improvements, kiosks, signs, etc.).
- Cost effectiveness – cost of materials, infrastructure and staffing versus anticipated visitation, pass sales and revenue.

The Department compiled and analyzed data from the evaluations, various programs within the Department and other agencies, as well as public comments to propose including Big Springs Ranch in the Lands Pass Program. Big Springs Ranch possesses the characteristics necessary for the Department to effectively operate the Lands Pass Program; to provide a visitor experience worthy of charging a fee; and to attract visitation sufficient for revenue generation and operation of the program, while providing supplemental funding for management of Department lands.

It is anticipated that the addition of Big Springs Ranch as a wildlife area may bring in up to

approximately \$3,113 in potential new annual revenue from upland game and waterfowl hunting. The addition of Big Springs Ranch to the Lands Pass Program is anticipated to result in approximately \$3,135 in annual lands pass revenue, while the loss of Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program will cost the Department approximately \$2,377 in annual revenue. See the addendum to the STD 399 for further details.

- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4, Government Code: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

VII. Economic Impact Assessment

(a) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed addition of one property and removal of 15 properties from the State Lands Pass Program and the amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves will have any new direct economic impacts that would cause businesses to change their operations in a way that would induce the creation or elimination of jobs.

(b) Effects of the Regulation on the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed addition of one property and removal of 15 properties from the State Lands Pass Program and the amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves will have any new direct economic impacts that would cause the creation of new businesses or eliminate existing businesses.

(c) Effects of the Regulation on the Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business Within the State

The Commission does not anticipate that the proposed addition of one property and removal of 15 properties from the State Lands Pass Program and the amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves will have any new direct economic impacts that would cause businesses currently doing business within the state to expand their operations.

(d) Benefits of the Regulation to the Health and Welfare of California Residents

The Commission anticipates general benefits to the health and welfare of California residents who participate in outdoor activities on Department lands.

(e) Benefits of the Regulation to Worker Safety

The Commission anticipates no impacts to worker safety because the proposed regulations do not affect working conditions.

(f) Benefits of the Regulation to the State's Environment

The Commission anticipates that the proposed regulations will allow the Department to pursue its mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public, ultimately benefiting the State's environment.

Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), “Department” refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and “Commission” refers to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Current Regulations

Current regulations in sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702 provide the regulatory framework for the public use of lands owned, managed and/or administered by the Department, including wildlife areas and ecological reserves. The proposed regulation changes would:

- Improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations that govern public use of lands owned and/or managed by the Department (Section 540, 550, 550.5, and 552)
- Designate land the Department has recently acquired as a wildlife area (subsection 551(b))
- Make site-specific regulation changes for certain properties to improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, provide resource protection, and manage staff resources (subsections 551(b) through (y) and 630(b) through (d))
- Update and organize information for National Wildlife Refuges that also serve as wildlife areas (subsection 552(a)(1) through (a)(9))
- Update the application form and fees for permits for special uses on Department lands

The principal purposes of Department managed lands are to conserve wildlife and their associated habitats and to allow for compatible recreation. The primary uses of wildlife areas include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, environmental education, and research. The primary 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. Recreation on ecological reserves must be compatible with the conservation of the property’s biological resources.

Proposed Changes

The proposed regulations package includes the following changes:

- **Section 540, Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands.** Update language to clarify that the application of neonicotinoid pesticides to Department lands is prohibited for everyone.
- **Section 550, General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands.**
 - Update the definition of “reservation”
 - Define vacancy drawing, specify instructions for entering a vacancy drawing and specify that hunters shall enter no more than one vacancy drawing per hunt day
 - Clarify that junior hunters are not required to present a hunting pass in order to receive an entry permit

- Specify that hunters 18 years of age and older must show photo identification to receive their entry permit
 - Update the types of violations that may result in penalties and revise the potential penalties to specify that ejections are for a period of 24 hours and add a one-year ban for serious violations
 - Reorganize language in existing regulations to further clarify that target shooting is prohibited on all Department lands except where allowed on specific properties in subsections 551(v) or 630 (j)
 - Clarify language regarding the use of firearms for hunting purposes, for dog training and for use of under the authority of a permit issued by the Department
 - Clarify language regarding the use of bow and arrow for fishing purposes
 - Define trail cameras and prohibit their use on Department lands except as authorized by the Department
- **Section 550.5, Reservations, Entry Permits, Fees, Passes, and Special Use Permits.**
 - Update language regarding issuing entry permits for vacancies left after reservations are filled during waterfowl season and specify the order of the methods (numerical order of reservation, vacancy drawing, first-come, first-served) that may be used to issue entry permits for areas that conduct vacancy drawings and for areas that do not conduct vacancy drawings
- **Section 551, Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas.** Public use changes are proposed for five wildlife areas and one national wildlife refuge. One property is proposed to be designated as wildlife area.
 - Gray Lodge Wildlife Area
 - Prohibit use of boats
 - Allow camping the night before deer and turkey hunts in addition to waterfowl hunts
 - Allow turkey hunting during fall turkey season on waterfowl shoot days and during spring turkey season through a special drawing.
 - Revise the allowed number of hunters from two adults and up to four junior hunters or non-shooters to allowing three persons per reservation
 - Napa – Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area
 - Allow hunters to access Pond 1 and Pond 1A using bicycles during waterfowl season
 - Limit dog training to the Ringstrom Bay Unit
 - Shasta Valley Wildlife Area

- Specify that fishing on Bass Lake is closed from October 1 through January 31 and that fishing on Trout Lake is closed from October 1 through the last Saturday in April
- San Luis National Wildlife Refuge / Wildlife Area
 - Establish the time for issuing entry permits to 2:00 am on the day of waterfowl hunting for the Freitas North and Freitas South Units
- Volta Wildlife Area
 - Prohibit horses and pack stock on the property
- Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
 - Add mentored deer and turkey hunting on this property through a Department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing
 - Specify that deer may only be taken with shotgun and slug
 - Revise the allowed number of hunters from two adults and up to four junior hunters or non-shooters to allowing up to three persons per free roam reservation
- Feather River Wildlife Area
 - Delete the Shanghai Bend from the list of management units
 - Delete language specifying that the Shanghai Bend Unit is closed to hunting
- Update the list of counties for Cottonwood Creek, Daugherty Hill, and San Luis Reservoir wildlife area
- Designate Big Springs Ranch in Siskiyou County as a Type B wildlife area and add the following regulations to support conservation and management of the property:
 - Add Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area to the Lands Pass Program
 - Allow bicycle use only on roads open to vehicles
 - Prohibit horse and pack stock
 - Close the property to big game hunting except with a Department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing to hunt deer
 - Allow only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests to enter the wildlife area to hunt in designated areas on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season
 - Close Big Springs and Little Springs creeks to all waterfowl hunting
 - Allow pheasant hunting only on Sundays during the pheasant season and by special drawing only
 - Allow quail and snipe hunting only on waterfowl hunt days

- Allow dove hunting daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season
- **Section 552, Public Use Regulations for National Wildlife Refuges That Are Also Designated as Wildlife Areas by the Commission.**
 - Reorganize Section 552 so that information is presented in consistent order across all 9 refuges
 - Update state regulations to reflect existing federal regulations for seven national wildlife refuges
 - Delevan National Wildlife Refuge
 - Prohibit bicycles
 - Kern National Wildlife Refuge
 - Prohibit possession of a loaded firearm until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind area
 - Allow hunting of snipe and specify the snipe hunt days are Saturdays and Wednesdays during the open season
 - Prohibit retention of an entry permit or remaining on the refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset
 - Update language specifying “crippled birds” to “downed birds”
 - Prohibit bicycles
 - Prohibit camping
 - Specify day use hours as one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities
 - Merced National Wildlife Refuge
 - Provide a list of units
 - Prohibit possession of a loaded firearm until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind area
 - Allow snipe hunting on all units only on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders
 - Prohibit retention of an entry permit or remaining on the refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset
 - Specify that in assigned blind areas, hunters must hunt from assigned blinds, and that in assigned zone areas, hunters must hunt from assigned zones
 - Clarify that if assigned to blinds, hunters must hunt from the assigned blinds, except to retrieve downed birds, place decoys and travel to and from the parking lot, and that shooting from outside the blind is prohibited

- Prohibit camping
- Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge
 - Specify that fishing is permitted in designated areas
 - Remove the Ohm Unit from the list of closed units and allow public access to the Ohm Unit only by boat
 - Allow canoes in addition to the currently allowed boats up to 14 feet in length
 - Specify only electric (boat) motors are allowed
 - Clarify that access to public hunting areas that may be accessed only on foot or by boat applies to hunters
- San Luis National Wildlife Refuge
 - Provide a list of units
 - Prohibit possession of a loaded firearm until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind area
 - Allow snipe hunting on all units on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders
 - Prohibit retention of an entry permit or remaining on the refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset
 - Delete the maximum boat speed limit on the Freitas units
 - Prohibit camping and trailers on the Kesterson Unit, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking lot is allowed; tents are prohibited; and no person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves
- Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge
 - Provide a list of units
 - Prohibit possession of a loaded firearm until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind area
 - Prohibit retention of an entry permit or remaining on the refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset
 - Allow bicycles only on designated roads and parking areas
 - Prohibit camping
 - Specify day use hours as one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset except for those participating in authorized hunting opportunities
- Sutter National Wildlife Refuge

- Prohibit bicycles
- **Section 630, Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves.**
 - Limit hunters to only have 25 shotgun shells in their possession while in the field during waterfowl hunting at Eden Landing Ecological Reserve
 - Remove current restrictions that limit hunting to “only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the department” and limiting deer hunting to archery only at Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve
 - Add Imperial County to the list of counties for Palo Verde Ecological Reserve
- **Lands Pass Program** changes in subsection 551(w) and subsection 630(c). The proposed changes remove the following properties from the Lands Pass
 - Crescent Unit of the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area
 - Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area
 - Eel River Wildlife Area
 - Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area
 - Elk River Wildlife Area
 - Fay Slough Wildlife Area
 - Lake Earl Wildlife Area
 - Mad River Slough Wildlife Area
 - South Spit Wildlife Area
 - Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve
 - Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve
 - Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve
 - San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve
 - Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve
 - Cache Creek Wildlife Area
 - Hope Valley Wildlife Area
- **Special Use of Department Lands Form (DFW 730)**
 - Update Form DFW 730 by replacing the existing phone number with an email address, providing a link to current application fees, clarifying that fees are required for each event, and updating the revision date of the form
- **Section 702, Hunting Applications, Tags, Seals, Permits, Reservations and Fees; Department Lands Applications, Passes, Special Use Permits, and Fees.**

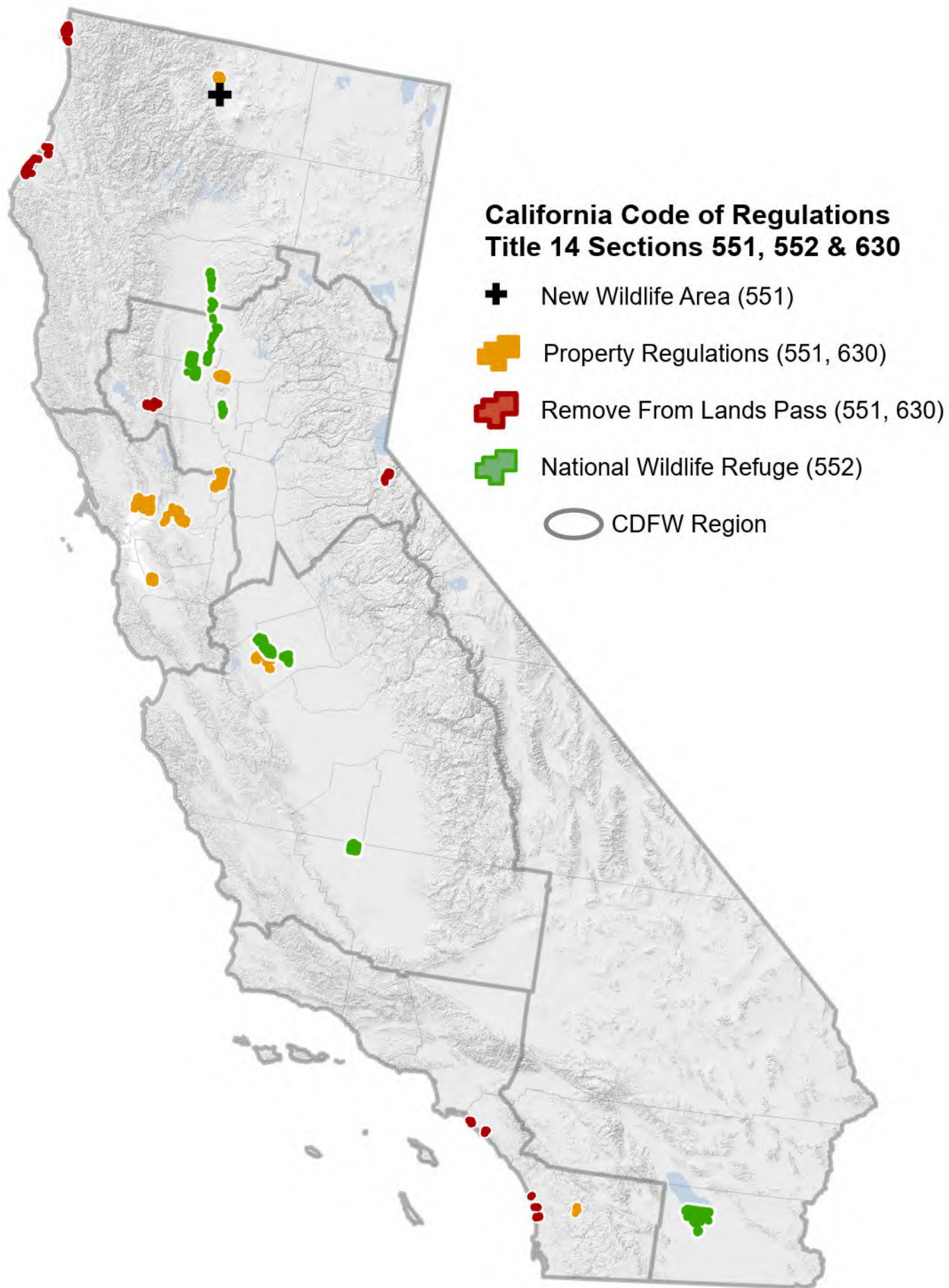
- Update the revision dates of the listed forms
- Update the permit fees
- Clarify that the Special Use Permit fees listed apply to the year 2027 and that in subsequent years, the applicant will pay the fee as adjusted by the Department annually under the authority granted through FGC sections 713 and 1050
- Throughout the regulatory language and the permit application form, non-substantive revisions and minor editorial changes are proposed to improve clarity and consistency.

Benefit of the Regulations:

The proposed regulations will allow the Department to pursue its mission to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. The Commission anticipates general benefits to the health and welfare of California residents, no impacts to worker safety, and benefits to the state's environment.

Consistency and Compatibility with Existing Regulations:

The proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. Section 20, Article IV, of the state Constitution specifies that the Legislature may delegate to the Commission such powers relating to the protection and propagation of fish and game as the Legislature sees fit. The Legislature has delegated to the Commission the power to adopt regulations governing the public use and conservation of wildlife areas and ecological reserves (California Fish and Game Code section 1526, 1580, and 1584). No other state agency has the authority to adopt regulations governing the public use and conservation of wildlife areas and ecological reserves. The Commission has reviewed its own regulations and finds that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the CCR for any regulations regarding the adoption of public use and conservation of wildlife areas and ecological reserves regulations; therefore, the Commission has concluded that the proposed regulations are neither inconsistent nor incompatible with existing state regulations. The Commission has searched the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and, pursuant to California Government Code Section 11346.2(b)(6), has determined that the proposed regulations avoid unnecessary duplication and do not conflict with federal regulations contained in the CFR.



**California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Management Summary
Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area
August 2026**

Description

The proposed Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area (BSRWA) encompasses approximately 5,850 acres and is located in the southcentral portion of the Shasta Valley in Siskiyou County, California. BSRWA lies within the High Cascade Geographic Subdivision of California. Surrounding the valley are the Trinity Mountains to the southeast, Klamath Mountains to the west, Siskiyou Mountains to the northeast, and along the eastern front is the Cascade Range. BSRWA is located a short distance from Interstate 5 (I-5) and can be accessed from either East Louie Road via I-5 Exit 759 or Siskiyou County Route A12 via I-5 Exit 766.

Topography of the BSRWA is relatively flat with basins, alluvial terraces, and scattered small, mostly conical volcanic derived hills. It has significant hydrological features with 2 large cold water spring complexes. The Shasta River meanders through the property and flows northwest eventually draining into the Klamath River well outside of the property boundary. Several creeks also occur on the property including Big Springs, Little Springs, Hole in the Ground, and Parks, and all contribute flows to the Shasta River. Elevations on the property range from a low of approximately 2,525 feet to a height of 2,950 feet. Most of the property ranges between 2,525 to 2,608 feet in elevation. Adjacent lands are private and primarily managed for agricultural livestock production, including irrigated pasture, dryland pasture, grass hay, and alfalfa hay production.

The acquisition of BSRWA was conducted under the aegis of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW or Department) Shasta-Butte Valley Conceptual Area Protection Plan. In May of 2019, CDFW acquired the property from The Nature Conservancy through Wildlife Conservation Board funds for the primary purpose of protecting critical cold water aquatic habitat for anadromous fishes, including the state and federally listed as threatened Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). BSRWA also supports many other special-status species such as greater sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis tabida*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), steelhead (*O. mykiss irideus*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*), woolly balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza lanata*), alkali hymenoxys (*Hymenoxys lemmonii*), brittle prickly-pear (*Opuntia fragilis*), and marsh hedge-nettle (*Stachys pilosa*).

Management Objectives

The primary purpose of the acquisition is to protect critical cold water aquatic habitat for anadromous fishes. Additionally, the acquisition protects migration corridors vital to many wildlife species, protects several known special-status plant populations and will provide wildlife and nature oriented public use opportunities.

Major management objectives include the following:

1. Provide and maintain high-quality aquatic, wetland, riparian, and upland habitats to support native flora and fauna, including special-status species;
2. Protect and improve water quality of the Shasta River Watershed;
3. Provide nature-based public recreation opportunities, including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing;
4. Protect cultural resources and provide access or tribal use such as traditional gathering, material use and crafting, and ceremonial meetings;
5. Align management of the landscape with California's climate goals, including the 30 x 30 initiative.

Necessity Statement for Proposed Regulation Amendment

BSRWA is proposed for designation as a Type B wildlife area. The land is currently undesignated Department-owned property located near several small towns and communities. There is currently no public access on the property but there is significant local enthusiasm to be able to use the property for a variety of activities over the entire calendar year. Designation of this property would not only give the public much anticipated and sought after access but will also bring it under the protection of the proposed rules and regulations for Department lands and regulations that pertain to Type B wildlife areas and allow enforcement of those regulations. There are new parking lots and signage installed in preparation for public access and the Department's engineering unit is working on designs for the installation of a vault toilet at one of these parking lots.

Reasons for Proposed Additions, Deletions, or Amendments to Regulations

The addition of the BSRWA to subsection 551(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, clarifies that the primary management purpose of the property is conservation, preservation, and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as providing opportunities for public use in a manner that is compatible with the primary purpose, such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

CDFW would provide public use opportunities including general waterfowl and upland game hunting on a portion of the property. In addition, CDFW would provide special hunt opportunities on a portion of the property. Hunters drawn for each special hunt would be allowed to hunt the property on a specified date and location determined by CDFW. It is not anticipated that limited regulated hunting would unduly interfere with the

primary purpose of which the property was acquired nor would hunting have an adverse impact on non-hunted species or their habitats due to the seasonality of hunting and geographically where hunting would be allowed on the property.

Proposed Regulatory Language: Designations and Site-Specific Regulations

§551. Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas.

(b) Wildlife areas owned and operated by the department -Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County), Management Unit (Type B)

(j) Bicycles - Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.

(l) Wildlife Areas with Boat and/or Horse and Pack Stock Restrictions- Horses, prohibited.

(o) Designated Closures and Restrictions on Wildlife Areas: Only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests (non-hunting guests or junior hunters) may enter the wildlife area to hunt in designated areas on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season. Big Springs and Little Springs creeks are closed for waterfowl hunting. The entire property is closed to big game hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing in addition to a valid deer tag for the applicable deer hunting zone.

(p) Type A or Type B Wildlife Areas with Shoot Day or Shooting Hours Restrictions During the Waterfowl Season: - Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during the pheasant season and by drawing only. Quail and snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season.

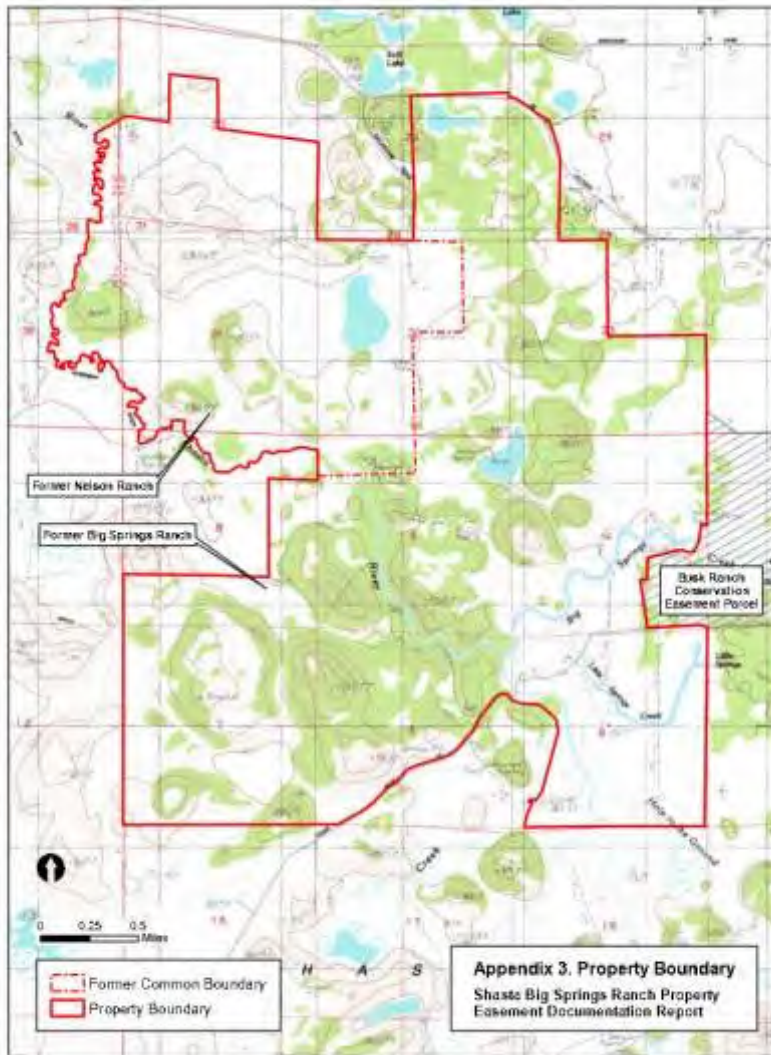
(s) Additional Hunter Opportunities on Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas: Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing. Snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days.

(w) Wildlife Areas That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses Other than Hunting (Lands Pass) - Add Big Springs Ranch to this list

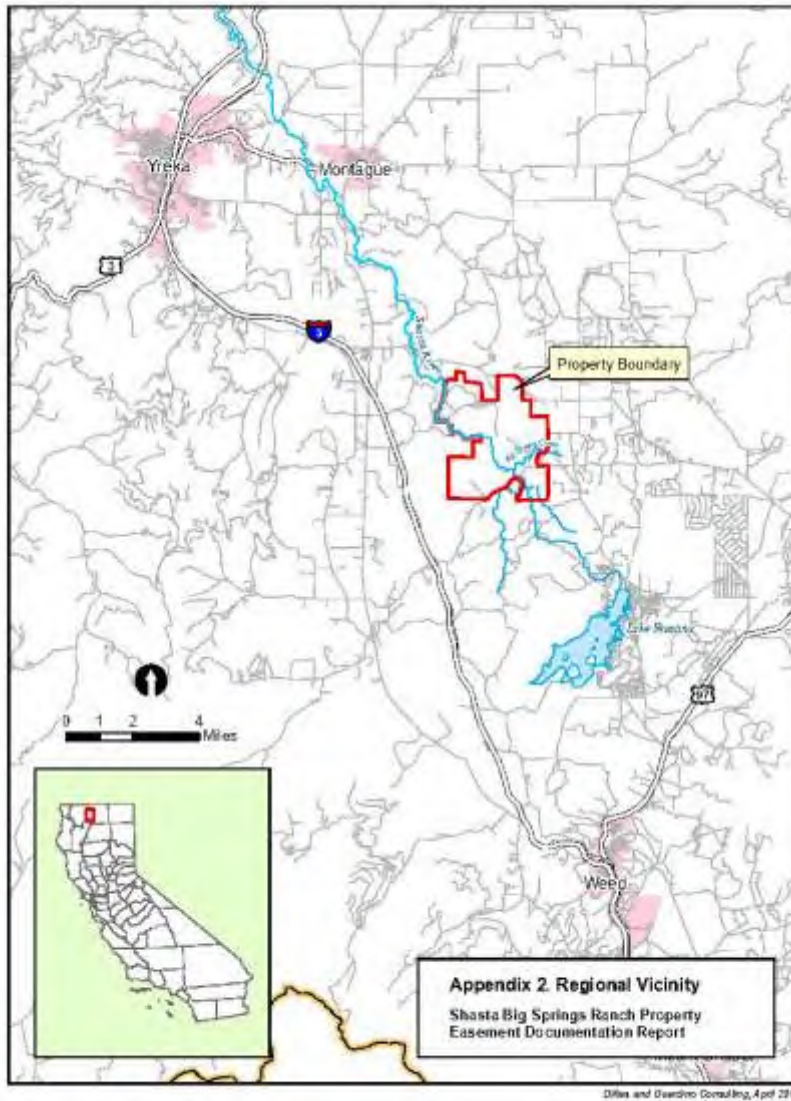
Commented [SF1]: See question in ISOR about saying non-hunting guests entering the area to hunt. Revise if necessary for consistency across documents.

Commented [DN2R1]: Keeping because intention of this is to convey that the purpose overall is to hunt even though guests accompanying hunter with the permit may not hunt (some might be taking photos, observing etc)

Proposed Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area Map



Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area General Location Map



Big Springs Ranch Photos



Attachment A**Permit Fees for Special Use of Department Lands**

Section 702 , Title 14, CCR	2026 Fee	x Q1 IPD increase	Round the product	+ 2026 Fee
Subsection		0.035591		2027 Fee
(d)(1)(B) Type 1	168.25	5.99	6.00	174.25
(d)(1)(C) Type 2	635.00	22.60	22.50	657.50
(d)(1)(D) Type 3	736.25	26.20	26.25	762.50

FISH AND GAME CODE - FGC

DIVISION 2. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE [700 - 1958] (Heading of Division 2 amended by Stats. 2015, Ch. 154, Sec. 21.)

CHAPTER 1. Organization and General Functions [700 - 715] (Chapter 1 enacted by Stats. 1957, Ch. 456.)

ARTICLE 1. Generally [700 - 715] (Article 1 enacted by Stats. 1957, Ch. 456.)

713. (a) The changes in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services, as published by the United States Department of Commerce, shall be used as the index to determine an annual rate of increase or decrease in the fees for licenses, stamps, permits, tags, or other entitlements issued by the department.

(b) (1) The department shall determine the change in the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchases of Goods and Services, as published by the United States Department of Commerce, for the quarter ending March 31 of the current year compared to the quarter ending March 31 of the previous year. The relative amount of the change shall be multiplied by the current fee for each license, stamp, permit, tag, or other entitlement issued by the department.

(2) The product shall be rounded to the nearest twenty-five cents (\$0.25), and the resulting amount shall be added to the fee for the current year. The resulting amount shall be the fee for the license year beginning on or after January 1 of the next succeeding calendar year for the license, stamp, permit, tag, or other entitlement that is adjusted under this section.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 540, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 540. Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands.

The application of a neonicotinoid pesticide to department lands ~~by the department~~ is prohibited. For purposes of this section, “neonicotinoid” means a pesticide containing any of the following active ingredients in the nitroguanidine insecticide class of neonicotinoids: clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam, and “department land” has the same meaning as specified in subsection 550(b)(1), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 1526, 1580, 1581 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.
Reference: Sections 1526, 1580, 1581, 1584 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 550, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 550. General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands.

[... No change to subsection (a)...]

(b) Definitions.

[...No change to subsections (b)(1) through (b)(5)...]

[...No change to subsections (b)(6) through (b)(9); however, they are provided here for context...]

(6) “Entry permit” is defined as a permit which allows entry to specified department land for department-authorized activities where general access is restricted per subsection 550(c)(2)(D). Entry permits may require payment of a fee to the department.

(7) “Hunting Pass” is defined as a proof of payment of a fee that must be presented by a visitor in order to obtain an entry permit to hunt on specified department lands.

(8) “Lands Pass” is defined as a proof of payment of a fee for entry for authorized uses other than hunting that is required of visitors who are not carrying a valid hunting, fishing or trapping license on department lands listed in subsections 551(w) and 630(c).

(9) “Special use” is defined as an activity, use, event or gathering on department land that is not authorized in sections 550, 551 or 630 of these regulations but which may be allowed with written authorization from the department; typically in the form of a Special Use Permit. When allowed, special uses occur on a limited basis as defined in the Special Use Permit or other authorizing document. An authorized special use on department land shall not conflict with the normal uses, purposes or management of the department land.

(10) “Reservation” is defined as a randomly drawn application that assures entry onto a wildlife area, when presented with the appropriate entry permit and/or pass as specified in ~~Section-subsection~~ 550.5(c), if applicable.

[...No change to subsections (b)(11) through (b)(18)...]

(19) “Vacancy drawing” is defined as a random drawing or first-come, first-served opportunity to fill vacancies for hunting that remain after the reservation expiration time on some Type A wildlife areas or national wildlife refuges. Hunters wishing to enter a vacancy drawing must do so in-person the evening before or morning of the hunt day, depending on the area. Hunters shall enter no more than one vacancy drawing per hunt day and an entry permit is not guaranteed.

(c) Visitor Entry and Responsibilities.

[...No change to subsection (c)(1)...]

(2) Visitor entry onto department land is at the discretion of the department, which may limit entry as it deems appropriate, to manage and protect fish, wildlife, native plants, habitats and other natural resources. Entry may require payment of a fee, a pass and/or an entry permit as provided in subsection 550.5(c).

[...No changes to subsections (c)(2)(A) through (c)(2)(E)...]

(F) It shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any department land or portion thereof where the department has restricted visitor entry without a valid entry permit or pass. Subsection 550.5(c) specifies how to obtain an entry permit or pass.

1. Where a fee is required for entry, a pass must be purchased in advance through the department's Automated License Data System. Passes are sold by license agents, department license sales offices, or online at www.wildlife.ca.gov.

2. Where an entry permit is required for hunting, all hunters, with the exception of junior hunters, must present a hunting pass. Hunters 18 years of age and older must also present a hunting pass ~~must be presented with~~ photo identification at the time of entry for issuance of an entry permit. Entry permits are available and issued by the department only at the area checking station, point of entry, or by mail for successful special drawing applicants.

3. Rules regarding entry and reservation fees required for hunting on certain wildlife areas are in subsection 550.5(c) and Section 702 of these regulations.

4. Where a fee is required for entry for authorized uses other than hunting, a Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Additional rules for Lands Passes are in subsection 550.5(c) of these regulations.

(3) Daily Entry Permit Refusals, Revocations, and Ejections, and Bans. Employees of the department are authorized to refuse entry or issuance of entry permits and/or passes, revoke permits, ~~and/or eject~~ and/or ban any visitor from department land for violation of any regulations, drug or alcohol intoxication, disorderly conduct, or for any reason when it appears that the general safety or welfare of the property or persons thereon is threatened. The decision and duration of a refusal, revocation, ejection, and/or ban, in such respect, ~~by~~ of any department employee assigned management or enforcement responsibilities for the area shall be final.

(A) Visitors found to violate any such refusal, revocation, ~~or~~ ejection, and/or ban may be cited and fined.

(B) Visitors affected by this subsection may appeal such actions to the commission.

(4) Electric bicycles and motorized transportation devices (including but not limited to motorized bicycles, scooters, and carts) are prohibited on all department lands except where posted as allowed. The department may allow electric bicycles in particular areas based on the purposes for the department land; the infrastructure, capacity, and staffing available to support the activity; human safety considerations; and/or the protection of natural resources.

(5) Penalties.

(A) A visitor's failure to comply with an authorization, condition, or term of a permit or entitlement issued pursuant to sections 550, 550.5, 551, 552 or 630, the provisions of this Section, or failure to comply with any related provision of the Fish and Game Code or regulations adopted pursuant thereto of these regulations may result in any or all of the following:

1. denial of permission to enter department lands;
2. revocation of any pass and/or permit already issued;
3. ejection from department lands for 24 hours;
4. ban from department lands ~~for up to one~~ calendar year from the date of discovery; and
4. 5. citation or arrest under applicable provisions of the Fish and Game Code or these regulations.

(B) proceeding under any of the above provisions shall not preclude the exercise of any other remedy.

[...No changes to subsections (d) through (bb)...]

(cc) Firearms, Archery, and Other Propulsive Equipment.

~~(1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm by an active peace officer listed in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code or a retired peace officer in lawful possession of an identification certificate issued pursuant to Penal Code Section 25455 authorizing the retired officer to carry a concealed firearm. Nor shall this section prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm pursuant to a concealed carry permit issued pursuant to Penal Code Section 26150 or 26155.~~

~~(2)~~(1) Possession, discharge, and use of firearms or archery equipment (including air or gas operated devices or guns and all other propulsive devices) is prohibited on department lands except as follows: ~~within department-designated hunting areas or shooting sites, or with a permit issued by the department, or as authorized for dog training in a designated area, or when fishing with bow and arrow tackle as defined in subsection 550(b)(12) and allowed in subsection~~

~~550(h). This prohibition includes air or gas operated devices or guns and all other propulsive devices.~~

(A) Within department-designated hunting areas for hunting purposes.

(B) Within department-designated shooting areas for target shooting purposes.

(C) With a permit issued by the department for purposes listed on the permit.

(D) As authorized for dog training in a department-designated area.

(E) Bow and arrow tackle as defined in subsection 550(b)(12) may be used for fishing purposes when allowed in subsection 550(h).

~~(3)~~(2) General (Non Hunting) Uses

(A) The use of glass or porcelain targets is prohibited on all department lands. Clay targets shall be used only at designated shooting areas where their use is allowed.

(B) Target Shooting is prohibited on all Department lands except at designated shooting areas. See subsections 551(v) and 630 (j) for lists of Department lands with designated shooting areas. Designated shooting areas are open daily from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise listed in subsections 551(v) or 630(j) of these regulations.

(C) Except as otherwise provided, an adult supervised youth may possess and discharge a BB gun on any wildlife area. A BB gun is not an authorized method of take and may not be used to take wildlife on any wildlife area. A BB gun is defined as an air and/or spring-actuated rifle similar to Daisy BB gun models 96 (Timberwolf), 105 (Buck), or 1938 (Red Ryder), firing a spherical BB no larger than 0.177 inches in diameter (4.5 mm) at a muzzle velocity no greater than 350 feet per second. For the purpose of this section a youth is defined as a visitor under the age of 16.

(3) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm by an active peace officer listed in Chapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 830) of Title 3 of Part 2 of the Penal Code or a retired peace officer in lawful possession of an identification certificate issued pursuant to Penal Code Section 25455 authorizing the retired officer to carry a concealed firearm. Nor shall this section prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm pursuant to a concealed carry permit issued pursuant to Penal Code Section 26150 or 26155.

[...No changes to subsections (cc)(4) through (ee)...]

(ff) Trail Camera. The use or possession of trail cameras is prohibited on department lands except as authorized by the department. For purposes of this section,

a trail camera is a device that is not manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video or location data or uses a heat-, motion- or timelapse-activated feature.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 205, 1050, 1530, 1583, 1745, 1764, 1765, 3003.1, 3004.5, 3039, 4001, 4004, 4150 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1301, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 25455, 26150 and 26155, and subdivision (a)(13) of Section 26230, Penal Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 550.5, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 550.5. Reservations, Entry Permits, Fees, Passes, and Special Use Permits.

[... No changes to subsections (a) through (b)...]

(c) Entry Permits, Fees, and Passes.

[...No changes to subsections (c)(1) through (c)(8)...]

(9) Any required entry permits will be issued first in numerical order to hunters who are present with a reservation, then in sequential order for hunters who are present with a number issued through a vacancy drawing if vacancy drawings are conducted at that area, then on a first-come, ~~first-served~~ first-served basis ~~and/or by a reservation drawing to be held at a designated department office~~. The department shall inform the commission in writing and the public via the news media when limits imposed under this section differ substantially for a specific area from the prior year. Such notification shall include: the land affected; the time period; the reason for the limitation or closure; the number of entry permits to be issued; and the method of issuance.

[... No changes to subsections (c)(10) through (c)(12)...]

[...No change to subsection (d)...]

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 1050, 1530, 1764, 1765, 3031 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1764, 1765, 2006, 2020, 10504 and 12000, Fish and Game Code; and Section ~~44998~~14998.8, Government Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 551, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 551. Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas.

[...No change to subsection (a)...]

(b) Wildlife areas owned and operated by the department (Types A, B and C as defined in ~~Section~~subsection 551(e)) are as follows:

[...No changes to subsections (b)(1) through (b)(6)...]

- (7) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type B);
- ~~(7)~~(8) Biscar Wildlife Area (Lassen County) (Type C);
- ~~(8)~~(9) Burcham and Wheeler Flats Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);
- ~~(9)~~(10) Butte Valley Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type B);
- ~~(10)~~(11) Buttermilk County Wildlife Area (Inyo County) (Type C);
- ~~(11)~~(12) Cache Creek Wildlife Area (Lake County), including the North Fork Cache Creek and Harley Gulch management units (Type C);
- ~~(12)~~(13) Camp Cady Wildlife Area (San Bernardino County) (Type C);
- ~~(13)~~(14) Cantara/Ney Springs Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type C);
- ~~(14)~~(15) Cartago Wildlife Area (Inyo County) (Type C);
- ~~(15)~~(16) Cedar Roughs Wildlife Area (Napa County) (Type C);
- ~~(16)~~(17) Cinder Flats Wildlife Area (Shasta County) (Type C);
- ~~(17)~~(18) Clear Lake Wildlife Area (Lake County), including the Rodman Slough Unit (Type C);
- ~~(18)~~(19) Collins Eddy Wildlife Area (Sutter and Yolo counties) (Type C);
- ~~(19)~~(20) Colusa Bypass Wildlife Area (Colusa County) (Type C);
- ~~(20)~~(21) Coon Hollow Wildlife Area (Butte County) (Type C);
- ~~(21)~~(22) Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (Merced and Santa Clara counties County), including the Upper Cottonwood and Lower Cottonwood management units (Type C);
- ~~(22)~~(23) Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area (Del Norte County) (Type C);
- ~~(23)~~(24) Crocker Meadow Wildlife Area (Plumas County) (Type C);

~~(24)~~(25) Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area (Butte, Nevada and Yuba counties ~~County~~) (Type C);

~~(25)~~(26) Decker Island Wildlife Area (Solano County) (Type C);

~~(26)~~(27) Doyle Wildlife Area (Lassen County) (Type C);

~~(27)~~(28) Dutch Flat Wildlife Area (Modoc County) (Type C);

~~(28)~~(29) East Walker River Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);

~~(29)~~(30) Eel River Wildlife Area (Humboldt County) (Type C);

~~(30)~~(31) El Dorado Wildlife Area (El Dorado County), including the Ervin Ranch Management Unit (Type C);

~~(31)~~(32) Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area (Del Norte County) (Type C);

~~(32)~~(33) Elk River Wildlife Area (Humboldt County) (Type C);

~~(33)~~(34) Fay Canyon Wildlife Area (Alpine County) (Type C);

~~(34)~~(35) Fay Slough Wildlife Area (Humboldt County) (Type C);

~~(35)~~(36) Feather River Wildlife Area (Sutter and Yuba counties), including the Abbott Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marysville, Morse Road, Nelson Slough, O'Connor Lakes, ~~Shanghai Bend~~, and Star Bend management units (Type C);

~~(36)~~(37) Fitzhugh Creek Wildlife Area (Modoc County) (Type C);

~~(37)~~(38) Fremont Weir Wildlife Area (Sutter and Yolo counties) (Type C);

~~(38)~~(39) French Valley Wildlife Area (Riverside County) (Type C);

~~(39)~~(40) Grass Lake Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type C);

~~(40)~~(41) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area (Butte and Sutter counties) (Type A);

~~(41)~~(42) Green Creek Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);

~~(42)~~(43) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Solano County), including the Crescent (Type A), Crescent Family (Type A), Goodyear Slough (Type B), Grey Goose (Type C), Grizzly Island (Type A), Island Slough (Type B), Joice Island (Type A), and West Family (Type B) management units;

~~(43)~~(44) Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area (Lassen and Sierra counties) (Type C);

~~(44)~~(45) Heenan Lake Wildlife Area (Alpine County) (Type C);

~~(45)~~(46) Hill Slough Wildlife Area (Solano County) (Type C);

~~(46)~~(47) Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area (San Diego County) (Type C);

~~(47)~~(48) Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Lassen County) (Type B);

- ~~(48)~~(49) Hope Valley Wildlife Area (Alpine County) (Type C);
- ~~(49)~~(50) Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type C);
- ~~(50)~~(51) Imperial Wildlife Area (Imperial County), including the Wister (Type A) and Finney-Ramer (Type C) management units;
- ~~(51)~~(52) Indian Valley Wildlife Area (Lake County) (Type C);
- ~~(52)~~(53) Kelso Peak and Old Dad Mountains Wildlife Area (San Bernardino County) (Type C);
- ~~(53)~~(54) Kinsman Flat Wildlife Area (Madera County) (Type C);
- ~~(54)~~(55) Knoxville Wildlife Area (Napa and Yolo counties) (Type C);
- ~~(55)~~(56) Laguna Wildlife Area (Sonoma County) (Type C);
- ~~(56)~~(57) Lake Earl Wildlife Area (Del Norte County) (Type C);
- ~~(57)~~(58) Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area (Fresno County) (Type C);
- ~~(58)~~(59) Los Banos Wildlife Area (Merced County) (Type A);
- ~~(59)~~(60) Lower Sherman Island Wildlife Area (Sacramento County) (Type C);
- ~~(60)~~(61) Mad River Slough Wildlife Area (Humboldt County) (Type C);
- ~~(61)~~(62) Marble Mountains Wildlife Area (San Bernardino County) (Type C);
- ~~(62)~~(63) Mendota Wildlife Area (Fresno County) (Type A);
- ~~(63)~~(64) Merrill's Landing Wildlife Area (Tehama County) (Type C);
- ~~(64)~~(65) Miner Slough Wildlife Area (Solano County) (Type C);
- ~~(65)~~(66) Monache Meadows Wildlife Area (Tulare County) (Type C);
- ~~(66)~~(67) Morro Bay Wildlife Area (San Luis Obispo County) (Type C);
- ~~(67)~~(68) Moss Landing Wildlife Area (Monterey County) (Type C);
- ~~(68)~~(69) Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area (Shasta and Tehama counties) (Type C);
- ~~(69)~~(70) Mud Lake Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type C);
- ~~(70)~~(71) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (Solano, Napa, and Sonoma counties), including the American Canyon, Dutchman Slough, Huichica Creek, Napa River, Ringstrom Bay, Sonoma Creek, Tolay Creek, Wingo, Green Island, Southern Crossing, and White Slough management units (Type C);
- ~~(71)~~(72) North Grasslands Wildlife Area (Merced and Stanislaus counties), including the China Island, Gadwall, and Salt Slough management units (Type A);

- ~~(72)~~(73) O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area (Merced County) (Type C);
- ~~(73)~~(74) Oroville Wildlife Area (Butte County), including the Thermalito Afterbay Management Unit (Type C);
- ~~(74)~~(75) Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area (Marin and Sonoma counties), including the Black John Slough, Burdell, Petaluma River, Bahia, Day Island, Green Point, Novato Creek, Point Sonoma, and Rush Creek management units (Type C);
- ~~(75)~~(76) Pickel Meadow Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);
- ~~(76)~~(77) Pine Creek Wildlife Area (Modoc County) (Type C);
- ~~(77)~~(78) Point Edith Wildlife Area (Contra Costa County) (Type C);
- ~~(78)~~(79) Putah Creek Wildlife Area (Solano County) (Type C);
- ~~(79)~~(80) Rector Reservoir Wildlife Area (Napa County) (Type C);
- ~~(80)~~(81) Red Lake Wildlife Area (Alpine County) (Type C);
- ~~(81)~~(82) Rhode Island Wildlife Area (Contra Costa County) (Type C);
- ~~(82)~~(83) Round Valley Wildlife Area (Inyo and Mono counties) (Type C);
- ~~(83)~~(84) Sacramento Bypass Wildlife Area (Yolo County) (Type C);
- ~~(84)~~(85) Sacramento River Wildlife Area (Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama counties) (Type C);
- ~~(85)~~(86) San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area (San Diego County) (Type C);
- ~~(86)~~(87) San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Riverside County), including the Davis Road Unit and the Potrero Unit (Type A);
- ~~(87)~~(88) San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area (San Luis Obispo County) (Type C);
- ~~(88)~~(89) San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area (Merced and Santa Clara counties County) (Type C);
- ~~(89)~~(90) San Pablo Bay Wildlife Area (Marin and Sonoma counties) (Type C);
- ~~(90)~~(91) Santa Rosa Wildlife Area (Riverside County) (Type C);
- ~~(91)~~(92) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type B);
- ~~(92)~~(93) Sheepy Ridge Wildlife Area (Siskiyou County) (Type C);
- ~~(93)~~(94) Silver Creek Wildlife Area (Lassen County) (Type C);
- ~~(94)~~(95) Slinkard-Little Antelope Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);
- ~~(95)~~(96) Smithneck Creek Wildlife Area (Sierra County) (Type C);

- ~~(96)~~(97) South Spit Wildlife Area (Humboldt County) (Type C);
- ~~(97)~~(98) Spenceville Wildlife Area (Yuba and Nevada counties) (Type C);
- ~~(98)~~(99) Surprise Valley Wildlife Area (Modoc County) (Type C);
- ~~(99)~~(100) Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (Sutter County) (Type C);
- ~~(100)~~(101) Tehama Wildlife Area (Tehama County) (Type C);
- ~~(101)~~(102) Truckee River Wildlife Area (Nevada and Sierra counties), including the Boca, Canyon, Grey Creek Canyon, Polaris, and Union Ice management units (Type C);
- ~~(102)~~(103) Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (Butte and Glenn counties), including the Howard Slough, Little Dry Creek, and Llano Seco management units (Type A);
- ~~(103)~~(104) Volta Wildlife Area (Merced County) (Type A);
- ~~(104)~~(105) Warner Valley Wildlife Area (Plumas County) (Type C);
- ~~(105)~~(106) Waukell Creek Wildlife Area (Del Norte County) (Type C);
- ~~(106)~~(107) West Hilmar Wildlife Area (Merced and Stanislaus counties) (Type C);
- ~~(107)~~(108) West Walker River Wildlife Area (Mono County) (Type C);
- ~~(108)~~(109) Willow Creek Wildlife Area (Lassen County) (Type B); and
- ~~(109)~~(110) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (Yolo County) (Type A).

[...No changes to subsections (c) through (h)....]

(i) Wildlife Areas Authorized for Dog Training and/or Dog Trials: Dog training and/or dog trials are authorized as specified below. Dog trials require a Special Use Permit. Site-specific dog training and/or trial prohibitions are identified in subsection 551(o). General rules regarding the use of dogs for hunting, training or trials are located in subsection 550(n) of these regulations.

AREA	DOG TRAINING	DOG TRIALS
<i>[...No changes to subsections (i)(1) through (i)(7)....]</i>		
(8) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area	Allowed only in the <u>Ringstrom Bay Unit only</u> ~~designated portion of the area~~ from July 1 through September 30 and from the end of waterfowl season to the last day in February.	Not authorized.

AREA	DOG TRAINING	DOG TRIALS
[...No changes to subsections (i)(9) through (i)(15)...]		

(j) Bicycles: Except for their use on roads or levees for transportation between parking lots and hunting areas during the waterfowl season on Type A or B wildlife areas, or as provided in this subsection, the use of bicycles by visitors is prohibited on wildlife areas (also see subsection 550(bb) of these regulations). Except where posted as allowed, electric bicycles are prohibited on all wildlife areas and ecological reserves per subsection 550(c)(4).

AREA	BICYCLES
(1) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area	<u>Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.</u>
~~(1)~~ (2) Butte Valley Wildlife Area	Allowed only on roads open to vehicles
~~(2)~~ (3) Cache Creek Wildlife Area	Allowed only on the Harley Gulch Unit from the third Saturday in April through the third Saturday in November.
~~(3)~~ (4) Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails and roads from May 10 through September 15.
~~(4)~~ (5) El Dorado Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails and roads. No organized events and group size shall not exceed 8 bicycles.
~~(5)~~ (6) Hollenback Canyon Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails or routes.
~~(6)~~ (7) Honey Lake Wildlife Area	Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
~~(7)~~ (8) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area	Allowed only on the designated Bay Trail (designated trail and road) on the Green Island Unit, and the posted public access easement on the Southern Crossing Unit. <u>Hunters are allowed to use bicycles to access Pond 1 and Pond 1A during waterfowl season on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday only.</u>
~~(8)~~ (9) Oroville Wildlife Area	Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.

AREA	BICYCLES
~~(9)~~ <u>(10)</u> San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails or routes.
~~(10)~~ <u>(11)</u> San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Potrero Unit)	Allowed only on designated trails.
~~(11)~~ <u>(12)</u> Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.
~~(12)~~ <u>(13)</u> Spenceville Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails and roads.
~~(13)~~ <u>(14)</u> Tehama Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails and roads.
~~(14)~~ <u>(15)</u> Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area	Allowed only from one week after the end of waterfowl season until two weeks prior to opening of waterfowl season.
~~(15)~~ <u>(16)</u> Willow Creek Wildlife Area	Allowed only on designated trails and roads.
~~(16)~~ <u>(17)</u> Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	Allowed only in designated areas.

[...No change to subsection (k)...]

(l) Wildlife Areas with Boat and/or Horse and Pack Stock Restrictions: Per subsections 550(z) and 550(o), the use of boats or horses is allowed on wildlife areas except as restricted in this subsection. See subsection 550(z) of these regulations for additional regulations about the use of boats.

AREA	BOATS	HORSES AND PACK STOCK
<i>[....No changes to subsections (l)(1) through (l)(2)...]</i>		
<u>(3)</u> Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area		<u>Prohibited.</u>
~~(3)~~ <u>(4)</u> Butte Valley Wildlife Area	Prohibited from March 1 through September 1. Motors are prohibited.	

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(4)~~ <u>(5)</u> Cache Creek Wildlife Area		Allowed only on the Harley Gulch Unit from the third Saturday in April through the third Saturday in November.
~~(5)~~ <u>(6)</u> Clifton Court Forebay	No gas-powered motors; electric trolling type motors may be used.	
~~(6)~~ <u>(7)</u> Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(7)~~ <u>(8)</u> Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area		Allowed only on designated trails from May 10 through September 15.
~~(8)~~ <u>(9)</u> El Dorado Wildlife Area		Allowed only on designated trails and roads. No organized events and group size shall not exceed 8 horses. Horse trailer parking is permitted within the designated parking area when space is available.
~~(9)~~ <u>(10)</u> Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	<u>Prohibited.</u>	Allowed only on the east side from July 1 through August 31.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(40)~~ <u>(11)</u> Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	The use of boats is prohibited on all management units, except the Grey Goose Unit and the portion of the Goodyear Slough Unit to the south of Lake Herman Road and east of the eastern-most railroad tracks. Access to those two areas is by boat only. There is no foot access. Launching of boats at the Montezuma Slough Unit for access to Montezuma Slough is allowed. Boats less than eight feet in length may be used to transport decoys and/or blind materials.	Allowed only during department-authorized dog trials.
~~(44)~~ <u>(12)</u> Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(42)~~ <u>(13)</u> Heenan Lake Wildlife Area	Prohibited except during controlled entry fishing events (see subsection 551(y)).	
~~(43)~~ <u>(14)</u> Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area		Allowed only on designated trails or routes. Horse trailers are permitted within the designated parking area if space is available.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(44)~~ <u>(15)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Finney-Ramer Unit).	Required for waterfowl hunting. Only non-motor driven boats or boats with electric motors may be used.	
~~(15)~~ <u>(16)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	Only hand-portable boats that are non-motorized or use an electric motor are allowed.	
~~(46)~~ <u>(17)</u> Laguna Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(47)~~ <u>(18)</u> Lake Earl Wildlife Area	Only non-motorized boats or boats with electric motors may be used during waterfowl season. Recreational boarding activities, including but not limited to windsurfing, sailboarding, paddle boarding, and kiteboarding, are prohibited year-round.	
~~(48)~~ <u>(19)</u> Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area	Only non-motorized boats or boats with electric motors may be used.	Allowed only during department-authorized dog trials.
~~(49)~~ <u>(20)</u> Los Banos Wildlife Area		Prohibited.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(20)~~ <u>(21)</u> Mendota Wildlife Area	Boats with motors allowed in Mendota Pool year-round subject to 5 mph speed limit. During waterfowl season, only non-motorized boats allowed in flooded fields outside of Mendota Pool.	Prohibited.
~~(21)~~ <u>(22)</u> Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(22)~~ <u>(23)</u> Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(23)~~ <u>(24)</u> North Grasslands Wildlife Area	No boat trailer parking within wildlife area parking lots.	Prohibited.
~~(24)~~ <u>(25)</u> O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area		Allowed only during department-authorized dog trials.
~~(25)~~ <u>(26)</u> Oroville Wildlife Area	Motorized boats are subject to 5 mph speed limit except on the southern portion of the Thermalito Afterbay Unit (those portions of the water surface south of Highway 162), where motorized boats may exceed 5 mph.	Allowed only on roads open to vehicles or within 25 feet of the exterior boundary fences. Horse drawn carriages are only allowed on roads open to vehicles.
~~(26)~~ <u>(27)</u> Perris Reservoir State Recreation Area	Only motorized boats may be used.	
~~(27)~~ <u>(28)</u> Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area		Prohibited.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(28)~~ <u>(29)</u> Sacramento River Wildlife Area	Boat-in Only Access Units: Colusa South, Colusa North, Moulton South, Moulton North, Stegeman, Princeton South, Beehive Bend, Oxbow, Jacinto, Ord Bend, Shannon Slough, Pine Creek North, Wilson Landing, Dicus Slough, and Merrils Landing. Walk-In or Boat-In Access Units: Princeton Southeast, Princeton East, Princeton North, Site 21, Pine Creek West, Pine Creek East.	Prohibited.
~~(29)~~ <u>(30)</u> San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area		Allowed only on designated trails or routes.
~~(30)~~ <u>(31)</u> San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(31)~~ <u>(32)</u> Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Only non-motorized boats with electric motors are allowed on Bass Lake. Motorized boats are allowed on Trout Lake from October 1 to January 31. Non-motorized boats or boats with electric motors are allowed on Trout Lake from the last Saturday in April through September 30 on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays only.	

<i>AREA</i>	<i>BOATS</i>	<i>HORSES AND PACK STOCK</i>
~~(32)~~ <u>(33)</u> South Spit Wildlife Area		Allowed only on west side of South Jetty Road.
~~(33)~~ <u>(35)</u> Spenceville Wildlife Area		Allowed only on designated trails and routes.
~~(34)~~ <u>(35)</u> Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area		Prohibited.
~~(35)~~ <u>(36)</u> Volta Wildlife Area (US Bureau of Reclamation Lands)	Boat trailers allowed beyond the checking station only to launch boats. Vehicles may be driven past Parking Lot 1 to launch boats.	<u>Prohibited.</u>
~~(36)~~ <u>(37)</u> Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	No boats or flotation devices allowed.	Prohibited.

(m) Wildlife Areas with Camping, Camp Trailers and Motorhomes as a Designated Use: Unless permitted in this subsection, camping and the use of camp trailers and motorhomes are prohibited on wildlife areas. For additional rules about camping on department lands, see subsection 550(p) of these regulations.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>CAMPING</i>
<i>[...No changes to subsections (m)(1) through (m)(5)...]</i>	

AREA	CAMPING
(6) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	Allowed ~~only~~ during waterfowl season <u>or the night before a hunt day</u> . Camp trailers or motorhomes may be placed in the designated camp trailer area no sooner than one week before the opening of waterfowl season and must be removed from the wildlife area no later than one week after the end of the regular waterfowl season. All campers, defined as a shell or shelter made to be mounted on a pickup truck must remain attached to a registered vehicle when on the area. All camp trailers and motorhomes must be registered at the checking station within one week of placement.
<i>[...No changes to subsections (m)(7) through (m)(29)...]</i>	

[...No change to subsection (n)...]

(o) Designated Closures and Restrictions on Wildlife Areas:

Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm as provided in subsection 550(cc)(1) of these regulations.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
<i>[...No changes to subsection (o)(1) through (o)(4) ...]</i>	

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
<u>(5) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area</u>	<u>Only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests (non-hunting guests or junior hunters) may enter the wildlife area to hunt in designated areas on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season.</u> <u>Big Springs and Little Springs creeks are closed for waterfowl hunting.</u> <u>The entire property is closed to big game hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing in addition to a valid deer tag for the applicable deer hunting zone.</u>
~~(5)~~ <u>(6)</u> Butte Valley Wildlife Area	Closed to boating and water-related activity from March 1 through September 1.
~~(6)~~ <u>(7)</u> Cache Creek Wildlife Area	The use of dogs for wild pig hunting is prohibited.
~~(7)~~ <u>(8)</u> Clifton Court Forebay	No hunting from shore. No hunting within 150 yards of the water control gates or public fishing areas/pier.
~~(8)~~ <u>(9)</u> Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting after the last Sunday in January to the opening of Zone A archery deer season. Dog training and trials are prohibited. The use of dogs for wild pig hunting is prohibited.
~~(9)~~ <u>(10)</u> Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area	No hunting or possession of firearms or archery equipment.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
(40)(11) Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through June 30 except for the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted. Closed to all visitor entry during the first nine days of the spring turkey season except for special turkey permit holders. The Black Swan area of the Yuba Narrows Unit is closed to hunting.
(41)(12) Eel River Wildlife Area	Portions of the area are closed to vehicle entry from March 1 through September 15. Cannibal Island Unit is closed to all visitor use from the Monday following the end of youth hunting day (subsection ~~502(e)(1)(B)(5)~~ <u>502(e)(1)(B)5.</u> of these regulations) through April 1. No dogs off leash on the wave-slope and/or in signed exclusion zones within the Ocean Ranch Unit during the snowy plover nesting season March 1 through September 15.
(42)(13) Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area	No hunting or possession of firearms or archery equipment.
(43)(14) Elk River Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from the Monday following the end of youth hunting day (subsection ~~502(e)(1)(B)(5)~~ <u>502(e)(1)(B)5.</u> of these regulations) through April 1.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
(15) Fay Slough Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from the Monday following the end of youth hunting day (subsection ~~502(e)(1)(B)(5)~~ <u>502(e)(1)(B)5.</u> of these regulations) through April 1. Entry to the wildlife area is only from the designated parking area, located off Highway 101. Boating access is prohibited. No dogs allowed except with hunters during the designated hunting season. Hunting from designated ponds only.
(16) Feather River Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through June 30 except for the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted. ~~The Shanghai Bend Unit is closed to hunting.~~
(17) Fremont Weir Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through June 30 except for the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted.
(18) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	Closed to all non-hunting uses from two weeks prior to opening of waterfowl season through one week after end of waterfowl season except those areas designated for wildlife viewing purposes. The west side of the area is closed to falconry. Dove hunting allowed only in designated areas. Pheasant and quail hunting only allowed during the pheasant opening weekend and subsequent waterfowl shoot days occurring during the general pheasant hunt season.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(48)~~<u>(19)</u> Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Goodyear Slough, Island Slough, West Family and Grey Goose units).	A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl season. Closed to all public use from the end of waterfowl season to September 30. Access to the Grey Goose Unit and the Goodyear Slough Unit to the south of Lake Herman Road and east of the eastern most railroad tracks is by boat only. The Island Slough Unit is open to hunting on Christmas Day when Christmas falls on a Saturday, Sunday or Wednesday.
~~(49)~~<u>(20)</u> Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Joice Island Unit)	Closed to public use except when permits are issued for waterfowl hunting, special wild pig hunts, and during the special season open to fishing from mid-May to mid-August (contact area headquarters for details). Joice Island Unit is open to waterfowl hunting on Sundays only, starting on the first Sunday in December for the remainder of the waterfowl season, by permit only.
~~(20)~~<u>(21)</u> Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Grizzly Island Unit).	Dogs are prohibited from March 1 to June 30, all of August, and during the tule elk hunting season in September. Dogs may be used to assist in the take of game which is in season, authorized by area regulations and in portions of the area open to such take. Dogs are otherwise prohibited during October and through the end of waterfowl season. Closed to uses other than hunting from the last Monday in July to the end of the Grizzly Island tule elk season and from October 1 through the end of waterfowl season.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION</i>
~~(21)~~ <u>(22)</u> Hallelujah Junction Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from February 1 through June 30. Ranch House area closed to all visitor use. Dogs are prohibited except for hunting.
~~(22)~~ <u>(23)</u> Hill Slough Wildlife Area	No hunting or possession of firearms or archery equipment.
~~(23)~~ <u>(24)</u> Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area	Hunting is allowed in designated areas only. Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31, except for crow hunting, which is allowed after January 31 until the end of the crow season in designated area(s) only.
~~(24)~~ <u>(25)</u> Honey Lake Wildlife Area (Fleming and Dakin Units)	Closed to all public uses from September 16 until the opening of waterfowl season. During the waterfowl and pheasant hunt seasons, the wildlife area is closed to all public use with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays for hunting only.
~~(25)~~ <u>(26)</u> Hope Valley Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting from February 1 until the opening of archery deer season.
~~(26)~~ <u>(27)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Finney-Ramer Unit)	A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl season. Waterfowl hunting allowed only from boats and islands. Closed to hunting from February 1 through June 30.
~~(27)~~ <u>(28)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	Closed to all non-hunting public uses from one week before the opening of waterfowl season through the end of waterfowl season, except for designated wildlife viewing sites and designated fishing areas.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(28)~~ <u>(29)</u> Laguna Wildlife Area	The Timber Hill, Blucher Creek, and Cooper Road units are closed to hunting. Only the wetland portions of the Occidental Road Unit associated with the Laguna de Santa Rosa are open to hunting, and hunting is allowed only when the Laguna de Santa Rosa is navigable and the wetlands are accessible by boat. Foot or terrestrial access to the Occidental Road Unit is prohibited because there is no visitor right-of-way. Dogs are prohibited from March 2 through June 30.
~~(29)~~ <u>(30)</u> Lake Earl Wildlife Area	No dogs off leash on the wave-slope and/or in signed exclusion zones during the snowy plover nesting season March 1 through September 15.
~~(30)~~ <u>(31)</u> Lake Sonoma Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting except through special drawings. The portion of the area posted as "Critical Habitat" is closed to all visitor use and entry from February 1 through August 1. Dogs are prohibited.
~~(31)~~ <u>(32)</u> Little Panoche Reservoir Wildlife Area	The use of dogs for wild pig hunting is prohibited.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(32)~~ (33) Los Banos Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from September 15 until the opening of waterfowl season. Closed to non-hunting uses during the waterfowl season on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl season, except on days when only upland game may be taken, and on special “youth only” waterfowl hunt days when there shall be no restrictions on the number of shot shells taken into the field. Dogs are prohibited in the interpretive viewing area. Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit. Deer may be taken with shotgun and slug only (see subsection 353(d)).
~~(33)~~ <u>(34)</u> Mad River Slough Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from the Monday following the end of youth hunting days (subsection ~~502(e)(1)(B)(5)~~ <u>502(e)(1)(B)5.</u> of these regulations) through April 1. Dogs are prohibited except for hunting.
~~(34)~~ <u>(35)</u> Mendota Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use from September 16 until the opening of waterfowl season except for the designated tour route and fishing site. Closed to non-hunting uses during the waterfowl season.
~~(35)~~ <u>(36)</u> Morro Bay Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting from the day after the end of waterfowl season until the opening day of brant season. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field.
~~(36)~~ <u>(37)</u> Moss Landing Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting on New Year’s Day. The Salt Ponds are closed to hunting.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(37)~~ <u>(38)</u> Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area	The following units are closed to all hunting, firearms and archery use: the White Slough Unit, the Green Island Unit, the Southern Crossing Unit and the portion of the American Canyon Unit south of the PG&E lines. Dogs are prohibited from March 2 through June 30.
~~(38)~~ <u>(39)</u> North Grasslands Wildlife Area	A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl season, except on days when only upland game may be taken and on special “youth only” waterfowl hunt days when there shall be no restrictions on the number of shot shells taken into the field. Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit. Deer may be taken with shotgun and slug only (see subsection 353(d)).
~~(39)~~ <u>(40)</u> O’Neill Forebay Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor use the day of and day after designated special apprentice pheasant hunts except for special apprentice pheasant hunt permit holders. Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit. Deer may be taken with shotgun and slug only (see subsection 353(d)).
~~(40)~~ <u>(41)</u> Oroville Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31 except during the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted through a special drawing. Dogs are prohibited from March 2 through June 30.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION</i>
~~(41)~~ <u>(42)</u> Perris Reservoir State Recreation Area	Shore hunting for waterfowl, coots, and moorhens is prohibited. Upland game may be taken only in designated areas. Fishing is permitted in the designated waterfowl hunting area only on non-shoot days.
~~(42)~~ <u>(43)</u> Petaluma Marsh Wildlife Area	The Bahia, Day Island, Green Point, Novato Creek, Point Sonoma, and Rush Creek units are closed to hunting, firearms, and archery use. Dogs are prohibited on all units from March 2 through June 30.
~~(43)~~ <u>(44)</u> Putah Creek Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 until the opening weekend of Zone A deer archery season which is defined in Section ~~360~~ <u>361</u> of these regulations.
~~(44)~~ <u>(45)</u> Rector Reservoir Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting from the day after spring turkey season closes to the opening of archery deer season.
~~(45)~~ <u>(46)</u> Red Lake Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31 except during archery deer season.
~~(46)~~ <u>(47)</u> Sacramento Bypass Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31.
~~(47)~~ <u>(48)</u> Sacramento River Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31 except during the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted and during archery deer season when only deer may be hunted. Boat-in Only Access Units: Colusa South, Colusa North, Moulton South, Moulton North, Stegeman, Princeton South, Beehive Bend, Oxbow, Jacinto, Ord Bend, Shannon Slough, Pine Creek North, Wilson Landing, Dicus Slough, Merrills Landing.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(48)~~ <u>(49)</u> San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31 except during the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted. D-16 general deer zone tags may not be used west of Highway S-2.
~~(49)~~ <u>(50)</u> San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Davis Road Unit)	Upland game (doves, pheasants, quail, snipe, and rabbits) may be taken only in designated areas. A self-issued permit, acquired on-site, is required to enter the upland game hunting area.
~~(50)~~ <u>(51)</u> San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Portrero Unit)	Only upland game birds and resident small game within designated areas may be taken, unless otherwise restricted or limited within the unit.
~~(51)~~ <u>(52)</u> San Luis Obispo Wildlife Area	Closed to all visitor uses except for the shooting area/range.
~~(52)~~ <u>(53)</u> San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area	The use of dogs for wild pig hunting is prohibited. Motor vehicles are allowed in the parking lot only.
~~(53)~~ <u>(54)</u> Santa Rosa Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting on the portion of the area that lies within Fish and Game Refuge 4D (see Fish and Game Code Section 10837).
~~(54)~~ <u>(55)</u> Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests (non-hunting guests or junior hunters) may enter the wildlife area on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season. <u>See subsection 551(y) for fishing closures.</u>

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(55)~~ <u>(56)</u> Spenceville Wildlife Area	Closed to hunting February 1 through August 31 except during the spring turkey season when only turkeys may be hunted. Closed to all visitor entry during the first nine days of the spring turkey season except for special turkey permit holders. The posted area around the Spenceville Mine is closed to visitor entry.
~~(56)~~ <u>(57)</u> Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area	Those portions of the east and west levees of the area adjacent to the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) are closed to hunting. The west levee of the area is closed to hunting from the northern boundary of the SNWR south to Oswald/Hughes Road. The east levee of the area is closed to hunting from the northern boundary of the SNWR south to the SNWR checking station parking lot. The remaining portion of the east levee from the SNWR parking lot south to the southern boundary of the SNWR is closed to hunting pursuant to Section 625 of these regulations.
~~(57)~~ <u>(58)</u> Tehama Wildlife Area	The portion of the area south of Antelope Creek is closed to all visitor use and entry from the first Monday in December through the last Friday in March. The use of dogs for wild pig hunting is prohibited.
~~(58)~~ <u>(59)</u> Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area	Closed to all non-hunting uses from two weeks prior to opening of waterfowl season through one week after the end of waterfowl season. Dogs are prohibited except for hunting.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF CLOSURE OR RESTRICTION
~~(59)~~ <u>(60)</u> Volta Wildlife Area (U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Lands)	Closed to all visitor uses from August 15 until the opening of waterfowl season except that fishing in the Volta Wasteway Channel is allowed. Fishing is restricted to the Volta Wasteway Channel for a distance of one mile downstream from the Ingomar Grade from September 15 until the end of waterfowl season. Closed to non-hunting uses during the waterfowl season. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl season, except on days when only upland game may be taken and on special "youth only" waterfowl hunt days when there shall be no restrictions on the number of shot shells taken into the field.
~~(60)~~ <u>(61)</u> Willow Creek Wildlife Area	Closed to all public uses from September 16 until the opening of waterfowl season. During the waterfowl and pheasant hunt seasons, the wildlife area is closed to all public use with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays for hunting only.
~~(61)~~ <u>(62)</u> Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	Closed to all non-hunting uses from two weeks prior to opening of waterfowl season through one week after the end of waterfowl season except those areas designated for wildlife viewing purposes. Pheasant hunting is prohibited in assigned blind areas.

(p) Type A or Type B Wildlife Areas with Shoot Day or Shooting Hours Restrictions During the Waterfowl Season:

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTION
(1) <u>Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area</u>	<u>Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during the pheasant season and by special drawing only. Quail and snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season.</u>
~~(1)~~ (2) Butte Valley Wildlife Area	Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during pheasant season. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season.
~~(2)~~ (3) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Joice Island Unit)	Open to waterfowl hunting Sundays only, starting on the first Sunday in December for the remainder of the waterfowl season by permit only, and for special drawing pig hunts.
~~(3)~~ (4) Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	Pheasant, quail and rabbit hunting is allowed only on Mondays and Thursdays. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season. After the September dove season, dove may be taken only on pheasant hunt days. Snipe may be taken only on waterfowl and pheasant hunt days.
~~(4)~~ (5) Kern National Wildlife Refuge	Hunting of waterfowl, coot, moorhen, and pheasant is allowed only on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Pheasant hunting is only allowed during the pheasant season. Snipe hunting is prohibited.
~~(5)~~ (6) Merced National Wildlife Refuge	Hunting for waterfowl, coot, and moorhen is allowed only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTION
~~(6)~~ (7) San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Davis Road Unit)	Hunting for waterfowl, coot, and moorhen is allowed only on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Mondays during pheasant season. All other upland game hunting is allowed only in designated areas from July 1 through January 31. A self-issued permit, acquired on-site, is required to enter the upland game hunting area.
~~(7)~~ (8) San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Potrero Unit)	Unless otherwise restricted by the department, hunting is allowed daily only for upland game birds and resident small game in designated areas. A self-issued permit, acquired on-site, is required to enter the designated hunting area.
~~(8)~~ (9) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Bear Creek Unit)	Entry permits must be returned to the checking station by 3:00 p.m. Hunting on the West Bear Creek portion is prohibited until the third Saturday in November.
~~(9)~~ (10) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during the pheasant season. Quail and snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season.

(q) Type C Wildlife Areas with Shoot Day Restrictions and/or Special Drawing Requirements: Unless identified with specific shoot days, seasonal closures or special drawing requirements below, or with closures identified in subsection 551(o), Type C wildlife areas are open daily. Information about special drawings is available at www.wildlife.ca.gov.

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTION OR REQUIREMENT
[...No changes to subsections (q)(1) through (q)(17)...]	

AREA	DESCRIPTION OF RESTRICTION OR REQUIREMENT
(18) Perris Reservoir <u>State Recreation Area</u>	Hunting for waterfowl is allowed until noon on Saturdays and Wednesdays. Hunting is allowed daily for upland game from the first Saturday after Labor Day through January 31.
[...No changes to subsections (q)(19) through (q)(21)...]	

(r) Firearm Restrictions on Type C Wildlife Areas: The regulations in this subsection are in addition to the regulations regarding firearms in subsection 550(cc) of these regulations. The restrictions in this subsection do not prohibit the lawful possession of a concealed firearm as provided in subsection 550(cc)(1) of these regulations.

Wildlife Areas with Firearm Restrictions	
Area	Description of Restriction
[...No changes to subsections (r)(1) through (r)(37)...]	
(38) Perris Reservoir <u>State Recreation Area</u>	Rifles and pistols are prohibited.
[...No changes to subsections (r)(39) through (r)(51)...]	

(s) Additional Hunter Opportunities on Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas: Information about the special drawings and big game drawings referred to in this subsection is available at www.wildlife.ca.gov.

AREA	SPECIES	HUNT REQUIREMENTS
[...No changes to subsection (s)(1))...]		
(2) Big Springs Ranch <u>Wildlife Area</u>	<u>Deer and quail</u>	<u>Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing.</u> <u>Quail may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days.</u>

<i>AREA</i>	<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>HUNT REQUIREMENTS</i>
(2)(3) Butte Valley Wildlife Area	Pronghorn antelope	Allowed only with an apprentice tag available through the big game drawing.
(3)(4) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	Deer	Allowed only with a G-12 deer tag available through the big game drawing.
(4)(5) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	Quail and rabbit	Allowed only on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season.
(5)(6) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	Turkey	<u>Allowed during the fall turkey season on waterfowl shoot days, and allowed during the spring turkey season only through a special drawing.</u> ~~Allowed only through a special drawing during the spring season.~~
(6)(7) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	Tule elk	Allowed only with an elk tag available through the big game drawing. Methods of take for big game are authorized per Section 353 of these regulations.
(7)(8) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (Crescent and Grizzly Island Units)	Rabbit	Allowed daily in July and on waterfowl shoot days during the pheasant season.
(8)(9) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area	Wild pig	Allowed only with an entry permit obtained through a special drawing. Only shotguns with slugs and archery equipment are authorized. Rifles and pistols are prohibited.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>HUNT REQUIREMENTS</i>
~~(9)~~ <u>(10)</u> Honey Lake Wildlife Area	Quail and rabbit	Allowed only on waterfowl shoot days that occur during the pheasant season.
~~(10)~~ <u>(11)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area	Quail	Allowed only on pheasant hunt days.
~~(11)~~ <u>(12)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	Rabbit	Allowed daily during the rabbit season except during the waterfowl season, when rabbits may be taken only on pheasant hunt days.
~~(12)~~ <u>(13)</u> Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister Unit)	Raccoon	Allowed daily from August 1 through one week before opening of waterfowl season.
~~(13)~~ <u>(14)</u> Los Banos Wildlife Area	Raccoon, rabbit, deer, and quail	Self-registration is required for raccoon and rabbit hunting. Raccoon may not be taken during waterfowl season. A department-issued entry permit is required to hunt deer. Eurasian collared dove hunting allowed during mourning dove open season. Snipe hunting allowed only on waterfowl shoot days during the general waterfowl season.

<i>AREA</i>	<i>SPECIES</i>	<i>HUNT REQUIREMENTS</i>
(~~14~~) <u>(15)</u> Mendota Wildlife Area	Raccoon, rabbit, crow, and quail	Self-registration is required. Raccoon may not be taken during waterfowl season. Eurasian collared dove hunting allowed during mourning dove open season. Snipe hunting allowed only on waterfowl shoot days during the general waterfowl season.
(~~15~~) <u>(16)</u> North Grasslands Wildlife Area	Raccoon, rabbit, deer, and quail.	Self-registration required for raccoon and rabbit. Raccoon may not be taken during waterfowl season. Rabbit may be hunted daily from July 1 through September 15 and from the day after the end of waterfowl season until the end of the rabbit season. During the waterfowl season, rabbit hunting is allowed only on waterfowl hunt days. A department-issued entry permit is required to hunt deer. Eurasian collared dove hunting allowed during mourning dove open season. Snipe hunting allowed only on waterfowl shoot days during the general waterfowl season.

AREA	SPECIES	HUNT REQUIREMENTS
~~(46)~~ (17) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area	Quail	Self-register at area. Quail shoot days are limited to waterfowl shoot days only.
~~(47)~~ (18) Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area	Rabbit, turkey and quail	Rabbit allowed only during the September dove season, and on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season. Turkey allowed by draw during the spring turkey season and during the fall turkey season concurrent with the pheasant season. Quail allowed during the general season concurrent with pheasant season.
~~(48)~~ (19) Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area (Little Dry Creek Unit)	Deer	Allowed only with a J-9 apprentice tag available through the big game drawing.
~~(49)~~ (20) Volta Wildlife Area	Rabbit	Allowed except during waterfowl season. Self-registration required.
<u>(21) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area</u>	<u>Deer, Turkey</u>	<u>Closed to deer and turkey hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing. Deer may be taken with shotgun and slug only (see subsection 353(d)).</u>

(t) Species Restrictions for Hunting on Type C Wildlife Areas: Only the species listed for each of the wildlife areas in the table below may be hunted on those areas.

AREA	SPECIES
<i>[...No changes to subsections (t)(1) through (t)(17)...]</i>	
(18) Perris Reservoir <u>State Recreation Area</u>	Waterfowl, coot, moorhen, dove, pheasant, quail, and rabbit only.
<i>[...No changes to subsections (t)(19) through (t)(27)...]</i>	

[...No change to subsection (v)...]

(w) Wildlife Areas That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses Other than Hunting (Lands Pass): Pursuant to subsection 550(c) and 550.5(c) of these regulations, it shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any wildlife area, or portion thereof listed in this section, without carrying a valid Lands Pass or a valid hunting, or fishing license on their person. A Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase a Lands Pass and exceptions to this requirement are provided in subsection 550.5(c).

- (1) Ash Creek Wildlife Area
- (2) Bass Hill Wildlife Area
- (3) Battle Creek Wildlife Area
- (4) Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area
- ~~(4)~~(5) Butte Valley Wildlife Area
- ~~(5)~~ Cache Creek Wildlife Area
- ~~(6)~~ Crescent City Marsh Wildlife Area
- ~~(7)~~ Eel River Wildlife Area
- ~~(8)~~ Elk Creek Wetlands Wildlife Area
- ~~(9)~~ Elk River Wildlife Area
- ~~(10)~~ Fay Slough Wildlife Area
- ~~(11)~~(6) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area
- ~~(12)~~(7) Grizzly Island Wildlife Area (excluding Crescent Unit)
- ~~(13)~~(8) Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area
- ~~(14)~~(9) Honey Lake Wildlife Area
- ~~(15)~~ Hope Valley Wildlife Area
- ~~(16)~~(10) Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area

- ~~(17)~~(11) Imperial Wildlife Area (Wister and Finney-Ramer units only)
- ~~(18)~~ ~~Lake Earl Wildlife Area~~
- ~~(19)~~(12) Los Banos Wildlife Area
- ~~(20)~~ ~~Mad River Slough Wildlife Area~~
- ~~(21)~~(13) Mendota Wildlife Area
- ~~(22)~~(14) Mouth of Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area
- ~~(23)~~(15) Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (Green Island Unit only)
- ~~(24)~~(16) North Grasslands Wildlife Area
- ~~(25)~~(17) San Felipe Valley Wildlife Area
- ~~(26)~~(18) San Jacinto Wildlife Area
- ~~(27)~~(19) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area
- ~~(28)~~ ~~South Spit Wildlife Area~~
- ~~(29)~~(20) Tehama Wildlife Area
- ~~(30)~~(21) Upper Butte Basin Wildlife Area
- ~~(31)~~(22) Volta Wildlife Area
- ~~(32)~~(23) Willow Creek Wildlife Area
- ~~(33)~~(24) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

(x) Additional Waterfowl Reservation Regulations:

AREA	NUMBER OF HUNTERS PER RESERVATION	RESERVATION EXPIRES
<i>[...No change to subsections (x)(1) through (x)(2)...]</i>		
(3) Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	~~Two adults; each adult hunter may bring up two junior hunters or two non-shooters or one of each.~~ <u>Up to three persons.</u>	One and one-half hours before shoot time.
<i>[...No change to subsections (x)(4) through (x)(17)...]</i>		

AREA	NUMBER OF HUNTERS PER RESERVATION	RESERVATION EXPIRES
(18) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Freitas North Unit)	One boat with up to four ~~people~~ <u>persons</u> . Check in at Kesterson Unit. <u>Entry permits issued at 2:00 a.m.</u>	3:00 a.m.
(19) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge (Freitas South Unit)	One boat with up to four ~~people~~ <u>persons</u> . Check in at Salt Slough Unit. <u>Entry permits issued at 2:00 a.m.</u>	3:00 a.m.
<i>[...No changes to subsections (x)(20) through (x)(26)...]</i>		
(27) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	~~Blinds up to four hunters. Free-roam two adults; each adult hunter may bring up to two junior hunters or two non-shooters or one of each.~~ <u>Up to three persons.</u>	One and one-half hours before shoot time.

(y) Fishing Regulations on Wildlife Areas pursuant to subsections 550(c)(2)(C) and 550(h) of these regulations:

The property-specific fishing regulations in this subsection are in addition to the general regulations regarding fishing and the hours of operation of department lands located in Section 550 of these regulations.

[...No changes to subsections (y)(1) through (y)(3)...]

(4) Shasta Valley Wildlife Area: Fishing on Bass Lake is closed from October 1 through January 31. Fishing on Trout Lake is closed from October 1 through the last Saturday in April.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 205, 355, 1050, 1530, 1745, 1764, 1765, 3003.1, 3039, 4001, 4004, 4150 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1301, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code; Sections 5003 and 5010, Public Resources Code; and Sections 25455, 26150 and 26155, Penal Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 552, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 552. Public Use Regulations for National Wildlife Refuges That Are Also Designated as Wildlife Areas by the Commission.

(a) The power to control entry on the National Wildlife Refuges that are also designated as wildlife areas in subsections 551(c) and (d) is at the discretion of the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The hunting programs for the “Type A” areas listed below are administered by the department.

(1) Colusa National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) [subsection reserved]

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant: First Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season. Turkey: Waterfowl hunt days during the fall turkey season.

~~(C)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, snipe, turkey, and pheasants.

~~(D)~~(E) Special Restrictions:

~~(D)~~1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection ~~(a)(1)(E)~~(a)(1)(H).

2. When hunting from assigned hunting sites, it shall be unlawful to hunt outside the assigned pond boundary or to hunt from levee roads. Pheasant, turkey and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned pond area with the exception of pheasant hunting on the first Monday of pheasant season.

~~(E) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.~~

(F) Bicycles: Allowed from May 15 through August 15 on the designated auto tour road.

~~(G) Fishing: Prohibited. Special Restrictions: When hunting from assigned hunting sites, it shall be unlawful to hunt outside the assigned pond boundary or to hunt~~

~~from levee roads. Pheasant, turkey and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned pond area with the exception of pheasant hunting on the first Monday of pheasant season.~~

(H) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.

~~(H)~~(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities.

~~(I) Fishing: Prohibited.~~

(2) Delevan National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) [subsection reserved]

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant: First Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season. Turkey: Waterfowl hunt days during the fall turkey season.

~~(C)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, snipe, turkey, and pheasants.

~~(D)~~(E) Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection ~~(a)(2)(E)~~(a)(2)(H).

2. When assigned hunting sites, hunters shall hunt only within 100 feet of their assigned sites, except to retrieve downed birds. Pheasant and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned blind area except on the first Monday of pheasant season.

~~(E) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.~~

~~(F) Bicycles: Prohibited. Special Restrictions: When assigned hunting sites, hunters shall hunt only within 100 feet of their assigned sites, except to retrieve downed~~

~~birds. Pheasant and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned blind area except on the first Monday of pheasant season.~~

(G) Fishing: Prohibited.

(H) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.

(3) Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) [subsection reserved]

~~(A)(B)~~ Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)(C)~~ Hunt Days: Waterfowl, coots, ~~and~~ moorhens, and snipe: Saturdays and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant: Waterfowl hunt days during the regular pheasant season.

~~(C)(D)~~ Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, ~~and~~ pheasants, and snipe.

~~(D)(E)~~ Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset.

2. Hunters assigned to the spaced blind unit must remain within 100 feet of the numbered steel post (blind site) except when pursuing ~~crippled~~ downed birds, placing decoys, or traveling to and from the parking area. Pheasant hunting is only permitted in the free roam unit.

~~(E) Boats:~~ 3. Only nonmotorized boats are permitted.

(F) Bicycles: Prohibited.

~~(F)(G)~~ Fishing: Prohibited.

(H) Camping: Prohibited.

(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities.

(4) Merced National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) Units: Merced Unit, Lonetree Unit, Arena Plains Unit (closed to hunting), and Snowbird Unit (closed to hunting).

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Saturdays and Wednesdays during waterfowl season.

~~(C) Shooting Hours: Waterfowl shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon.~~

(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, and moorhens. Snipe hunting is allowed on all units only on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders.

~~(E) Bicycles: Allowed~~

~~(F)~~(E) Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset.

2. In assigned blind areas, hunters must hunt from assigned blinds; in assigned zone areas, hunters must hunt from within assigned zones.

3. If assigned to blinds, hunters ~~Hunters~~ must hunt from assigned blinds, except to retrieve downed birds, place decoys, and travel to and from the parking area. Shooting from outside of the blind is prohibited.

4. Shooting Hours: Waterfowl shooting hours will be from one-half hour before sunrise until 12:00 noon.

(F) Bicycles: Allowed.

(G) Fishing: Prohibited.

(H) Camping: Prohibited.

~~(G)~~(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting opportunities.

~~(H) Fishing: Prohibited.~~

(5) Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) [subsection reserved]

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasants: The first Monday of pheasant season and on waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season. Turkey: Waterfowl hunt days during the fall turkey season.

~~(C)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, snipe, turkey, and pheasants.

~~(D)~~(E) Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection ~~(a)(5)(E)~~(a)(5)(H).

2. When assigned hunting sites, hunters shall hunt only within 100 feet of their assigned sites, except to retrieve downed birds. Pheasant, turkey and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned blind area except on the first Monday of pheasant season.

~~(E) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.~~

(F) Bicycles: Allowed May 15 through August 15 on the designated auto tour road.

~~(G) Fishing: Prohibited. Special Restrictions: When assigned hunting sites, hunters shall hunt only within 100 feet of their assigned sites, except to retrieve downed birds. Pheasant, turkey and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned blind area except on the first Monday of pheasant season.~~

~~(H) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.~~

~~(H)~~(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities.

~~(I) Fishing: Prohibited.~~

(6) Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, Type C.

(A) Units: The refuge includes the La BARRANCA Unit, Blackberry Island Unit, Todd Island Unit, Mooney Unit, Ohm Unit, Flynn Unit, Heron Island Unit, Rio Vista Unit, Foster Island Unit (Tehama Co.); Pine Creek Unit, Dead Man's Reach Unit, Llano Seco Island 1 & 2 Units, and Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary Unit, Unit (Butte Co.); ~~and~~ McIntosh Landing North and South Units, Capay Unit, Phelan Island Unit, Jacinto Unit, North Ord Unit, Ord Bend Unit, South Ord Unit, Hartley Island Unit, Sul Norte Unit, Codora Unit, Packer Unit, Afton Unit, Drumheller North Unit, Drumheller Slough Unit (~~Glenn Co.~~), (Glenn Co.); and Bogg's Bend Unit (Colusa Co.).

(B) ~~Firearm~~ Firearms Restrictions:

1. Only shotguns and archery equipment are allowed. No rifles, crossbows, air guns, paintball guns or pistols may be used or possessed.
2. Target shooting is prohibited.
3. No firearms or archery equipment are allowed in areas closed to hunting.
4. Firearms must be unloaded before transporting them between parking areas and hunting areas. "Unloaded" means that no unexpended cartridge or shell is in the chamber of the firearm. This is in addition to the requirement in subsection 550(cc) of these regulations that requires firearms to be unloaded in parking lots, check stations and other facilities.

(C) Hunt Days: [subsection reserved]

(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: (unless otherwise stated in subsection (K) or restricted in this subsection): goose, duck, coot, moorhen, dove, snipe, turkey, pheasant, quail, deer, and wild pig.

1. Wild Pigs may be hunted only from September 1 through March 15.

(E) Special Restrictions:

1. Personal Property: Permanent blinds, ladders and screw-in foot pegs are prohibited. All personal property, including tree stands, decoys and boats must be removed by one and one-half hours after sunset.

2. Falconry: Falconry is prohibited.

3. Commercial Guiding: Commercial guiding is prohibited.

4. Dogs: Dogs are prohibited for the take and pursuit of wild pigs and deer.

(F) Bicycles: Bicycles are allowed May 15 through August 15 on designated routes. Other conveyances are prohibited. Mobility-impaired hunters should contact the refuge manager for allowed conveyances.

(G) Fishing:

1. Fishing is permitted in designated areas.

(H) Camping: Camping is allowed only on gravel bars up to 7 days during a 30 day period. Individuals camping on the refuge must remain on the gravel bars from one and one half hours after sunset to 2 hours before sunrise.

(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from 2 hours before sunrise to one and one half hours after sunset.

~~(G)~~(J) Public Access:

1. The following units are closed to public access: ~~Ohm~~, McIntosh Landing North and South, North Ord, Llano Seco Riparian Sanctuary, and Hartley Island.

2. Access is allowed by boat only on the following units: La Barranca, Blackberry Island, Todd Island, Mooney, Ohm, Flynn, Heron Island, Foster Island, Phelan Island, Jacinto, Dead Man's Reach, South Ord, ~~Lane~~ Llano Seco Island 1 & 2, and Afton.

3. Access is allowed on foot or by boat only on the following units: Rio Vista, Pine Creek, Capay, Ord Bend, Sul Norte, Codora, Packer, Drumheller North, Drumheller ~~Slough~~ Slough, and Bogg's Bend.

a. On Packer and Drumheller North, only boats up to 14 feet in length and canoes are allowed. Only electric motors are allowed.

4. All units that are open to public hunting may only be accessed by boat, except for Sul Norte, Codora, Drumheller North, Drumheller Slough, ~~Capay~~ Capay, and Bogg's Bend, which hunters may ~~be accessed~~ access only on foot or by boat.

~~(D) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from 2 hours before sunrise to one and one half hours after sunset.~~

~~(E) Bicycles: Bicycles are allowed May 15 through August 15 on designated routes. Other conveyances are prohibited. Mobility impaired hunters should contact the refuge manager for allowed conveyances.~~

~~(F) Dogs: Dogs are prohibited for the take and pursuit of wild pigs and deer.~~

~~(G) Camping: Camping is allowed only on gravel bars up to 7 days during a 30 day period. Individuals camping on the refuge must remain on the gravel bars from one and one half hours after sunset to 2 hours before sunrise.~~

~~(H) Fires are prohibited except for portable gas stoves on gravel bars.~~

~~(I) Falconry is prohibited.~~

~~(J)~~(K) Areas Open for Hunting In Accordance with State and Federal Regulations:

1. Units open to hunting of authorized species are: La Barranca, Todd Island, Mooney, Ohm, Heron Island, Flynn, Rio Vista, Foster Island, Pine Creek, Capay, Phelan Island, Jacinto, Dead Man's Reach, South Ord, Llano Seco Island 1 & 2, Sul Norte, Codora, Afton, Drumheller North, Drumheller Slough, and Bogg's Bend.

2. The Mooney Unit is open to hunting for authorized species except that waterfowl hunting is prohibited.

3. The Ohm Unit is closed to hunting except for the designated area in the northern portion of the unit where all authorized species except for waterfowl may be taken.

4. The Codora Unit is open for hunting only for hunters holding a junior hunting license who are accompanied by a non-hunting adult and only on Saturdays and Sundays.

a. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the Codora Unit

5. All other units are closed to hunting.

6. Hunting is prohibited within 50 feet of any landward boundary adjacent to private property.

7. Hunting is allowed from August 15 to May 31.

(L) Fires are prohibited except for portable gas stoves on gravel bars.

~~(K) Authorized Species to be Hunted: (unless otherwise stated in subsection (J) or restricted in this subsection): goose, duck, coot, moorhen, dove, snipe, turkey, pheasant, quail, deer, and wild pig.~~

~~1. Wild Pigs may be hunted only from September 1 through March 15.~~

~~(L) Commercial Guiding: Commercial guiding is prohibited.~~

~~(M) Personal Property: Permanent blinds, ladders and screw-in foot pegs are prohibited. All personal property, including tree stands, decoys and boats must be removed by one and one-half hours after sunset.~~

(7) San Luis National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) Units: San Luis Unit, Blue Goose Unit, Kesterson Unit, West Bear Creek Unit, East Bear Creek Unit, and Freitas Unit.

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during waterfowl season. Waterfowl hunting is prohibited on the West Bear Creek Unit prior to the third Saturday in November. Hunting is allowed on the Freitas Unit 7 days per week; however, a department-issued permit is required on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays.

~~(G)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, and moorhens. Hunting for pheasants will be allowed with an entry permit and only in a special zone on the Kesterson Unit on the first Saturday and Sunday of pheasant season and in the San Luis Unit free roam area on waterfowl shoot days for the duration of pheasant season. Pheasant hunting may also be allowed on the first Monday of pheasant season, but only within the spaced blind area of the Kesterson Unit. Snipe hunting is allowed on all units ~~only within the San Luis Unit free roam area, and only~~ on waterfowl shoot days only when the area is open to hunting by adult license holders.

(E) Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection (a)(7)(H)2.

2. Hunters in the Kesterson and Blue Goose units must hunt from assigned blinds, except to retrieve downed birds. Hunters in free roam areas are not restricted to blinds.

3. Access to the Freitas units is by boat only after 2 a.m. The unit and its parking lot are closed between the hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Inboard water thrust and air-thrust boats are prohibited.

4. Construction of permanent blinds is prohibited. Cutting or breaking of woody vegetation is prohibited. All blinds and equipment must be removed following each day's hunt.

~~(D) Camping and Trailers: Prohibited on the San Luis, Blue Goose, and the West Bear Creek Units.~~

~~(E)~~(F) Bicycles: Allowed.

~~(F) Special Restrictions: Hunters in the Kesterson and Blue Goose units must hunt from assigned blinds, except to retrieve downed birds. Hunters in free roam areas are not restricted to blinds. Access to the Freitas units is by boat only after 2 a.m., the unit and its parking lot is closed between the hours of 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. Maximum boat speed may not exceed 5 mph. Inboard water thrust and air thrust boats are prohibited. Construction of permanent blinds is prohibited. Cutting or breaking of woody vegetation is prohibited. All blinds and equipment must be removed following each day's hunt.~~

(G) Fishing:

1. Fishing is permitted in designated areas.
2. Fish may only be taken by rod and reel.

(H) Camping:

1. Camping and trailers are prohibited on the San Luis, Blue Goose, and West Bear Creek units.

2. Camping and trailers are prohibited on the Kesterson Unit, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.

~~(H)~~(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities.

(8) Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) Units: Hazard Unit, Union Unit.

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. ~~Firearms must be unloaded when being transported between parking areas and blind sites.~~ It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond/spaced blind areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt days: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons.

~~(C)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, and moorhens.

~~(D)~~(E) Special Restrictions:

1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset.

2. Hunters in the Hazard Unit shall hunt only from within 100 feet of their assigned blind sites or stakes, except to retrieve downed birds. Hunters in the Union Tract shall hunt only from within their blinds, except to retrieve downed birds.

~~(E)~~3. Blind Limitation: Not more than four individuals may occupy a blind site.

(F) Bicycles: Allowed on designated roads and parking areas only

~~(F)~~(G) Fishing:

1. Fishing from boats is permitted from April 1 to September 30.
2. Fishing from the bank is prohibited year round.

(H) Camping: Prohibited.

(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting opportunities.

(9) Sutter National Wildlife Refuge, Type A.

(A) [subsection reserved]

~~(A)~~(B) Area Firearms Restrictions: Only shotguns are permitted. A hunter shall not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field. It shall be unlawful to possess a loaded firearm, defined as a firearm with an unexpended shell in the firing chamber, until hunters are in designated free roam or assigned pond areas.

~~(B)~~(C) Hunt Days: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, and snipe: Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays during open seasons. Pheasant: Waterfowl hunt days during the pheasant season. Turkey: Waterfowl hunt days during the fall turkey season.

~~(C)~~(D) Authorized Species to be Hunted: Waterfowl, coots, moorhens, snipe, ~~turkey~~turkey, and pheasants.

(E) Special Restrictions:

~~(D)~~1. It shall be unlawful to retain an entry permit or remain on the wildlife refuge later than one and one half hours after sunset, unless participating in overnight stay in accordance with subsection ~~(a)(9)(E)~~(a)(9)(H).

2. When hunting from assigned hunting sites, it shall be unlawful to hunt outside the assigned pond boundary or to hunt from levee roads. Pheasant, turkey, and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned pond area.

(F) Bicycles: Prohibited.

(G) Fishing: Prohibited.

~~(E)~~(H) Camping is prohibited, except on the night before each waterfowl shoot day, when camping in a vehicle, motorhome or trailer within the check station parking area is allowed. Tents are prohibited. No person may build or maintain fires, except in portable gas stoves.

~~(F)~~ Special Restrictions: ~~When hunting from assigned hunting sites, it shall be unlawful to hunt outside the assigned pond boundary or to hunt from levee roads. Pheasant, turkey, and snipe hunting are not permitted in the assigned pond area.~~

~~(G)~~(I) Day Use Hours: Day use hours are from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset, except for those participating in authorized hunting and camping opportunities.

~~(H)~~ Fishing: Prohibited.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 265, 710, 710.5, 710.7, 1050, 1530, 1764, 1765 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 630, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§ 630. Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves.

. . . *[No change to subsection (a)]*

(b) Ecological Reserves owned and operated by the department:

. . . *[No change to subsections (b)(1) through (b)(94)]*

(95) Palo Verde Ecological Reserve, Imperial and Riverside counties ~~County~~;

. . . *[No change to subsections (b)(96) through (b)(143)]*

(c) Ecological Reserves That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses other than Hunting: Pursuant to subsection 550(c) and 550.5(c) of these regulations, it shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any ecological reserve or portion thereof listed in this section without carrying a valid Lands Pass or a valid hunting or fishing license on their person. A Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase a Lands Pass and exceptions to this requirement are provided in subsection 550.5(c).

~~(1) Batiquitos Lagoon Ecological Reserve~~

~~(2)~~(1) Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve

~~(3) Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve~~

~~(4) Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve~~

~~(5)~~(2) Canebrake Ecological Reserve

~~(6)~~(3) Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve

~~A.~~(A) Lands Passes may be purchased at the visitor center during business hours.

~~(7)~~(4) North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve

~~(8) San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve~~

~~(9) Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve~~

~~(10)~~(5) Woodbridge Ecological Reserve

(d) Ecological Reserves with Hunting as a Designated Public Use: Unless listed and specified as allowed in the table below, hunting is prohibited on ecological reserves. Where hunting is allowed, it shall be subject to all applicable general hunting regulations and the area-specific regulations set forth in this subsection.

AREA	HUNTING DESCRIPTIONS
<i>[...No changes to subsections (d)(1) through (d)(4)...]</i>	
(5) Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve	~~Allowed, but only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the department. Deer hunting restricted to archery only.~~
<i>[...No changes to subsections (d)(6) through (d)(20)...]</i>	
(21) Eden Landing Ecological Reserve	Waterfowl allowed, but only at such times and in the specific areas designated by the department. <u>Hunters may not possess more than 25 shot shells while in the field during waterfowl hunting.</u>
<i>[...No changes to subsections (d)(22) through (d)(52)...]</i>	

[...No changes to subsections (e) through (j)...]

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 1050, 1530, 1583, 1587, 1745, 1764, 1765 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 355, 711, 713, 1050, 1055.3, 1526, 1528, 1530, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1745, 1761, 1764, 1765, 1907, 2006 and 10504, Fish and Game Code.

Proposed Regulatory Language

Section 702, Title 14, CCR is amended to read:

§702. Hunting Applications, Tags, Seals, Permits, Reservations and Fees; Department Lands Applications, Passes, Special Use Permits, and Fees.

[...No changes to subsections (a) through (c)(1)(X)...

(d) Permits for Special Use of Department Lands

(1)	<i>Permits/Application</i>	<i>Permit Fees (US\$)</i>
(A)	Permit Application for Special Use of Department Lands (DFW 730 (Rev. ~~04/26~~ <u>07/27</u>)), incorporated by reference herein. The following attachments are parts of this permit application.	No fee
1.	Attachment A: Special Use Permits – Terms and Conditions (DFW 730a (Rev. ~~04/26~~ <u>07/27</u>)), incorporated by reference herein;	
2.	Attachment B: Applicant Acceptance of Terms, Conditions and Costs (DFW 730b (Rev. ~~04/26~~ <u>07/27</u>)), incorporated by reference herein; and	
3.	Attachment C: Supplement (DFW 730c (Rev. ~~04/26~~ <u>07/27</u>)), incorporated by reference herein.	
(B)	<u>2027</u> Type 1 Special Use Permit	~~\$168.25~~ <u>\$174.25</u>
(C)	<u>2027</u> Type 2 Special Use Permit	~~\$635.00~~ <u>\$657.50</u>
(D)	<u>2027</u> Type 3 Special Use Permit	~~\$736.25~~ <u>\$762.50</u>

(2) Special Use Permit fees shall be subject to annual adjustment pursuant to Section 699 of these regulations. The fees shown in subsections (d)(1) are the 2027 permit fees. In subsequent years, the applicant shall pay the fee as adjusted by the department annually under the authority granted to the department through Fish and Game Code sections 713 and 1050.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 200, 203, 265, 331, 332 and 1050, Fish and Game Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 203, 203.1, 265, 331, 332, 713, 1050, 1055, 1055.1, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1745, 3950, 3951, 4302, 4330, 4331, 4332, 4333, 4336, 4340, 4341, 4652, 4653, 4654, 4655, 4657, 4750, 4751, 4752, 4753, 4754, 4755, 4902, 10500 and 10502, Fish and Game Code.



SAVE

PRINT

CLEAR

2026 Permit Fee: _____ **Type 1: \$168.25** _____ **Type 2: \$635.00** _____ **Type 3: \$736.25**

Permit Fee: [\(link to fees\)](#)

INSTRUCTIONS: To apply for a Special Use Permit, fill in the information requested on this page. Sign and date where indicated below. Mail or deliver the completed form and the appropriate permit fee to Attn: Special Use Permits at the appropriate Regional Office at least 45 calendar days prior to the date of the requested activity or event. Regional office information is on page 3. Information about permit types, terms and conditions, potential additional costs, and refunds is in Attachment A. Do not submit Attachment B unless and until you are notified by the Department that your application is going to be approved pending your acceptance of the conditions for your particular special use. If at least one purpose of the event is to raise funds or generate revenue, Attachment C must be completed and submitted with this application for the application to be considered complete. **Applications will not be processed unless they are complete and submitted with the entire permit fee.** The Department will not approve a Special Use Permit for unlawful use of state resources under Government Code Section 8314.

You will be contacted by the Department regarding approval or denial of the Special Use Permit, permit conditions, and scheduling a site visit if necessary. For questions about your application, contact the Regional Office and ask to be contacted by land management staff for the Department land you would like to use. For general questions about Special Use Permits, contact the Department's Lands Program ~~(916) 834-3763~~ landsprogram@wildlife.ca.gov.

PAYMENT POLICY: Payment may be made by money order, cashier's check, or personal or business check. Personal or business checks must be made payable to the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and have the account holder's name and address imprinted on the check. Checks returned to the Department for insufficient funds or other failure to pay the amount due may cause the Department to deny the issuance of a Special Use Permit or will render an issued permit invalid.

ITEM 1. ALL APPLICANTS: PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS BELOW			
FIRST NAME:		M.I.:	LAST NAME:
ORGANIZATION NAME (IF APPLICABLE):		(AREA CODE) PHONE NUMBER(S):	
ADDRESS:	CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE:		FAX NUMBER:
E-MAIL ADDRESS:		DEPARTMENT LAND TO BE USED (ONE PROPERTY PER APPLICATION):	
REQUESTED DATE(S) OF USE (YOU MAY REQUEST MULTIPLE EVENTS ON ONE PROPERTY OVER A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS OR LESS. A FEE IS REQUIRED FOR EACH EVENT):			
NAME OF 2 ND CONTACT PERSON:		PHONE NUMBER FOR 2 ND CONTACT PERSON:	
IS THIS EVENT(S) A HUNTING DOG TRIAL OR TEST? (Sec. 550(b)(17), Title 14,CCR)		ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAT WILL BE ON-SITE PER DAY:	
TYPES AND ESTIMATED NUMBER OF VEHICLES (CARS & TRUCKS, RV'S, TRAILERS, BICYCLES, ETC.) THAT WILL BE ON-SITE PER DAY:			
ESTIMATED NUMBER AND TYPE(S) OF ANIMALS ON-SITE PER DAY (FOR EXAMPLE: 30 DOGS, 10 PHEASANTS). IF NONE, ENTER N/A.			
ITEM 2. COMPLETE FOR ALL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OTHER THAN HUNTING DOG TRIALS OR TESTS			
On a separate sheet of paper, describe the proposed event or activity in detail from set-up through tear-down and cleanup. Include the equipment and supplies that will be used. Attach the description to this application. The application is incomplete without the description. If an activity is not listed in the description, a Special Use Permit will not allow it			



ITEM 3. ALL APPLICANTS: SIGN AND DATE APPLICATION

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws and regulations of the State of California that all information on this application (including attachments) is true, complete, and correct. I understand that it is unlawful to use or possess a Special Use Permit which was obtained by fraud or deceit (Fish and Game Code Section 1054). I understand that in the event the information in this application is found to be untrue, incomplete, or incorrect, the Special Use Permit will be invalid, must be immediately surrendered to the Regional Manager or authorized representative, and future Special Use Permits may be denied.

APPLICANT/PERMITEE SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE (IF APPLICABLE)

DATE

For this Special Use Permit to be valid, it must include the entire Form DFW 730 completed by the applicant and Department staff, as indicated, and any attachment from the Department indicated below. The permittee or their representative must have the Special Use Permit in his or her possession on-site during the special use and show it, upon request, to any Department employee.

FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

SPECIAL USE OF DEPARTMENT LANDS PERMIT

(Requires Approval by Wildlife Area or Ecological Reserve Manager)

1. Region # _____ 2. Name of Property (1 property per application) _____

3. Permit Valid for Date(s): _____ 4. Unit(s) of Property to Be Used: _____

5. Check Permit Type: ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 (Type 1 & Type 3 are defined in **Attachment A**. Type 2 = Dog trial per Sec. 550(b)(4417), Title 14, and includes hunting dog trials and tests.)

6. Permit fee paid? Yes ☐ No ☐ 7. Map showing location of permitted activities attached? Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Are Attachments A and B (re: terms, conditions, and costs) attached to the permit? Yes ☐ No ☐

9. Special conditions dated _____ are attached to this permit. (If none, enter N/A).

10. Comments: _____

11. Are there charges in addition to the permit fee? Yes ☐ No ☐

¹Additional Costs (if any):

Additional Costs Total: _____

Cleaning/Damage Deposit: _____

Total Due: _____

¹ Attach explanation of any cost and/or deposit in addition to the permit fee.

Classification	Hourly Rate	# of Staff	Hours	Cost
Other Costs				
Subtotal				
Overhead				
Total¹				

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Wildlife Area or Ecological Reserve Manager

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Regional Manager or Designated Representative



PRIVACY NOTICE

The California Information Practices Act of 1977 (Civil Code §1798.17) requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) to provide the following information to individuals who are asked to supply information about themselves. The principal purpose for requesting the information on the attached Permit Application for Special Use of Department of Lands DFW 730 and its attachments is to evaluate a proposed special use. The information is solicited in accordance with Sections 550, 550.5 and 703, Title 14, California Code of Regulations. It is mandatory for the applicant to provide all the requested information to the Department. Failure to provide the information will delay and may result in denial of the application.

Information furnished on the attached DFW 730 and/or Attachments B or C, may be used by various Department offices and staff as required in the regular course of business, and may be disclosed to other State and federal governmental entities where required by law. You have the right to review personal information obtained about you in accordance with Department policy and may contact the office of record maintaining such information for more information concerning your rights. The materials on this form and its attachments are maintained by the Lands Supervisor at the Department Regional Office to which the applicant submitted the application.

ADDRESSES OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (CDFW) REGIONAL OFFICES

After determining the county where the proposed special use would occur, use the table below to find the corresponding CDFW Regional Office. Mail the completed application form, permit fee and any attachments or supplemental information to the attention of the LANDS SUPERVISOR at the Regional Office address listed below. If your Special Use Permit application is approved, use the same Regional Office address to submit the acceptance of terms and conditions (Attachment B), the permit fee and payment of additional costs, if any.

CDFW Regional Office	Counties Served
NORTHERN REGION (1) 601 Locust Street Redding, CA 96001 (530) 225-2300	Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, and Trinity
NORTH CENTRAL REGION (2) 1701 Nimbus Road Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916) 358-2900	Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, Sutter, Yuba, and the portions of Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo counties that are north of I-80 and/or east of I-5
BAY-DELTA REGION (3) 2825 Cordelia Rd. #100 Fairfield, CA 94534 (707) 428-2002	Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Solano, Sonoma and the portions of Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo counties that are south of I-80 and/or west of I-5
CENTRAL REGION (4) 1234 East Shaw Avenue Fresno, CA 93710 (559) 243-4005	Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Monterey, Merced, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Stanislaus, Tulare, and Tuolumne
SOUTH COAST REGION (5) 3883 Ruffin Road San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 467-4201	Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Ventura
INLAND DESERTS REGION (6) 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220 Ontario, CA 91764 (909) 484-0167	Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside, and San Bernardino



Attachment A

SPECIAL USE PERMITS-TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1) Issuance of Special Use Permits

Conducting a special use without a valid Special Use Permit is a violation of subsection 550(c)(2)(A), Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR) and is subject to enforcement action. A Special Use Permit may be issued to cover one event or multiple events, over a period of 12 months or less, on a single property. A separate application and fee are needed for each property. Special Use Permits are issued to a single individual or organization and are not transferable.

Criteria the Department uses to evaluate a Special Use Permit application are in Section 550.5(d), Title 14, CCR. The applicant will receive written notification from the Department regarding the approval or denial of the Special Use. Permit Notice of pending approval will include the terms and conditions that the applicant will need to accept for the approval process to be completed. The conditions may include costs in addition to the permit fee. Permit denials will include a written explanation of the reason(s) for the denial. If a permit is denied, the permit fee will be returned to the applicant.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you receive a Type 1 or Type 2 Special Use Permit (defined below), you must sign and return **Attachment B** and pay in full any additional cost or deposit indicated by the Department on the second page of the permit in order for the permit to be valid. **Attachment B** with the applicant's signature and any indicated payment must be received at the appropriate Regional office at least five calendar days before the special use is scheduled to begin. Make and retain a copy of Attachment B to keep with your Special Use Permit.

If you receive a draft Type 3 Special Use Permit, a finalized, valid permit will not be issued until after you sign **Attachment B** and return the entire draft permit with payment in full any additional charge or deposit that is indicated on the second page of the draft Special Use Permit. The applicant-signed draft permit and payment of any additional charges must be received at the appropriate Regional Office at least 10 calendar days before the special use is scheduled to begin.

2) Types of Special Use Permits

Type 1 Special Use - Type 1 special uses involve 30 or fewer visitors on-site, and ten or fewer (0 – 10) animals (such as dogs or horses) or bicycles (or other pedaled vehicles) in total, and does not involve the use of animals, bicycles, vehicles, or large equipment outside of designated parking areas, roads, trails, or areas authorized for visitor use, or use of the site for more than one full day during regular operating hours for the subject property. "Visitor" is defined in Section 550(b)(5), Title 14, CCR.

Type 2 Special Use – Type 2 special uses are hunting dog trials and tests. "Dog Trial" for the purposes of Department land, is defined as an organized competitive or scored event for testing hunting dog performance. (Section 550(b)(44 17), Title 14, CCR).

Type 3 Special Use - Type 3 special uses involve any one of the following (with the exception of Dog Trials): over 30 visitors on-site, over ten animals (such as dogs or horses) or bicycles (or other pedaled vehicles) in total; use of animals, bicycles, vehicles, or large equipment outside of designated parking areas, roads, trails, or areas authorized for visitor use; or use of the site for more than one day during regular operating hours for the subject property.

3) Fees and Costs for Special Use Permits

A fee is charged for the Department to recover normal costs associated with evaluating and issuing Special Use Permits. Special Use Permit fees are listed at the top of Page 1 of this application package. If the Department intends to approve your permit, you will receive written notification if there are additional costs that must be paid as a condition of issuing your permit. Special Use Permit fees for Type 1, 2 and 3 ~~permits, permits~~ are refundable only if none of the permitted activities has taken place and all the activities and dates covered by the permit are cancelled in writing, in an email or hardcopy, submitted to the Area Manager or their designee. Type 3 permit fees are only refundable until ten calendar days prior to the scheduled start of the special use, after which the permit fee will be forfeited if the permittee cancels the special use.



Additional Costs: If the Regional Manager or their designated representative determines that Department staff will need to conduct work outside of normal duties to prepare for the special use, monitor or assist with the special use, and/or return the site to its previous condition following the special use, payment to the Department to cover the additional anticipated cost may be required. The additional cost will be based on the estimated number of hours to be worked, the job classification(s) of Department personnel required to conduct the work, other costs to be incurred by the Department (e.g., extra mileage, supplies) and overhead based on the Department's official rate. **Payment to cover additional costs is due with your submission of Attachment B (i.e., five calendar days before the start of a Type 1 or Type 2 special use, ten calendar days before the start of a Type 3 special use).**

Cleaning or Damage Deposit: Depending on circumstances and the anticipated need for cleaning or damage repair associated with a special use, the Department may charge the applicant a cleaning or damage deposit in an amount determined by the Regional Manager or their designated representative. Costs to return the site to its previous condition will be deducted from this deposit. The Regional Manager or their designated representative will determine how much, if any, of the deposit is refunded. **Payment of any deposit is due with your submission of Attachment B (same time frame as "Additional Costs").**

Revenue Generating Uses: The Department will not approve a Special Use Permit for any activity or event that would be an unlawful use of state resources under Government Code Section 8314. Unless an event is sponsored or co-sponsored by the Department, the Regional Manager or their designated representative may charge a guaranteed minimum fee or percentage of the gross revenue as a condition of issuing a Special Use Permit that authorizes revenue generating activities on Department lands. The criteria utilized to determine the fee or percentage are in Section 550.5(d)(3)(A), Title 14, CCR. **Payment of a guaranteed minimum fee or percentage of estimated gross revenue may be due with your submission of Attachment B.**

4) Terms and Conditions for Special Use Permits

Special Conditions: To protect human health and safety, natural or cultural resources, or Department facilities, the Regional Manager or their designated representative may impose **special conditions** in addition to the standard terms and conditions included in this application (Section 550.5(d)(5)(A), Title 14, CCR). All terms and conditions for a Special Use Permit, including any special conditions, will be provided to the applicant with written notification of approval or pending approval from the Department.

Standard Terms and Conditions: Standard terms and conditions for Special Use Permits are listed below.

1. A Special Use Permit is valid only for the date or dates and time or times specified on the permit.
2. Special Use Permits are not transferable.
3. In accordance with subsection 550.5(d)(8), Title 14, CCR, the permittee or representative must have the Special Use Permit in his or her possession and on-site during the special use and present it to any Department representative upon request.
4. Only the special use activities directly authorized in the Special Use Permit are permitted. All activities in connection with this Special Use Permit must be carried out in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.
5. The permittee, employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and participants in the special use will be responsible for knowing and complying with all general rules and regulations for use of Department lands in Sections 550 and 550.5, Title 14, CCR as well as any site-specific regulations for the subject property in Section 551 (for a Wildlife Area) or Section 630 (for an Ecological Reserve).
6. No structures may be constructed on or transported onto the property, and no modification, decoration, or alteration of Department facilities, grounds, trees, or shrubs shall occur unless specifically described in writing, submitted with the Special Use Permit application, and authorized in the Special Use Permit.
7. The permittee will control all traffic, vehicles and equipment associated with special use as directed by the Regional Manager or designated representative.



8. The permittee will restore the area to its prior condition to the satisfaction of the Regional Manager or designated representative.
9. Per California Government Code Section ~~14998~~ **14998.8, et seq.**, if the special use includes filming or still photography for other than personal use or news media, the permittee must possess a valid State Film Permit from the California Film Commission. A State Film Permit is not required by the Department to process a Special Use Permit application; however, it must be obtained prior to the start of filming or photography.
10. Film or photographs for other than personal use must be credited to the subject property and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
11. The Department may require, at the discretion of the Regional Manager or designated representative, any of the following additional conditions (a – f):
 - a. Fire control measures and additional firefighting equipment to be furnished by the permittee at no cost to the Department.
 - b. First-aid or other medical or paramedic services to be supplied by the permittee, including but not limited to ambulance service, doctors, or nurses, at no cost to the Department.
 - c. Additional law enforcement or traffic control personnel at the expense of the permittee.
 - d. Parking arrangements required for the permittee's operating personnel.
 - e. Provision of sanitary facilities, at the expense of the permittee, above and beyond any sanitary facilities that may be furnished by the Department.
 - f. Provision of garbage cans for the special use activities and removal of garbage to be provided by the permittee at the permittee's expense.
12. The Regional Manager or their designated representative may terminate any special use activity when the Department deems termination is necessary for human health and safety or protection of natural or cultural resources or Department facilities and may revoke a Special Use Permit for violation of any Department rules or regulations, or conditions of the Special Use Permit. In addition, any Special Use Permit may be cancelled without notice in the event of a disaster or unforeseen emergency.
13. The permittee shall be responsible for any damage to Department land or property, and property of third parties, in connection with the activity or event for which the Special Use Permit is issued. It is an express condition of the Special Use Permit that the State of California, the Department, and its officers, agents, employees and representatives, shall be free from all liabilities and claims by reason of any death of or injury or injuries to any person(s) or damage to property of any kind whatsoever, from any cause or causes whatsoever, arising out of any use of Department land or property under the custody or control of permittee, its agents, employees, representatives, contractors, invitees or guests, or any event or activity carried on in connection with this Special Use Permit. Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless the State of California, the Department, and its officers, agents, employees, representatives, invitees and guests of and from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, obligations, charges, expenses (including attorney's fees), damages and costs on account of, or arising out of, any such deaths, injuries, liabilities, claims, suits, or losses however occurring, or damage growing out of same, other than those caused solely by the willful or actively negligent acts of the Department.
14. For events or activities having greater potential hazard or liability to the State than is incurred through typical daily activities on the subject property, the permittee will be required by the Regional Manager or their designee to obtain and provide a certificate of insurance with required endorsements as proof of liability insurance coverage. The policy will cover the period of the Special Use Permit and will be for no less than a Combined Single Limit (CSL) of \$1,000,000 per occurrence. The Special Use Permit will be revoked prior to the event or activity if proof of insurance is required as a condition of issuing the Special Use Permit and it is not provided.



Insurance policies shall be underwritten to the satisfaction of the State and shall contain the following special endorsements:

The State of California, Department of Fish and Wildlife, its officers, employees, and servants are included as additional insureds but only insofar as operations under this permit are concerned;

The insurer will not cancel or reduce the insured's coverage during the period that this Special Use Permit is in effect or without 30 days prior written notice, whichever is shorter, to the Department.

This cancellation provision shall not be construed in derogation of the duty of the permittee to furnish insurance during the entire term of the Special Use Permit.

15. The interest of permittee, if any, created by this Special Use Permit may be subject to property taxation. The permittee agrees to pay any possessory interest tax, or any other tax levied on such interest and to indemnify the Department from any damage or loss arising by reason of such tax or Revenue and Taxation Code Section 107.6.

16. No amendment or variation of the terms of this Special Use Permit shall be valid unless in writing and signed by the Department. No oral understanding or agreement not incorporated in this Special Use Permit shall be binding on the Department.

17. Permittee and its contractors and subcontractors shall not unlawfully discriminate, harass, or allow harassment against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex (includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and/or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, race, color, ancestry, religion (includes religious dress and grooming practices), national origin (includes language use restrictions), disability (physical and mental, including HIV and AIDS), genetic information, gender, gender identity, and gender expression, medical condition (genetic characteristics, cancer or a record or history of cancer), age (40 and above), marital status, and use of family care leave. The permittee and its contractors and subcontractors shall ~~insure-ensure~~ that the evaluation and treatment of their employees and applicants for employment are free from such discrimination and harassment. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Permittee, its contractors, and subcontractors shall comply with the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (Government Code Section 12990 (a – f), et seq.) and the applicable regulations promulgated thereunder (California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Section ~~7285~~ 11000, et seq.). The applicable regulations of the ~~Fair Employment and Housing~~ Civil Rights Council implementing Government Code Section 12990 (a – f), set forth in Chapter 5 of ~~Division 4~~ Division 4.1 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations, are incorporated into this Special Use Permit by reference and made a part hereof as if set forth in full. The permittee, its contractors and subcontractors shall give written notice of their obligations under this paragraph to labor organizations with which they have a collective bargaining or other agreement. Further, permittees shall post in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment, all mandated notices/posters available through the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing. (Government Code Sections 12920-12994). The permittee shall include the nondiscrimination and compliance provisions of this paragraph in all contracts and subcontracts to perform work under this Special Use Permit.

REMEDIES FOR WILLFUL VIOLATIONS:

The Department may determine a willful violation of the Fair Employment Practices Act to have occurred upon the receipt of a final judgment having that effect from a court in an action to which permittee was a party, or upon receipt of a written notice from the Fair Employment Practices Council that it has investigated and determined that permittee has violated the Fair Employment Practices Act and has issued an order pursuant to the appropriate provisions of the Government Code. In case of a willful violation of the Fair Employment Practices Act, the Department shall have the right to terminate this Permit and any loss or damage sustained by the Department by reason thereof shall be borne and paid for by permittee.

18. Permittee agrees that the Department, the California Department of General Services, the Bureau of State Audits, or their designated representative(s), shall have the right to review and copy any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the special use that is the subject of this Special Use Permit. The permittee agrees to maintain such records for possible audit for a minimum of three years after the last date that this Special Use Permit is in effect unless a longer period of records retention is stipulated. Permittee agrees to allow the auditor(s) access to such records during normal business hours and to allow interviews of any officers, employees or representatives who might reasonably have information related to such records. Further, the permittee agrees to include a similar right of the State to audit records and interview staff in any contract or subcontract related to this Special Use Permit or any special use it authorizes.



Attachment B

APPLICANT ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS, CONDITIONS AND COSTS

If the Department intends to approve a Special Use Permit, Department staff will complete the blank information fields near the bottom of this page and return it to you for signature. **Applicants: do not sign Attachment B until** the Department has provided you with the terms and conditions for your special use and returned your application with Attachment B for your signature.

For a Type 1 or Type 2 Permit (Type 2 is a dog trial as defined in Section 550(b)(17), Title 14, CCR): This form will be attached to a signed Special Use Permit that will include the permit Terms and Conditions and notification of additional costs, if any. **The Special Use Permit will not be valid unless you sign Attachment B and return the signed original with payment of any additional costs at least five calendar days prior to the start of your event or activity.** Send these items to Attn: Special Use Permits at the appropriate Regional Office. Make and retain a copy of the signed Attachment B to keep with your permit. A valid Special Use Permit includes the completed application, including the section signed by the Wildlife Area or Ecological Reserve Manager and any attachments indicated on the permit.

For a Type 3 Permit: This form will be attached to a draft Special Use Permit (not valid). The draft special use permit will notify you if there are any special conditions for your special use in addition to the terms and conditions in Attachment A and/or if there are costs in addition to the permit fee. To receive a valid Special Use Permit signed by the Department, sign below after reading the terms, conditions, and costs, and then return this form with the draft Special Use Permit and any payment due to Attn: Special Use Permits at the appropriate Regional Office **at least ten calendar days before the start of your event or activity.** If there are any charges beyond the permit fee, an itemized explanation will be attached to the draft Special Use Permit. After the Special Use Permit is signed by the Wildlife Area or Ecological Reserve Manager and the Regional Manager (or designated representative), it will be returned to you as your valid permit. A valid Special Use Permit includes the completed application, including the section signed by the managers mentioned above, and any attachments indicated on the permit.

Payment Policy: Payment may be made by money order, cashier's check, or personal or business check. Personal or business checks must be made payable to the CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and have the account holder's name and address imprinted on the check. Checks returned to the Department for insufficient funds will render the Special Use Permit invalid. The Department may also deny the issuance of a Special Use Permit or revoke an issued permit if the permittee has failed to reimburse the Department for the amount due.

I have read and accept the attached Terms and Conditions for the Special Use Permit issued to

[Name] _____ for [Activity or Event] _____ at:

_____ on _____
Name of Subject Property on Permit Application Date(s) that Permit is Valid
(Entered by CDFW staff) (Entered by CDFW staff)

I understand that the Regional Manager or authorized representative may terminate without prior notice any special use activity or event when it is necessary to protect human health and safety, natural or cultural resources or Department facilities. The Regional Manager or designated representative may revoke this Special Use Permit for violation of any rules or regulations of the California Fish and Game Commission or the terms and conditions of this Special Use Permit. I also understand that any Special Use Permit may be cancelled without notice in the event of disaster or unforeseen emergency.

Applicant/Permittee Signature

Printed Name

Title if Applicable

Date



**Attachment C
SUPPLEMENT**

INSTRUCTIONS: If you will be charging a fee for participation in the event or activity (beyond the Department's entrance fee, where required), charging a fee for a service provided on-site, or selling items or fund-raising on-site, complete and attach this form to your Special Use Permit application. If additional space is required, continue on a separate sheet of paper and attach. If a question does not apply to your use, enter N/A.

1. Is the applicant a non-profit, tax-exempt organization qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)?
Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Is this a "campaign activity" as defined in Government Code Section 8314? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. List all fees and charges to participants/ attendees:
 - For Department lands where visitors must pay an entry permit or day fee, list any fees or charges that would be in addition to the Department's fee.
 - If any fees charged to participants/attendees are intended to recover the permittee's cost for the Special Use Permit application and permit fees, indicate in this section by identifying the portion of the participant or attendance fees intended to recover that cost.
4. List of items or services to be sold during the special use.
5. Estimated gross receipts and net proceeds to the permittee.
6. Identify additional individuals, businesses or organizations that will receive revenue from entrance fees or from providing goods or services. If the specific individuals, businesses, or organizations are unknown at this time, at a minimum identify the types of entities that are likely to receive revenue from this event or activity.
7. Method(s) of advertising and promoting the event. Attach sample copies of brochures, flyers, posters, etc. The Department reserves the right to review and approve all promotional materials to protect the interests of the Department.
8. Detailed description of displays and concession booths to be installed, if any.
9. List of all organizations involved, whether sponsors, recipients, or promotional firms. Commercial sponsors must be specifically listed.

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT NAME California Fish and Game Commission	CONTACT PERSON Gabe Lopez	EMAIL ADDRESS fgc@fgc.ca.gov	TELEPHONE NUMBER 916-737-4862
DESCRIPTIVE TITLE FROM NOTICE REGISTER OR FORM 400 Amend Sec. 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, and 630, T14, CRR re: Department Lands			NOTICE FILE NUMBER Z

A. ESTIMATED PRIVATE SECTOR COST IMPACTS *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. Check the appropriate box(es) below to indicate whether this regulation:

- ☐ a. Impacts business and/or employees
 ☐ e. Imposes reporting requirements
☐ b. Impacts small businesses
 ☐ f. Imposes prescriptive instead of performance
☐ c. Impacts jobs or occupations
 ☐ g. Impacts individuals
☐ d. Impacts California competitiveness
 ☒ h. None of the above (Explain below):

Proposed changes are to clarify regulations for the how Department lands are used and do not affect the public.

If any box in Items 1 a through g is checked, complete this Economic Impact Statement.

If box in Item 1.h. is checked, complete the Fiscal Impact Statement as appropriate.

2. The _____ estimates that the economic impact of this regulation (which includes the fiscal impact) is:
(Agency/Department)

- ☐ Below \$10 million
☐ Between \$10 and \$25 million
☐ Between \$25 and \$50 million
☐ Over \$50 million *[If the economic impact is over \$50 million, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c)]*

3. Enter the total number of businesses impacted: _____

Describe the types of businesses (Include nonprofits): _____

Enter the number or percentage of total businesses impacted that are small businesses: _____

4. Enter the number of businesses that will be created: _____ eliminated: _____

Explain: _____

5. Indicate the geographic extent of impacts: ☐ Statewide
☐ Local or regional (List areas): _____

6. Enter the number of jobs created: _____ and eliminated: _____

Describe the types of jobs or occupations impacted: _____

7. Will the regulation affect the ability of California businesses to compete with other states by making it more costly to produce goods or services here? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, explain briefly: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**B. ESTIMATED COSTS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.*

1. What are the total statewide dollar costs that businesses and individuals may incur to comply with this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____

a. Initial costs for a small business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

b. Initial costs for a typical business: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

c. Initial costs for an individual: \$ _____ Annual ongoing costs: \$ _____ Years: _____

d. Describe other economic costs that may occur: _____

2. If multiple industries are impacted, enter the share of total costs for each industry: _____

3. If the regulation imposes reporting requirements, enter the annual costs a typical business may incur to comply with these requirements.
Include the dollar costs to do programming, record keeping, reporting, and other paperwork, whether or not the paperwork must be submitted. \$ _____4. Will this regulation directly impact housing costs? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, enter the annual dollar cost per housing unit: \$ _____

Number of units: _____

5. Are there comparable Federal regulations? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Explain the need for State regulation given the existence or absence of Federal regulations: _____

Enter any additional costs to businesses and/or individuals that may be due to State - Federal differences: \$ _____

C. ESTIMATED BENEFITS *Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. Briefly summarize the benefits of the regulation, which may include among others, the health and welfare of California residents, worker safety and the State's environment: _____

2. Are the benefits the result of: ☐ specific statutory requirements, or ☐ goals developed by the agency based on broad statutory authority?

Explain: _____

3. What are the total statewide benefits from this regulation over its lifetime? \$ _____

4. Briefly describe any expansion of businesses currently doing business within the State of California that would result from this regulation: _____

D. ALTERNATIVES TO THE REGULATION *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record. Estimation of the dollar value of benefits is not specifically required by rulemaking law, but encouraged.*

1. List alternatives considered and describe them below. If no alternatives were considered, explain why not: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

2. Summarize the total statewide costs and benefits from this regulation and each alternative considered:

Regulation: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Benefit: \$ _____ Cost: \$ _____

3. Briefly discuss any quantification issues that are relevant to a comparison of estimated costs and benefits for this regulation or alternatives: _____
_____4. Rulemaking law requires agencies to consider performance standards as an alternative, if a regulation mandates the use of specific technologies or equipment, or prescribes specific actions or procedures. Were performance standards considered to lower compliance costs? ☐ YES ☐ NOExplain: _____
_____**E. MAJOR REGULATIONS** *Include calculations and assumptions in the rulemaking record.****California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) boards, offices and departments are required to submit the following (per Health and Safety Code section 57005). Otherwise, skip to E4.***1. Will the estimated costs of this regulation to California business enterprises **exceed \$10 million**? ☐ YES ☐ NO***If YES, complete E2. and E3******If NO, skip to E4***

2. Briefly describe each alternative, or combination of alternatives, for which a cost-effectiveness analysis was performed:

Alternative 1: _____

Alternative 2: _____

(Attach additional pages for other alternatives)

3. For the regulation, and each alternative just described, enter the estimated total cost and overall cost-effectiveness ratio:

Regulation: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 1: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

Alternative 2: Total Cost \$ _____ Cost-effectiveness ratio: \$ _____

4. Will the regulation subject to OAL review have an estimated economic impact to business enterprises and individuals located in or doing business in California exceeding \$50 million in any 12-month period between the date the major regulation is estimated to be filed with the Secretary of State through 12 months after the major regulation is estimated to be fully implemented?

☐ YES ☐ NO*If YES, agencies are required to submit a [Standardized Regulatory Impact Assessment \(SRIA\)](#) as specified in Government Code Section 11346.3(c) and to include the SRIA in the Initial Statement of Reasons.*

5. Briefly describe the following:

The increase or decrease of investment in the State: _____
_____The incentive for innovation in products, materials or processes: _____
_____The benefits of the regulations, including, but not limited to, benefits to the health, safety, and welfare of California residents, worker safety, and the state's environment and quality of life, among any other benefits identified by the agency: _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**A. FISCAL EFFECT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 6 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*

- ☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

- ☐ a. Funding provided in _____
Budget Act of _____ or Chapter _____, Statutes of _____

- ☐ b. Funding will be requested in the Governor's Budget Act of _____
Fiscal Year: _____

- ☐ 2. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year which are NOT reimbursable by the State. (Approximate)
(Pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Sections 17500 et seq. of the Government Code).

\$ _____

Check reason(s) this regulation is not reimbursable and provide the appropriate information:

- ☐ a. Implements the Federal mandate contained in _____
- ☐ b. Implements the court mandate set forth by the _____ Court.

Case of: _____ vs. _____

- ☐ c. Implements a mandate of the people of this State expressed in their approval of Proposition No. _____

Date of Election: _____

- ☐ d. Issued only in response to a specific request from affected local entity(s).

Local entity(s) affected: _____

- ☐ e. Will be fully financed from the fees, revenue, etc. from: _____

Authorized by Section: _____ of the _____ Code;

- ☐ f. Provides for savings to each affected unit of local government which will, at a minimum, offset any additional costs to each;

- ☐ g. Creates, eliminates, or changes the penalty for a new crime or infraction contained in _____

- ☐ 3. Annual Savings. (approximate)

\$ _____

- ☐ 4. No additional costs or savings. This regulation makes only technical, non-substantive or clarifying changes to current law regulations.

- ☒ 5. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any local entity or program.

- ☐ 6. Other. Explain _____

**ECONOMIC AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(REGULATIONS AND ORDERS)**

STD. 399 (Rev. 10/2019)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**B. FISCAL EFFECT ON STATE GOVERNMENT** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

It is anticipated that State agencies will:☐ a. Absorb these additional costs within their existing budgets and resources.☐ b. Increase the currently authorized budget level for the _____ Fiscal Year☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☐ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any State agency or program.☒ 4. Other. Explain The removal and addition of properties from the State Lands Pass Program will cause the Department to gain approx. \$3,113 in annual revenue revenue, but are not expected to increase costs do the Dept as it does not affect staff time. There may be a shift in Dept revenue from hunting tag sales, see addendum.**C. FISCAL EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDING OF STATE PROGRAMS** *Indicate appropriate boxes 1 through 4 and attach calculations and assumptions of fiscal impact for the current year and two subsequent Fiscal Years.*☐ 1. Additional expenditures in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☐ 2. Savings in the current State Fiscal Year. (Approximate)

\$ _____

☒ 3. No fiscal impact exists. This regulation does not affect any federally funded State agency or program.☐ 4. Other. Explain _____

FISCAL OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

*The signature attests that the agency has completed the STD. 399 according to the instructions in SAM sections 6601-6616, and understands the impacts of the proposed rulemaking. State boards, offices, or departments not under an Agency Secretary must have the form signed by the highest ranking official in the organization.*

AGENCY SECRETARY

DATE

*Finance approval and signature is required when SAM sections 6601-6616 require completion of Fiscal Impact Statement in the STD. 399.*

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE PROGRAM BUDGET MANAGER

DATE



STD. 399 Addendum

Amend Sections 540, 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630, and 702 Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Department Lands

Background

Unless otherwise specified, all section references in this document are to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), “Department” refers to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and “Commission” refers to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Current regulations in sections 550, 550.5, 551, 552, 630 and 702 provide the regulatory framework for the public use of lands owned, managed and/or administered by the Department, including wildlife areas and ecological reserves. The proposed regulation changes would:

- Improve the clarity and consistency of the regulations that govern public use of lands owned and/or managed by the Department (sections 550, 550.5)
- Designate land the Department has recently acquired for one wildlife area (subsection 551(b))
- Make site-specific regulation changes for certain properties to improve public safety, increase recreational opportunities, provide resource protection, and manage staff resources (subsections 551(i) through (y) and 630(d))
- Update and organize information for national wildlife refuges that also serve as wildlife areas (subsections 552(a)(1) through (9))

The principal purposes of Department-managed lands are to conserve wildlife and their associated habitats and to allow for compatible recreation. The primary uses of wildlife areas include hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, environmental education, and research. The primary 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. Recreation on ecological reserves must be compatible with the conservation of the property’s biological resources.

Proposed Changes

The proposed regulations package includes the following changes:

- Amend Section 540: Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands
- Amend Section 550: General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands
- Amendments to Section 550.5: Reservations, Entry Permits, Fees, Passes, and Special Use Permits

- Amendments to Section 551: Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas
 - Add Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area, Siskiyou County
 - Amend site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas affecting dogs, bicycles, boats, horse and pack stock, camping, closures and restrictions, shoot day and shooting hours restrictions, hunt requirements, species, lands pass program updates, fishing, and reservations.
- Amendments to Section 552: Public Use Regulations for National Wildlife Refuges That Are Also Designated as Wildlife Areas
 - Update regulations for consistency with federal regulations and reorganize text so that information is presented in order across all nine national wildlife refuges that also serve as wildlife areas.
- Amendments to Section 630, Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves.
 - Amend site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on ecological reserves affecting hunting opportunities and restrictions.
- Amendments to Section 702, Hunting Applications, Tags, Seals, Permits, Reservations and Fees; Department Lands Applications, Passes, Special Use Permits, and Fees.
 - Update the special use permit fees
 - Clarify that the Special Use permit fees listed apply to the year 2027 and that in subsequent years, the applicant will pay the fee as adjusted by the Department annually under the authority granted through California Fish and Game Code sections 713 and 1050.
- Minor editorial changes are also proposed to clarify the regulations.

Economic Impact Statement

Section A. Estimated Private Sector Cost Impacts

Question 1. Answer: h. None of the above:

The proposed regulations are not anticipated to have any direct economic impacts on any businesses, small businesses, or individuals.

The proposed changes add one property, remove one active property and remove fourteen inactive properties from the State Lands Pass Program. The removal of these properties from the State Lands Pass Program is unlikely to have any new direct economic impacts that would

cause businesses to expand their operations, create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses.

The amendment of site-specific regulations regarding permitted uses on wildlife areas and ecological reserves is unlikely to have any new direct economic impacts that would cause businesses to expand their operations, create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses.

Likewise, the addition of visitor use regulations for Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area in Siskiyou County may increase visits to those areas but the addition of visitor use regulations is unlikely to generate enough economic activity that would cause businesses to expand their operations, create new businesses, or eliminate existing businesses.

Fiscal Impact Statement

Section B. Fiscal Effect on State Government

Answer: 4. Other:

The Department finds that it would be practical and cost effective to add Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area to the properties that require a Lands Pass for visitor entry. This assumes that the benchmark for being “cost effective” is that, at the very least, the program does not cost more to implement than the revenue that it generates. The Department evaluated Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area using criteria that affect the practicality and cost effectiveness of requiring visitors to possess a Lands Pass when visiting it:

- Biological, cultural or geologic features of interest to the public
- Existing public use opportunities and facilities (interpretive kiosks, wildlife viewing platforms, trails, tour loops, restrooms, parking areas, etc.)
- The number of visitors each year and types of public use
- Infrastructure, materials, equipment or contracts that might be necessary to implement the Lands Pass Program at the property (e.g. parking lot improvements, kiosks, signs).
- Cost effectiveness – cost of materials, infrastructure and staffing versus anticipated visitation, pass sales and revenue.

The Department compiled and analyzed data from the evaluations, various programs within the Department and other agencies, as well as public comments to propose including Big Springs Ranch in the Lands Pass Program. Big Springs Ranch possesses the characteristics necessary for the Department to effectively operate the Lands Pass Program; to provide a visitor experience worthy of charging a fee; and to attract visitation sufficient for revenue generation and operation of the program, while providing supplemental funding for management of Department lands, etc.).

The proposed amendments are anticipated to have mixed effects upon the Department's revenue. Based on sales from 2020-2025 (Table 1), the loss of fees from the Hope Valley

Wildlife Area's removal from the State Lands Pass Program will result in approximately \$2,377 in lost annual revenue for the Department.

Table 1: Hope Valley Wildlife Area Revenue Generated From Lands Pass Program Sales

Annual revenue from daily and annual lands pass sales						
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
\$2,966.50	\$2,558.25	\$2,143.75	\$1,764.50	\$2,634.00	\$2,194.75	\$2,376.96

However, some Department revenue may shift around with the addition of upland game and waterfowl hunting to Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area. The expected is estimated as the following:

Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area Revenue:

(24 hunters/season x \$25.24 upland game bird validation (2027 price) = \$605.76/ year

(24 hunters/season x \$72.87 Type B Wildlife Area Season Pass (2027 price for waterfowl hunting) = \$1,748.88/year¹

Additionally, the inclusion of Big Springs Ranch into the Lands Pass Program should yield additional lands pass revenue for the Department. Based on the historical value of the revenue generated from Lands Pass Program sales at Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, which is considered comparable (see Table 2), the Department anticipates generating a similar level of revenue (approximately \$3,135 annually on average) from the inclusion of Big Springs.

Table 2: Shasta Valley Wildlife Area Revenue Generated From Lands Pass Program Sales

Annual revenue from daily and annual lands pass sales						
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Average
\$6,244.75	\$3,826.75	\$2,034.5	\$2,063.75	\$2,038.75	\$2,600.5	\$3,134.83

New Lands Pass Revenue: \$3,135/year

Combined = \$605.76/ year + \$1,748.88/year + \$3,135/year = \$5,489.64/year

¹ The Department estimates that approximately 48 hunters may visit Big Springs Ranch, this revenue estimation assumes an even split between upland game and waterfowl hunters. Tag prices are for 2027 season and do not include agent fee as that money is not collected by the Department as revenue.

Total = gain of \$3,112.64/year

However, Big Springs Ranch is unlikely to bring in revenue in its first year; revenue in the second year would be close to \$5,489.64 (though would likely be higher due to the annual changes in upland game validation and waterfowl hunting prices); and the total revenue collected by the third year would be approximately \$10,979.28.

It should be noted that it is unclear if the validations would be purchased by new hunters or if the validations would be purchased by hunters who already participate in upland game and waterfowl hunts who are relocating their effort. In the case of the latter, there would be effectively no net change in revenue to the Department.

If all the revenue from Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area were to come from only new hunters and individuals who do not currently purchase lands passes, and thus provide new revenue for the Department, the total fiscal impact from the revenue gain and the loss from Hope Valley Wildlife Area would be approximately a \$2,377 loss in the first year of implementation; a **\$3,112.64** gain (\$5,489.64 new revenue - \$2,377 loss in revenue) in total revenue for the second year; and an additional **\$3,112.64** gain in revenue for the third year, with a total net gain of approximately **\$3,848.28** by the third year of implementation (Table 3).

Table 3: Change in Department Revenue

	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Total
Hope Valley Wildlife Area Lands Pass Revenue	-\$2,37	-\$2,377	-\$2,377	-\$7,131
Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area Upland Game/ Waterfowl and Lands Pass Revenue	\$0	\$5,489.64	\$5,489.64	\$10,979.28
Net Change in Revenue	-\$2,377	\$3,112.64	\$3,112.64	\$3,848.28



DEPARTMENT LANDS REGULATIONS

Presented to the California Fish & Game Commission

October 13-16, 2026

PRESENTED BY: KRISTI CRIPE, STATEWIDE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE COORDINATOR

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

DEPARTMENT LANDS REGULATIONS 2026

General Visitor
Regulations

Property Specific
Regulations

Lands Pass Program
Updates

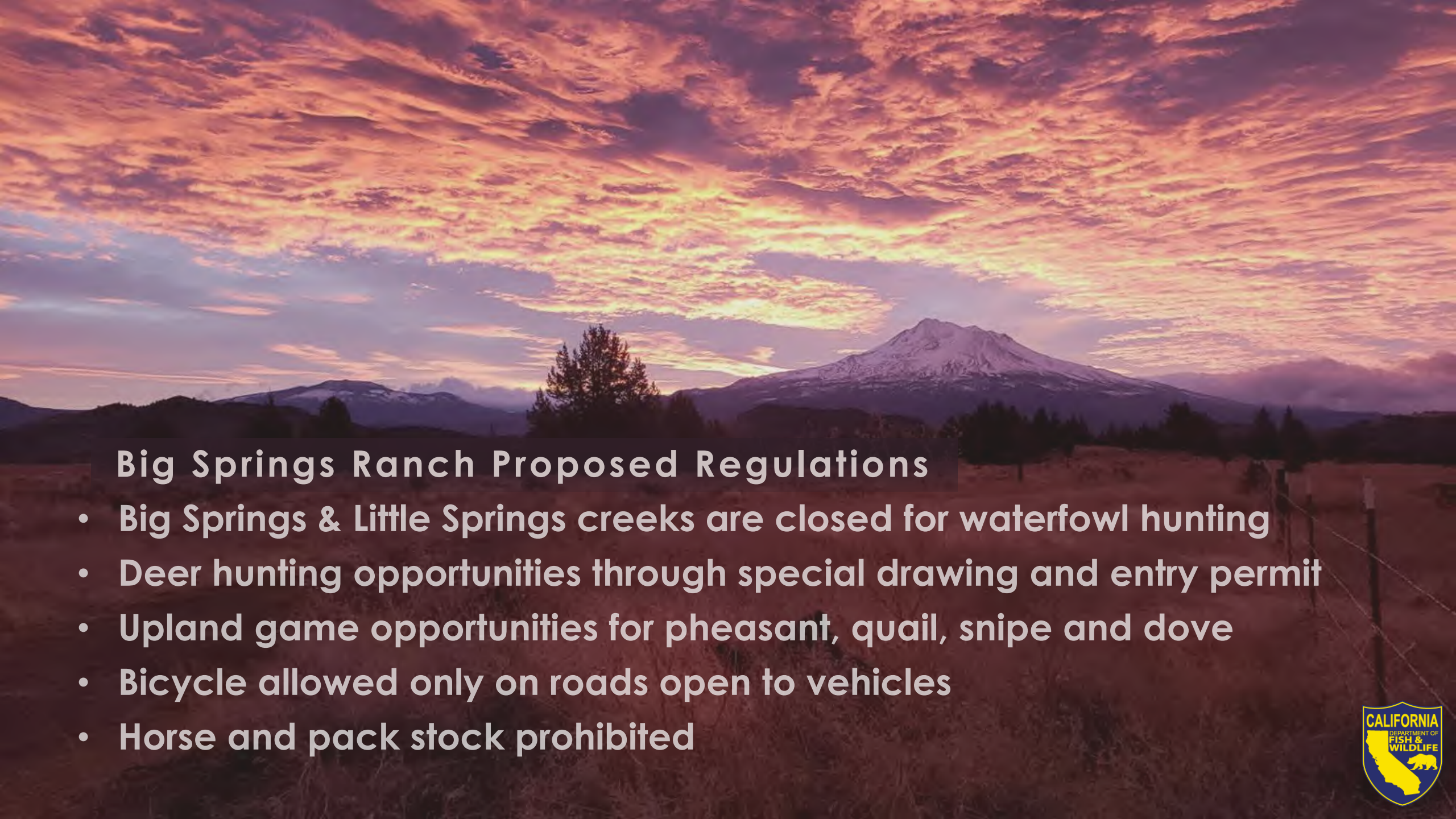
New Wildlife Area



**Big Springs Ranch
Region 1
Siskiyou County**

**Type B Wildlife Area
New Lands Pass Property**





Big Springs Ranch Proposed Regulations

- **Big Springs & Little Springs creeks are closed for waterfowl hunting**
- **Deer hunting opportunities through special drawing and entry permit**
- **Upland game opportunities for pheasant, quail, snipe and dove**
- **Bicycle allowed only on roads open to vehicles**
- **Horse and pack stock prohibited**



LANDS PASS PROGRAM

The program began in the 1980's & covered 7 properties.

The Legislature directed CDFW to develop more income for land management from user fees by expanding the Lands Pass Program.

The program was expanded to 43 properties.

PURCHASE A LANDS PASS

Lands Pass funds support the management and preservation of Wildlife Areas and Ecological Reserves.

HOW TO PURCHASE:
Scan this QR Code.
Visit www.ca.wildlifelicense.com/internetsales.
Visit a CDFW license office or a sales agent.
Call (800) 565-1458.

We all enjoy visiting our public lands, and we all need to pitch in to support them!

A SMALL PRICE TO PAY For Enjoying California's Wildlands!

WHO DOESN'T NEED TO PAY:	Children Under 16	People with a current California Fishing or Hunting License	Schools or youth organizations including accompanying adults	People who have a current Annual Lands Pass
---------------------------------	--------------------------	--	---	--

Thanks for supporting California wildlife!

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE



LANDS PASS

REMOVE PROPERTIES

Coastal Commission Zone
(12 properties)

Managed by BLM
(2 properties)

Region 1

- Crescent City Marsh WA
- Eel River WA
- Elk Creek Wetlands WA
- Elk River WA
- Fay Slough WA
- Lake Earl WA
- Mad River Slough WA
- South Spit WA

Region 2

- Hope Valley WA

Region 5

- Batiquitos Lagoon ER
- Bolsa Chica ER
- Buena Vista Lagoon ER
- San Elijo Lagoon ER
- Upper Newport Bay ER

Region 3

- Cache Creek WA



Ecological Reserves

Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves with Hunting as a Designated Public Use:

- Boden Canyon Ecological Reserve: Update to hunting “Allowed” to be consistent with adjacent national forest lands.
- Eden Landing Ecological Reserve: Hunters may only have 25 shotgun shells in their possession while in the field during waterfowl hunting.



Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands

Neonicotinoid pesticide use is prohibited on Department lands

The application of a neonicotinoid pesticide to department lands ~~by the department~~ is prohibited. For purposes of this section, “neonicotinoid” means a pesticide containing any of the following active ingredients in the nitroguanidine insecticide class of neonicotinoids: clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam, and “department land” has the same meaning as specified in subsection 550(b)(1), Title 14, California Code of Regulations.



General Regulations for Public Use on All Department of Fish and Wildlife Lands

Recommendation to
further clarify
ejections and
penalties for
hunters

Visitor Entry and Responsibilities

A visitor's failure to comply with the Department lands regulations may result in the following penalties:

1. denial of permission to enter department lands;
2. revocation of any pass and/or permit already issued;
3. ejection from department lands for 24 hours;
4. ban from department lands for one calendar year from the date of discovery; and
5. citation or arrest under applicable provisions of the Fish and Game Code or these regulations.



Firearms, Archery, and Other Propulsive Equipment

Reorganize text to further clarify target shooting areas

- Recommendation to reorganize prohibitions from a paragraph of text to a list:

Possession, discharge, and use of firearms or archery equipment (including gas operated devices or guns and all other propulsive devices) is prohibited on department lands except as follows:

- Within department-designated hunting areas for hunting purposes.
- Within department-designated shooting areas for target shooting purposes.
- With a permit issued by the department for purposes listed on the permit.
- As authorized for dog training in a department-designated area.
- Bow and arrow tackle may be used for fishing if fishing is otherwise allowed.



Firearms, Archery, and Other Propulsive Equipment. (Cont'd)

General (Non-Hunting) Uses

- The use of glass or porcelain targets is prohibited on all department lands. Clay targets shall be used only at designated shooting areas where their use is allowed.
- Target Shooting is prohibited on all Department lands except at designated shooting areas. See subsections 551(v) and 630 (j) for lists of Department lands with designated shooting areas. Designated shooting areas are open daily from sunrise to sunset unless otherwise listed in subsections 551(v) or 630(j) of these regulations.



Trail Camera & Special Use Permit

Trail Camera: The use or possession of trail cameras is prohibited on department lands except as authorized by the department. For purposes of this section, a trail camera is a device that is not manually operated by a person and is used to capture images, video or location data or uses a heat, motion or timelapse-activated feature.

Special Use Form (DFW730) Update contact information, replace fees with a link at top of form and clarify that each event requires a fee.





Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas

- **Dog training:** Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA dog training on Ringstrom Bay Unit only.
- **Bicycles:** Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA allow hunters to use bicycles on Pond 1 and Pond 1A during waterfowl season on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday only. (FGC Petition 2025-12)
- **Boats:** Gray Lodge WA prohibit boats
- **Horse and Pack Stock:** Volta WA prohibit horses
- **Wildlife Areas with Camping:** Gray Lodge WA allow camping the night before a hunt day.



Additional Visitor Use Regulations on Department Lands Designated as Wildlife Areas (cont'd)

Additional Hunter Opportunities (Type A & B Properties)

- Add turkey hunting during the fall turkey hunt season, during waterfowl shoot days (Gray Lodge WA)
- Add mentored apprentice deer and fall turkey hunts (Yolo Bypass WA)

Additional Waterfowl Reservation Regulations

- Gray Lodge WA & Yolo Bypass WA: Limit to three persons
- San Luis NWR Freitas Units North & South: Specify that permits will be issued from at the check station at 2:00 a.m.

Fishing Restrictions on Shasta Valley WA

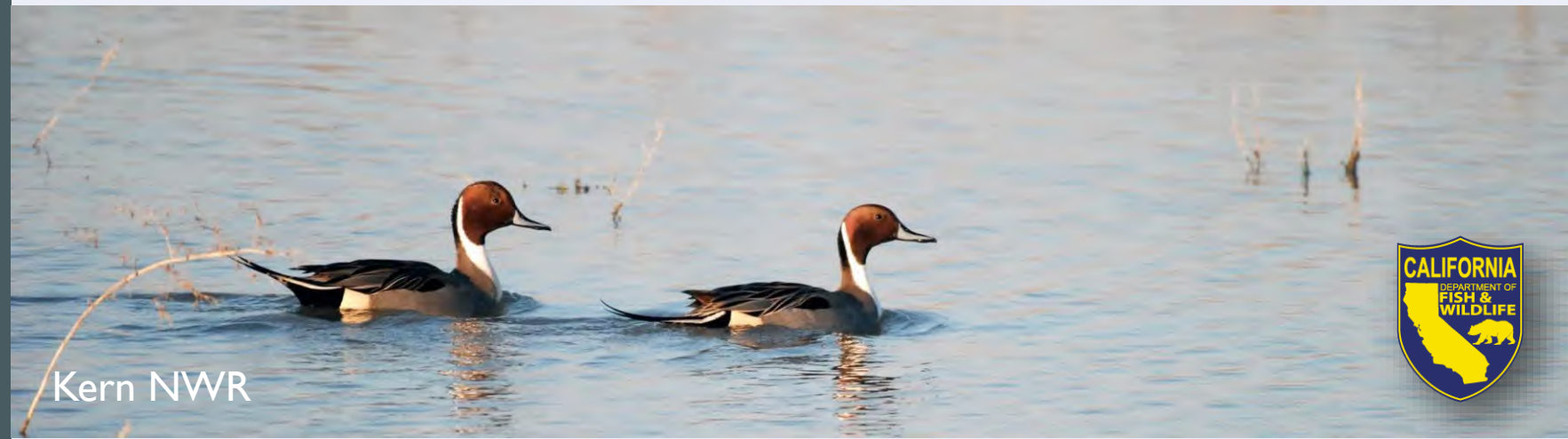
- Close Bass Lake from Oct. 1 through Jan. 31
- Close Trout Lake from Oct. 1 through last Saturday in April



Public Use Regulations for National Wildlife Refuges That Are Also Designated as Wildlife Areas



- Organize section for the nine refuges where the Department manages hunt programs.
- Update with existing federal regulations and rules
- No updates proposed for Sacramento or Colusa NWR



Kern NWR





Changes by National Wildlife Refuge / Wildlife Area

Type of Change	Delevan	Kern	Merced	Sacramento River	San Luis	Sonny Bono Salton Sea	Sutter
Firearm Restriction		x	x		x	x	
Authorized Species			x				
Special Restrictions			x		x	x	
Bicycles	x	x					x
Fishing				x			
Camping		x	x		x	x	
Day Use Hours		x				x	
Public Access				x			





THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Kristi Cripe
Statewide Ecological
Reserve Coordinator

LandsProgram@wildlife.ca.gov



2026 RECOMMENDED RULEMAKING PACKAGE FOR DEPARTMENT LANDS

The recommended regulations will protect natural resources, clarify existing regulations, designate new wildlife areas, maintain safety for visitors and staff, and create opportunities for wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing. The following is a brief summary of notable amendments and is not a comprehensive list of all recommended changes.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Prohibit boating in sensitive habitat. | 7 Designate a new wildlife area. | 13 Update Special Use permit contact information and fees. |
| 2 Prohibit horse and pack stock on specific properties. | 8 Add language to specify that hunters may only have 25 shotgun shells in their possession while in the field for one ecological reserve. | 14 Define when or if camping, trailers can be used on specific properties. |
| 3 Prohibit the use of trail cameras on Department lands. | 9 Update dog trials and/or dog training on specific properties. | 15 Minor edits such as; define terms for vacancy drawing and adult hunter to show identification for entry permit. |
| 4 Open new hunts on specific properties or clarify existing hunt opportunities. | 10 Clarify target shooting is prohibited on all Department lands except at designated shooting sites. | 16 Ban use of neonicotinoid pesticides on CDFW Lands. Text edit to current regulation. |
| 5 Allow bicycle use during waterfowl season to Pond 1 and 1A at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. | 11 Clarify ejections and penalties for hunters. | 17 Add or remove properties from Lands Pass Program. |
| 6 Authorize hunting and or hunting of specific species on specific properties. | 12 Close specific lakes to fishing during specific dates. | 18 Update federal rules and regulations on national wildlife refuges that are also considered wildlife areas. |

Changes denoted by region and department property.

Region 1

Big Springs WA - **2, 4, 6, 7, 17**
Crescent City Marsh WA - **17**
Eel River WA - **17**
Elk Creek Wetlands WA - **17**
Elk River WA - **17**
Fay Slough WA - **17**
Lake Earl WA - **17**
Mad River Slough WA - **17**
South Spit WA - **17**
Shasta Valley WA - **12**

Region 2

Colusa NWR - **18**
Delevan NWR - **18**
Hope Valley WA - **17**
Gray Lodge WA - **1, 4, 6, 14**
Sacramento NWR - **18**
Sacramento River NWR - **18**
Sutter NWR - **18**

Region 3

Cache Creek WA - **17**
Eden Landing ER - **8**
Napa-Sonoma Marsh WA - **5, 9**
Yolo Bypass WA - **4, 6**

Region 4

Kern NWR - **18**
Merced NWR - **18**
San Luis NWR - **18**
Volta WA - **2**

Region 5

Batiquitos Lagoon ER - **17**
Boden Canyon ER - **6**
Bolsa Chica ER - **17**
Buena Vista Lagoon ER - **17**
San Elijo Lagoon ER - **17**
Upper Newport Bay ER - **17**

Region 6

No property proposals submitted.
Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR - **18**

Statewide

Related to all properties - **3, 10, 13, 16**
Related to all Type A/B WA - **11, 15**

Big Springs Ranch Wildlife Area regulations proposed:

Title 14 Section 551 Subsections:

(j)(1) Bicycles: Allowed only on roads open to vehicles.

(l)(3) Wildlife Areas with Boat and/or Horse and Pack Stock Restrictions: Prohibited.

(o)(5) Designated Closures and Restrictions on Wildlife Areas: Only individuals possessing a Type A or Type B season pass and their guests (non-hunting guests or junior hunters) may enter the wildlife area to hunt in designated areas on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the waterfowl season. Big Springs and Little Springs creeks are closed for waterfowl hunting. The entire property is closed to big game hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing in addition to a valid deer tag for the applicable deer hunting zone.

(p)(1) Shoot Day or Shooting Hours Restrictions During the Waterfowl Season: Type A or Type B Wildlife Areas with Shoot Day or Shooting Hours Restrictions During the Waterfowl Season: Pheasant hunting is allowed only on Sundays during the pheasant season and by drawing only. Quail and snipe may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days. Dove may be taken daily during the September dove season, and only on waterfowl hunt days during the late dove season.

(s)(2) Additional Hunter Opportunities on Type A and Type B Wildlife Areas: Closed to deer hunting except with a department-issued entry permit obtained through a special drawing. Quail may be taken only on waterfowl hunt days.

(w)(4) Add Big Spring Ranch Wildlife Area to the list of properties that require a daily or annual lands pass.



RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME
COMMISSION

2018 NOV -9 P. 12:51

**COUNTY OF ALPINE
Board of Supervisors**

November 7, 2018

California Fish and Game Commission
Re: Petition to the CA Fish and Game Commission
for Regulation change.
Eric Sklar, President
1416 Ninth St, Room 1320
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Enclosed Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change
Request to repeal Title 14 Section 551(w) (15) Removing Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the
Lands Pass Program.

Dear Commission Members:

Mr. Erik Sklar, President
Mr. Anthony C. Williams, Vice President
Mrs. Jacque Hostler-Carmesin, Member
Mr. Russell Burns, Member
Mr. Peter Silva, Member

Alpine County Board of Supervisors respectfully request that California Fish and Wildlife
Commission remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program.

Please see enclosed Petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation
Change requesting to repeal Title 14 Section 551(w) (15) Removing Hope Valley Wildlife Area
from the Lands Pass Program.

Please notify Alpine County Board of Supervisors regarding which meeting the Commission will
review this petition. Please notify us with plenty of notice so that someone may attend.

We thank you for working with Alpine County to reverse this regulatory action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donald Jardine".

Donald Jardine
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Alpine County

CC: Julie Horenstein, Ecological Reserve and Land Acquisition California Department of Fish
and Wildlife julie.horenstein@wildlife.ca.gov



Tracking Number: (2018-016)

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, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320, Sacramento, CA 95814 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: Alpine County Board of Supervisors
Address: PO Box 158, Markleeville, CA 96120
Telephone number: 530-694-2281
Email address: clerk@alpinecountyca.gov
- 2. Rulemaking Authority (Required)** - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: California Fish and Game Commission for Regulation Change
- 3. Overview (Required)** - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Repeal Title 14 Section 551(w)(15) Removing Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program
- 4. Rationale (Required)** - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: Alpine County Board of Supervisors respectfully request that the California Fish and Game Commission repeal Title 14 Section 551(w) (15) Hope Valley Wildlife Area removing Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program. Hope Valley should remain an all access area for locals and visitors to enjoy free of any charges with the exception of the required permits for hunting or fishing. Alpine County has the lowest population of all the California Counties and we are dependent on our tourism for the local economy. The Lands Pass Program permit procedures requiring all visitors 16 years and older to purchase a permit online before entering has prevented many people from enjoying this area. This is due to the requirement to purchase online and the fact that we have very limited or no cell phone service in this area. The current boundaries for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife lands are intermittent and bordering both private and United States Forest Service Lands. The areas where the Lands Pass is now required are confusing even to us, let alone, the visitors who are travelling through the area. The Hope Valley facilities are maintained by Sorensen's Resort. The trash is also collected by Sorensen's Resort. Over the years many volunteers, including but not limited to, Sorensen's Resort, Alpine Watershed Group, and "Friends of Hope Valley", have worked to improve the area and have completed many projects over the years to maintain this area for everyone to freely enjoy. There is also an ADA access point which was funded separately to allow for easy access to the West Fork of the



Carson River. The Lands Pass sign has deterred many physically impaired visitors and locals from enjoying the area and this was not the goal of this grant project. Alpine County supports keeping these lands public and therefore open for all to access and enjoy without the need to purchase a Lands Pass prior to their visit. The Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study recommends that the Pickett's Junction area should be for day use with picnicking, parking, and snow play. Many visitors stop to enjoy Hope Valley when travelling through it to get to other destinations and do not know they are required to purchase Lands Passes until they arrive in Hope Valley, only to find that they have no cell service and therefore no way of purchasing a Lands Pass. The map of designated areas for Hope Valley is very confusing with not one specific area designated. A person could find themselves hiking, biking or skiing into the Lands Pass designated area without even knowing it. The Lands Pass Program has both economic and cultural impacts in Hope Valley Wildlife Area. Hikers are required to buy Lands Passes to cross California Department of Fish and Wildlife Areas to access Forest Service Land for recreation. Cross Country skiers and snowshoe enthusiasts also require a Lands Pass to enter and exit Forest Service Land through California Department of Fish and Wildlife Areas which will impact the local businesses who rely on these visitors in winter. Washoe Tribal Members need to purchase a Lands Pass to access religious and historical sites. It appears from the maps provided for the Lands Pass Program that cyclists are also required to buy a Lands Pass to travel through Pickett's Junction area. These areas also contain popular highway access to backcountry skiers who would need to cross over the California Department of Fish and Wildlife land to access backcountry skiing within Forest Service Lands. The County was not aware of the proposed regulatory action to include Hope Valley Wildlife Area in the Lands Pass Program and was not given an opportunity to comment on how this affects our community and visitors to Alpine County prior to the implementation. Please see attached notification list for this action provided to us by Julie Horenstein, Ecological Reserve and Land Acquisition California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The only copy sent to the County was sent to the Fish and Game Commission and not to the Board of Supervisors nor to the local Washoe Tribal Council. Therefore, Title 14 Section 551(w) (15) Hope Valley Wildlife Area must be repealed to allow all locals and visitors to enjoy this area without the cost, inconvenience and confusion of buying a Lands Pass.

SECTION II: Optional Information

5. **Date of Petition: November 6, 2018**

6. **Category of Proposed Change**

☐ Sport Fishing

☐ Commercial Fishing

☐ Hunting

☒ Other, please specify: Lands Pass Program-Hope Valley Wildlife Area

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): Section 551(w)(15) Hope Valley Wildlife Area

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 early as possible or by no later than December 1, 2018
10. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents: Supporting documents attached include: 1) Letters of support 2) Department of Fish and Wildlife Hope Valley Map showing areas designated Lands Pass areas. 3) Phillip Bellman's letter 4) Letter from Alpine County Board of Supervisors dated January 16, 2018 with attached Lands Pass Notification List-which does not include Alpine County Board of Supervisors nor was it sent to the local Washoe Tribal Council. 5) Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study Final Report April 1989-By Alpine group.
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: It appears that looking at the Economic and Fiscal Impact Statement that was sent to us with this petition that no consideration was given for the impact on our local, businesses and visitors and that the Statement just refers to costs for the California Fish and Game Commission. It appears that no studies were completed to analyze the impacts on our community and visitors?
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.

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME
COMMISSION

FGC staff action:

2018 NOV - 9 PM 12:50

- ☒ Accept - complete
☐ Reject - incomplete
☐ Reject - outside scope of FGC authority

Tracking Number 2018-016

Date petitioner was notified of receipt of petition and pending action: December 12-13, 2018

Meeting date for FGC consideration: February 6, 2019

FGC action:

- ☐ Denied by FGC
☐ Denied - same as petition _____
Tracking Number
☐ Granted for consideration of regulation change

Attachment 1



Alpine Watershed Group

Protecting the Headwaters of the California Alps

RECEIVED

OCT 10 2018

ALPINE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

October 3, 2018

Alpine County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 158
Markleeville, CA 96120

Attn: Donald M. Jardine, Chair

Re: Letter of Support to Remove the Hope Valley Unit from the Lands Pass Program

Dear Mr. Jardine,

On behalf of the Alpine Watershed Group's Board of Directors, we would like to request that you add this letter to your petition to the California Fish and Game Commission to request removal of Hope Valley from the Lands Pass Program. Our organization seeks to increase public use and appreciation of the public lands of the valley, and we find that the Lands Pass is a deterrent to these public goals.

A key issue is the handicapped access point which was funded separately and especially to allow wheelchair access to the West Fork of the Carson River (see photos at end of letter). Unfortunately, a warning sign at that point is a significant deterrent. It is certainly inappropriate to charge for use of this facility. Cell phone access is limited or non-existent at that location, and even if connected, the visitor cannot obtain instant permission for entry. Visitors are turned away.

A further concern is that many visitors take nothing from the land, as they are simply into hiking, painting, cross-country skiing, or photography. No warden or other state employee is needed to supervise their use. Even the trash containers are maintained by private interests, not California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Land ownership in the valley is a mixture of US Forest Service, private, and CDFW. It is not possible for a visitor to know which lands are which. Such uncertainty further exacerbates public use and enjoyment of the area.

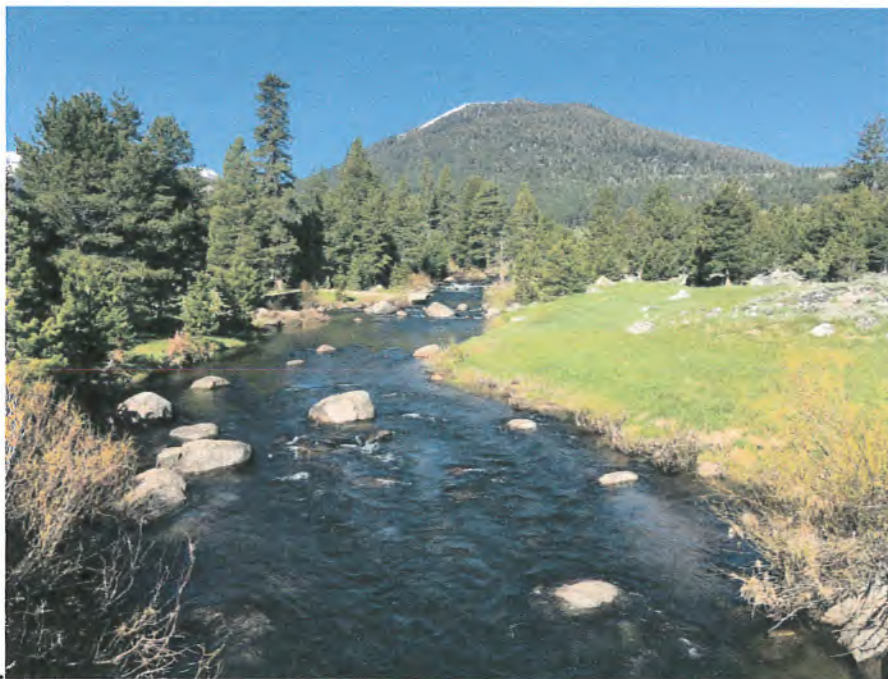
Our organization regularly leads volunteers in conducting stream flow and water quality monitoring in this reach, and we also lead stream field trips and educational workshops to involve the public in stream and watershed restoration. It would be counterproductive to ensure that all have permits or to simply avoid CDFW lands along the river.

We join the Alpine County Board of Supervisors and the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce in requesting that the Hope Valley Unit be exempt from the Lands Pass requirement. We appreciate the Alpine County Board of Supervisors petitioning the California Fish and Game Commission to change the regulation given the impacts of the Lands Pass Program on our community and on our organization's mission to preserve and enhance the Carson River Watershed.

Sincerely,

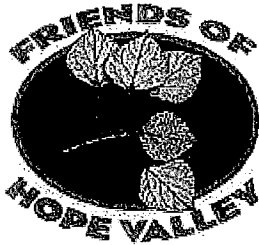

Kimra D. McAfee
Executive Director

cc: Carol McElroy



Top: ADA accessible
wheelchair stream-site
Bottom: Signage for
Lands Pass at entrance
to ADA trail to
stream-site





FRIENDS OF HOPE VALLEY
PO Box 431
Markleeville, CA 96120
www.friendsofhopevalley.com

RECEIVED

JUN 21 2018

ALPINE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOS, CAO

To: State of California – Fish and Game Commission

Re: Lands Pass Program in Hope Valley

Friends of Hope Valley (FOHV) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the historic, recreational, and scenic values of Hope Valley and the Sierra Nevada's eastern slope in Alpine County. In the 1980's our group worked with Trust for Public Lands to help establish lands in Hope Valley to become public.

We were instrumental in the passage of California Proposition 70 in 1988, which provided funds for the purchase of the Picketts Junction area of Hope Valley as well as river bottom land along Blue Lakes Road; the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's purchase of 2,500 additional acres of Hope Valley, including the development-threatened Willow Creek area. Our vision was to have an open space so that everyone could enjoy Hope Valley, one of the last remaining undeveloped meadows in the Sierra.

We support the efforts of the Alpine County Board of Supervisors request to withdraw of the Lands Pass Program in Hope Valley. It's just not the appropriate area to be charging people to visit. Hope Valley is sacred land to the Washoe people, we can't charge "people of the land" to be there.. The rich heritage of Hope Valley is a place to share not a place to charge a fee to visit.

The All Access area is a result of years of volunteer effort for the establishment of the site, Sorensen's staff maintains the parking area and restrooms. FOHV has lead restoration projects, and willow planting along the banks for the last thirty years. FOHV repairs and paints signs, trims the tress, sweeps the platforms and general trash cleanup. Our volunteer efforts are so the public can freely enjoy the area.

The boundaries of the CDFW lands in the valley are random, surrounded by other public lands. It will be impossible for visitors to decipher where they are. There is no gateway or entrance, the few parking areas and signs don't really distinguish land boundaries or which public agency manages the land.

The economy of Alpine Country depends on tourism, Hope Valley, the jewel of the Sierra is among the reason many visitors come to the county. It's a significant destination that draws visitors to the county.

Debbi Waldear
President, Friends of Hope Valley

Judy Warren-Wickwire
Director of Alpine Historical Society



Chamber of Commerce
& Interagency Visitors Center

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ALPINE COUNTY
FILM COMMISSION OFFICE

CHARTER MEMBER OF THE
SCENIC BYWAY ASSOCIATION

Friday, August 3, 2018

Ms. Valerie Termini
Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Removal of the Hope Valley Wildlife Area Land
Pass Program

Dear Ms. Termini:

We would like to submit our support letter for the Alpine County Board of Supervisors' petition to the California Fish and Game Commission for a regulation change to remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program.

As a community that relies heavily on a strong tourism market, this program greatly impacts our local businesses, residents and our visitors that enjoy the Hope Valley area year round.

We feel strongly that these lands remain open without fees for all to access and enjoy.

Thank you for working with the Alpine County Board of Supervisors to reverse this regulatory action.

Sincerely,

Teresa Burkhauser, CMP
Executive Director on behalf of the
Alpine County Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors

cc: Alpine County Board of Supervisors

3 WEBSTER STREET
P.O. BOX 265
MARKLEEVILLE, CA 96120

(530) 694-2475

fax (530) 694-2478

www.alpinecounty.com



August 30, 2018

Valerie Termini, Executive Director
California Fish and Wildlife Commission
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94224-2090
RE: Request to remove Hope Valley Area from the Lands Pass Program

Dear Ms. Termini,

The Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (District) Board of Directors joins the Alpine County Board of Supervisors in support of their request that the California Fish and Wildlife Commission remove the Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program.

The enforcement area of the Lands Pass Program within the Hope Valley Wildlife Area is largely unknown, not only by the local community, but more importantly tourists, and there is a dearth of signage explaining the rules of the Lands Pass Program or delineating the boundaries of an enforcement area. This is an added expense and a deterrent to people wishing to enjoy recreation in Hope Valley, which in turn, has a direct impact on the local economy. Some of our own employees have stopped using this area for recreation due to this confusion.

Hope Valley has a rich history of land use and recreation and was ultimately preserved for public enjoyment by a group of engaged citizens, Friends of Hope Valley. The District's Board of Directors supports keeping these lands public and open for all to access and enjoy, free of charge.

We thank you for considering the impacts of the Lands Pass Program on our community and working with the Alpine County Board of Supervisors to remove the Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program.

Sincerely,

Erik M. Christeson
General Manager, Kirkwood Meadows PUD

Alpine Biomass Collaborative

305 Carson View

Markleeville, CA 96120-9630

Tel.: 530-694-2168

E-Mail: dGriffith.9@gmail.com

04 October 2018

California Fish and Wildlife Commission
Attn: Valerie Termini, Executive Director
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94224-2090

Re: Request to Remove the Hope Valley Unit from the Lands Pass Program

Dear Ms. Termini,

The Alpine Biomass Collaborative (ABC) is requesting the removal of Hope Valley in Alpine County from the Lands Pass Program. The ABC's mission statement is "Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health, and local economic development". The area is largely unfenced and has been used by the public for decades, well before its acquisition by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Members of the public cross these lands to access public land in and around Hope Valley and have done so for decades prior to it being acquired by CDFW. There isn't and has not been any significant fencing nor signage to indicate that now this access is prohibited without paying a fee. Land ownership in the Hope Valley is a mixture of US Forest Service, private, and CDFW. It is not possible for a visitor to know which lands are which. Furthermore the boundaries are not adequately signed, and whether it is correct or not, the public assumes that it is public land and has used it as such for decades. The public arrives and even if they are willing to pay a fee, there is not an easy reliable way to do so as cell phone coverage is unreliable in this area.

We understand that CDFW stated at an Alpine County Board of Supervisors' meeting that statewide, CDFW expects to receive about \$53,000/year in revenue for all the recently added "fee areas" in the state. This is a trivial amount statewide and an unnecessary revenue stream for CDFW that discourages the public from experiencing the benefits of outdoor recreation.

Unifying partners to promote forest and watershed health, and local economic development.

We join the Alpine County Board of Supervisors, the Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, and the Alpine Watershed Group among others in requesting that the Hope Valley Unit be exempt from the Lands Pass requirement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted



David Griffith
Markleeville, CA
2018.10.03 09:14:27 -07'00'

Alpine Biomass Collaborative

Per: David Griffith, Chair

cc Alpine County Board of Supervisors

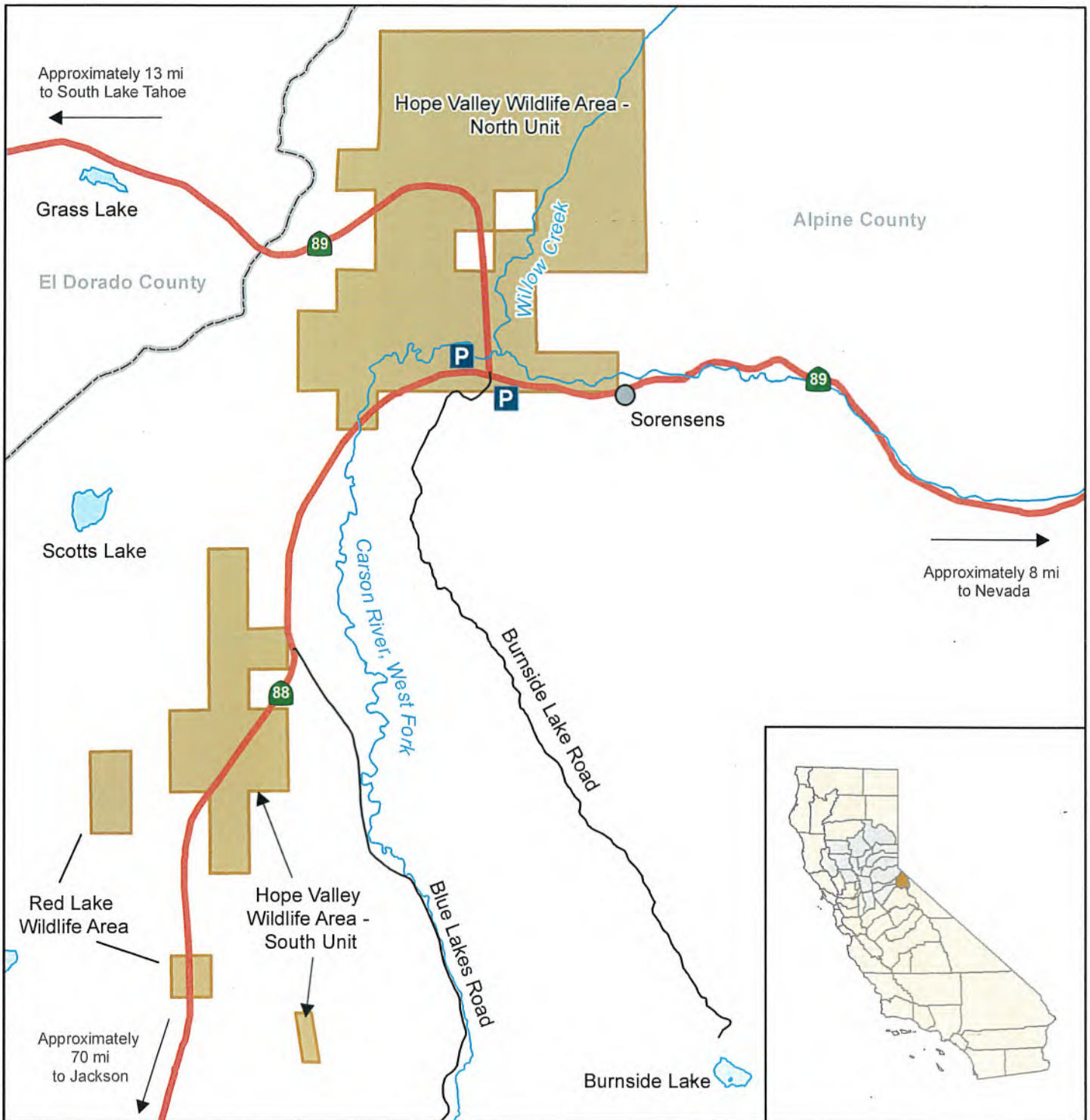
Attachment 2

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

North Central Region

HOPE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

Alpine County



- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Wildlife Area | State Highway |
| River / Lake | Local Road |
| County Line | Parking |



0 1 Miles

Disclaimer: Boundaries are approximate.
Maps are intended for general purposes only.

December 2014 - WLB

Attachment 3

From: Philip Bellman
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Donald Jardine; Don Jardine
Cc: Philip Bellman
Subject: Lands Pass

Hi Don —

Thank you for addressing the Lands Pass issue and for drafting an excellent letter to Fish & Wildlife. It is clear that few people, if any, in Alpine County were aware of this plan. It makes little sense and is not likely to generate much funding. What it will do is confuse visitors to Alpine County and make it difficult to visit the Hope Valley. Especially affected are the areas around Pickett's Junction, north of the junction, and Red Lake. You can imagine the leaf peepers, photographers, cyclists, and hikers who arrive in the Hope Valley only to find they need a permit — and there is not even cell service to allow getting a daily permit. And in other parts of the valley, it may be difficult to know when one is on state land or on federal land.

It's also clear from Julie's email messages this week that the Lands Pass is the result of the department suffering losses from decreasing numbers of hunting licenses. The areas affected in Alpine County have not been used by hunters in decades — but the impact of this program will discourage many visitors from coming at all. I also really appreciate your addressing the concerns of the Washoe, who seem to have not been consulted or informed as well.

Thanks for your efforts!

Phil Bellman

Attachment 4



COUNTY OF ALPINE
Board of Supervisors

January 16, 2018

Valérie Termini, Executive Director
California Fish and Game Commission
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

RE: Request to remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program

Dear Ms. Termini:

Alpine County Board of Supervisors respectfully request that California Fish and Wildlife Commission remove Hope Valley Wildlife Area from the Lands Pass Program. The County was not aware of the proposed regulatory action to include Hope Valley Wildlife Area in the Lands Pass Program and was not given an opportunity to comment on how this affects our community and visitors to Alpine County.

Please see attached notification list for this action provided to us by Julie Horenstein, Ecological Reserve and Land Acquisition California Department of Fish and Wildlife. **The only copy sent to the County was sent to the Fish and Game Commission and not to the Board of Supervisors nor to the local Washoe Tribal Council.**

The Lands Pass fee and impacts on the local community appear to have not been analyzed. In 1988-1989 the Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study was commissioned by the Trust for Public Lands, Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce and the Friends of Hope Valley to analyze the effect of 15,000 acres of private land within Hope Valley being purchased by the United States Forest Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. There had also been some discussion on development of these lands, in particular around Pickett's Junction.

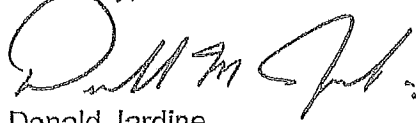
Alpine County supports keeping these lands public and therefore open for all to access and enjoy. The Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study indicates that the Pickett's Junction area should be for day use with picnicking, parking and snow park.

The Lands Pass Program will have both economic and cultural impacts in Hope Valley Wildlife Area. Hikers would be required to buy Lands Passes to cross California Department of Fish and Wildlife Area to access Forest Service Land for recreation. Cross Country skiers would also require a Lands Pass to enter and exit Forest Service Land through California Department of Fish and Wildlife Areas which will impact local businesses which rely on cross country and snowshoe recreationers in winter. Washoe Tribal Members would need to purchase a Land Pass to access religious and historical sites. It appears from the maps provided for the Lands

Pass Program that cyclists will also be required to buy a Lands Pass to travel through Picketts Junction area. These areas also contain popular highway access to backcountry skiers who would need to cross over the California Department of Fish and Wildlife land to access backcountry skiing within Forest Service Lands.

We thank you for working with Alpine County to reverse this regulatory action which was implemented without consideration for the impacts to our local community and visitors to Alpine County.

Sincerely,



Donald Jardine
Chair, Board of Supervisors
Alpine County

CC: Julie Horenstein, Ecological Reserve and Land Acquisition California Department of Fish and Wildlife julie.horenstein@wildlife.ca.gov
Honorable Ted Gaines
Honorable Frank Bigelow
RCRC
CSAC

NOTIFICATION LIST

Firstline	Secondline	Address (third line)	city	state	zip	name (first)	number
Modoc	Fish Game & Recreation Commission	202 W 4th Street	Alturas	CA	96101		21
Kern County	Fish and Game Fine Commission	2820 M Street	Bakersfield	CA	93301	Mr. David McArthur	13
Colusa County	Fish and Game Commission	546 J Street, Suite 202	Colusa	CA	95932		5
Del Norte County	Fish and Game Commission	586 G Street	Crescent City	CA	95531		7
Sierra County	Fish and Wildlife Commission	P.O. Box 554	Downieville	CA	95936	Marilyn Tierney, Secretary	38
Alameda County	Fish and Game Commission	4985 Broder Blvd.	Dublin	CA	94568	Sheriff Herbert Walters	1
Imperial County	Fish and Game Commission	940 W. Main Street, Ste. 208	El Centro	CA	92243		12
Solano County	Park and Recreation Commission	675 Texas Street, Ste. 6500	Fairfield	CA	94533	Mr. Steve Heimsmeier	40
Humboldt County	Fish and Game Commission	P.O. Box 922	Ferndale	CA	95536	Ms. Johanna Rodoni	11
Fresno County	Recreation & Wildlife Commission	2220 Tulare Street, 8th Floor	Fresno	CA	93721	Mr. John Thompson	9
Madera County	Fish and Game Commission	46089 Road 208	Friant	CA	93626	Mr. Neil K. McDougal	18
Placer County	Fish and Game Commission	8459 Lakeland Dr	Granite Bay	CA	95746		27
Kings County	Fish and Game Advisory Committee	1400 W Lacey Blvd	Hanford	CA	93230	Mr. Tim Breshears	14
San Benito County	Fish and Game Commission	481 Fourth Street	Hollister	CA	95023-3840	c/o Clerk of the Board	30
Lake County	Fish and Game Commission	883 Lakeport	Lakeport	CA	95453	Mr. Greg Gluski	15
Los Angeles County	Fish and Game Commission	500 West Temple Street,	Los Angeles	CA	90012		17
Mono County	Fisheries Commission	Room B-50	Mammoth Lakes	CA	93546	Mr. Steve Marti, Chair	22
Alpine County	Fish and Game Commission	PO Box 2415	Mammoth Lakes	CA	93546		2
		P.O. Box 286	Mardeeville	CA	96120		
Contra Costa County	Fish and Wildlife Committee	30 Muir Rd	Martinez	CA	94553		6
Stanislaus County	Fish and Wildlife Committee	3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C	Modesto	CA	95358		42
San Luis Obispo County	Fish and Game Commission	P.O. Box 406	Morro Bay	CA	93443	Mr. Norm Martignoni	33
Napa County	Wildlife Conservation Commission	1195 Third Street, Ste. 210	Napa	CA	94559-3092	Mr. Stephen Omdorf	24
	c/o Dept Conservation & Development Attn: Parks Administration						
	c/o Dept Agriculture, Weights & Measures						
Nevada County	Fish and Wildlife Commission	950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170	Nevada City	CA	95959		25
Marin County	Wildlife and Fisheries Advisory Commission	1682 Novato Blvd. Ste. 150 B	Novato	CA	94947-7021	Mr. Ed Schultz	19
Butte County	Fish and Game Commission	25 County Center Dr., Suite 200	Oroville	CA	95965		3
Ventura County	Fish and Game Commission	3900 Pelican Way	Oxnard	CA	93035		47
El Dorado County	Fish and Game Commission	330 Fair Lane	Placerville	CA	95667	Mr. Karl Weiland	8
Tehama County	Fish and Game Commission	15565 China Rapids Drive	Red Bluff	CA	96080		44
Shasta County	Fish and Game Commission	1855 Placer Street	Redding	CA	96001	Eric Wedemeyer	37
Riverside County	Fish and Game Commission	4600 Crestmore Road	Riverside	CA	92509-6858	Mr. Jim Real	28
Sacramento County	Recreation and Park Commission	4040 Bradshaw Road	Sacramento	CA	95827	Mr. Dan Gonzales, Chair	29
Monterey County	Fish and Game Commission	P.O. Box 5249	Salinas	CA	93915	Mr. John Akeman	23
San Bernardino County	Regional Parks Department	777 East Rialto Avenue	San Bernardino	CA	92415-0763		31
San Diego County	Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission	9325 Hazard Way, Suite 100	San Diego	CA	92123-1217		32

305

Santa Clara County	Fish and Game Commission	70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor, East Wing	San Jose	CA	95110	35
Orange County	Fish and Game Commission	PO Box 4048	Santa Ana	CA	92702-4048	26
c/o Santa Barbara City Planning & Development						
Santa Barbara County	Fish and Game Commission	123 E Anapamu Street	Santa Barbara	CA	93101	34
Santa Cruz County	Fish and Game Commission	701 Ocean Street, Rm. 312	Santa Cruz	CA	95060	36
Sonoma County	Fish and Wildlife Commission	133 Aviation Blvd., Ste. 110	Santa Rosa	CA	95403	41
Calaveras County	Fish & Game Commission Clerk	15807 Waldear's Path	Sheep Ranch	CA	95246	4
Tuolumne County	Fish and Game Commission	18036 Blue Bell East	Sonoma	CA	95370	46
Lassen County	Fish and Game Commission	707 Nevada Street	Susanville	CA	96130	16
Mendocino County	Fish and Game Commission	501 Low Gap Rd	Ukiah	CA	95482	20
Trinity County	Fish and Game Commission	PO Box 1917	Weaverville	CA	96093	45
Glenn County	Fish and Game Commission	PO Box 1202	Willows	CA	95988	10
c/o Yolo County Parks and Resources Dept.						
Yolo County	Fish and Game Commission	120 West Main Street, Suite C	Woodland	CA	95695	43
Siskiyou County	Fish and Game Commission	1119 South Oregon Street	Yreka	CA	96097	39
Sutter County	Fish and Game Commission	146 Garden Hwy	Yuba City	CA	95991	43
Rich Klug						

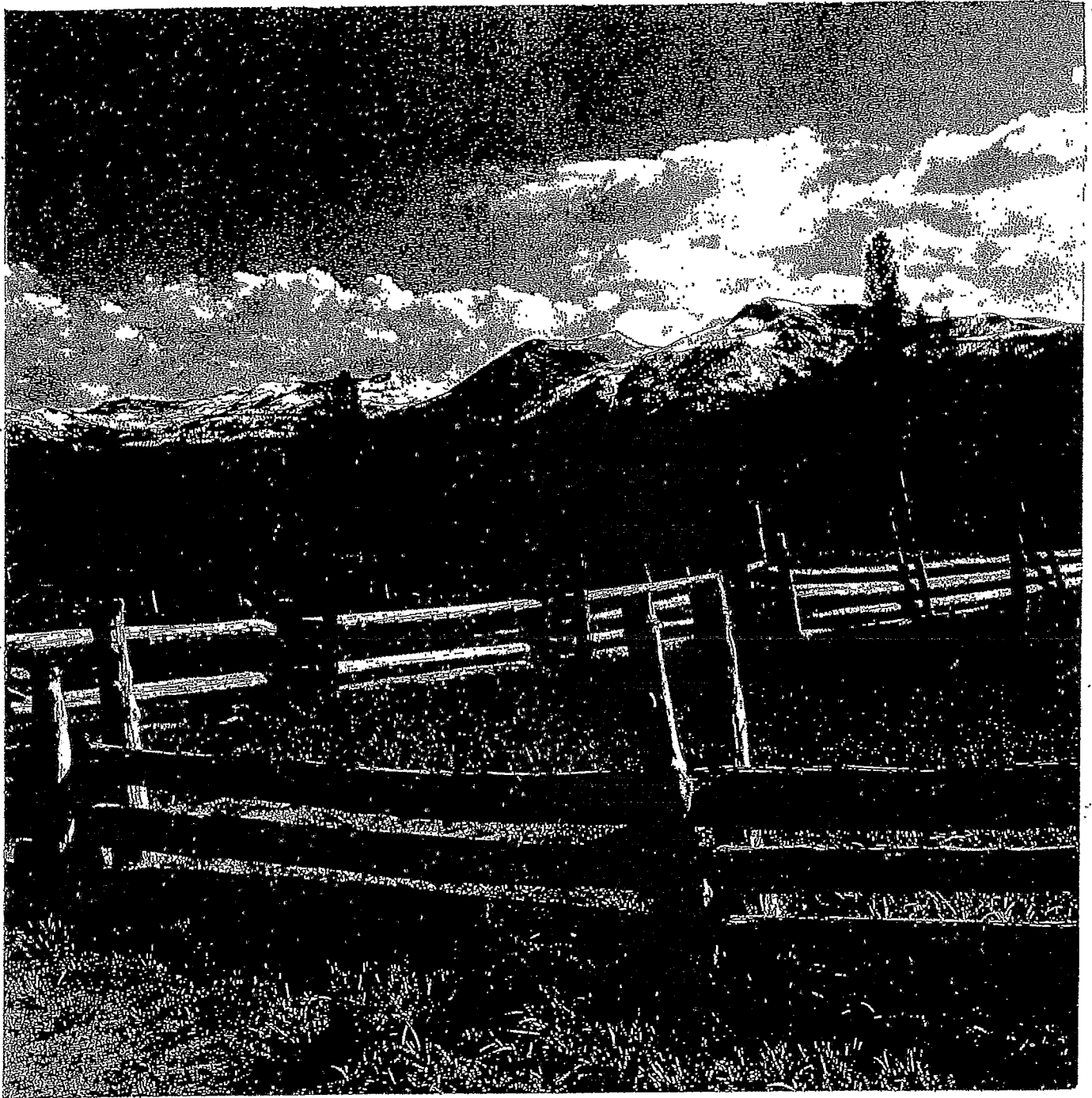
Attachment 5

Needs to be Reviewed

Hope Valley

Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▲ April 1989



Alpengroup *
©1989

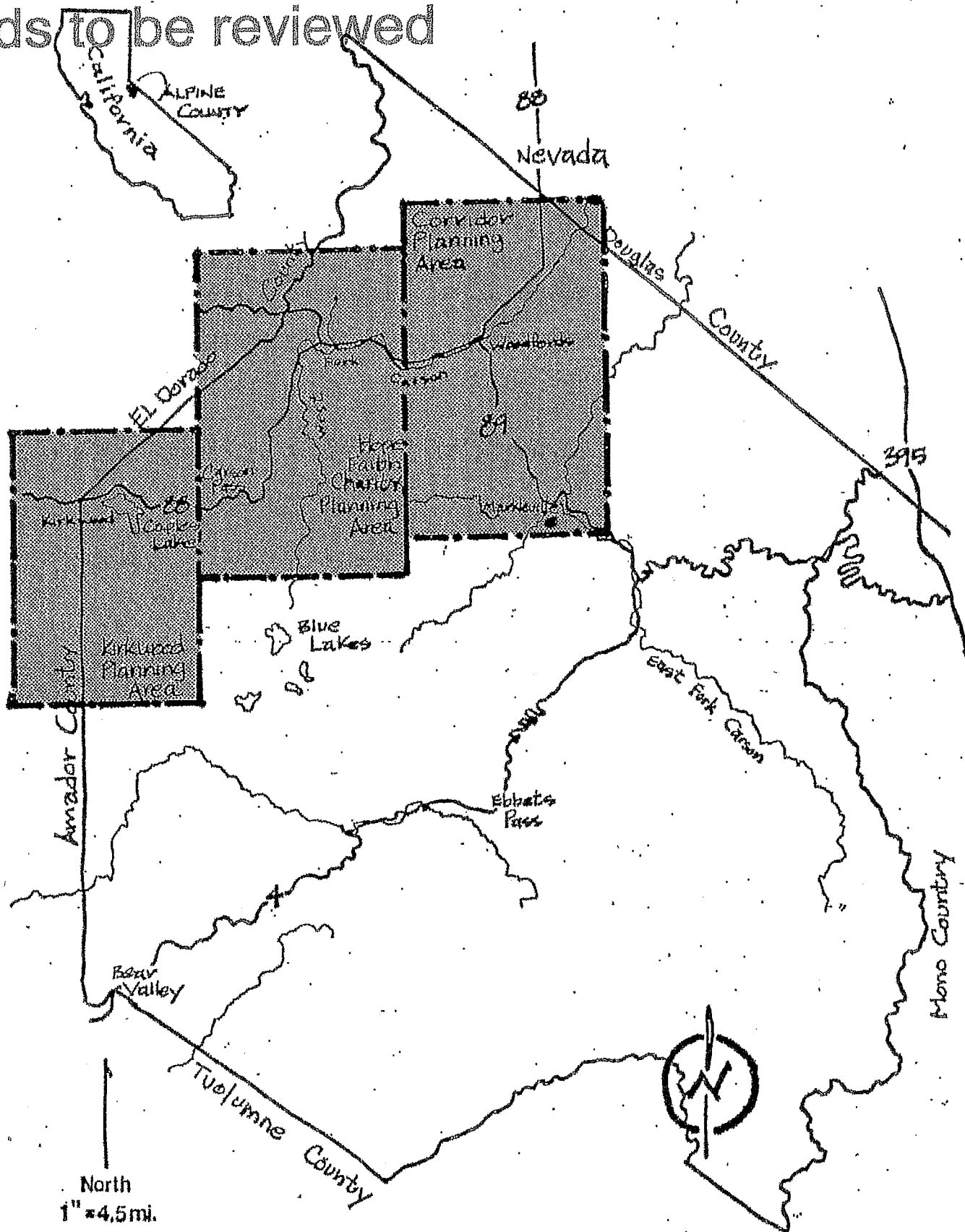
Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

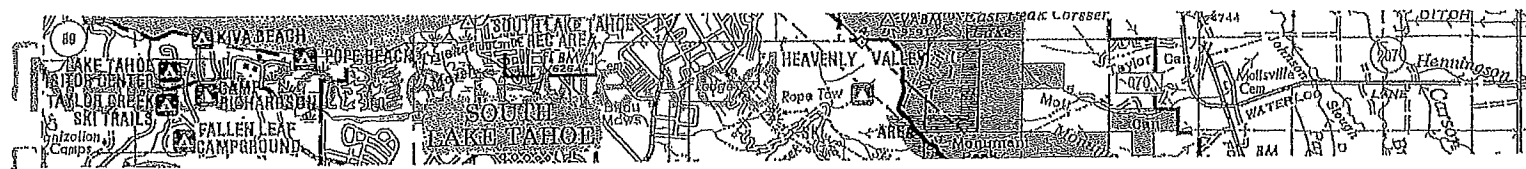
Alpengroup ❄
276 Kingsbury Grade
Suite 2000
P.O. Box 395
Lake Tahoe, Nevada 89448
(702) 588-5353

Needs to be reviewed



Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup *



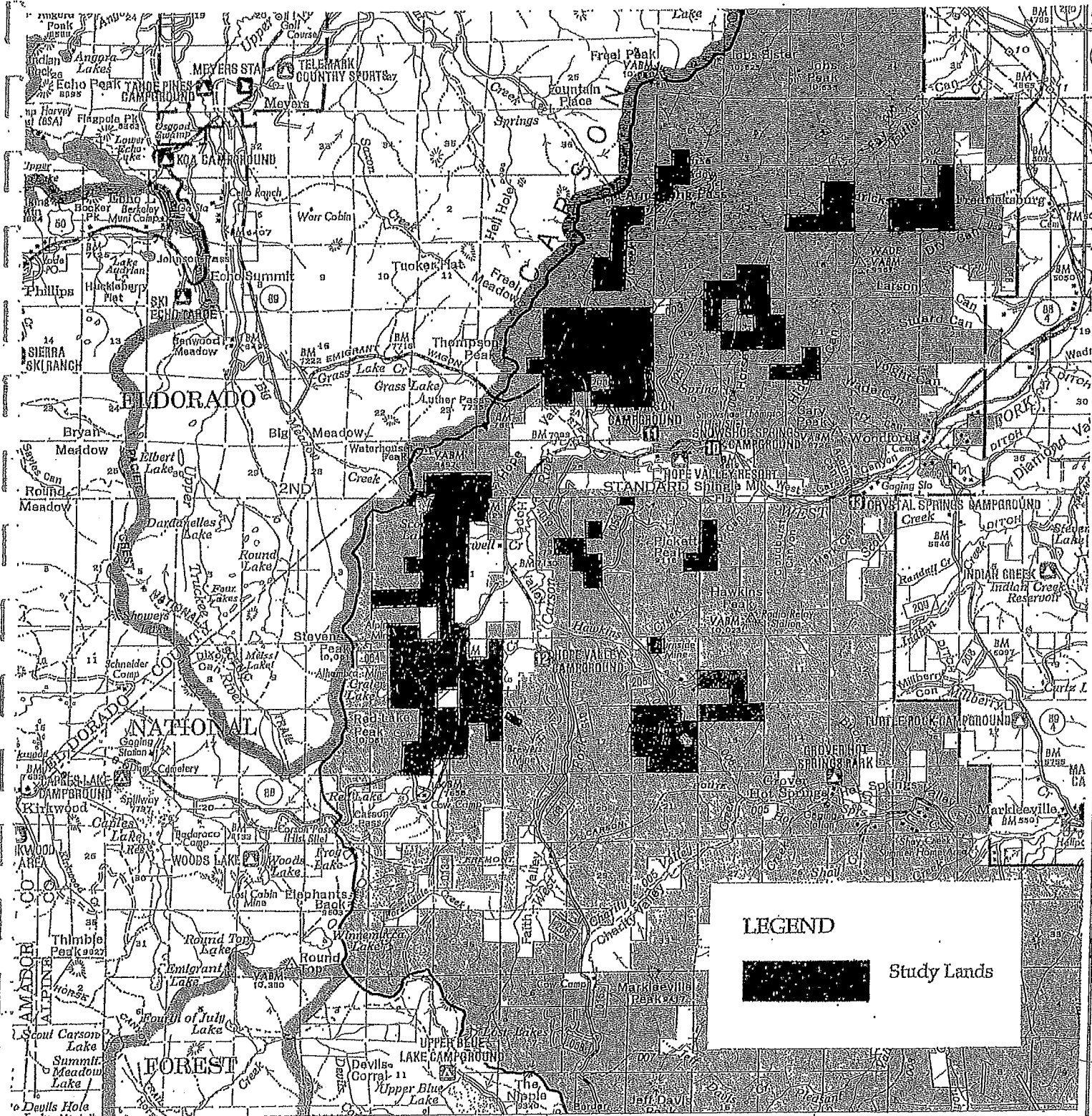
HOPE VALLEY STUDY LANDS

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup

1988

Lake Tahoe, Nevada



Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study
Final ▲ April 1989

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Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Purpose and
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▼ Biophysical
▼ Cultural

Needs to be reviewed

1

Purpose ▼

The purpose of this report is to determine the Economic and Recreation impacts of the proposed purchase of nearly 15,000 acres of private land in the Hope Valley area of Alpine County.

This study was commissioned by the Trust for Public Lands, Alpine County Board of Supervisors, Alpine County Chamber of Commerce, and the Friends of Hope Valley.

The scope of work for this study included a literature review of existing reports, research, and field reviews. Alpengroup has prepared the sections of this report that will pertain to biophysical, cultural, economic and recreation issues of the proposed purchase, with the information that is available at the present time.

Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲Biophysical

Settings
Climate
Forest Description
Resource Elements
Wild & Scenic Rivers
Timber

This section describes the existing situation of resources and activities of the project area.

Biophysical Settings

The project area is surrounded by National Forest lands of the Toiyabe National Forest, with the exception of those Toiyabe National Forest lands lying within the Lake Tahoe Basin. In 1973, by Presidential proclamation, a portion of the Toiyabe National Forest in the Lake Tahoe Basin became part of a special management area, the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), along with portions of the Tahoe and El Dorado National Forests. This was established to provide special protection for the unique feature of Lake Tahoe and its watershed. Although the project area is adjacent to the LTBMU, the planning constraints of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency do not apply to the proposed project area.

The Toiyabe consists of three distinct divisions. The three divisions are: Sierra Nevada (Carson and Bridgeport Ranger Districts), Central Nevada (Austin and Tonopah Ranger Districts) and Mt. Charleston (Las Vegas Ranger District). The proposed project area falls within the Sierra Nevada division. The Toiyabe is a scattered Forest encompassing parts of western, central, and southern Nevada and eastern California.



Climate

The Sierra Nevada is heavily influenced by its close proximity to the Pacific Ocean. Annual variation in snowfall is great because of the Pacific influence. Precipitation falls mainly in the winter as snow and may total as much as 70 inches per year at the highest elevation. At the base of the Sierra Front, precipitation seldom exceeds 15 inches.

Forest Description

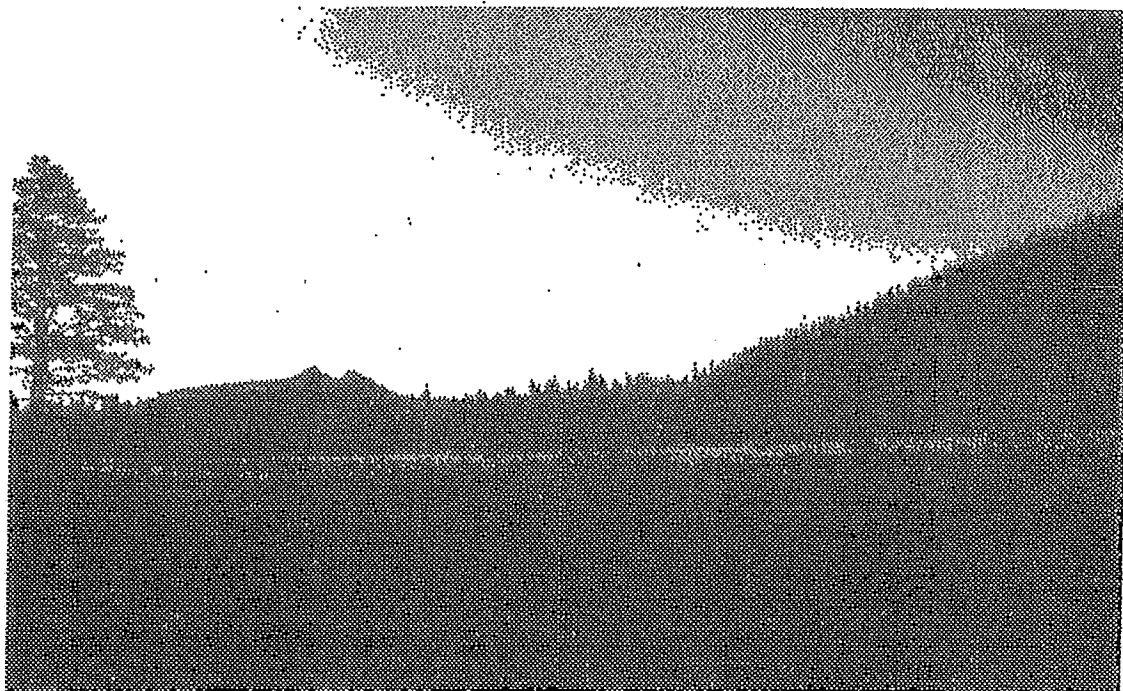
The area supports a variety of tree species, including Jeffrey pine, white fir, California red fir, western white pine, and lodgepole pine. Lesser amounts of sugar pine, incense cedar and mountain hemlock exist. Aspen is extensive throughout the valley and there are stands of pinyon-juniper at the lower elevations. The area produces water for western Nevada and includes the sources of the Carson River systems. Lakes are plentiful, visual quality is outstanding and recreational use of the area is extremely high.

Fire plays a very important role in almost all of the ecosystems found in the Eastern Sierra. It effects vegetative community development through its influence on succession. Studies show that the fire cycle has been 10 to 40 years with stands replacing fire every 200 to 400 years. Fire exclusion through successful fire protection has altered this natural process. Reintroduction of fire by a natural ignition process in wilderness would allow development of natural ecosystems.

Resource Elements

In the National Forest System, the Toiyabe has held an average ranking of 19th in the Nation in outdoor recreation over the last decade. It has consistently held second place in Region 4 (Intermountain Region).

The Toiyabe is the largest Forest in acres in the contiguous 48 states, and is widely scattered through central, western and southern Nevada and eastern California. Portions of the Forest are located close to Nevada's two major population centers, Reno-Sparks - Carson City, and Las Vegas. The Tahoe El Dorado, Stanislaus, and Inyo National Forests, which lie between the Toiyabe National Forest and the large California population centers, all contribute a recreation user spillover to the Toiyabe. The proximity of Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park also greatly affects recreation use on the Toiyabe National Forest.



There are also a number of resorts based on private lands, which significantly impact the recreation resource of the National Forest. Foremost is Mono Village, which offers a store, restaurant, boating and fishing facilities, large campground and parking to the public for access to the Hoover Wilderness beyond.

It seems likely there will continue to be applications for new kinds of recreational special uses, such as river running. Over the last 10 years, special use permits for floating the East Carson River have been in great demand. Helicopter skiing also has become popular. This recent general increase in applications for recreation special use permits and the growing interest in additional wilderness classification, can be expected to continue.

Dispersed Recreation

Dispersed recreation use includes activities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, driving for pleasure, camping and other activities outside of developed sites.

Several areas of the Forest experience unusually high levels of dispersed recreation use. Such an area is the upper East Carson River drainage, which is the Toiyabe portion of the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. Such areas are responsible for the Toiyabe's frequent number-one ranking in dispersed recreation in the Intermountain Region.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

Rivers that have designation potential for Wild, Scenic and/or recreation classification were inventoried by the Former USDI Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service for possible inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System under Section 2, PL 90-542. The Eastfork of the Carson River, from last diversion dam; approximately one (1) mile above Lahontan Fish Hatchery, to the source, was inventoried. The Toiyabe NF has completed eligibility studies on the East fork of the Carson River.

Wilderness

Existing Wilderness

The Carson-Iceberg Wilderness and the Mokelumne Wilderness are near the project area. A national Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) was completed in January 1979. As a result of RARE II, a number of areas on the Toiyabe National Forest were recommended for wilderness and further study.

The RARE II decision was challenged by the State of California. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the decision that the RARE II Environmental Statement is inadequate. After evaluating the court decision, the US Department of Agriculture determined that all roadless areas would be re-evaluated for wilderness through the Forest Planning Process.

Prior to the California Wilderness Act of 1984, the Forest planning process had developed an inventory of lands that are essentially unroaded and undeveloped, meeting the minimum definition of wilderness, and qualified for wilderness evaluation per NFMA Regulation 219.17. The inventory contained 65 roadless areas, totalling 2,187 thousand acres forest-wide.

California Wilderness Act of 1984 (CWA) in September, 1984, the California Wilderness Act (CWA) was signed by the President. The legislation included the following on the Toiyabe National Forest:

Wilderness (CWA)

Carson Iceberg 77,000 acres (approximate acreage) - Excludes an area around Noble Canyon. (An additional 83,000 acres is on the Stanislaus National Forest)

Mokelumne addition 19,000 acres (approximate acreage) - Includes the Raymond Peak Core area and Tragedy Elephants Back area. (An additional 36,000 acres are on the Stanislaus and El Dorado National Forests)

Congressional Study Areas (CWA) These areas require a report to the congress within three years of the date of the CWA.

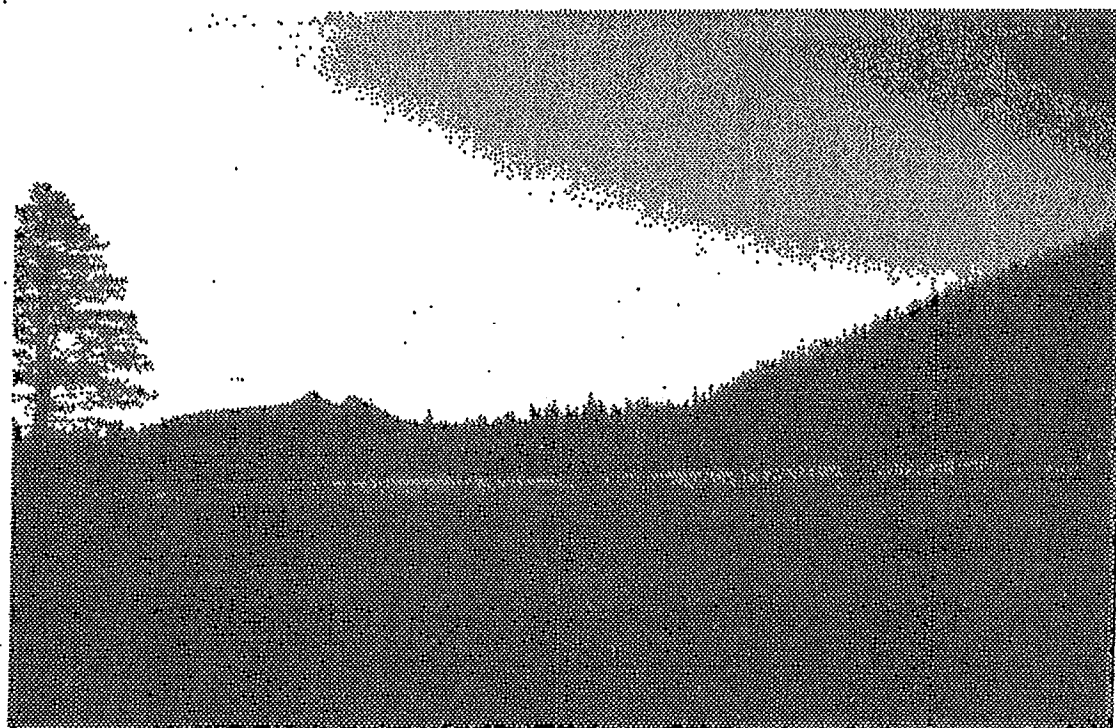
Carson-Iceberg Planning Area - 9,700 acres (approximate acreage) - Area around Noble Canyon.

Hoover West Planning Area 49,200 acres (approximate acreage) - Area around West Walker River.

Timber

Existing Situation

The Sierra Nevada range supports commercial stands of Jeffrey pine, the true firs, and lodgepole pine, with lesser stands of white pine and mountain hemlock. Logging has been conducted in the Sierra since the 1800's. Pinyon-juniper stands



are found throughout Toiyabe National Forest, with the majority in central Nevada. These woodlands have historically provided firewood, charcoal, and fencing materials.

The Toiyabe has been selling 6,000,000 board feet of timber annually, primarily in sawlog size material from the Alpine County and Dog Valley areas. Timber management activities and annual sale are the result of a timber management plan approved April 3, 1970. This plan was amended October 31, 1973, and extended through September 30, 1980. The plan was again amended April 14, 1980, to place areas recommended for wilderness by the January, 1979, RARE II Final Environmental Statement from "commercial forest land" to "productive deferred." This amendment also adjusted the volume, inventory, growth, mortality, and potential yield figures. It also extended the management plan until preparation and approval of a new plan based on reinventory of the Forest's timber resources or development of the Forest Land Management Plan.

Dwarf mistletoe and bark beetles are affecting timber stands on the Forest. These localized areas require treatment to prevent spread of the insects or disease. It is expected that loss of growth and mortality from disease and insects will continue but not increase, provided good growth rates are maintained in the timber stands and localized infection areas receive control treatments.

The primary silvicultural system used in recent years has been shelterwood. Removal cuts have been made in stands with good existing understories of saplings and poles. These understories have been thinned by removal of sawlogs and fuelwood operations. The continuing high demand for fuelwood enables good utilization of material produced from normal precommercial thinning. Emphasis has been placed on thinning overstocked immature stands. In mixed conifer stands, especially those where red fir is the major species, various stages of shelterwood cuts have been implemented with the objective of obtaining reproduction and eventual conversion to a young growth managed stand.

Timber harvest on the Toiyabe National Forest prior to 1970 had been higher as old growth timber was harvested. The need for timber produced from Toiyabe National Forest is not believed to be increasing. The Gardnerville mill could obtain a larger percentage of their needs from private and/or adjacent National Forests. The Gardnerville mill is approximately 45 percent dependent on the Toiyabe National Forest.

Future Condition Under Current Management

Over a 200 year period, the National Forest's timber stands are described as follows:

Jeffrey pine - Within recommended wilderness, the pine continues toward older age classes. Within nonwilderness areas, age class distribution improves, although there remains an excess acreage of small sawtimber 70-90 years of age.

Mixed conifer - Within recommended wilderness, the mixed conifer continues toward older age classes. Within nonwilderness areas, age class distribution improves, except there is a shortage of small sawtimber 70-90 years of age.

Lodgepole pine - As there is no regulated harvest, the lodgepole pine working group moves toward over-maturity and age class distribution becomes greatly unbalanced after 200 years.



Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

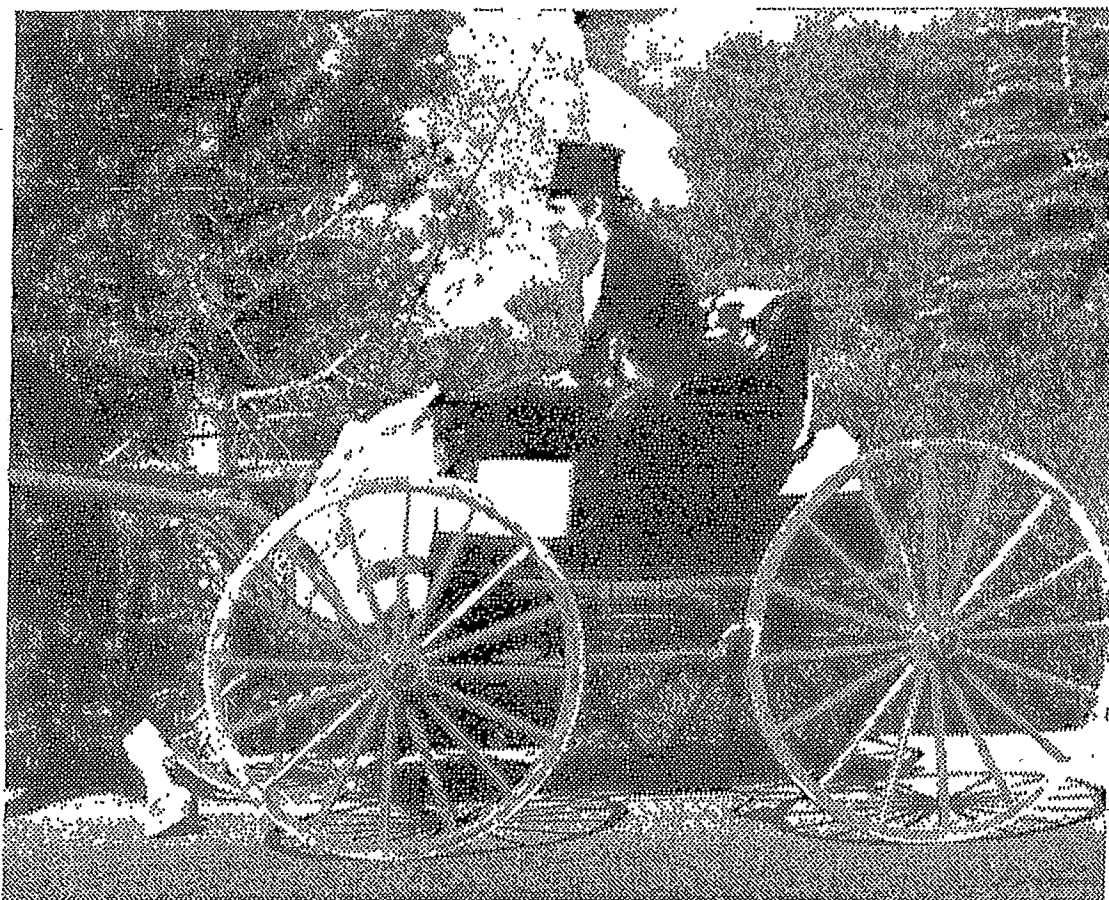
Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Cultural

Prehistory
Ethnography
History
Early Exploration
Early Settlement
Transportation
Communication
Mining
Logging
Agriculture & Grazing

PREHISTORY

The general regional prehistoric cultural sequence of the north-central Sierra Nevada is unclear. Some of the oldest finds reported for this region suggest occupation by about 8,000 years ago (Tahoe Reach Phase) in the Truckee River Canyon near Squaw Valley (Elston et al. 1977:151), at around 7,000 years ago (Spooner Phase) near Spooner Lake (Elston 1971:87), and by about 6,000 years ago in the Truckee Basin (Keesling and Johnson 1978; Rondeau 1982). The most intensive period of occupation in the region may have occurred at varying intervals between 4,000 years ago and 1,500 years ago (Marta Phase) (Heizer and Elsasser 1953). The protohistoric ancestors of the Washoe may date roughly from 1,500 years ago to the time of historic contact (Kings Beach Phase), (Heizer and Elsasser 1953; Elston 1976). Numerous archaeological studies in the Lake Tahoe Basin and at Carson Pass (Bennyhoff et al. 1982) generally support this prehistoric cultural sequence.



ETHNOGRAPHY

The project area lies within the territory of the Southern Washoe (Naneletti, Price 1962). The Washoe are a Great Basin group within the Hokan Linguistic stock. They embody a blend of the Great Basin and California in their geographical position and cultural attributes. Lake Tahoe is central to their territory and they had no settlements west of the Sierra crest. They may have enjoyed land use privileges, hunting on the North and Middle Forks of the Stanislaus as well as the Calaveras, Consumnes, or American Rivers (Kroeber 1925:570).

The Washoe are a relatively informal and flexible political collectivity. The ethnographic record suggests that the general area was inhabited at various times of the year by small groups who made seasonal movements in order to procure economic resources as they became available. The Washoe have a tradition of making long treks across the Sierra passes for the purpose of hunting, trading, and for the gathering of acorns. The Washoe had trade relations and communications with other mountaineers and lowland groups.

Anthropologist A. L. Kroeber (1925) estimated that the Washoe population in 1770 was approximately 1500. Records indicate dramatic decreases in the Washoe population prior to the 1840s due to epidemics of disease. By the 1850s, Euroamericans had permanently occupied the Washoe territory and changed traditional life. Mining, lumbering, farming, grazing, commercial fishing, tourism, and the growth of settlements disrupted traditional Indian relationships to the land. As hunting and gathering wild foods were no longer possible, the Washoe were forced into dependency upon the "white" settlers.

The Washoe continued to live in the Woodfords and Markleeville vicinity. The Washoe, under the leadership of Captain Jim, ranged through Truckee Meadows, the Washoe Lake area, Markleeville, and south to Double Springs (Long n.d.:55). According to Harry Hawkins (1967:55, 71), an early settler in Woodfords ... *"The Indians used to have their wickiups here near my home at Woodfords. They just had big wickiups right over there (south of Woodfords) in the flats. Down on the flat below the old Indian camps were. Their mills were there, too—plenty of them. They had mills all around on this place. Most of them got that deep granite all around. We used to go down there to the flat there before my father plowed it up. We'd pick up all kinds of arrowheads, spearpoints, mortars, all that kind of—thought nothing about it. Now, you can't find a chunk, a piece, the size of a dime, hardly."*

A Washoe Cemetery is located within the project area. Hawkins (1965:56, 71) refers to it as *"the graveyard of the forgotten ones ... I don't know how many's in that cemetery."*

That's a big one. You can just spot out the places, and who knows who's buried there ... There's some buried right down in the gulch that the sand has covered all over now. No signs of them at all." Goldy Bryan (personal communication 10/3/1984), a Washoe elder born in Dresslerville and now living in Woodfords, notes that the practice of concentrated burials within a cemetery was imposed by the whites. Traditionally the dead were buried almost anywhere. Once the body was interred, the spot was not usually revisited, as is the Euroamerican custom.

The presence of a Washoe roundhouse somewhere near the project area (Hawkins 1967; Bryan personal communication 10/3/1984), the likelihood of Washoe burials occurring outside the designated "Washoe Cemetery", and the existence of both temporary and permanent encampments make the project vicinity highly sensitive to contain prehistoric remains.

HISTORY

Basically 6 sets of integrated activities or industries are associated with the Euroamerican utilization of the general project area: (2) early exploration; (2) settlement; (3) transportation and communication; (4) livestock grazing; (5) mining; and (6) logging.

Early Exploration

The earliest known Euroamerican traveler in the region was Jedediah Strong Smith in 1827. Joseph Walker led a group of trappers up the Truckee River in 1833. In 1841, John Bidwell came through the Sonora Pass. Three years later, John C. Fremont and his guide, Kit Carson, crossed Carson Pass and Fremont made the first recorded mention of Lake Tahoe (Farquhar 1965:56; Scott 1957). The Mormon Battalion crossed into the Carson Valley in 1848, constructing a wagon road which became known as the Carson Pass Route.

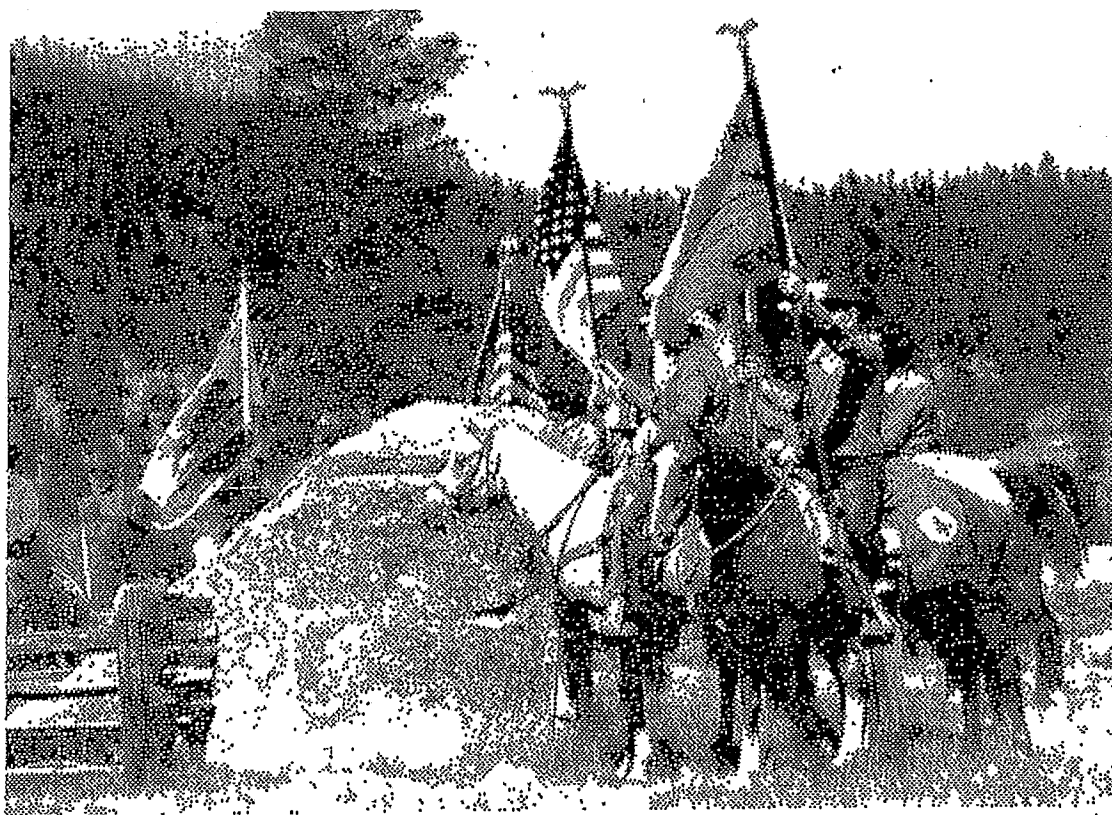
Alpine County was created on March 16, 1864 as the 46th county in the state. It was formed from parts of Amador, Tuolumne, El Dorado, Calaveras, and Mono counties. A series of land surveys by the Surveyor General of California were prompted by the importance of determining the boundary between California and Nevada (then the Territory of Utah). The eastern boundary of Alpine County was not established until a third survey in 1893, which restored county lines to their present borders.

Early Settlement in Alpine County

The names given to the valleys of Hope, Faith, and Charity are expressive of the emigrants' feelings for this long-hoped-for land of promise. With the hardships of the desert behind them and with the mighty Sierra summit ahead, they found respite in these valleys.

In 1861 Jacob Marklee first staked out land at the site of Markleeville. By 1863, it had a population of 2,620 and supported a post office, Wells Fargo Express Office and telegraph (Howatt 1966:13). With the decline of silver in 1875, the county seat was moved here from Silver Mountain City.

Woodfords was established as the outpost of Brannan Springs in 1847 by a Mormon named Sam Brannan. This was the first white settlement of the region. In 1848 a traveler stopping place was built. By 1849 the influx in population prompted Dan Woodford to erect a hotel, which was the town's town was referred to as Cary's Mills. Shortly a post office established the town name as Woodfords. In 1852 Cary



built a house, the Wade House, which is the oldest house on the east slope of the Sierra in this area. In 1854 W. P. Merrill opened a trading post which was used by the Wells Fargo Express. A pony express mount station was a Cary's barn (Alpine County Historic Landmark #805). The Pacific Coast Business Directory for 1867 shows the following listings for Woodfords: (Long n.d.:20) Carey's Mills; Hawkins, Mary - Hotel Proprietress; Merrill, W. P. - General Merchandise; Shelter, Otto - Hotel Proprietor; Wade, O. C. - Hotel Proprietor; Wade, William B. - Postmaster and Lumber Dealer.

Other early settlements related to mining and the associated support industries of lumber and transportation: Fredericksburg, established in 1864; Kongsberg or Silver Mountain City, founded in 1858 and the county sat until 1875; Monitor (or Loope), founded in 1862; Summit City, founded in 1864; Harmonial City, Raymond City, Centerville, Splinterville, all founded in the mid-1860s; Mount Bullion, established in 1869; and Silver King, founded in 1866. Diamond Valley, located 4 miles from Woodfords, was an early Mormon settlement and the home of John A. "Snowshoe" Thompson.

Transportation and Communication

The demand for routes of travel, caused by the sudden opening and rapid development of the mines, was imperative, both as the general routes of access and as the arteries of supplies to provision the thousands who converged on the area during the late 1840s and 1850s. By 1855, the entire Carson Pass and Luther Pass area had been thoroughly examined for potential transportation routes and many observation points had been occupied for mapmaking (Farquhar 1965:97).

Woodfords was a major transportation center in Alpine County, at the junction of Carson Canyon and the Markleeville road (Highways 88 and 89) as early as 1859 (Jackson 1964:56). All 3 major routes accessing the Carson Valley, the Tahoe Basin, and the west slope of the Sierra passed through Woodfords. One such route, the Carson Pass Road, now State Highway 88 (Alpine County Historic Landmark #315 and #661) was opened in 1848 by a remnant of the disbanded Mormon Battalion (Stewart 1962). It was shown on an 1875 GLO Plat as "Road from Placerville to Genoa" (Alpine County Assessor's Office).

Ebbetts Pass (Alpine County Historical Landmark #318), or the "Big Trees Road", State Highway 4, was named for J. A. Ebbetts, who recommended and surveyed this as a potential route for the transcontinental railroad. In 1864 it was opened as a major wagon road.

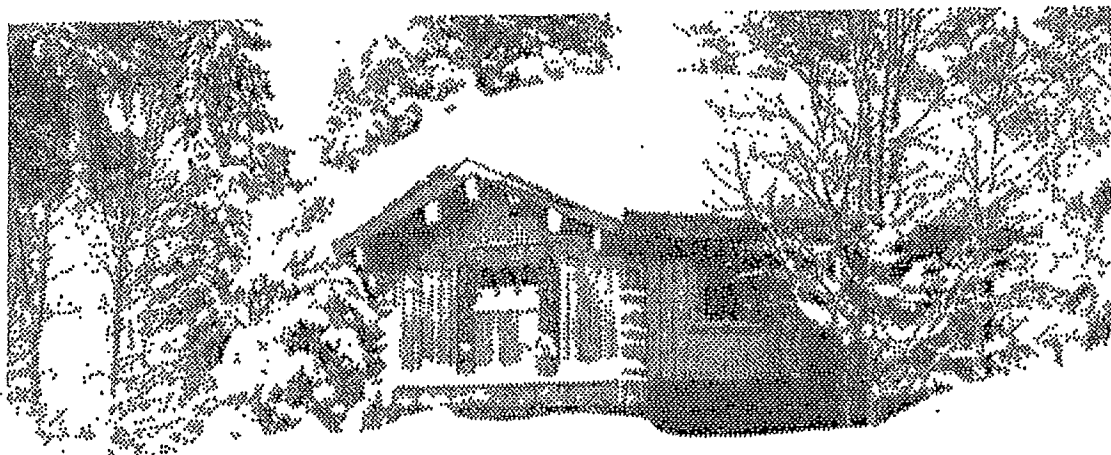
Luther Pass was known as early as 1850. It branched off at Pickett's Junction in Hope Valley and headed north to the Upper Truckee River and to the Johnson Pass Route (State Highway 50).

The route through Woodford's Canyon was used regularly as early as 1849. Also known as Horsethief Canyon, pioneers were frequently robbed of their horses as they traveled westward. Thieves fattened stolen horses in the mountains and sold them in Nevada. The same horse could be stolen and resold several times.

In response to the need for adequate communication over the Sierra, several counties and private companies financed the conversion of mountain trails into toll roads for the transport of mail and supplies by wheeled vehicles. It was customary for an individual or company to obtain a franchise to construct and maintain a road. In turn, they were permitted to charge toll and erect a toll gate or toll house. Toll gates were located at Green's (Pickett's Junction), half-way between Green's and Luther Pass, 1 mile west of Woodfords, and numerous others were operated throughout Hope Valley and beyond the passes. Toll roads throughout Hope and Charity Valleys were made public roads after 1893 (Howatt 1966:97).

The pony express flourished briefly in 1860. It ran through Woodfords for weeks and was then re-routed to follow the route over Daggett Pass (Kingsbury Grade), as free toll was offered there. This first route went from Genoa to Fairview, to Woodfords, to Green's (Hope Valley), to Caples, and onto Hangtown (Placerville).

When heavy snows hindered wheel and horse travel, the mail was carried by "Snowshoe" Thompson, who made a remarkable series of trips across the Sierra on skis from 1856 to 1876. At first he used the Placerville-Johnson-Luther Pass Route, but later he followed the Big Tree Route to Hope Valley. Both routes passed through



Hope Valley and continued down Woodfords Canyon to Genoa (Farquhar 1965:100). He cached his skis at the spring in Woodfords Canyon, where he began and ended his journey across the Sierra. "Snowshoe" Springs is now a public campground.

The discovery of silver in Nevada caused the whole character of Sierra travel to flow in the reverse pattern. Roads and way stations along the Johnson and Carson routes were overcrowded with travelers. The big bonanza in Washoe stimulated the search for silver in every direction and furthered the development of transportation routes and support facilities in the vicinity of the project area.

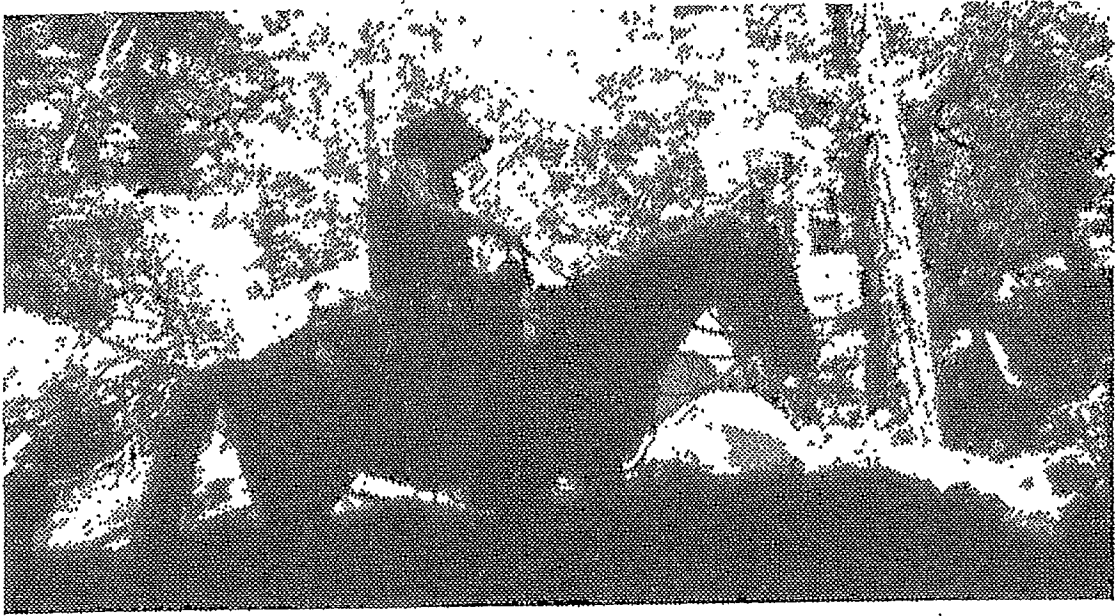
Mining

The area did not take part in the gold rush, but was prospected in the early 1860s with the Comstock discovery. There was a high population of American, Canadian, Irish, and Norwegians in these mines (Howatt 1966:641). The first major mining was at Silver Mountain in Scandinavian Canyon. During the 1860s mines within the Monitor, Mogul, Silver Mountain, and Silver King mining districts developed. The use of improper milling methods, along with a lack of available capital and labor resulted in repeated failures of Alpine mining enterprises. Several British investors financed Alpine County mines as early as 1865 through the late 1870s (Jackson 1964:58).

Copper, lead, and zinc are found in small amounts in Hope Valley. Substantial quantities of stone, sand and gravel have been mined in the flood plain of the West Branch of the Carson River in the southern or upper end of Hope Valley. Tungsten was mined in the 1940s-50s by the Alpine Mine and the Burnside Mine, located in the western and eastern part of Hope Valley.

Logging

The lumber industry in Alpine County was associated with the needs of the mills and mines of the Comstock. Wood was cut during the winter in areas adjoining major streams. The logs were floated down in the early spring freshets. Mills were first located along the lower portions of the East and West Branches of the Carson River. Gradually mills were moved from the foothills into the higher elevations. Cary, Woodfords, and Peabody mills were all water powered mills which serviced local needs around 1853 or 1854 (Jackson 1964:55). Transport to the rivers in the early 1860s was by mules and wagons. After 1865, logs were moved by V-flume. The lumber business declined with the demonetization of silver and the demise of the Comstock. It continued to support settlements in the Carson Valley and Alpine County.



Agriculture and Grazing

In the early 1860s many emigrants, unsuccessful in gold mining, turned to farming and were attracted by the active market for agricultural products in the mining towns. Alpine County farmers fed large numbers of workers in the Comstock and served local consumers. Most of the soils in the region are residuals and poor agriculturally. The only alluvials are in the Upper Carson, Hope, Faith, and Charity, and Diamond valleys. Accordingly, these were the seasonal centers of the dairying and stock raising industry. Also, temperate zone fruits, vegetables, potatoes, hay, barley, and oats were grown.

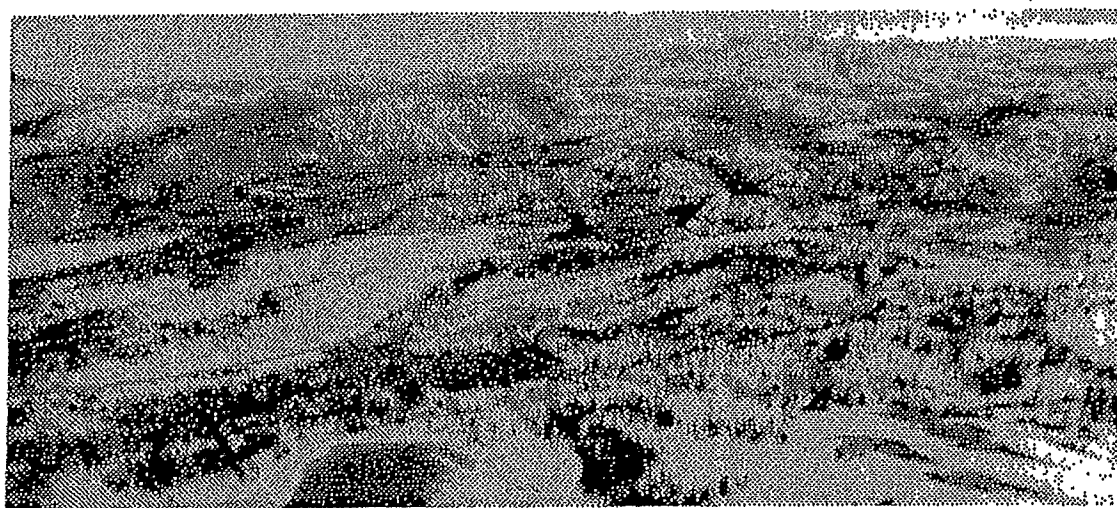
Woodfords was an important milling and product distribution center. Cary erected a water-powered flour and grist mill in 1865, the only mill of its kind in the Carson Valley (Jackson 1964:56). In January, 1874, Rickey and company established a barrel factory at Woodfords primarily to manufacture butter tubs needed by dairymen in Hope Valley.

Diamond Valley, one of the richest agricultural sections, produced barley, wheat, hay, oats, and fruit on a large scale by the 1870s. Snowshoe Thompson owned 100 acres of planted wheat and barley averaging 25 bushels per acre. He had an annual hay crop of 80 tons and owned both dairy and beef cattle, and also owned a threshing machine, reaper and mower (Howatt 1966:79). Today almost the entire valley has been converted to cattle range and planted pasture by the Heise Corporation of Gardnerville, Nev. (Alpine County Records Office: Deeds; Howatt 1966:79; Hawkins 1967:28).

Cattle, sheep, horses, and mules were driven up from ranches in the San Joaquin, Sacramento, and Carson Valleys. Dairy and beef cattle came from San Joaquin, Sacramento and Amador counties. Summer herds were the most numerous migrating herd. Most sheep came over the Big Trees Road from San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Sacramento, and Amador counties, less so from the Carson Valley. Basques were usually employed as sheepmen.

Since the late 1880s, Nevada ranchers, including such families as Dressler, Berry, Fay Wilderson, Park, Scossa, Dangberg, Settlemyer, Neddenreip, and Heise have owned both land and water rights in Alpine County. The water rights to the Carson River, which date back to 1858, reveal the importance of the Nevada cattlemen in Alpine County. Rights to water became an object of bitter dispute between ranchers of Alpine County and the Carson Valley. In 1890 the Alpine Land and Reservoir Company was organized by some Alpine County farmers, to build storage reservoirs in Alpine County and sell the water.

The cost of construction was prohibitive and the company sold out to Carson Valley farmers who constructed dams on various sites in Alpine County, with an aim to store unused water to be used later for irrigation in the Carson Valley. According to the California Superior Court ruling of November 29, 1921, on water rights on the West Fork of the Carson river, the Alpine farmers and ranchers, then 18 in number, received a total of 39.24 cubic feet per second. Two other Nevada ranchers received 17.98 cubic feet per second for use in Douglas County, Nev. (Water Rights, November 29, 1921, Alpine County Archives). Nevada ranchers also own water rights to about 15 lakes in Alpine County (Howatt 1966:89). As of 1960 about 4,000 acres in California and 10,000 acres in Nevada are irrigated by diversions from the West Fork of the Carson River.

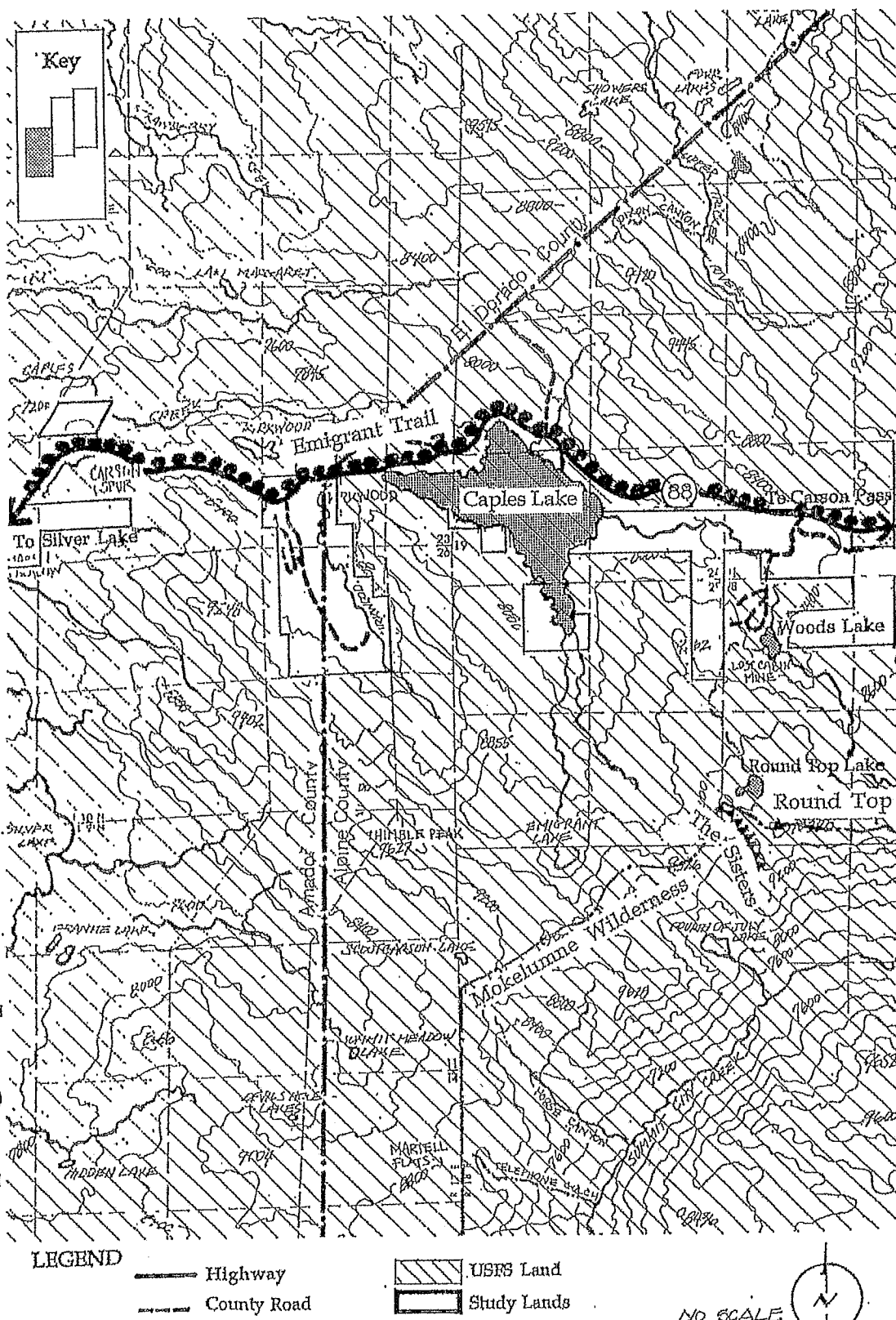


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CULTURAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

Hope Valley
Economic and Re

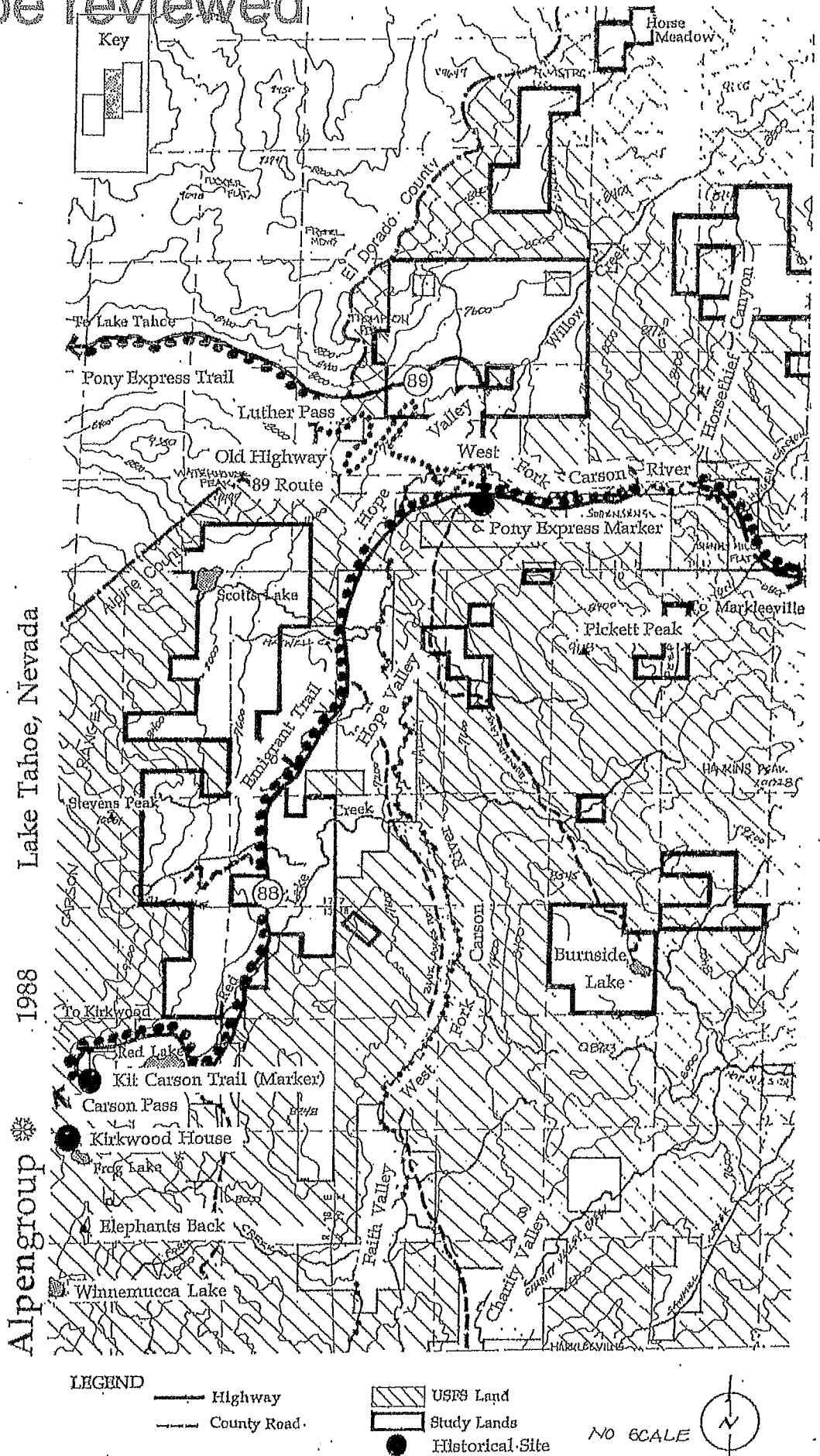
Alpengroup



Needs to be reviewed

CULTURAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

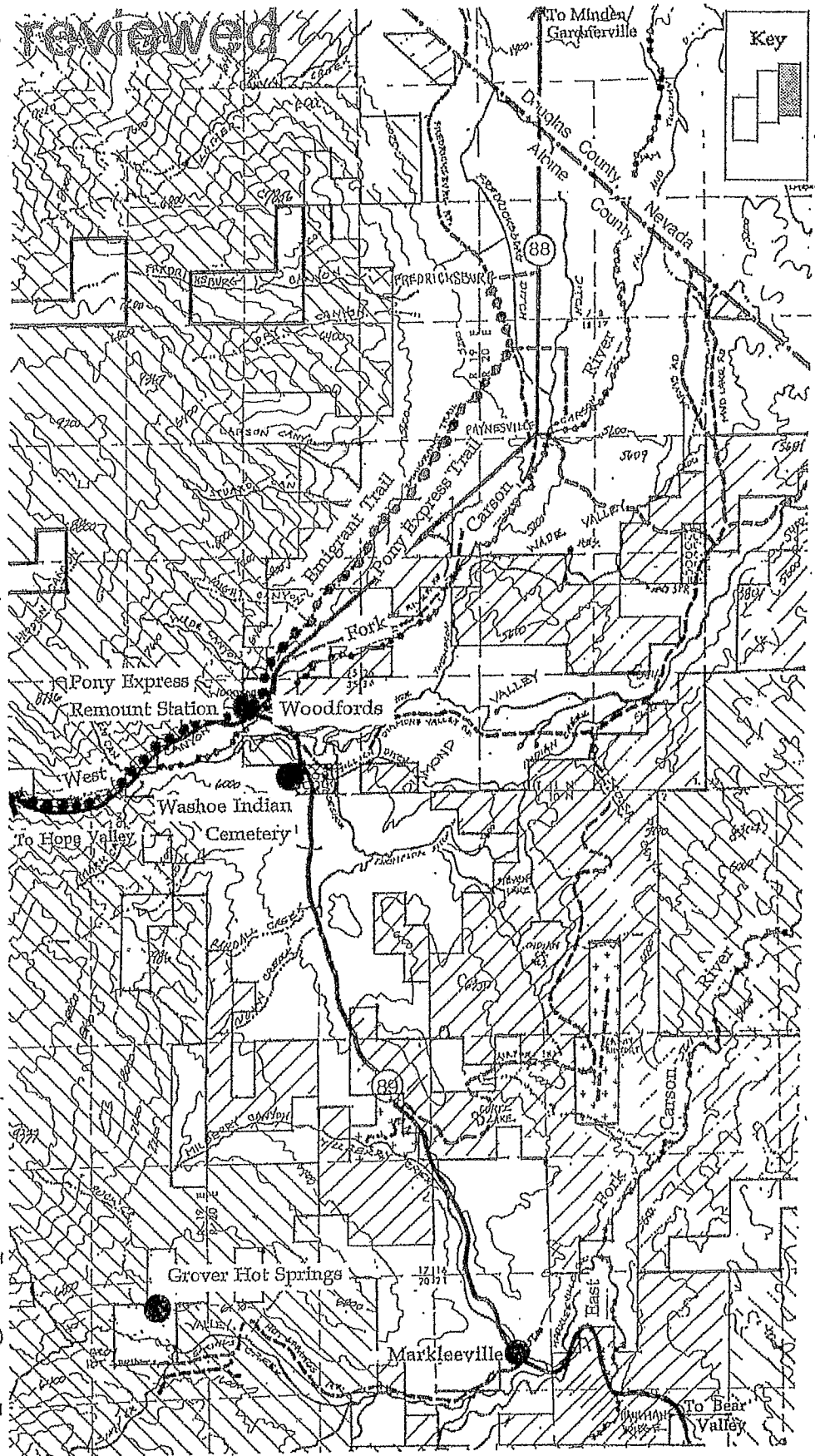


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CULTURAL/NATURAL RESOURCES

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup 1988 Lake Tahoe, Nevada

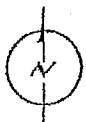


LEGEND

- Highway
- County Road

- USFS Land
- Study Lands
- Historical Site

NO SCALE



Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Recreation

- ▼ Existing
Recreation
- ▼ Future
Recreation

Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

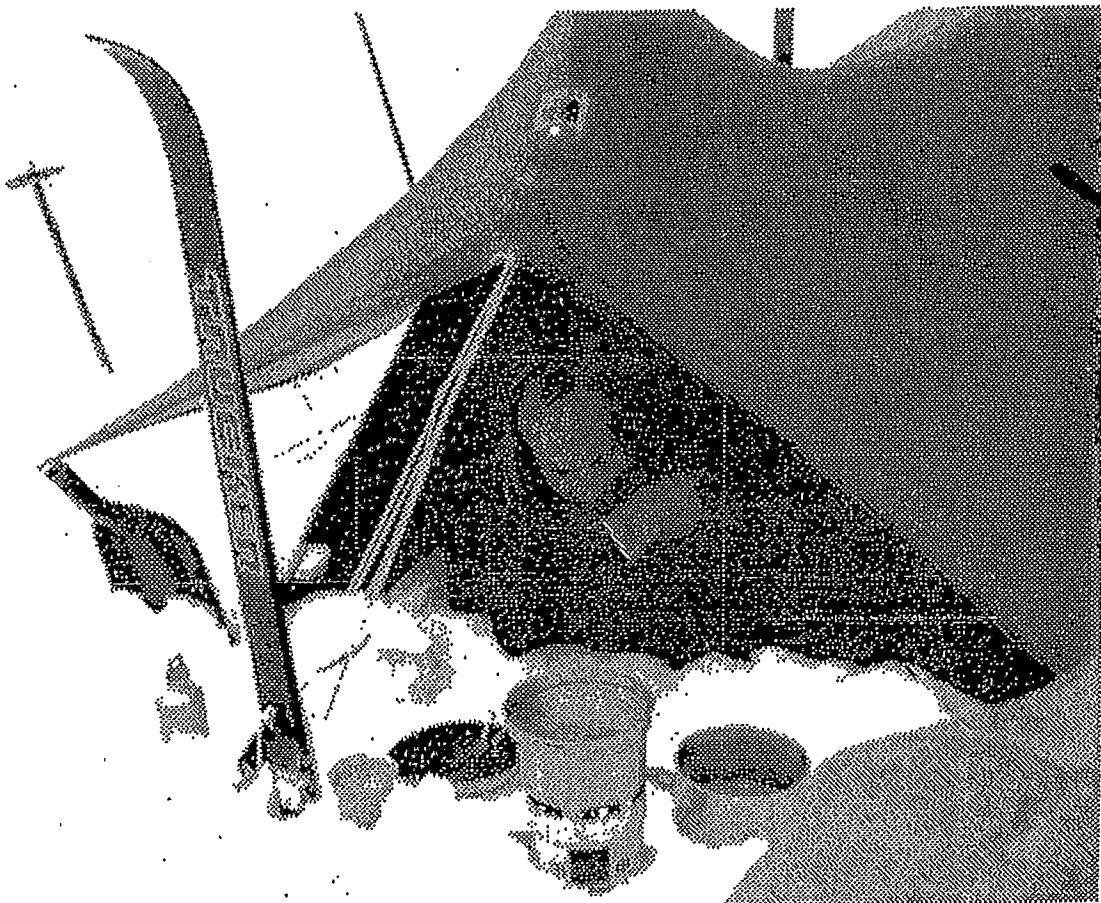
▲ Existing Recreation

Existing Recreation
Opportunities
Recreational Providers
Users
Visitation

RECREATION ▼

Alpine County represents a great opportunity for outdoor recreation. The wealth of its natural resources includes rugged mountains, picturesque valleys, free flowing streams, varied habitats and abundant wildlife. These resources appeal to a wide variety of travelers looking for a place to get away. The study area, the corridor surrounding Hope Valley stretching from Kirkwood to Markleeville, offers all of these resources and, in addition, a stunning beauty. As a result of this combination of scenery, activities and accessibility, the area enjoys a growing reputation as a vacation spot.

This chapter will describe the existing recreational activities, typical visitors, and recreation providers and support facilities in the area, as well as describe the planned future for recreation. The last portion of the chapter will address economic impacts and benefits from increased recreation and tourism.



EXISTING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ▼

Recreation in Hope Valley is based on the diversity of natural resources present. Situated in the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada, the landscape presents a seemingly endless array of mountains and narrow canyons that open into grass covered valleys. Numerous small streams feed into mountain lakes and reservoirs, as well as the West Fork of the Carson River. Recreational potential abounds in this setting. The following paragraphs describe existing recreational uses in the areas.

Summer:

Hiking. Many hiking trails exist in the area and pass through meadows, high, treeless plateaus, dense forest and riparian areas. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is perhaps the best known and crosses the area at Carson Pass. Trails in the northern study area access Horsethief Canyon, Horse Meadow, Pickett Peak, and Stevens Peak. From the Carson Pass area, trails reach Meise Meadows, Red Lake Peak, Elephants Back, Round Top and The Sisters. Lakes along these trails include Meise, Frog, Winnemucca, Woods and Round Top. In addition, the Mokelumne Wilderness Area sits just south of Caples Lake and provides hiking and primitive camping opportunities.

Camping. Camping opportunities in the area include developed tent and RV campgrounds, undeveloped sites where camping is allowed, and primitive backcountry camping. The campgrounds operated by the USFS include Hope Valley Campground, Kit Carson and Snowshoe Springs campgrounds, and the Woods Lake and Caples Lake campgrounds. The State of California operates a campground at Grover Hot Springs State Park; the county campground is located at Turtle Rock County Park. Two popular undesignated camping areas are located at Picketts Junction and along the Blue Lakes Road. Backcountry camping can occur in all US Forest Lands, however, popular spots exist around most lakes in the Carson Pass area.

Fishing. The West Fork of the Carson River is a popular fishing area. However, in Hope Valley itself, overgrazing by private landowners has reduced the fisheries habitat quality in the river. Currently, Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout are found. In addition to the river, many area lakes provide fishing opportunities. Of these Caples Lake is the largest and most accessible.

OHV. Past human activities in the area such as logging, mining, and ranching left many unimproved roads. Jeep trails and 4-wheel drive trails provide vehicle access to such areas as Blue Lakes, Burnside Lake, and Scotts Lake. Motorized vehicles are not permitted off established dirt roads on any public lands.

Mountain Biking. This relatively new activity is rapidly growing in popularity throughout the West and certainly within the study area. Three years ago, mountain bikes were unknown in Hope Valley; this year all area trails have experienced mountain bike use. Currently, several trails are off-limits for this use. These include all trails within the state park, the Pacific Crest Trail, the historic Emigrant Trail, and all wilderness trails.

Equestrian. Horseback riding in Hope Valley has enjoyed a long history. The Emigrant Trail and a Pony Express Trail route both crossed through the area and ranching-related horse use continues today. Much of the existing recreational use consists of horse owners trailering in their animals for day or week long rides into the surrounding backcountry lakes. Few adequate trailhead facilities currently exist to serve these users. Guided trail rides available at the Kirkwood Stables help to diminish trail use conflicts such as equestrians and vehicles using the same trail. (See the following discussion for more information about Kirkwood Stables.)

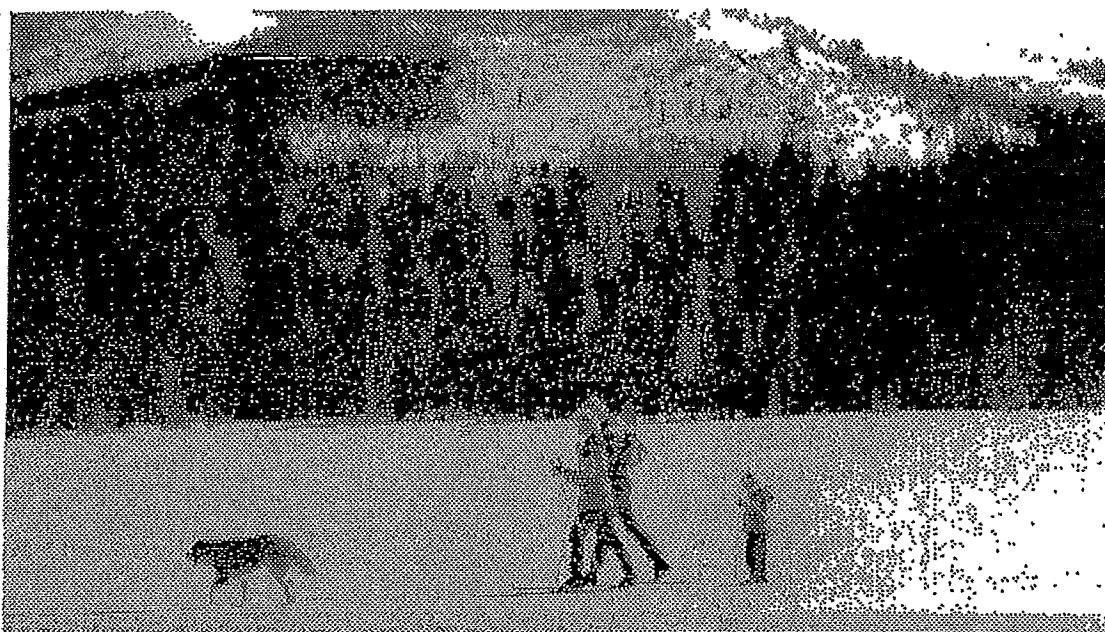
Miscellaneous. Many other outdoor activities occur during the moderate weather months within the study area. These include picnicking, hunting, mountain climbing, nature study, photography, bicycling (along paved roads), swimming and wading (in natural streams, lakes, and hot springs), and boating (at Caples Lake). In addition, area resorts offer more developed activities such as tennis, nature-oriented classes, swimming, and hot tubs. Llama pack trips and river rafting (on the East Fork of the Carson) can be experienced through special arrangements with Sorensens, Kirkwood, or the Woodfords Inn.

The study area is also used during the year for numerous training seminars and workshops for Federal, State, Regional, and Local Search and Rescue Teams.

Winter:

Alpine Skiing. At the south and west edge of the study area, Kirkwood offers a fully developed downhill ski resort. Although a portion of this resort sits outside of Alpine County, its proximity to Hope Valley adds to the activities diversity in the area. Kirkwood currently offers eleven lifts and 55 ski trails.

Nordic Skiing. The Carson Range, with its high mountains, frequent valleys and



abundant snowfall offers unlimited cross-country and mountaineering ski opportunities. In the study area, Nordic skiing has enjoyed a tremendous growth in popularity during the last ten years. Popular mountaineering destinations include Elephants Back, Round Top, Red Lake Peak and Meise Meadows. Other popular routes include Willow Creek Canyon, Red Lake Creek drainage, and the southern portion of Hope Valley. USFS marked, ungroomed cross-country trails include Winnemucca Lake and Red Lake. In addition, two resort areas mark and groom trails for skiing and (at Kirkwood) for skating. Sorensens maintains 40 km of groomed trails one of which provides access to Burnside Lake. Another 40 km are marked but ungroomed. The Kirkwood Nordic Center maintains 75 km of groomed track with skating lanes.

Snowmobiling. Snowmobiling is another popular winter sport in the area. Snowmobiles can be found on most jeep trails, though by far the heaviest use occurs along a corridor from Hope Valley to Blue Lakes, generally following the Blue Lakes Road. Tahoe Winter Sports grooms snowmobile tracks in this area.

Miscellaneous. Other winter activities in the study area include, snowshoeing, winter camping (developed camping available only at Grover Hot Springs State Park), snow play, ice fishing (at Caples Lake), and swimming (also only at Grover Hot Springs). In addition, Sorensens and Kirkwood offer their visitors special activities such as sledding and sleigh rides.

The terrain and snowpack that is indigenous to the area provides an excellent environment for snow studies, seminars for avalanche awareness, and winter Search and Rescue training.

Special Events: Special events also draw people to this area for outdoor recreation. Races, rodeos, and other celebrations are included in this category. In determining existing recreation, this study considered only annual events. They are:

Tour of the California Alps - The Death Ride: This bicycle ride that is held in July follows a rigorous route up and down the mountain passes of Alpine County. It is considered one of the most outrageous bicycle rides staged on the West Coast.

Canine Connection: This 15 km sled dog race event in Hope Valley occurs every February. A similar race, staged in Truckee, is a large draw for the North Shore of Lake Tahoe and Truckee.

Alpine County Faire: This event is held in Markleeville and Woodfords every August.

Kirkwood Rodeo: A small, one day rodeo held at Kirkwood Stables occurs every summer.



RECREATION PROVIDERS ▼

Within the study area, four public agencies and seven major private groups provide recreational opportunities or recreational support services. This mix of public and private groups helps create the recreational diversity described in the last section. However, with so many players involved, the results sometimes are confusion, duplication of effort (particularly as regards planning and promotion), inadequate resource management, and haphazard rules enforcement. In order to fully understand the existing recreation picture, it is necessary to better understand the recreation providers.

United States Forest Service.

The USFS controls much of the land within the study area. As most of that land falls within the Toiyabe National Forest, the following discussion will assume that jurisdiction. (The El Dorado National Forest boundary crosses at Carson Pass; thus Caples Lake, and the Kirkwood area fall within that Forest. All of the lands under purchase consideration would transfer to the Toiyabe National Forest.)

Unlike other forest areas where logging or other uses predominate, the Toiyabe National Forest is ranked 19th nationally for recreation use. Within the Forest, the Alpine County facilities prove to be very popular, often operating at an occupancy rate twice that recommended to preserve the resource. In the 1986 Toiyabe Land and Resource Management Plan, the Forest Service recognizes recreation's importance and defines the development and management direction for this study area. That direction provides priority for developed and dispersed recreation, as well as wildlife habitat, aesthetics and watershed maintenance.

Within the study area, developed forest service facilities include: 135 summer campsites at the Hope Valley, Kit Carson, Snowshoe Springs, Woods Lake and Caples Lake campgrounds; hiking and jeep trails; and an information station at Carson Pass. In addition, permittees operate Alpine and Nordic ski and snowmobile trails, horse pack trails, campgrounds and the Hope Valley and Caples Lake resorts. Special use permits allow private individuals to operate commercial enterprises on federal lands. Under these permits, private groups invest the needed capital improvements and collect the profits; the USFS can control certain aspects of the operations and receive a portion of the profits as a permit fee. As federal budgets tighten, this sort of public-private partnership will become a more common way to meet the growing recreational demand.

California State Parks.

California State Parks operates the 538 acre Grover Hot Springs State Park. This facility, once a private resort, centers around the naturally occurring hot mineral water piped into a concrete pool. At all times of the year, visitors can swim or soak in the "hot" pool, at 100 F, or in the "cold" pool, at 80 F. A changing room and showers completes the pool facility. By State Park standards, the pool complex is run-down and will receive extensive remodeling when funds become available. Other facilities at this park include: 46 picnic sites (30 of these form the winter campground), 76 summer campground units, a nature hike and trailhead to Burnside Lake, and cross country skiing. (Mountain bike, equestrian and OHV use is prohibited in the park except along one existing dirt road.)

California State Parks also operates a Snow-Park permit facility at Carson Pass. From this parking lot, most of the Carson Pass cross-country ski areas are accessible.

California Fish and Game.

California Fish and Game stocks the West Fork of the Carson River. The Rainbow and Cutthroat are considered good sport and eating fish. Currently, Fish and Game provides no other use facilities.



Alpine County.

Alpine County operates Turtle Rock County Park just outside of Markleeville. The primary activity for recreationists in this park is a 28 unit campground, with eleven spots reserved for summer-long senior visitors. The facility is not available during the winter months.

Woodfords.

In the Woodfords area, Woodfords Inn and Woodfords Station both provide visitor services. Woodfords Inn offers 20 motel rooms, an outdoor hot tub and coordination with Mort's River Rafting trips along the East Carson River. Typical hotel users include hunters, fishers, hikers and vacationers exploring the scenic beauty of Alpine County. At Woodfords Station, a restaurant/deli and general store are available, as well as visitor services such as maps, souvenirs and fishing licenses.

Hope Valley Resort.

The Hope Valley Resort consists of a general store, gas station and restaurant and operates under a special use permit from the USFS. Its major clients are highway travelers and campers at the Kit Carson and Snowshoe Springs campgrounds. This business has struggled over the years under a succession of managers and is currently open only during the summer months. The projected increase in recreational use of the area may indicate a brighter future for this operation.

Sorensens Resort.

Sorensens Resort, located on private property at the edge of Hope Valley itself, is an aggressively growing year-round resort. A full description of this resort can be found in the economic case studies at the end of this chapter. Briefly, Sorensens offers lodging (including group events such as conferences and weddings), food, gift items, special activities such as nature study, hiking trails, and a complete cross-country ski package including groomed and marked trails, equipment rental and lessons. In addition, staff will coordinate such activities as equestrian rides at Kirkwood Stables and llama pack trips.

Caples Lake Resort.

This resort is the only one in the study area with direct access to a lake. As such it offers recreational opportunities unique in the area. These include lake fishing, a small boat ramp, and motor boat and canoe rental. (The 5 mph speed limit

restriction on the lake prohibits larger boats and activities such as water skiing.) In addition, the year-round resort offers lodging in 7 cabins and 6 lodge rooms, a small store, and a renowned restaurant. Typical visitors fall into two groups; those drawn to the area to experience the Sierra outdoors (primarily for fishing, hiking, skiing, and nature study), and those already staying in the area and drawn to the restaurant.

This resort, as with the Hope Valley resort operates with a special use permit from the USFS. The terms of the permit do not allow ski rental or ski lessons, although after a master plan is completed other facility expansion may be possible.

Kirkwood.

Kirkwood resort is a fully developed year-round destination resort. Many of the facilities are located in Almador County, yet this resort has such an impact on outdoor recreation, it will be discussed fully here. Also discussed will be the Kirkwood Nordic Center and the Kirkwood Stables. These groups are not technically a part of the Kirkwood organization though together they form the "Kirkwood Experience."

Kirkwood Meadows offers the full range of recreational activities and visitor support services. In the summer these include: lodging and restaurant facilities (including conference facilities), general store and gift shops, 4 tennis courts, and hiking trails. Visitors also take advantage of nearby public recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming. Alpine skiing is the main winter attraction and the resort offers eleven lifts with 55 ski trails. Ski rental and equipment and clothing purchases are also available.

Kirkwood Nordic Center is the developed Nordic skiing operation in the Carson Pass area. Operated only during the winter, this group has the exclusive permit from the USFS to develop and maintain ski trails as well as to rent and sell equipment. The area offers 75 km of groomed track with skating lanes, warming huts, and a day lodge with equipment sale and rental, and lessons. The nearby Kirkwood Inn offers food service and lodging.

Kirkwood Stables, in operation since 1986, is a relative newcomer in the area. Located on Kirkwood property, a special use permit allows trail rides to take visitors out of the valley and into the El Dorado National Forest. Conditions of the permit allow only guided, hourly or half-day rides. A corral and small office structure are the only on-site facilities required for this operation. Kirkwood Stables has 10-12 rentable horses available, although at any one time, some of these may be rotated out to pasture.

Recreation Users ▼

Recreation Users

People that visit an area to participate in recreational activities often fall into distinct user groups. Member of these groups will share interests, recreational needs, facility development needs, and often travel and spending habits. In the Highway 88 Study, the USFS identified and described typical user groups within the Highway 88 corridor, of which Hope Valley is a part. The following section summarizes information from that study, augmenting it with more specific user information where necessary.

- (1) car campers,
- (2) those with special access needs,
- (3) day users,
- (4) youth groups, and
- (5) resort and cabin renters.

These groupings are based upon social and economic analysis of the management situation, historical and projected trends of user groups, informal interviews with Forest Service recreation management professionals and forest users, oral and written issue statements, newspaper articles, government studies and documents, land use surveys, and census data. These groups are not mutually exclusive; a person may belong to more than one group.

The current situation for each of the groups is described as a way of comparing their impacts.

A social variable is a factor that can be used to measure the social impacts of the various alternatives on different social groups. For example, people within each group may have similar lifestyles, attitudes, beliefs and values which are projected as likes, perceptions, and fears.

Other components of social organization such as community cohesion and stability are also social variables are discussed for each social group. In addition the effects on population in terms of distribution, growth and density is a social variable which is considered.

This study recognizes that characteristics identified for each group are generalizations and, as such, will not be true for everyone in the group.

1. Car Campers

Car campers are overnight visitors who camp in developed campgrounds for periods from one night to two weeks and participate in such daytime activities as relaxing in camp, camp-cooking and barbecuing, fishing, sightseeing, swimming, hiking, and generally enjoying the mountains. (Winter campers are considered in this study but their numbers are relatively few and the focus is on summer users of the study area.) They generally travel and camp with their families and possess strong feelings about family use of the outdoors and natural resource appreciation. They travel predominantly in autos and recreational vehicles and prefer relatively high standard roads for access to campgrounds and other facilities. The vehicles they use for transportation require travel routes that provide easy access.

The majority of campers come from urban Sacramento, Stockton, and San Francisco metropolitan areas. These three areas account for over 80% of the total family and group campground use in the area.

The summer season of car camper use is the school vacation and holiday weekends period. This typically covers the roughly 100-day or three-month period from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. When traveling to the recreational facilities along Highway 88 campers find scenic travel through the area to be an attractive feature of the trip.

Car campers share some common recreational life styles. These consist of a recreational goal, recreational opportunities, special group access, security, and public space for daytime activities.

Their recreational goal revolves around a central theme, which is to travel to the outdoors with family or friends, pitch a tent or level an RV, cook out, fish and hike in an unrestricted, natural forest setting. These visitors travel to the forest to enjoy an outdoor family experience in a rustic setting while taking in the great outdoors. This theme is central to the group's recreation style.

The recreational opportunities of the car camper are centered around the availability and location of campgrounds and campsites with water being a primary attractant. Because of the close proximity of the available campgrounds in the area, heavy use is experienced with crowding occurring approximately 30 to 50 percent of the time during the 100-day high use season. Crowding is indicated by turnaway and near turnaway days.

As a social group, car campers can be easily joined by special groups such as the

poor, disadvantaged, or minorities so long as transportation fees, and fuel prices permit. The special groups find little obstacle to joining the car camper social group to share its associated privileges. Compared with resort rentals, downhill skiing, and recreation residence owning, car camping requires only access to a vehicle, ability to afford some fairly inexpensive equipment, fuel, and modest campground fees.

Security is another recreational life style component for the camper. The group's sense of security can be affected by anxiety, unpredictability, and the "unknown". The primary factor associated with this study, which can influence the group's sense of security, is a lack of opportunity to participate in their form of recreation. This lack of opportunity can be created by the failure to expand the facilities necessary to meet the current and future demands for campgrounds in the area. If competition and crowding is allowed to dramatically increase, opportunities for this group to find a campsite decrease. This reduces their potential for enjoyment and causes anxiety, the unpredictability of finding a place to stay, and a fear of a wasted trip.

The final aspect of car campers recreational life style is their need for public space. It is not sufficient to merely provide this social group with campsites; they also require space for appropriate activities during the day. These activities are primarily water oriented in the Highway 88 area, encompassing such pastimes as fishing, swimming, sunbathing, and boating.

Car campers also share an appreciation for the existence of the National Forests with their varied resources. They appreciate and value the natural environment, its scenic beauty, its wildlife, and its psychological benefits for the general public and most seek to protect it by picking up litter and suppressing forest fires.

2. Special Access Needs

Those with special access needs are individuals who visit the forest and who, because of their age, physical handicap or disability, have restricted access and travel capabilities. These visitors have special requirements for travel and access if they are to share in the enjoyment of the forest. They are generally hindered by rough terrain. In addition, they may have special needs in terms of sleeping quarters, shelter, or other facilities. Not all the individuals who visit the forest are capable of "roughing it" by sleeping on the ground, cooking out, and hiking over rough topography.

Transportation is an important need for this group. The portions of the forest they

are able to visit are generally limited to those areas which they can access by auto or which have smooth flat ground. This precludes their use of the rugged portions of the Highway 88 study area. However, with proper development, much of Hope Valley could be available for these users.

This group often also has special housing needs. They frequently require structures or vehicles with beds or cots for overnight stays. Since they are often not capable of sleeping out on the ground, this social group is usually limited to staying in lodges, organization camps, cabins, or recreational vehicles (RV). If these individuals are to share in the enjoyment of the forest they will usually need developments offering the possibility for these kinds of accommodations.

The best opportunities for a recreational experience for this social group are in the lodges, resorts, and organization camps. However these opportunities are not without their restrictions also. First, there are a limited number of rooms available at the resorts in the area and they are frequently full during peak demand periods. Second, they are relatively more expensive than other forms of camping, etc.

The most accessible overnight recreational opportunity for the visiting handicapped or disabled person is in an affordable RV in one of the campgrounds in the area. These areas, although easily accessible, do not always provide all the facilities and conveniences sometimes required by the disabled. This includes wheelchair routes, dining areas, and suitable restrooms. Campgrounds which have the potential to provide access to the disabled are limited by their relatively rustic nature.

The elderly, handicapped or disabled with special access and travel requirements who visit the study area have some common values about the forest. They appreciate and value the natural environment, its visual beauty, and its psychological benefits. They feel they are equally entitled to enjoy the benefits of the forest as any other member of society. When lack of access restricts their recreational opportunities, they feel single out and ignored. They often share the view that the National Forests should be available for all members of the public. Although they may share many common attitudes and beliefs they do not appear to possess a strong sense of community cohesion.

3. Day Users

Day users are those individuals and families who travel Highway 88 and stop off for the day to swim, picnic, fish, photograph, view wildflowers and scenery, experience the fall colors or other such spring, summer and fall daytime activities. Generally their length of stay in the area is short. The areas they frequent for outdoor

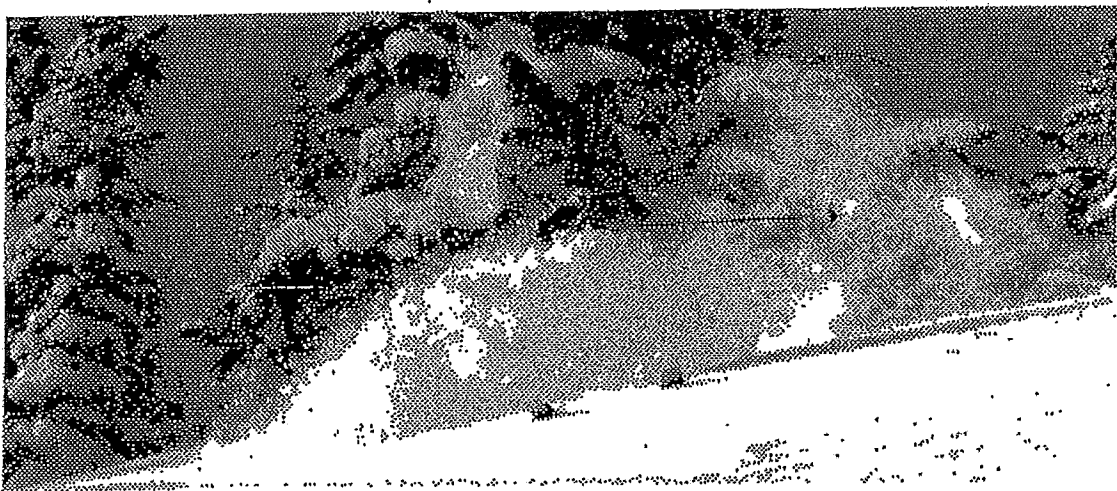
enjoyment are usually adjacent to the highway or short roads just off the highway. They are attracted by vistas and lakeshores. Much of their use is associated with the lakes, streams, and meadows in the area.

They are a diverse group coming from many different backgrounds and origins linked solely by their day use activities and their travel route on Highway 88. Day users in the Hope Valley study area come primarily from three cities or towns: Sacramento, the Tahoe area, and Minden/Gardnerville. All three areas are growing and should contribute an ever increasing number of day users in Hope Valley.

While most day users share with campers, cabin owners and disabled persons a deep respect for a desire to protect the Forest environment, day use area maintenance requirements indicate that a larger minority than in the other groups lack this ethic. Litter and vandalization are constant concerns, especially in dispersed recreation situations where social controls are least evident.

Transportation and access is the most critical need for the day use social group. Highway 88 and its associated side roads provide access for day users to the recreation sites in the area. Once at the day use sites, adequate parking and open, uninhibited access to lakeshore or other recreational areas are important for this group to enjoy the forest.

Access to and day use parking at Kirkwood, Silver Lakes and, to some extent, Caples Lake, is limited by existing recreational residence and organization camp development on National Forest land. The combination of little parking and restricted lakeshore access, both actual and perceived, is a limiting factor for this social group.



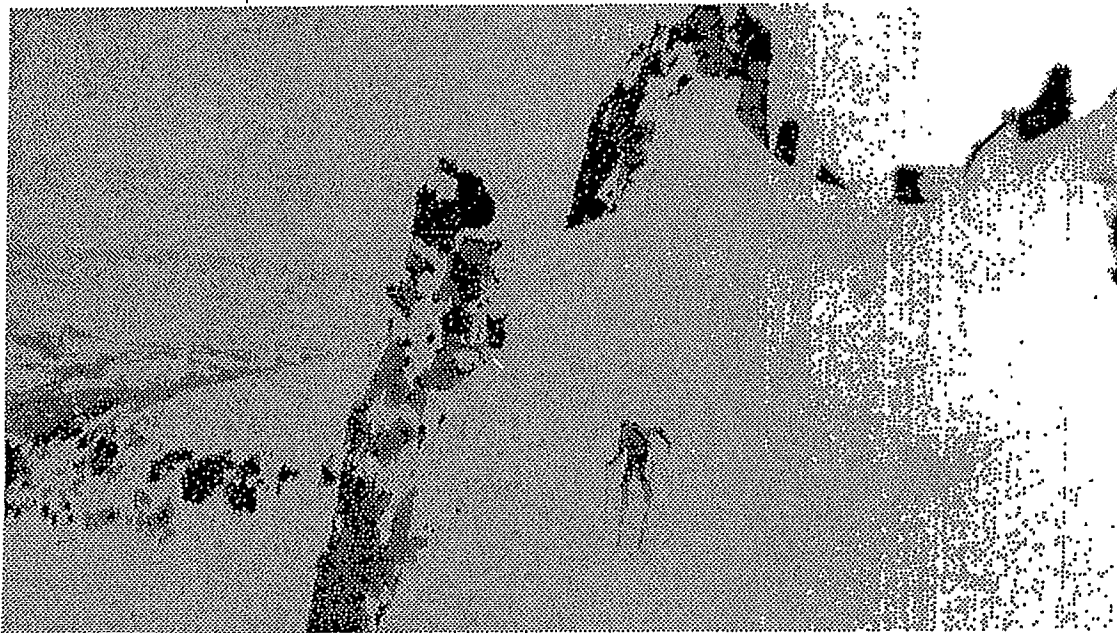
Some of the roads in the area, such as those at Silver Lake, are restrictive to day users, especially those new to the area, due to the presence of the recreational residences along both sides of the road. These roads are perceived as private because of the cabins lining both sides. As such, they are avoided by the day users who fear they are trespassing on someone's land.

In order for the day user social group to fully enjoy the recreational activities available in the study area improved day use access opportunities to the lake fronts, and other areas are needed.

The conflict of popular day use activities may soon become a limiting factor for these uses. As visitation to the area increases, incompatible uses may be forced closer and closer together. The result of this situation may be a degradation in the desirability of the area for the use in question. An example is the inherent conflict between Nordic skiers and snowmobilers. Another potential conflict includes various trail uses such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain bike riding.

4. Youth Groups

The Youth Groups are the organizations such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, Inc., churches, and others. These groups use the out-of-doors as the media whereby youth are taught character-building traits, imbued with organization ethics, and learn outdoor skills and manners. Some of the organization camps bring together



youths that are not bound together by organizationalities at home but the effort is made to develop cohesiveness and cooperation through group activities.

Many of the activities are based on natural history, woodsmanship, and other outdoor recreation activities such as fishing, hiking, overnight camping, boating, and swimming. Other games such as volleyball, and craft programs are often included as well.

Essential to these groups is a base of operations—an organization camp, or a public group camp to which the groups return year after year. Room for each camper to bed down—often in a communal area or dormitory—and a community kitchen are essentials along with extensive areas for daytime activities. In the study area, most groups have need for a waterfront area for boating and swimming activities. In the case of organization camps, these are permanently assigned. Groups using public group camps must use public launching facilities and public beaches, which are in short supply. Without waterfront activities, groups are more limited in activities which can occupy large numbers of youth. Hiking and fishing is usually less enjoyable when the groups are large.

Because the youth groups are organized under trained leaders, their outdoor ethics are usually above average. They spend considerable time “policing” their areas and respect the environment. As with any large group of youngsters there is often a noise problem and it is for this reason that organization and group camps should be located at some distance from other users.

5. Resort and Cabin Renters

The summertime resort and cabin renting social group is usually older and more affluent than the camper group. Their children often have left the nest and they can afford to spend a little more for their trip to the mountains and enjoy the luxury of a bed and prepared meals. They spend their time in the same daytime activities as the campers—boating, fishing, nature walks, sun-bathing—but without the chores of cooking, fire-building, and camp-tending.

In the study area, many of the cabin renters are former campers. They learned of the area in years past while camping; fell in love with the area and now return in “style”. Others may have had former friends who were summer cabin owners but have since sold their cabin. They came to enjoy visits with their friends and now continue their trips to the mountains by staying in one of the resorts. A few are younger affluent couples who found the area by skiing at Kirkwood and return in the summer to stay for a weekend.

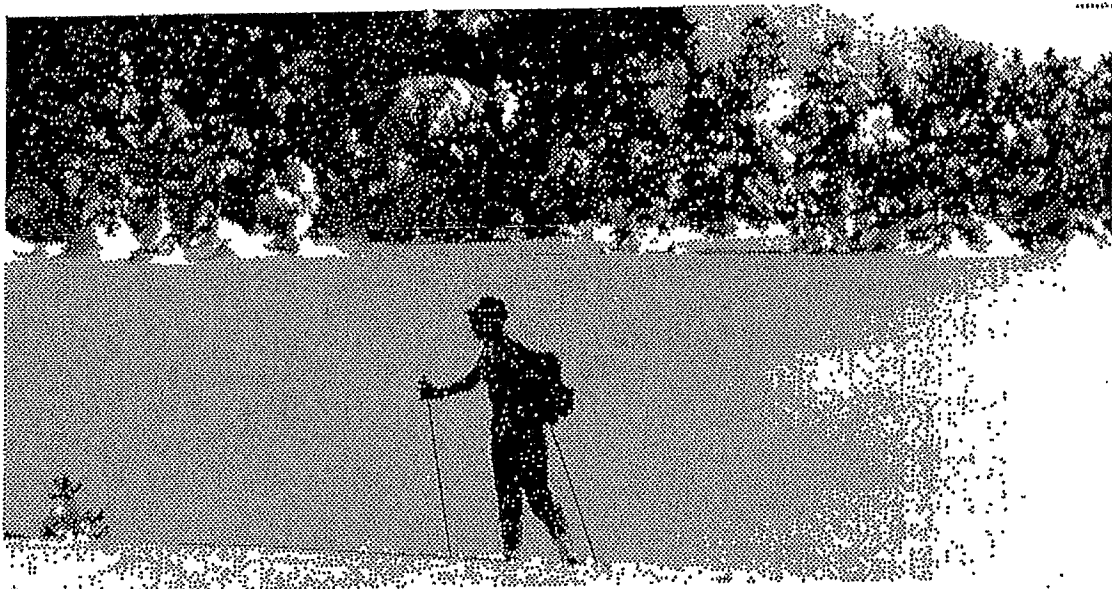
Some of this group have family and friends who never learned to enjoy "roughing it" in a tent and so, to still enjoy the environment and their friendship, come to the mountains with friends and stay in rented quarters.

The primary constraint on this social group is the limit on the number of first-rate, lake basin, rental cabins. The finer resorts are often booked a year in advance on popular weekends.

RECREATION VISITATION ▼

The user groups described above combine each year to make up the total visitation. It is vital in planning for the future to understand the existing recreational use pattern. Unfortunately, very little statistically accurate data exists from which to determine visitation. For purposes of this study, all recreational and support services providers in the area were interviewed and their visitation estimates recorded. The following section provides these visitation figures. However, several important factors must be explained before these figures take on meaning.

First, recreational use in Hope Valley is very seasonal in nature. A minimum number of users will remain constant throughout the year, with large peaks during the summer months and the core winter months when the snow is plentiful. The yearly visitation figures provided here do not acknowledge this trend and should not be used to predict use at any given time.



Secondly, a typical visitor will participate in a variety of activities while in the study area. Thus, the same visitor may be counted by several groups reporting visitation. For example, an overnight guest at the Woodfords Inn may hike or fish during the day, eat a meal at Sorensens, and end the day at Grover Hot Springs. Thus, this same person may be counted by the USFS, Sorensens and the State Park. As a result of this, the following numbers cannot be simply added together to produce an area-wide visitation figure. On-site surveys, outside the scope of this study, could provide this valuable information.

Lastly, and most important, visitation statistics can be collected in a variety of ways; all of which may be accurate enough for the intended purpose, yet can all skew the data, making comparisons between groups akin to comparing apples and oranges. None of the groups in this study count each person participating in an activity. Generally, the resorts derive visitation from their room occupancy rate and restaurant receipts. The State Park system counts tickets sold for the hot springs precisely, and does not count cross country skiers at all. The USFS method provides a good illustration of the difficulty in manipulating visitation numbers.

The USFS uses a unit of measure called a Recreation Visitor Day (RVD) to count visitation. An RVD is based on an individual stay of 12 hours. Thus, the same 100 people participating in two different activities, one with an average stay of 4 hours, one with an average of 12 hours, will be counted as 25 RVD's and 100 RVD's



respectively. This method may suit USFS planning purposes, yet under counts participants in most short-time day use activities.

Whatever the inaccuracies, the following visitation figures do provide an overview of recreational use. Of the numbers reported, the USFS statistics more fairly represent an overall use figure. This is true because so much of the study area is USFS land and most visitors to the area participate in activities in the forest at some point of their stay.

USFS

1. Camping, developed	63,400 RVD's
dispersed	85,000 RVD's
2. Fishing	10,000 RVD's (includes all area streams and lakes)
3. Hunting	3,800 RVD's (none of this use occurs in Hope Valley itself)
4. Cross country skiing	3,500 RVD's
5. Snowmobiling	3,000 RVD's

*Based on the above discussion of RVD's, the above figures for camping probably better represent the number of people involved. The estimates for the other uses undercount. For example, the average stay for cross country skiers calculated in the RVD formula is 4 hours, thus the true visitation for that use may reach 8,000 people.

California Fish and Game

1. Fishing	10,800 users (includes fishing in Hope Valley portion of the West Carson River)
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California State Parks

1. Day use	75,352 visitors (includes all activities except the campground)
2. Camping	28,780
3. Snow-Park	Not available

Alpine County

1. Camping	Not available
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Woodfords

No specific visitation information was collected for the Woodfords area. However, the 1987 fire in the area will impact visitation in the future. One USFS Study (Methods for Assessing the Impact of Fire on Forest Recreation) shows preference for recreation in an area significantly declines after a major fire. Thus, the ability of the forest to regenerate will impact the contribution of the Woodfords area to overall recreation.

Hope Valley Resort

Due to frequent ownership change, no reliable visitation figures are available.

Sorensens Resort

1. Lodging	23,000 visitors
2. Store/Day Use	7,500
3. Other Day Use (hiking, restaurant)	15,000

Caples Lake Resort

1. Lodging	4,500 visitors
2. Store/Day Use	13,500
3. Boat Rental	3,100
4. Restaurant	11,500

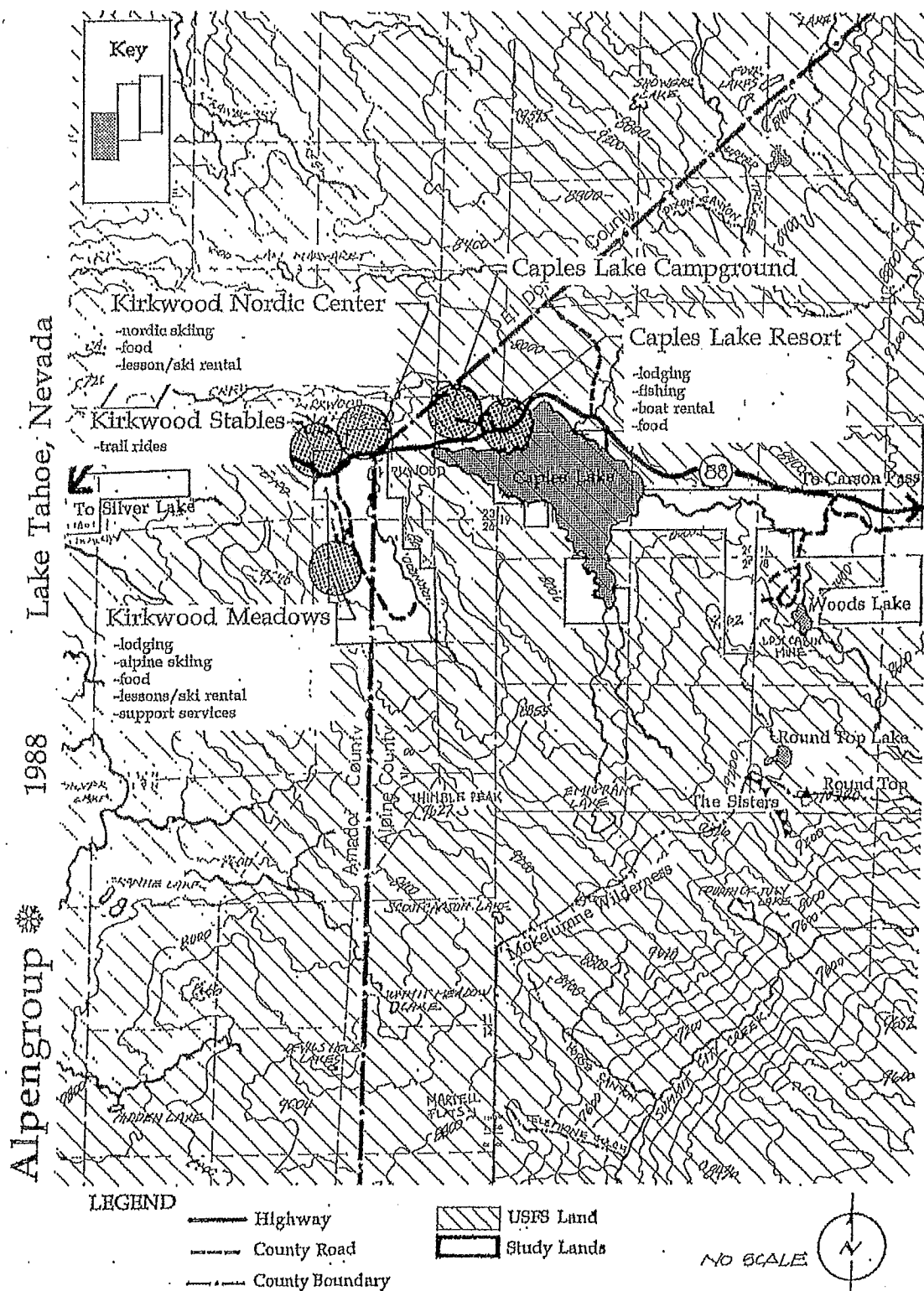
Kirkwood*

1. All Summer Use	10,700 guests
2. Winter: Alpine Skiing	380,000 skier visits
Nordic Skiing	10,000 skier visits

*Includes Kirkwood Meadows, Kirkwood Stables, and Kirkwood Nordic Center.

EXISTING RECREATION

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study



Needs to be reviewed

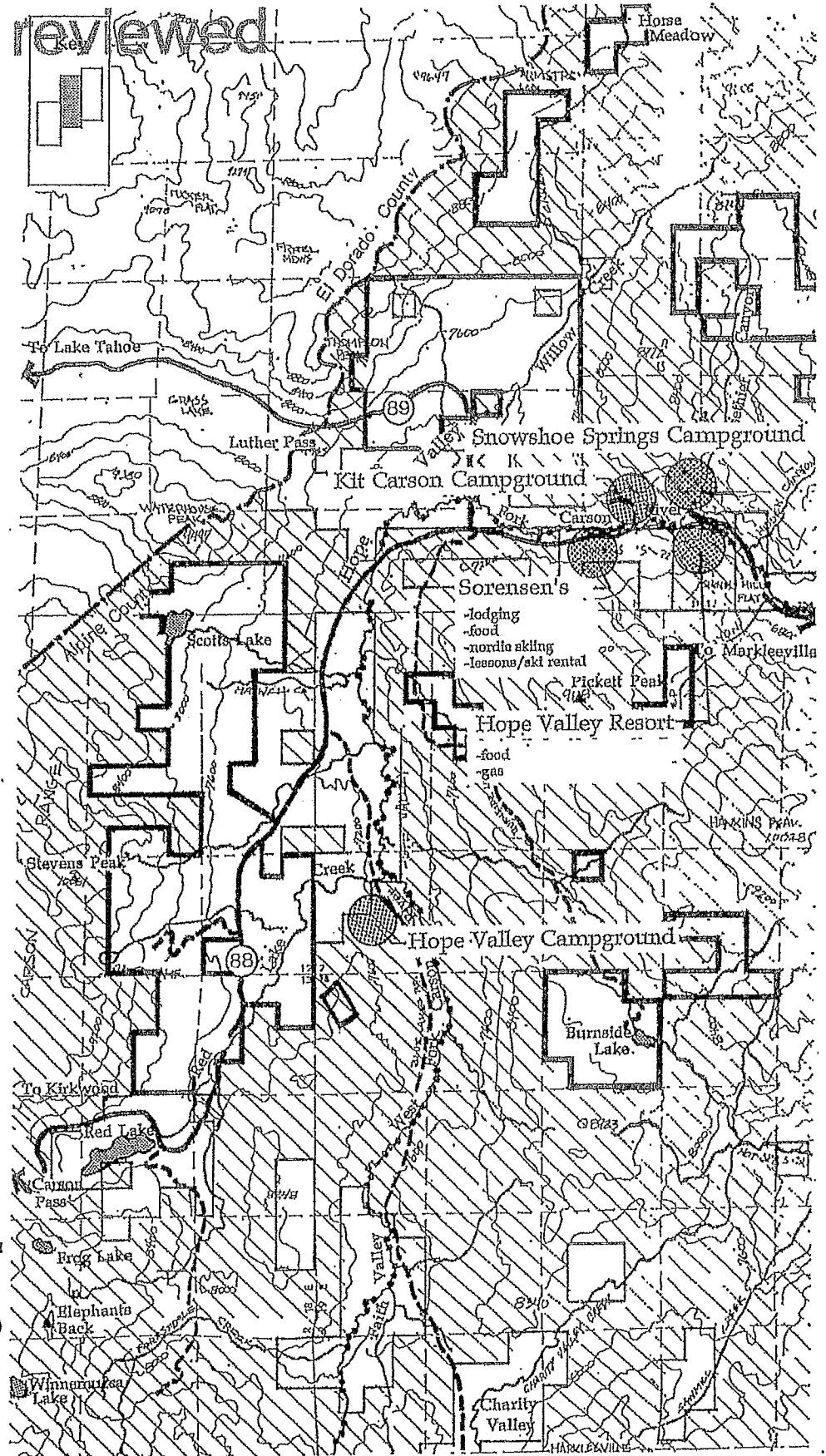
EXISTING RECREATION

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup

1988

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

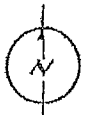


LEGEND

- Highway
- - - County Road
- - - County Boundary

- USFS Land
- Study Lands

NO SCALE

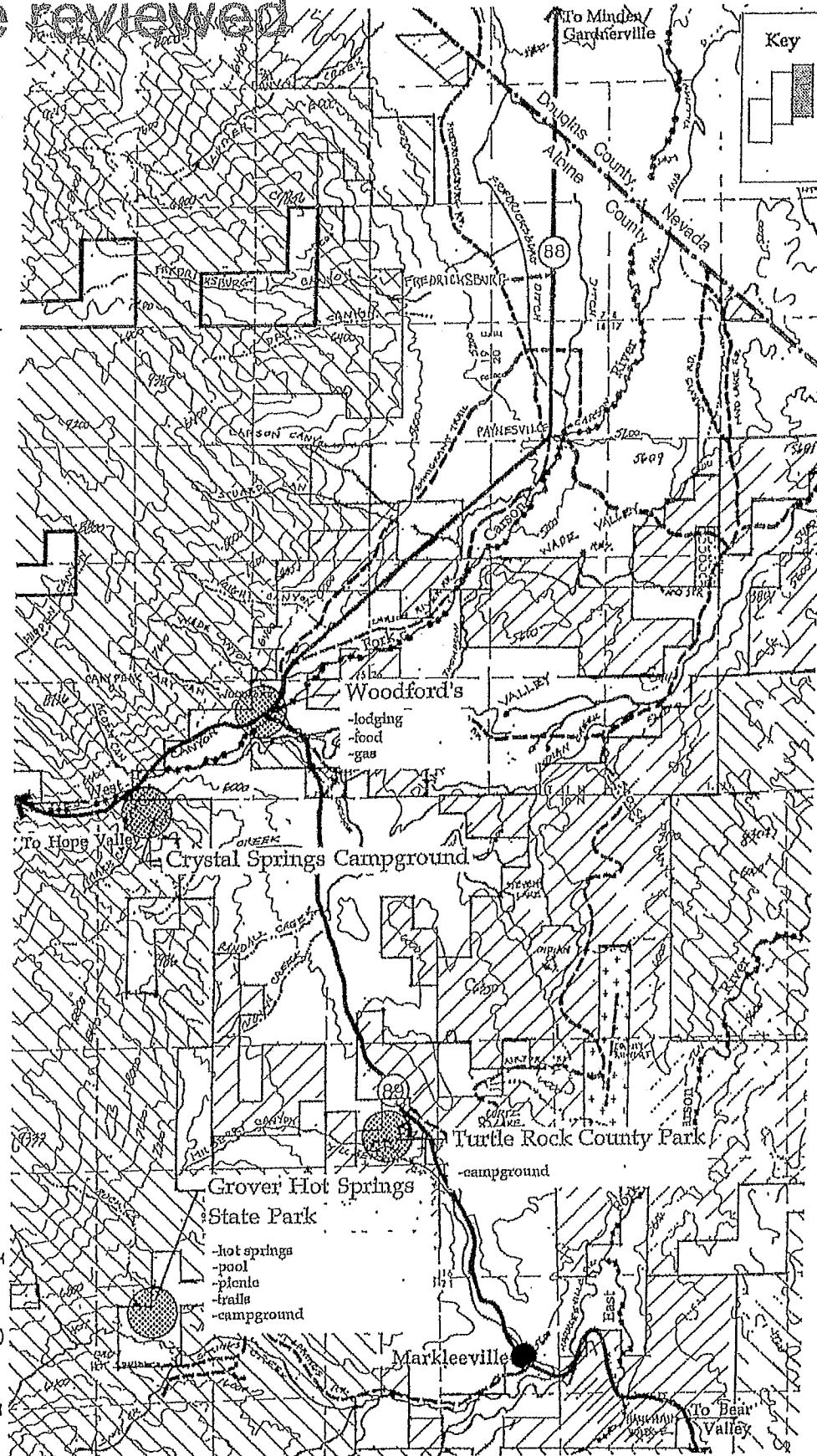


Needs to be reviewed

EXISTING RECREATION

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup 1988 Lake Tahoe, Nevada



Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Future Recreation

Planned Recreation
Study Recommendations

Future Planned Recreation ▼

The future recreation in the study area shows an increase in the number of participants and in the variety of activities offered. Several sources help identify this trend. First, the 1988 Toiyabe Forest Plan states the major users of the Northern Sierra forests originate from central California, the San Francisco Bay area, Reno, and Carson City. Census data shows these areas growing in population. Smaller communities closer to the study area such as Lake Tahoe, Minden/Gardnerville and Jackson are also growing rapidly. All these communities will contribute an ever-growing number of recreationists to the Hope Valley area.

Secondly, all recreational providers interviewed for this study have witnessed a recreation growth trend. Estimates of increased use in the area in the past five years ranged from 25% to 75% for some activities. Several government studies support this trend. For example, California State Parks, in their study The Recreation and Leisure Industry's Contribution to California's Economy, identified the projected growth* of the following high-expenditure, rapid-growth recreational activities:

- Snow skiing (49% growth)
- Visiting scenic area (35%)
- Fishing (32%)
- Hiking and backpacking (32%)
- Nature appreciation (31%)

*Projected growth between 1980-2000

The USFS Highway 88 Future Recreation Use Determination study also supports the recreational growth trend in the area. This study recorded a steady growth in campground use between 1976 and 1980. By 1980, the campgrounds considered by the study were so popular, crowding became a limiting factor and use dropped off.

The increase in available recreational activities will also occur. For example, the National Outdoor Recreational Bicycle Association (NORBA) estimates the amount of mountain bike use in the Northern Sierra has doubled each of the last three years. Following this trend, several of the recreational providers interviewed intend to soon start renting mountain bikes for visitor use.

Another example is equestrian riding. Already a popular activity for those who own horses, Kirkwood Stables has seen its trail ride visitation more than double in 1988. This organization hopes to expand its operation into Hope Valley to meet the growing recreational use demand.

For a better picture of the recreation future in the study area, the following section describes each organization's development/expansion plans.

United States Forest Service

The proposed land acquisition presented in this study will most impact the USFS and the California Fish and Game's future plans. How either of these agencies may develop this land is uncertain at this time and will remain so until the land transfer and subsequent master planning effort is complete. This study presents a possible development scenario for those lands in the next section. However, the newly completed Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan provides policy direction and specific implementation steps for the current USFS lands.

The study area is included in the USFS Management Area #3. This area encompasses 114,600 acres of USFS land in Alpine County as well as the Mokelumne and Carson-Iceberg wildernesses. Management direction prescribes maintaining or enhancing the area's dispersed and developed recreational opportunities. In addition, visual quality, habitat and watershed protection are plan goals. Specific plan recommendations are:

1. **Camping:** Reconstruct Hope Valley Campground; build a new 120 - site campground in Faith Valley. Also, provide health and sanitation facilities along the Blue Lakes Road to enhance winter recreational opportunities.
2. **ORV:** Continually analyze ORV use to assure protection of natural values and to enhance dispersed recreational opportunities. Also, maintain road closures to resolve conflicts between snowmobilers and cross-country skiers and to protect the resource.
3. **Lands:** Promote protection of Hope Valley through local zoning or acquisition. In addition, complete the land trade with California State Parks at Grover Hot Springs.
4. **Range:** Promote continuance of private land grazing permits in Hope Valley.
5. **Planning:** Assist Alpine County in maintaining or improving its tax base through the land exchange program.

6. **Facilities:** Improve the Blue Lakes Road.

7. **Protection:** Practice an aggressive fire management program to protect watershed values and private land below Forest lands along the Woodford's face.

The El Dorado National Forest may consider a slightly different set of criteria for determining future recreation. Mountain lakes such as Caples Lake and Woods Lake provide a significant recreational feature in this Forest. These lakes and shoreline facilities are currently approaching capacity. Thus, any expansion plans must show ways to mitigate impacts on these resources.

California Fish and Game

Currently, this organization has no facilities in Hope Valley. Annually, they stock the West Fork of the Carson River. This helps enhance the fishing potential of this stream. With completion of the proposed land transfer, Fish and Game could own and manage 25-50% of the acres involved. Habitat restoration will be the prime goal for these lands, yet user facilities may also be required. Specific facility recommendations for this area are included in the following section.

California State Parks

The master plan for Grover Hot Springs State Parks dates to 1956. A major plan update required to evaluate the need for new or expanded facilities may be 5 to 10 years away. Thus, only renovation work is expected to occur before that time. Park staff recognize the need for extensive renovation of the pool complex to bring it up to state standards. Included in this may be: rebuilding the hot pool and the showers/changing room building, and restoring the landscaping.

Alpine County

No plans currently exist to change or increase the capacity at the Turtle Rock County Park campground.

Woodfords

The future of recreation in the Woodford's area is tied directly to the ability of this area to regenerate after the disastrous 1987 fire. Several studies evaluating the attractiveness of recreation areas after fire show a much higher preference rating in areas that quickly recovered. In this case, the combination of the very hot fire that burned seed cones and soil organic matter, and the on-going two-year drought may

significantly slow that regrowth period. For the existing businesses, this may mean not planning for expansion. Neither the Woodford's Inn or the Woodford's Station currently have firm expansion plans. This may also deter new businesses from getting started.

Hope Valley Resort

The current owners of this resort took over management in August, 1988. Thus, future plans are unknown at the time of this study. Also, no master plan exists for this facility.

Sorensens Resort

Sorensens expansion plans are discussed fully in the Economics of Recreation section in this chapter. Briefly, this resort intends to expand most existing aspects of the operation, and add new ones. The major expansion element includes developing a lodge complete with guest rooms, a full restaurant, gift shop, and recreational equipment rental and sale. New activities will include a mountain bike program, a hostel-style dormitory, and a spa/sauna facility.

Caples Lake Resort

Caples Lake Resort operates under a special use permit from the USFS. The management intends to develop the property into a small, top-notch resort. Although a long-range plan has not been completed, some elements crucial to this goal have been identified. These include expanding lodging facilities, and the marina, as well as offering new activities such as organized recreational programs and conference facilities. As noted above, expansion that results in increased use of the lake should present mitigation measures.

Kirkwood

Kirkwood Ski Resort plans to strengthen its positioning as a year-round resort, as well as expand its winter-time activities. The 1973 Kirkwood EIS showed the resort at buildout housing 6,500 PAOT (people at one time) in the winter, and 2,200 PAOT in the summer. (1987 data shows existing sleeping capacity is 1,684.) These figures are considered the carrying capacity for the area.

Specifically, Kirkwood plans to build additional tennis courts, a swim/recreational complex, more lodging/living units, new chair lifts that open new terrain, and a new ski base serving facilities such as food and beverage areas. In addition, the

resort plans to organize and offer family and individual recreational programs. These could include mountain bike facilities, and organized backpacking, horsepacking and tennis programs. Additional conference facilities are also planned. These plans will expand the yearly summer visitation from 10,000 to 100,000 guests and winter use from 380,000 to 450,000 skier visits.

Kirkwood Stables plans expansion in several ways. This program hopes to increase the duration, routes and types of rides it can offer. This will include longer rides that travel to a wider variety of destinations. Pack trips that deliver campers into the backcountry, and guided overnights may also be included. Kirkwood Stables could also organize special event rides such as trailing the historic Emigrant Trail. With this program, visitation could increase fourfold.

The Kirkwood Nordic Center operates with a special use permit from the USFS until the year 2002. Under that permit, ski trail and base facility expansion could occur. Summer use of the facility to offer activities such as mountain bike rental must mitigate impacts on other resources as explained above. Expansion in existing winter-time special events such as races and volksski (group ski) represents one possible expansion technique.

Study

Recommendations ▼

Hope Valley is a place of great natural beauty and recreational potential. The increasing number of visitors and the growing number of recreational and service providers combine to insure its continued popularity. Hope Valley and the area around it are also sensitive natural habitats and vulnerable to disturbance and degradation. Thus, recreational use must be carefully planned and monitored.

After completion of the land transfer process, the USFS and the California Department of Fish and Game will complete a joint management and master plan for Hope Valley. Many other groups should be involved in the planning process, helping to set plan goals, recreation policy, and program recreational facilities. These groups include Alpine County, Friends of Hope Valley, the Chamber of Commerce, and other interest groups such as National Outdoor Recreation Bike Association (NORBA) and other recreational associations.

As a result of the research necessary for this study, Alpengroup has gained insight into this issue. Through numerous interviews, document research, and a look at other groups future plans, this study can identify some features necessary to fulfill the recreation potential of the area. The following section describes Alpengroup's study recommendations beginning with a concept for the area, and including recommended use policies, facility development and phasing.

Plan Concept:

The Hope Valley area's greatest asset to its visitors is its natural beauty. It offers an important experience in our modern, hectic lifestyle: getting away from the crowds, experiencing a natural setting and taking part in vigorous, healthful activities. Future uses should encourage dispersed activities that allow appreciation of the natural environment. Where visitors must congregate, facilities should be screened or hidden from the road and major trails. Short duration, special uses should focus attention on the area's natural or historic resources.

The following uses could be developed to implement that plan concept.

Summer:

Many users interested in a variety of activities could be accommodated in the area. However, conflicts between uses and with the natural environment could develop; thus, crucial to all uses should be a developed, organized approach to interpretation. Interpretive display boards at all trailheads and parking areas should include information about natural resources and how to use the area wisely. As often as possible, trail uses should be professionally guided or managed to decrease improper use.

Camping. The area's campgrounds currently experience overcrowding, indicating a need for increased units. The natural resources could accommodate additional over-night use if properly developed and managed. This study recommends moving the undeveloped Picketts Junction camping area further up the road to Burnside Lake. This campground should remain small with the units spread into the trees. No group units should be developed here.

Along the Blue Lakes Road, more camping units should be developed. A total of 120 campsites should be available to accommodate a variety of users. The site plan could show three campground areas; one designated for traditional family camping, one for small to medium sized groups, and one to serve as an equestrian pack station/trailhead. The latter would meet the need of current users who trailer their horses to the area to ride, as well as provide a base facility for pack trips and trail rides into the back country around Hope Valley. During the winter, some or all of these units could accommodate snowmobilers, skiers, or other winter campers using the area.

This study encourages the USFS to develop this facility as a joint public-private operation. This will not only ensure more timely completion, but will help the short-staffed public agency with enforcement and interpretation duties in the area.

Hiking. Hiking trails should be developed from the campgrounds and picnic areas described. These could connect to existing, long-distance trails such as the Pacific Crest Trail. They should also provide shorter loops, preferably accessing the river with interpretive information concerning the habitat restoration process. Some should also take into account the needs of special access groups such as the handicapped or elderly.

Fishing. With habitat restoration, this activity should greatly increase in Hope Valley. Special consideration must be given to visitor access when developing the restoration program. This may require public access restrictions until the vegetation gets established, yet long-term restrictions will discourage use and may be hard to enforce. The visual character of any required fencing should also be considered; fences lining the river for any great distance would detract from the existing scenic quality of the valley.

This study proposes two primary visitor access treatments for fishermen.. The first would accommodate all overnight visitors in the valley. These would include designated pedestrian access points from campgrounds or lodges through any fences to stable stream banks. The second access type would provide off-road parking, limited picnic facilities and fish cleaning areas. Care should be given to locating such parking areas to limit their visual impact. Interpretive information about habitat restoration should be located in these areas.

Picnicking. In addition to the picnic facilities provided above, designated hike-in picnic areas should be located. These areas should be within two miles of a trailhead and provide a view of the valley. Pack-it-in, pack-it-out signs should be located at the designated trailheads.

Mountain Biking. As this sport grows in popularity, the USFS will need to develop a policy concerning trail use. This study recommends encouraging mountain bike use of existing developed dirt roads. In addition, all hiking trails should be evaluated to allow this use on those trails stable enough to accommodate it. All steep, highly erodible trails should be considered inappropriate for mountain bike use. New trails could be built to provide linkages and more challenging rides. Private groups such as Sorensen's or Kirkwood could spearhead this effort.

Equestrian. A trailhead and pack-station facility would provide access to a historic and appropriate trail use in Hope Valley. This facility is described above.

Other Uses. A developed citizen information campaign should highlight other dispersed activities in the area such as primitive camping and mountain climbing.

Winter:

Snowmobiling. Snowmobiling should continue to be encouraged along the Blue Lakes Road. The campground described above will facilitate this use.

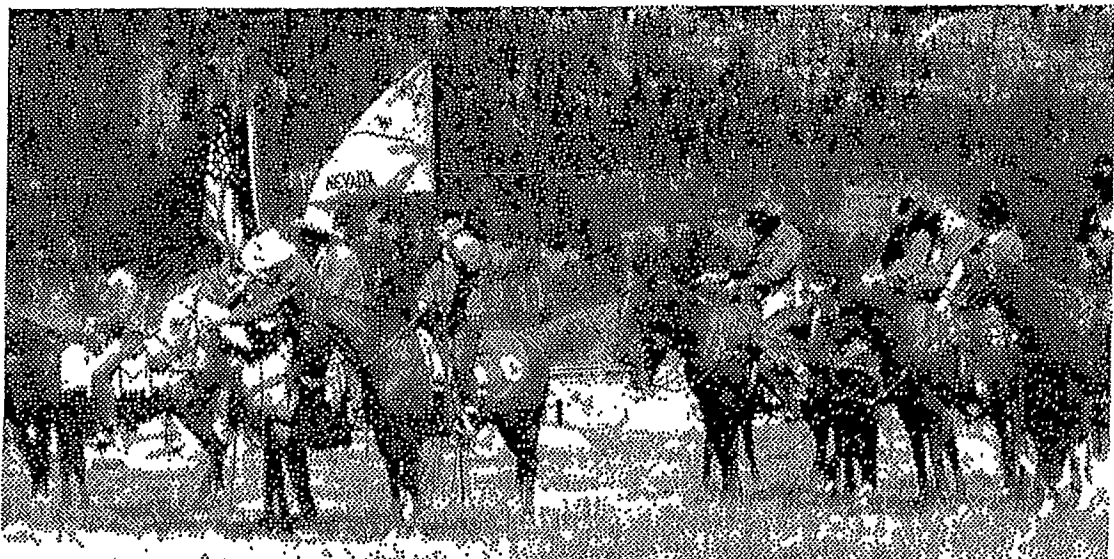
Continued education should aim towards reducing conflicts with cross-country skiers. Snowmobiles should be excluded from the north and west side of Highway 88.

Cross-Country Skiing. Hope Valley should become a destination for cross-country skiers. A trail system with groomed and marked trails should ring the Valley, with special emphasis on the north and west side of Highway 88. Cross-country skiing should be discouraged along the Blue Lakes Road to decrease conflicts with snowmobilers. Longer trail connections could be made from the Valley to Freel Peak and Grass Lake.

Snow-Park. A snow-park facility should be located in Hope Valley. This parking lot, ideally a winter-time use of a summer-time picnic area, should sit at the edge of the open space to reduce its visual impact. Snow-park users could access the ski trails described above.

Special Uses:

Special uses could occur in the Valley. Criteria should be established so that these uses would not conflict with the overall plan concept. They should be occasional, short in duration and highlight a natural or historical area feature. These could include: Pony Express or Emigrant Trail equestrian rides with overnights in the valley; a small rodeo, similar to the present Kirkwood rodeo; fishing derbies; ski races; a winter carnival built around snowplay; and sleigh rides. As with other facility location, environmental impacts of these uses must be considered so that degradation does not occur.



The diagram illustrates the experimental setup. A participant is seated at a table, looking at a monitor. On the table is a video screen showing a person performing a task. The participant wears a head-mounted display (HMD) and a data glove. The entire setup is connected to a computer system, which is also linked to a video camera. The video camera is positioned to capture the participant's movements and the task being performed. The computer system is used to control the video screen and the data glove. The video screen displays the video of the person performing the task, which is captured by the video camera. The data glove is used to interact with the video screen. The participant's movements are tracked by the data glove and the video camera. The computer system processes the data and controls the video screen and the data glove. The video screen displays the video of the person performing the task, which is captured by the video camera. The data glove is used to interact with the video screen. The participant's movements are tracked by the data glove and the video camera. The computer system processes the data and controls the video screen and the data glove.

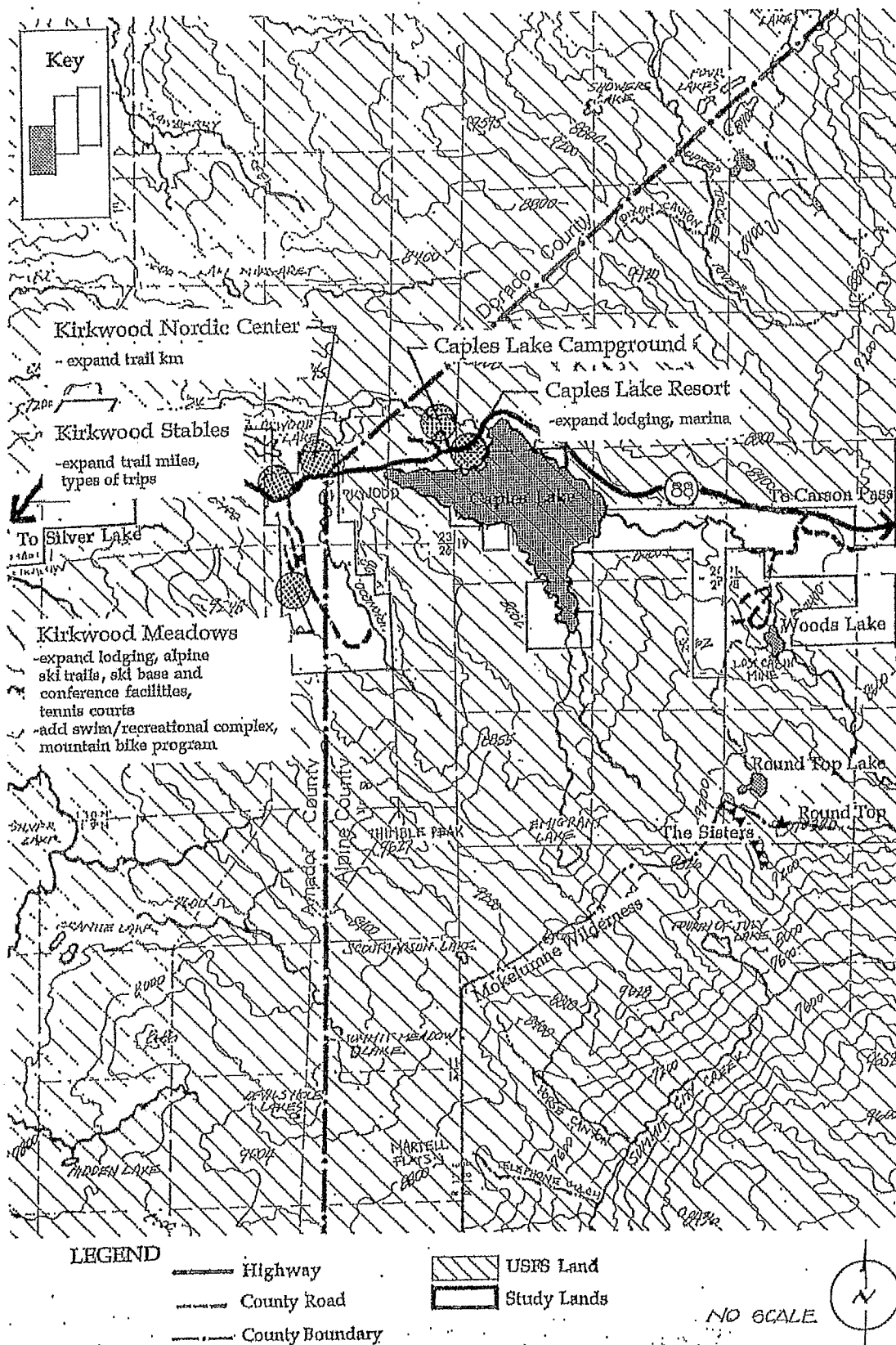
PLANNED RECREATION

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Lake Tahoe, Nevada

1988

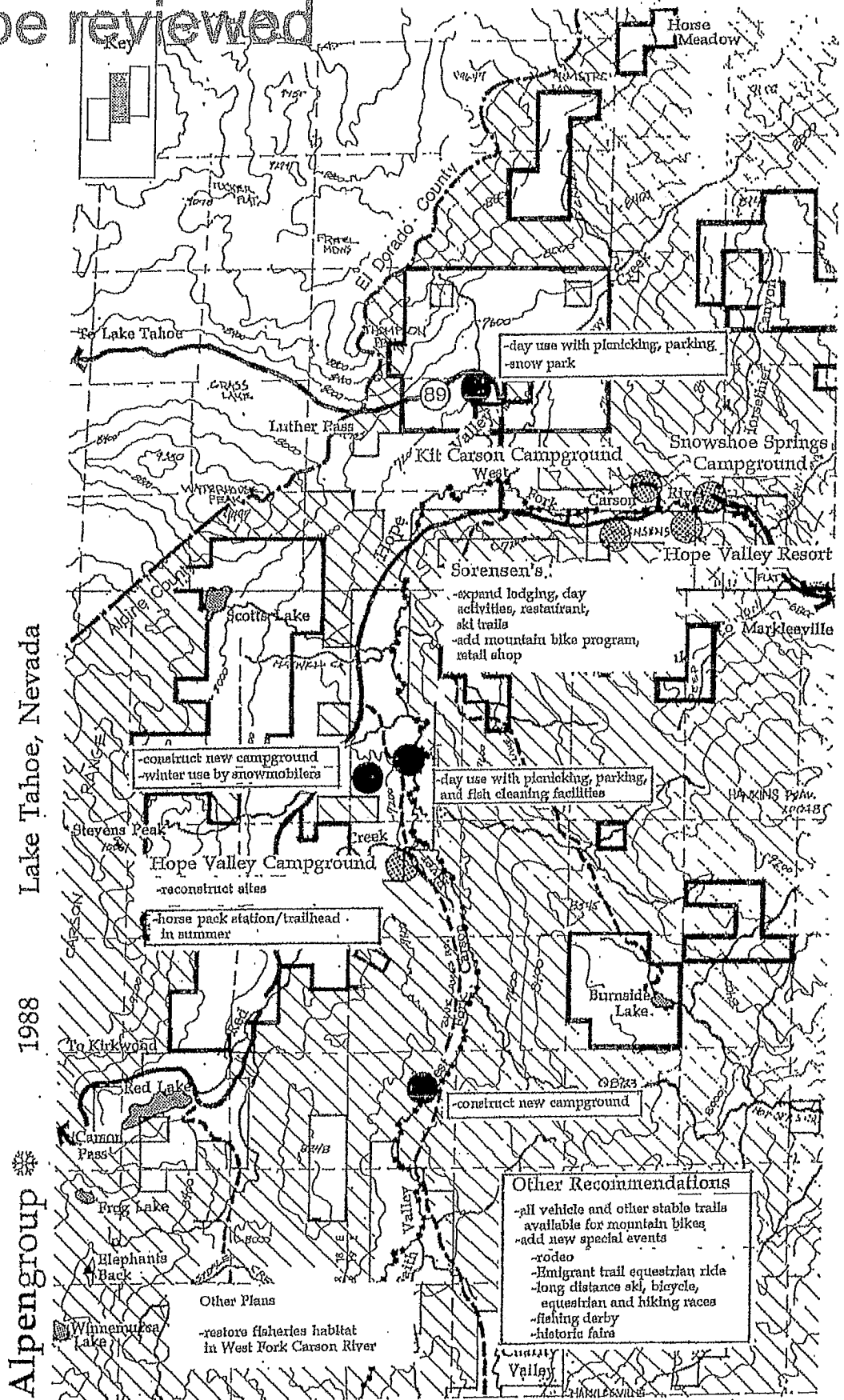
Alpengroup



Needs to be reviewed

PLANNED RECREATION

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study



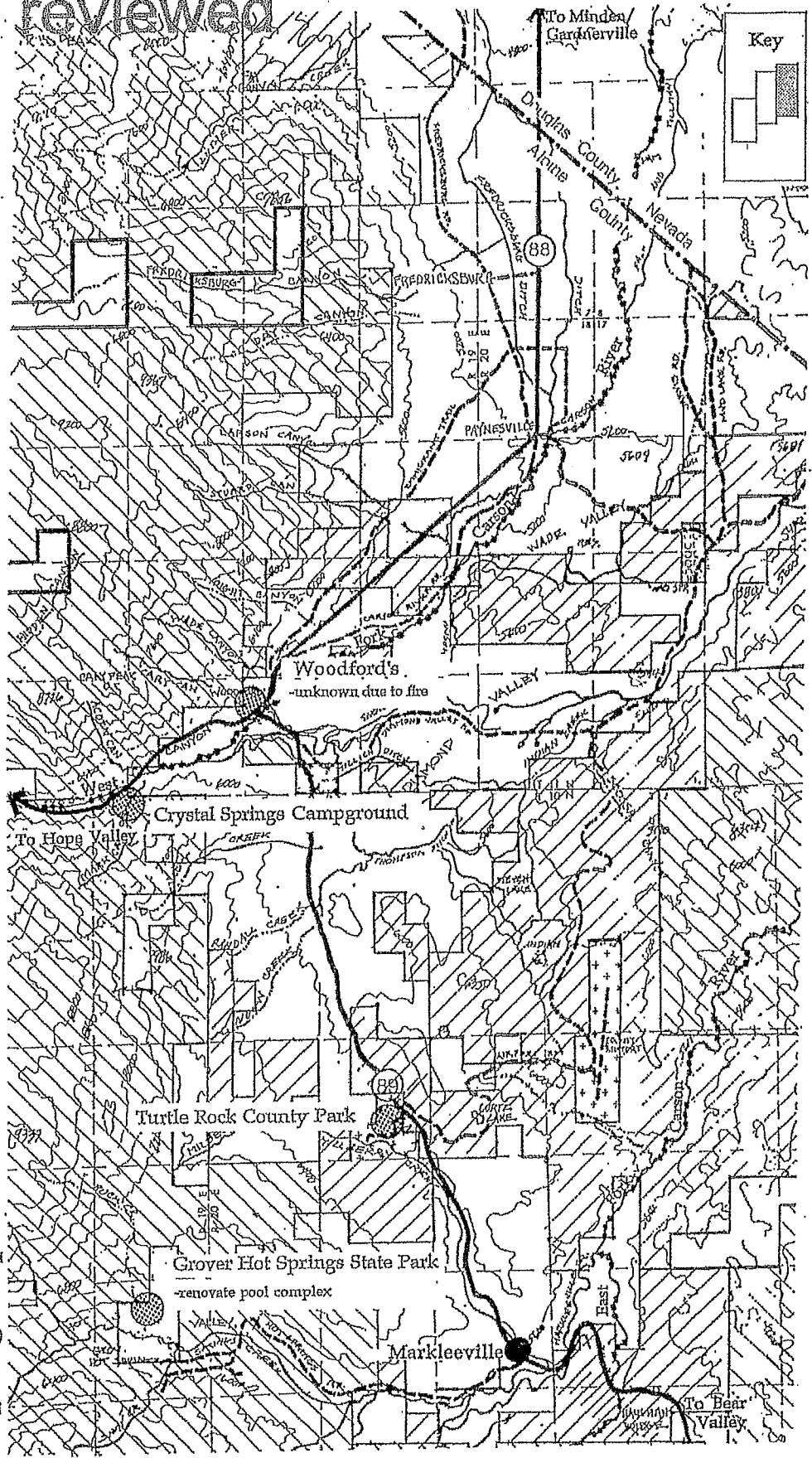
NO SCALE

Needs to be reviewed

PLANNED RECREATION

Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Alpengroup 1988 Lake Tahoe, Nevada



LEGEND

- Highway
- - - County Road
- County Boundary

- USFS Land
- Study Lands

NO. SCALE



Needs to be reviewed

Hope Valley Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Economics

▼ Economics of
Recreation:
Case Studies

▼ Economics
Summary

Jackson Hole Study ▼

The emergence of new, different or more powerful (in the sense of increased support) political and special interest groups is a manifestation of the increased awareness citizens have of their economic stake in publicly owned resources. In the case of fishery resources, the interest of business groups with fishery management issues is evidence that groups other than fishermen and non-consumptive users have linked their well-being to fish and fishing. The fact that interest groups, heretofore discussed only in conceptual terms, are now mobilized is an indication of the changing public perspective toward fishery management.

The increased interest comes also from the changing attitudes and preferences of fishermen, the front line users of the resource. Fishing has become more commercialized because fishermen are demanding more and better equipment, more and better services and, finally, more and better (and different) fishing opportunities. In short, we are no longer a nation—or state or county—of self-sufficient fishermen.

The more commercialized fishing becomes, the greater the economic stake becomes for those nonfishing residents regardless of whether they are associated with a fishing-related business.

If the Hope Valley area is to compete effectively with surrounding states for nonresident (and nonlocal resident) angler dollars, it needs a quality fishery. A good comparison is the current state of the fisheries in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The surrounding states did not gain a competitive edge on Wyoming by finding or developing natural areas equal in beauty to Jackson Hole and then establish a quality fishery. Rather, quality fisheries were established in areas that were less attractive than Jackson Hole but those areas have been successful in pulling long time anglers away. The reality of the loss of long time fishermen to quality fisheries in the surrounding states is that the 11 inch average sized fish caught in the Snake River is not of sufficient size to attract and hold the nonlocal quality oriented angler.

The contribution of fishing to the Jackson Hole economy is sufficient to expect that part of the revenue collected from the recently approved room tax would be used to promote fishing. Attempts to reach the angler that would be desirable to attract through broad sweep promotion campaigns of the Jackson Hole area are likely to be ineffective. The ardent angler is a small percentage of the total tourist population. The amount of fishing detail that could be included in a broad appeal ad is so limited that it would likely get little attention from this specialized segment of the tourist population. The angler that would be worthwhile attracting probably can be reached more effectively with targeted promotional programs.

In Jackson Hole, California contributed the largest number of tourist fishermen with almost double (19.6 percent compared to 10.9 percent) the number of the second highest state, Utah. Generally, expenditures by anglers from adjacent and nearby states are proportionately less than expenditures by anglers from more distant states. Nearly 30 percent of the tourist license receipts drawn for the sample were from nearby states. Of the more distant states of origin accounting for relatively large numbers of tourist fisherman, other than California, Texas is next in line (6.4 percent) followed by Illinois (3.6 percent), Arizona (3.1 percent), New York (2.7 percent), Pennsylvania (2.3 percent) and Florida (2.2 percent).

The minimum expenditure for a fisherman staying at a dude ranch or resort, fishing without the services of a guide, runs in the \$70 to \$100 per day category. The high end runs between \$400 and \$500 per day just for accommodations and fishing services. A significant proportion of the guest ranch, resort and outfitter fishing guests purchased clothing and art objects in Jackson that amounted to more than those guests spent on fishing.

Discussion of the economic and user implications associated with different fishery management plans illustrates the problems that can arise with maximum sustained yield (MSY) management programs and reliance on fishing pressure estimates and age/size distributions to judge the effectiveness of those programs. The fishing pressure and age/size numbers could indicate the management program was a biological success whereas the community could consider the fishery to be far less than ideal. To the extent the fishing preferences of anglers deviate from the harvest objectives of a MSY management program, the fishery will produce less public benefit than it is capable of producing.

Different groups of residents derive different types of benefits from fishing. For the angler group, benefits are realized in the form of personal satisfaction. But it would be misleading to suggest that the benefits experienced by all anglers are the same. The benefit realized by catch and release fishermen may be as different from the benefit experienced by harvest oriented anglers as are their combined benefits different from the benefits that fishing-related businessmen realize.

There is a resident group that derives benefit from fishing in the form of business opportunities which, eventually, factors down to profits, salaries and wages. There is a third group of residents who neither fish nor have direct fishing-related business connections but who receive benefits from fishing in the form of secondary economic impacts from nonlocal angler expenditures. Other groups undoubtedly could be identified that have a benefit claim on the area's fishery resources. Resident fisherman have been the most active and financial supportive benefit

group of fishery management programs and, because of that support, would seem to have an additional claim on the resource.

For any particular stream segment or standing water body, only one set of use regulations can be adopted and that decision may be viewed as an either/or choice. Over the waters in a geographic area, however, use regulations tailored to different user group preferences could be implemented. The special interest anglers that prefer minimum regulations and liberal creel limits can be accommodated, as can the catch and release special interest group and the fly-fishing-only special interest group and any other special interest group who's fishing preferences would not deplete or harm the fishery.

The fishery can be allocated to accommodate or give special preference to any or all (and more) of the special interest groups named. This is not to suggest that each benefit group has an inherent right to have a portion of the fishery managed to suit their particular preferences. There will undoubtedly be special interest requests for which administrative costs would be prohibitively high. There likely will be special interest requests that can not be implemented without causing unjustifiable harm to established users. Accommodating these requests would be inconsistent with the public benefit principle. The second case is not intended to suggest that all anglers can expect to have their favorite water managed as it is presently. If fishery resources are to be managed for the benefit of the public, individuals and groups have to be precluded from gaining defacto property rights to a certain water or section of water.

The common and necessary foundation to all user groups, direct or indirect, resident or nonresident, is a healthy, viable fishery. That the fishery resource is owned in common by all citizens and held in trust for present and future generations precludes any management consideration that would deplete or harm the resource. It precludes, with limited exceptions, use regulations that would permit one or more user groups to exploit fish populations at the expense of other user groups.

How should Hope Valley's fishery resources be managed? First and foremost, in a biologically sound manner. After that baseline is satisfied, the public benefit obligation suggests that fishery management programs should key on diversity.

Fishing and the Economy ▼**Local Fisherman Expenditures**

There is little economic consequence of a decision by a local resident to go fishing on a Saturday afternoon. The fishing spot likely is only a few miles from home, which may or may not require a fill-up of gasoline. If the outing is planned for more than a couple of hours, a convenience store stop for snacks might also occur. Depending on the type of fishing that is planned and the angler's supply of required tackle, the trip might include a stop at a tackle shop or sporting goods store. A typical Saturday afternoon outing might result in expenditures of \$2 or \$3 for gas, \$2 or \$3 for snacks and -maybe- another \$2 or \$3 for tackle. Hardly enough to fuel the fires of of an economy.

Instead of using a low end example, let's consider the angler who had been saving or planning to upgrade his/her fishing equipment and spends \$200 at a local tackle shop. Suppose, for example, the \$200 was spent on one of 30 quality rods that tackle shops in Alpine County had stocked and expected to sell during the year. The purchase of one of those rods by our fisherman was part of the expected sales pattern for the community.

The tackle shop making the sale, in competition with other local shops, benefited from the angler's decision to purchase a new rod. Since the purchase was part of the historical sales pattern for fishing equipment, it would not represent an increase in net sales at the community level. If our fisherman had saved for the rod by putting off the purchase of other items that were needed or planned, then the benefit realized by the tackle shop came at the expense of sales losses by other retail outlets. In other words, the tackle shop owners gain was a loss to other store owners in Alpine County such that, for the community, there would be neither gain nor loss. About the only way the \$200 expenditure could be considered a net community benefit is if the angler had been contemplating purchase of the equipment through a sporting goods catalog or from an out of town outlet.

The point is, that fishing expenditures, equipment or related activities, by local residents produce net economic benefit in only limited and unusual instances even if local fisherman were to double or triple their fishing expenditures. The gain by tackle shop and sporting good store owners would be offset by the loss of sales among other retail stores. The exception to this statement is the case where purchases are made locally rather than at or through nonlocal outlets. If the economy was to perform other than has been described, a good argument could be made to "spend ourselves rich".

Nonlocal Angler Expenditures

When the "gone fishin'" sign is hung in the office and the site for that activity is Hope Valley, there is potential for net economic gain from fishing expenditures. Expenditures by nonlocal fishermen is new money coming into the local economy. These expenditures represent a new demand for goods and services and a new opportunity for producers and suppliers to expand.

Suppose there was a community that had been very stable with respect to population, income and the preferences of that population for goods and services. For ease of illustration, let's assume that the community was so stable that retail merchants could predict down to the last toothpick what residents would purchase and that orders were placed once a year. Suppose, next, the first ever nonlocal fisherman came into the area to fish. While there, the fisherman ate at local restaurants, purchased fishing equipment and replaced a tire that blew out while traveling to the area. In one sense, sales to the nonlocal fisherman would have disrupted the stability of the community. Part of the goods and services that had been ordered to satisfy the wants of local residents would now have been sold. The merchants would have to place a second order to replace the merchandise that was sold to the nonlocal fisherman or shortages would develop before the next annual order was placed. Residents would find that they had money to spend on goods and services they wanted, but there were no goods and services to purchase. Since most businesses look for opportunities to expand, it seems safe to assume that they would order additional goods. At the end of the year, the community would find that sales had expanded by the amount of purchases made by the nonlocal fisherman and a little more. A close accounting of sales would reveal that the expanded sales over and above the fisherman's purchases were made to local residents who had received additional income as a result of the initial increase in sales. The community economy would have expanded by the new money brought in or the increase in goods and services sold to individuals living outside the community.

Economic Impact Analysis

This economic principle applies to all communities, states, and regions. That is, the potential for residents (excluding the existence of savings and other forms of wealth) living in an area to purchase goods and services produced outside their immediate area depends on the amount of goods and services they sell to outside markets. These sales represent the means by which area residents earn income to purchase goods and services produced outside the area. Unless residents are content to exist on the goods and services produced within their area, they must produce good and services for markets outside the area to earn the income necessary to purchase or import the nonlocal products they desire.

Special Regulations ▼

The following is a Summary of Special Regulation Management Programs in Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and the results of the programs.

- 1: Special regulation programs were initiated to increase both number and size of fish.
- 2: Programs were based on catch and release, slot limits, minimum size limits and reduced creel limits with catch and release and slot limits the most frequently used and, apparently, the most effective regulations.
- 3: Local resistance was encountered at each water that has been designated in the three states although the success of the programs appears to be softening the resistance.
- 4: Fishing pressures drops the first and, in most instances the second year after designation and then climbs as numbers and size of fish begin to respond.
- 5: Fishing pressure has returned to predesignation levels on almost all streams and as much as 20 to 50 percent greater than predesignation levels on some streams in Idaho.
- 6: Although the contacts in the three states generally felt the local/nonlocal balance of angler use on special reg waters had shifted in favor of nonlocal fishermen (i.e., nonlocal fishermen were attracted to the designated water), little, if any, documentation exists to verify their observations. (The Idaho and Montana biologists observed that there was a developing group of anglers that looked for special reg waters in their selection of weekend or vacation fishing sites.)
- 7: When asked to indicate the long term economic impact on the local economy of managing part of a stream under special regs, the three contacts indicated that the results were generally positive but none of the three states had conducted any follow-up studies to evaluate this point. (The Colorado and Idaho contacts referred to conversations with outfitters, tackle shop owners and Chamber of Commerce directors that supported their observations while the observation by the Montana contact was based on second hand reports from department field personnel.)
- 8: Each of the three biologists, independently, emphasized the need to tailor the

regulations that govern each designated water to the aquatic and biological characteristics of that water and to avoid arbitrary designations. (The Colorado contact indicated that the agency had made some decisions in the early phases of their program that they would like to change now that they have a better data base to work with.)

Description of Special Regs on Representative Sample of rivers in Colorado, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming

Colorado

- 1: Blue River (Gold Medal section) 2.5 miles
 - a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures
 - b: Creel limit: Two trout over 16 inches
 - c: Species regulation: none
- 2: Colorado River (Gold Medal section) 20 miles
 - a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures, except stonefly nymphs are permitted as bait
 - b: Creel limit: One rainbow, one brown
 - c: Species regulation: None
- 3: Frying Pan River (Gold Medal section) 2 miles
 - a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures
 - b: Creel limit: Catch and release
 - c: Species regulation: Catch and release
- 4: Gunnison River (Gold Medal and Wild Trout section) 26 miles
 - a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures
 - b: Creel limit: Four fish but only one can be over 16 inches. All fish between 12 and 16 inches must be returned immediately.
 - c: Species regulation: None
- 5: South Platte River (Gold medal section) 19.5 miles
 - a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures
 - b: Creel limit: Catch and release
 - c: Species regulation: Catch and release

Montana

- 6: Big Hole River 15 miles

- a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures
 - b: Creel limit: Three fish under 13 inches, one fish over 22 inches
 - c: Species regulation: None
- 7: Madison River (Quake Lake to McAtee Bridge) approximately 20 miles.
- a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures.
 - b: Creel limit: Catch and release.
 - c: Species regulation: Catch and release.
- 8: Madison River (McAtee Bridge to Ennis Lake) Approximately 20 miles.
- a: Tackle restrictions: Sculpins not allowed.
 - b: Creel limit: Five fish with only 1 fish over 18 inches and only 1 fish may be a rainbow and only 1 fish may be a grayling.
 - c: Species regulation: Only 1 fish may be a rainbow and only 1 fish may be a grayling.
- 9: Jefferson River (entire river)
- a: Tackle restrictions: None.
 - b: Creel limit: Five brown trout, only 1 over 18 inches.
 - c: Species regulation: Catch and release only for rainbows.
- 10: Yellowstone (Gardiner to Emigrant Bridge)
- a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures.
 - b: Creel limit: Five fish, rainbows or browns. 4 fish under 13 inches. 1 fish over 22 inches.
 - c: Species regulation: Catch and release only for cutthroat.

Idaho

- 11: South Fork of the Snake River (Irwin to Heise) approximately 30 miles
- a: Tackle restrictions: single barbless hook
 - b: Creel limit: Six fish of which 2 may be cutthroat but all cutthroat between 10 and 16 inches must be returned immediately.
 - c: Species regulation: All cutthroat between 0 and 16 inches must be returned immediately.
- 12: Henry's Fork (Harriman State Park section) 8 to 10 miles
- a: Tackle restrictions: Fly fishing only-barbless hooks.
 - b: Creel limit: Three fish under 12 inches, 1 fish over 20 inches.
 - c: Species regulation: None.

- 13: Henry's Fork (Box Canyon section) approximately 4 miles
a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures, single barbless hooks.
b: Creel limit: Three fish under 12 inches, 1 fish over 20 inches.

Wyoming

- 14: Snake River (1000 ft below Jackson Lake Dam to Moose) 23.9 miles
a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures.
b: Creel limit: Four fish with only 1 fish over 15 inches, all fish between 11 and 15 inches must be returned immediately.
c: Species regulation: None.
- 15: Green River (Kendall Warm Springs downstream to National Forest boundary) 6.0 miles
a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures.
b: Creel limit: Two fish with only 1 fish over 20 inches, all trout between 10 and 20 inches must be returned immediately.
c: Species regulation: All trout between 10 and 20 inches must be returned.
- 16: Platte River (Colo/Wyo line to Saratoga) Approximately 55 miles
a: Tackle restrictions: Artificial flies and lures.
b: Creel limit: Six fish with only 1 fish over 16 inches, all fish between 10 and 16 inches must be returned immediately.
c: Species regulation: None

Statements of Goals for Special Reg Waters and Evaluations of Results

Goals:

Colorado

"There are two objectives of catch-and-release management in Colorado. First we want to increase the density of quality size trout (14 inch) in our best streams and then maintain that density at 30 trout/12/acre. Second, we want to maintain an overall catch rate of 0.7 trout/hour throughout the entire angling season." [20]

Montana

"Through use of catch-and-release fishing and slot limits (which allow only fish of

certain sizes to be kept), we have been able to provide for the opportunity to catch, but not necessarily to keep, large trout in these areas. The bulk of our rivers and streams, however, remain open to general fishing with no special restriction on tackle and fish size, thus providing a variety of angling opportunities—from the trophy trout of the Beaverhead River to the pan-sized brookies of our mountain streams.”[21]

“The Department... established a management goal for the Madison which is to provide the opportunity to catch wild trout in the 14-18 inch range. Since this goal could not be attained with the regulations of ten fish or ten pounds and one fish, and the fact that fishermen generally were selective to larger fish, additional restrictions were imposed. A catch and release artificial lure regulation was implemented in 1977 with the objective of reducing fishing mortality as much as possible and in an attempt to increase the population of larger trout.”[22]

Idaho (South Fork of the Snake)

“Protect cutthroat...provide opportunity to catch quality fish...goal is to get fishing to point 20 percent of cutthroat that are caught will be 16 inches or better.”[23]

Wyoming (Green River)

“Maintain a post-season trout population of at least 850 trout/mile and 14.3 lbs./acre...Maintain a post-season trout population with a size structure of 20-25 percent over 10 inches (based on trout over 6 inches)...Maintain a total catch rate of at least 1.0 trout/hour...Maintain an average trout size of 9 inches in the creel...Encourage the harvest of whitefish.”[24]

Results:

Colorado

“Yes, they have been very effective. We have raised the average catch rate from 0.2 to 0.5 trout/hour under an 8 trout/day bag limit to an average of 1.1-1.8 trout/hour, far exceeding the objective of 0.7 trout/hour in virtually every case. We have been able to attain the goal of 30 quality size trout/12/acre on a sustained year to year basis in most instances.”[20]

Montana

“In March 1981, before initiation of the slot limit, [Big Hole River] an estimated 506

brown trout per mile, 13 inches and longer, were found...in a section of the Big Hole. Two years later, 13-inch and longer browns had increased by 33% to 674 per mile. The increase in 18-inch and longer browns during the same period was an astonishing 160% from 40 per mile to 104. The response of rainbow trout has been even better. Thirteen-inch and longer rainbows increased by 79% between fall 1981 and fall 1983, from 251 to 451 per mile. Fifteen-inch and larger rainbows jumped from 89 to 247 per mile, an incredible 178% in two years."

"Between 1977 and 1982 in the catch and release section, [Madison river] the number of 13-inch and larger trout increased 315%."

"Fish populations in the lower Rock Creek area (the three fish, one over 14 inches limit) have responded predictably, Rainbow trout have increased dramatically, by over 270% since the regulations were changes. The number of brown trout has remained virtually unchanged. It is an established fact that browns are not as easy to catch as rainbows; lack of an increase in brown trout numbers suggest anglers were not significantly affecting brown trout populations.:

"Trout populations in the catch and release section of Rock Creek have changed dramatically. The changes have not been exactly what DFWP biologists anticipated, however. The population of cutthroat trout in the catch and release section has increased over 700% since the regulations were initiated. Rainbow trout have not increased at all, suggesting that at least some of the increase in cutthroats came at the expense of rainbows." [25]

Idaho (South Fork of the Snake River)

"In two years since special reg designation, fish population has increased 50 percent, number of cutthroat over 16 inches has increased from 2 percent of population to 8 percent. Fishing pressure has increased 20 to 50 percent." [23]---

Wyoming (Green River)

"Evaluation through 1983 indicates a rapid response in the fishery. Numbers of 6+ inch trout already exceed the highest levels seen between 1975 and 1981. Catch rates are already exceeding 1.0 trout per hour also. We have not yet reached our objective for the percentage of trout exceeding 10 inches, however, percentage of larger trout should increase quickly as soon as they expanding population stabilizes. Admittedly, the good water flows during the past three winters have hastened the fishery's improvement." [24]

Justification:

Colorado

"In Colorado, public acceptance of catch-and-release and limited-kill areas is very high. In 1980, 4,460 anglers were surveyed in eight different areas on three different streams, 1,192 by mailback postcard questionnaire and 3,268 by personal interview. An astonishing 88% favored catch-and-release areas already in existence, 6.2% were opposed to them, and 5.8% had no opinion. Of the 4,460 anglers surveyed, 2,854 (64%) were fishing in an 8 trout/day angling area with terminal tackle restrictions. Thus, despite the fact that the majority of anglers were fishing in a standard regulations area when contacted, they over-whelmingly supported the concept of catch-and-release. Similarly, in 1981, of 2,403 anglers surveyed, 1,769 (73.6%) favored catch-and-release angling areas, 397 (16.5% were opposed, and 237 (9.9%) had no opinion." [20]



Lake Tahoe ▼

This section is based on the reports generated by the Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority in an effort to provide a basic overview and understanding of the tourist economy of Lake Tahoe.

Although the total economic contribution of tourist dollars is quite a bit greater in Lake Tahoe than in Hope Valley, several factors make studying this example worthwhile. First, like Lake Tahoe, Alpine County relies very heavily on tourism and outdoor recreation for its economic base. As this economy develops in Alpine County, some of the economic trends noted here will become more valid. Secondly, visitors to Hope Valley and Lake Tahoe share some important characteristics. These include place or origin (central California and northern Nevada), desire for scenic beauty, access to a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and a high rate of return. Again, as Alpine County recreation areas develop, visitors patterns may trend towards those described in the following sections.

The reports identify the size, seasonality, market potential, and economic impact of the overnight visitor to the South Lake Tahoe area.

The reports provide a basic framework in which to understand the economy. They may be used as a planning tool by those interested in understanding this dynamic and seasonal economy.

Specifically, the following report include estimates of the number of overnight visitors by month, their economic impact, estimates of state visitor patterns, and the visitor pattern of those from California. In addition, the report provides a trendline comparison of eight South Lake Tahoe economic indicators that assist the reader by providing a context for the 1986 year.

Tourism is South Lake Tahoe's primary means of generating revenues. Thus, the health of the economy is critical to the level of services provided to the local community.

The California Visitor Impact Model provides a step by step set of procedures and guidelines for determining the size, nature and economic impact of a community's visitor trade.

Specific objectives of this report include the following:

1. To define the term "visitor" in a way that is meaningful to the community of South Lake Tahoe.

2. To implement the California Visitor Impact Model in an effort to determine the nature and economic impact of the overnight visitor trade in South Lake Tahoe.
3. To use the California Visitor Impact Model to establish a visitor data base which can be used to develop marketing strategies.

The estimates* contained in this report are based upon a generally conservative methodology and were developed using the best information available at the time of this report's preparation.

*The following estimates were produced through the use of the California Visitor Impact Model, developed by Dirk Wasenaar Ph.D., Professor of Marketing and Quantitative Studies at the School of Business, San Jose State University and prepared for the California Office of Tourism.

Defining a Visitor

There are currently several definitions available for defining a visitor. The two most frequently used definitions include the following:

"100 Miles Definition"

The "100 Miles Definition" suggests that a visitor resides at least 100 miles from South Lake Tahoe. (1)

"50 Miles Definition"

The "50 Miles Definition" suggests that a visitor resides at least 50 miles from South Lake Tahoe. (2)

Note:

(1) Current U.S. Travel Data Center/Bureau of Census definition.

(2) Recommended definition for use in the State of California—"California Visitor Impact Model."

For the purposes of this report a visitor will be defined as someone residing 50 miles or more away from South Lake Tahoe, but excluding:

- a. Persons commuting to and from work.
- b. Persons acting as members of an operating crew of a bus, truck, or plane.
- c. Students traveling between home and school.

Economic Drivers

The economic drivers of the South Lake Tahoe economy are several and change during each season. These economic drivers may be viewed as the primary reason why visitors to visit South Lake Tahoe. They, in effect, "drive" visitors to South Lake Tahoe to fulfil an unmet need. A seasonal breakdown of selected the primary reasons for visitation is as follows:

Primary Reason:

	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
Skiing:	33%	50%		
"Get Away":	16%	8%	27%	26%
Rest and Relaxation:	12.5%	6.5%	24%	21%
Meetings:	3%	2.5%	4%	2%
Other:	15%		2%	4%

As is evidenced above, the economic drivers are what is perceived by the visitor to be of significant importance and a strong enough reason to visit South Lake Tahoe.

It should be noted that when these same economic drivers do not meet the expectations the visitor will begin to consider other vacation areas.

ESTIMATED SPENDING DISTRIBUTION OF OVERNIGHT VISITORS TO SOUTH LAKE TAHOE

Economic Sector:	Est. \$ Amount	Est. Pct.
Service Station (1):	\$ 27,226,312	4.5%
Accommodations:	\$122,820,921	20.3%
Shopping:	\$ 47,192,275	7.8%
Gaming:	\$197,300,013	32.6%
Entertainment:	\$ 50,217,421	8.3%
Recreation (2):	\$ 38,721,867	6.4%
Dining:	\$111,325,367	18.4%
Sight-seeing:	\$ 10,285,495	1.7%
Total:	\$605,029,172	100%.

Source: Rosall, Remmen, & Cares, California Visitor Impact Model.

(1) Calif. Dept. of Commerce Estimates

(2) Includes skiing estimates.

Summary

1986 In Retrospect:

In retrospect, the 1986 year was less than expected for South Lake Tahoe. The combined forces of poor winter weather, changes in the National Economy, increased competition from other resort areas, the success of "Expo 86" all contributed to a less than hoped for year for the South Shore economy.

The Winter Season suffered from a disastrous February storm of rain, sleet, and snow from which South Lake Tahoe suffered from gas and electric outages. This unforeseen storm caused many businesses to reduce services and in some cases to shutdown. Thus affecting the number of visitors to the South Shore.

This survey shows the place of origin for Californias visiting South Lake. The following table describes this information.

CALIFORNIA VISITOR PATTERN

	SUMMER	SPRING	WINTER	FALL
Sacramento:	15.6%;	19.0%;	13.1%;	16.5%.
Stockton:	7.7%;	4.8%;	5.3%;	7.7%.
Bay Area:	37.0%;	43.1%;	46.3%;	42.9%.
Los Angeles:	14.2%;	11.1%;	8.3%;	12.7%.
Santa Ana/Orange:	3.6%;	3.4%;	3.6%;	2.9%.
San Diego:	4.1%;	2.9%;	3.6%;	2.9%.
Other California:	17.8%;	15.7%;	18.8%;	13.6%.

Source: Rosall, Remmen, Cares

Looking ahead at 1987:

The less than hoped for 1986 year did serve to crystallize the need for a more competitive South Lake Tahoe.

The Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, (formed in Mid 1986) has committed to diversifying the South Lake Tahoe customer base in hopes of stimulating the South Shore economy. The LTVA is focusing its resources on the Southern California market. In a cooperative effort with the South Tahoe Gaming Alliance and the South Shore Community, the LTVA is spending an estimated one million plus dollars in

1987 in an effort to bring more overnight visitors from Southern California to South Lake Tahoe. This market diversification is viewed as a start in a long term investment in returning the economy to a more vital state.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the overnight visitor, the mainstay of the South Shore economy, represents approximately 2 million visitors annually. These overnight visitors have a direct economic impact of approximately 640 million dollars to the South Shore economy.

The "Multiplier Effect" or trickle through is estimated by the California Visitor Impact Model to be about 1 and 1/2 to 2 and 1/2 times in support business.

With this in mind, and the fact that Tourism is the only major industry that fuels the South Shore economy it is imperative that the community as a whole continue its investment in marketing the area.

Tourist Overview ▼ by Seasons

Highlights of the Data: An Overview - Fall

Overall, about 80 percent of the visitors were from California. The Bay Area represented 35 percent of all visitors. Sacramento/Stockton represented 19 percent. Southern California, primarily Los Angeles/Orange County, represented 16 percent. Texas, Washington and Colorado are the largest out-of-state markets, although none are of dominant proportions. Rather, they may indicate areas of potential growth.

Day visitors represented 12 percent of the total, with overnight from California/Nevada at 70 percent of out-of-state overnight visitors representing 18 percent.

Day visitors tended to be older and married, traveling with their spouse, with relatively lower incomes than the average. They are drawn to South Lake Tahoe primarily for gaming and to a somewhat lesser extent casino entertainment. They are also more likely than the average to be here to "get-away." They are far more likely than any other group to travel by bus. They are far more frequent visitors than the average (with almost 70 percent having been in South Lake more than 20 times), and about 80 percent are certain they will return again during the year.

Overnight visitors from California tend to be younger and somewhat more affluent than the day visitors. California overnights have a similar high tendency to be married and to visit with their spouse and/or entire family during the Fall non skiing season. However, a far greater percentage of younger singles, many of whom are students, or professional/technical occupations, characterize this group during the ski season.

The overnight out-of-state visitors are the most affluent group and spend the most dollars per capita per day in South Lake. They have a greater tendency to stay in the casinos than the California overnights. Nevertheless, they are more inclined to indicate their primary reason for coming was the skiing with gaming "another" activity they will participate in during their stay. About 50 percent are first time visitors. A smaller proportion than typical, 22 percent, indicate they definitely will return this year, about 45 percent indicate uncertainty, with about 34 percent certain they will not return.

Gaming is not necessarily the primary reason most people indicate for visiting South Lake Tahoe (17 percent). In comparison, 33 percent state "skiing" and 29 percent state either "rest and relaxation" or to "get away." Frequent visitors mention gaming more often than other visitors as their primary activity.

It is apparent that new visitors and overnights, those who travel longest distances to come, are primarily motivated by the variety of activities and scenic beauty of the area, with gaming and casino entertainment one of those attributes.

South Lake Tahoe's greatest perceived strengths during the Fall period are:

1. Scenery/beauty.
2. Casinos and ski area.
3. Relaxing atmosphere.
4. Shows and entertainment.**
5. A fun place to be.

South Lake Tahoe's greatest perceived weaknesses are:

1. Ease of getting there.
2. Value received for dollar spent.
3. Family orientation.
4. Ease of getting around.
5. Shopping.
6. Shows and entertainment.**

7. Parking availability.
8. Friendly people.

** It is interesting to note that shows and entertainment has both its proponents and its detractors.

Specific ratings tend to reflect the strengths and weaknesses evaluation, with the highest ratings occurring for:

1. Scenery/beauty.
2. Fun place.
3. Ski areas.
4. Relaxing atmosphere.
5. Accommodations.
6. Casinos.

The lowest relative ratings occur for:

1. Shopping.
2. Family orientation.
3. Value received.
4. Ease of getting around.
5. Local visitor information.
6. Ease of getting there.
7. Parking and bus shuttle.

In response to what type of events would encourage you to come to South Lake Tahoe most frequently, entertainment was the dominant factor. Sports and recreation events were also frequently mentioned.

Highlights of the Data: An Overview - Winter

Skiing, not surprisingly, was singled out as a primary motivator by half of all Winter respondents, compared to 33 percent of the Fall. Those who mentioned gambling remained relatively unchanged (14 percent vs 17 percent in Fall), but the numbers who chose "rest and relaxation" or "get away" dropped sharply, from 29 percent combined in Fall to 14.5 percent in Winter. Casino entertainment was the third most popular choice and was particularly strong in central California.

Those who visit Tahoe in the Winter are more inclined to return in Winter, to the

exclusion of the other three seasons, in particular Fall and Spring. Fall visitors, by comparison, were more likely to have a four-season orientation.

Winter visitors gave a significantly higher rating to their overall experience than did Fall visitors, notwithstanding the poor weather conditions that characterized the February/March interview sweeps. Fifty-six percent gave their experience an Excellent rating, versus 46 percent in Fall.

Sales/buyers and secretary/office professions experienced the highest percentage gains, while students and retired showed the sharpest drops.

Winter visitors are a wealthier group than those in the Fall: 52.5 percent have incomes between \$30-75,000, versus 46 percent in Fall. Only 15 percent had incomes of less than \$20,000, against 28 percent in Fall. There was little change in age structure; the percentage of females increased.

Length of stay increased slightly, while number of people per unit went from 3.0 to 3.9. Condominiums, duplexes and cabin lodging all were up. Accommodation ratings overall were also up over Fall.

As discussed earlier, the overnight out-of-state group made up a significantly larger proportion of the overall respondent base. Texas and Washington continue to be strong outside markets, but the East Coast (Florida, New York) was well represented, and Oregon moved up. Colorado, which was the fifth strongest market behind California in the Fall, dropped out of the top ten during winter.

Out-of-state visitors are both the wealthiest and oldest of the visitor groups, typifying what many consider to be the "affluent elderly" (40-60 years of age) segment of the population, certain to draw increasing marketing and economic attention. They spend a week away from home, prefer casino lodging, have a proportionately strong interest in gambling, and give their overall South Lake Tahoe experience higher ratings than any other group.

Day visitor demographics are more similar to the overall visitor base than they were in the Fall, when they were characterized by elderly, retired gamers of limited incomes. Winter day visitors are younger, more affluent, and more inclined to ski. A large percentage originated in the East Bay, a dramatic increase over Fall figures.

Similar demographic changes occurred in the overnight California/Nevada group, although they were not as dramatic. Non-casino lodging was up, people traveled in larger groups, but they did not stay as long.

The concentration of South Lake Tahoe visitors from the Bay Area as a percentage of the total California visitor base went up, while central and southern California percentages declined.

The Bay Area was the only geographic market in which the visitor base was older and less wealthy than the Winter average. There was a dramatic increase in the representation of craft/labor/service and office/secretary occupations. Casino hotels as a share of Bay Area lodging accommodations went down, replaced by cabins and other self-contained units.

Los Angeles produced younger, wealthier visitors, while San Diego visitors were older and wealthier. Gaming as a primary motivator doubled in both markets. Sales/buyers, secretary/office, and females also increased.

Highlights of the Data: An Overview - Spring

The Spring visitor base was characterized by a lower percentage of overnight out-of-state visitors and overnights from California/Nevada than the preceding two seasons. Oregon was the strongest out-of-state market, followed by Texas and Washington.

The high percentage of day visitors reflects a high concentration of out-of-state (non-California/Nevada) tourists, 25 percent of whom came up for the day from Reno.

Spring respondents are the oldest of all to-date research, as wealthy as Winter visitors, and characterized by a high percentage of females.

Sixty-seven percent are married, compared to 56 percent in the two previous seasons. Fifty-nine percent travel with their spouse only or with family.

The Spring visitor base is made up of the highest percentage of first-time visitors of any season, as well as the highest percentage of those who express a 0-25 percent likelihood of returning over the next 12 months.

Over 50 percent visit South Lake Tahoe in the Spring to "get away" or rest and relax compared to 40 percent in Fall. Only 11 percent are motivated primarily by gambling, the lowest of all seasons. Day visitors, however, are much more like to be visiting for gaming or a show than the average.

Only 3 percent of Spring respondents were students; 10 percent were retired, and 21.5 percent were "empty nesters."

Out-of-state visitors are not as wealthy as those in Winter, particularly in the over \$75,000 range, but are significantly older. Over 75 percent are married.

Nineteen percent of out-of-state visitors traveled to South Lake Tahoe primarily to sightsee, a percentage equal to that for "get away." Only 8 percent were in the area primarily to gamble.

Sacramento/Stockton-based visitors made up over 20 percent of all those who traveled from California, continuing to represent strong shoulder season support.

Almost 40 percent of Sacramento-based visitors traveled to South Lake Tahoe for the day only. A high percentage were motivated by gaming and casino entertainment.

Bay Area visitors made up a smaller percentage of the California-based visitor base than they did in the Winter, but represent a similar contribution as those in Fall. The North Bay, however, dropped significantly as a contributor. Those who did visit from North Bay were much older than the average -24 percent were retirees.

Visitors from the East and South Bays continued to represent above average interest in rest/relaxation and "get away"; overall, they have made less visits to South Lake Tahoe than those in previous seasons, and are less likely to return in the next 12 months.

Visitors from West Bay/San Francisco were older, wealthier and more likely to be married than in any other season. They show a stronger interest in gaming and "other recreation" as primary motivators than those from other key California markets, a finding consistent with the phone research.

Rest/relaxation and "get away" continue to be very strong primary motivators for visitors who travel to South Lake Tahoe from Southern California. Like most groups in the Spring visitor base, they are older, wealthier and more likely to be married than past seasons.

As a favorite "activity," gaming continues to represent a strong year-round draw, particularly in the shoulder seasons. Rest/relaxation, shows and sightseeing are also highly favored.

Gaming is also considered one of South Lake Tahoe's greatest assets, but rates a weak second behind scenery/beauty, which is once again an overwhelming favorite.

Parking and "getting there" are rated as the area's two greatest weaknesses. Other needs expressed by respondents include a lack of unique or quality retail outlets, few activities for children, and no scenic bus tours around the Lake. Quality entertainment is considered a strong factor in drawing people more frequently to the area.

South Lake Tahoe continues to rate well against other gaming resorts, although a small percentage continue to favor the more relaxed environment of North Shore. Over 70 percent of respondents considered South Lake Tahoe only in their most recent travel plans. Out-of-state visitors most frequently considered San Francisco as an alternative destination, while Bay Area respondents considered Reno.

Forty percent of those interviewed felt that South Lake Tahoe as a place to vacation has improved over the period of time they have been visiting, while 36 percent said the number of visits they are making to the area have been increasing. The most frequently mentioned incentives for traveling more frequently were travel/accommodation packages. This was particularly true for those who traveled from out-of-state.

Out-of-state visitors continue to spend more money than any other group during their stay. Residents of Los Angeles and Sacramento/Stockton were the highest spending visitors from California, while East Bay was lowest.

Highlights of the Data: An Overview - Summer

Residents of California made up a lower percentage of the overall visitor base than in any other season (67 percent).

The typical Summer visitor is older, wealthier, and much more likely to be married than those in any other season; 54 percent brought their children with them.

The "capture ration" in Summer was almost identical to that in Spring - 47 percent. Reno and San Francisco continue to represent the most frequently mentioned "other" destinations.

The primary reasons that respondents traveled to South Lake Tahoe in the Summer were very similar to those in Spring: "get away" and rest/relaxation were the strongest, followed by gaming and casino entertainment.

Twenty-six percent of all day visitors originated in Sacramento/Stockton; 27 percent were from out-of-state.

Almost one-fourth of all overnight California/Nevada visitors were in South Lake Tahoe to visit friends or because they own their own home or condo.

Out-of-state visitors showed up in numbers similar to those in Winter; eleven different states contributed at least one percent to the total visitor base.

Gaming interest as a primary motivator and secondary activity is weakest in this group compared to the others, while sightseeing is comparatively strongest.

Summer out-of-state respondents are equally likely as those in Spring to spend a significant (over 70 percent) portion of their vacation time in areas other than South Lake Tahoe.

The Bay Area's share of the visitor base dropped significantly to its lowest level of any season; the Los Angeles/Southern California share, by comparison, was its highest.

Sacramento (15.6 percent) remained the single largest California-based metropolitan source of visitors, followed by East Bay (14.2 percent) and Los Angeles (14.2 percent).

With the exception of South Bay respondents, interest in gaming as a primary motivator was highest in Sacramento than in any other market.

Despite the relatively low participation rates in the overall visitor base, Bay Area residents represented the highest capture ratios of any other market; gaming is a weak primary motivator in this market.

Per capita spending levels in Summer fell to their lowest level yet; this was primarily the result of the high numbers of respondents who drove, camped or stayed in R.V.'s.

South Lake Tahoe's single greatest asset continues to be its scenery/beauty by the widest margin yet, while rest/relaxation and sightseeing remain the two most important activities.

The crowding problems that characterize Summer at the Lake were reflected in lower ratings for parking and getting around, which were also singled out as the area's single greatest weakness.

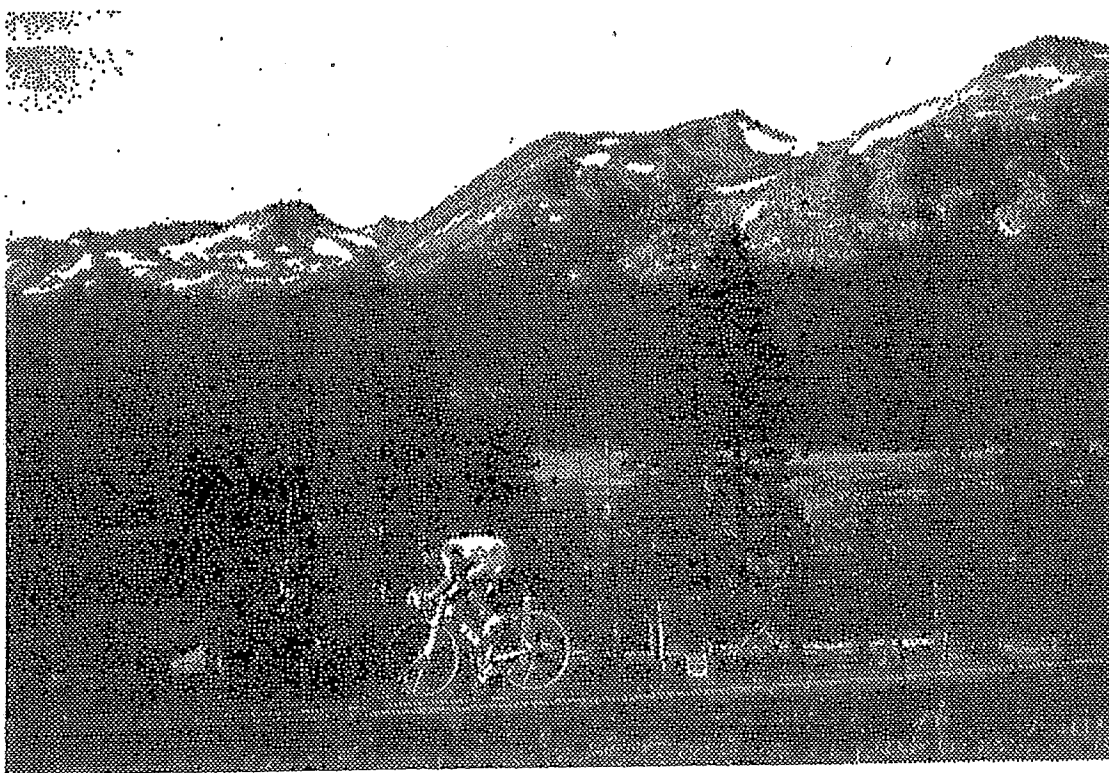
With the exception of South Bay and, less so, Los Angeles, visitors from key

California markets are much more likely to be increasing than decreasing the frequency of their visits to South Lake Tahoe.

Those who feel that the area has declined in quality as a place to vacation are more inclined to be decreasing the frequency of their visits, and vice versa. Twenty-five percent of those who have made more than 20 trips to South Lake Tahoe feel that it has declined in quality during that time.

Over half of all first time visitors were from out-of-state, representing 56 percent of all out-of-state respondents; over half of all first time visitors from California/Nevada were from Los Angeles.

Seventy-four percent of first time visitors from Los Angeles, versus 54 percent in California/Nevada and 47 percent overall, traveled to South Lake Tahoe to "get away" or rest/relax. Almost half express a 0-25 percent likelihood of return within the next 12 months.



THE RECREATION AND LEISURE INDUSTRY'S CONTRIBUTION TO CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY ▼

Most planners recognize an importance of the leisure and recreation industry to California's economy. In 1983-84, the California Department of Parks and Recreation undertook the task of studying and quantifying that importance. This study addressed such diverse issues as: what are the high growth recreational activities; what percent contribution does recreation contribute to local economies; per-day expenditures by tourists and recreationists; and the effect of public parks and recreation areas on surrounding property values.

This study focuses on California as a whole and thus provides figures of primarily state-wide importance. This can be used by local planners, both public and private, as a comparison point or as a target for future growth.

Highlights

RECREATION AND LEISURE PURSUITS ARE A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE CALIFORNIA LIFESTYLE. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY ARE A VITAL ELEMENT OF CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY.

Californians spent about \$30.2 billion on recreation and leisure pursuits in 1982. This amounted to 11.5% of total California personal consumption expenditures, making recreation and leisure third in personal spending, exceeded only by housing and food. An additional \$2 billion was spent by visitors from out of state who traveled to California for recreation, entertainment, or sightseeing.

Employment in the recreation and leisure industry accounted for one out of every 15 California jobs in 1982. Private-sector employment accounted for 769,406 jobs, while government provided 45,157. According to the 1983 Economic Report of the Governor, the greatest percentage increase in California employment during 1982 occurred in the recreation and amusements service industry.

It is estimated that state taxes generated by recreation and leisure expenditures amounted to \$1.3 billion in 1982, more than 6% of California's revenue.

Revenue to local governments from recreation and leisure expenditures in 1982 exceeded \$640 million, more than 12.6% of all local government revenue.

OUTDOOR RECREATION IS THE DOMINANT FORCE IN CALIFORNIA'S RECREATION AND LEISURE INDUSTRY.

Approximately \$19.2 billion, about 64% of all recreation and leisure expenditure by Californians, was spent in pursuit of predominantly outdoor recreation away from home.

Expenditures for outdoor recreation in California are projected to grow 25% at both government and non-government facilities, and nearly 27% at joint facilities, by the year 2000. This growth will add \$8.1 billion (in 1982 dollars) to California's economy.

GOVERNMENT LANDS AND FACILITIES ARE A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF CALIFORNIA'S RECREATION AND LEISURE INDUSTRY.

About 40% of all recreation and leisure spending, amounting to \$12 billion in 1982, was related to the use of government lands and facilities.

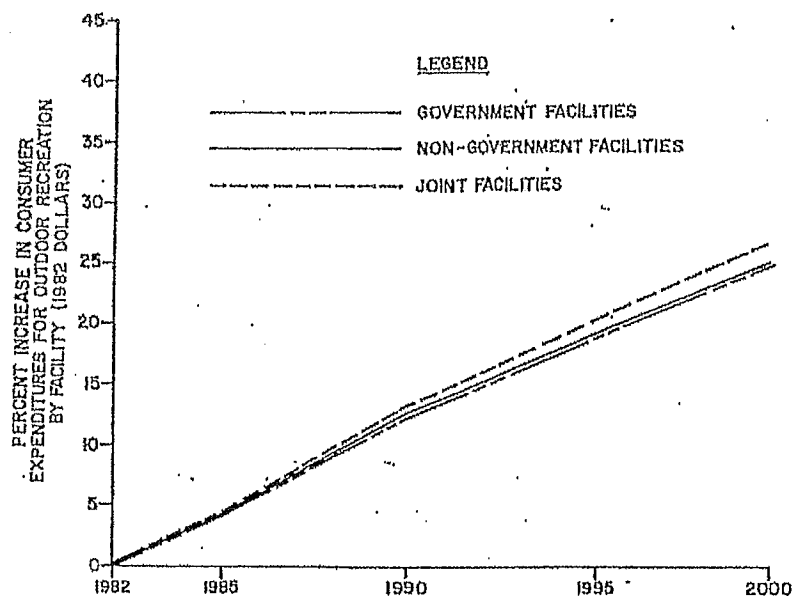
RECREATION AND LEISURE EXPENDITURES

Consumer Expenditures

Nationally, recreation and leisure expenditures have grown from \$58 billion annually in 1965 to \$244 billion in 1981, an increase in inflation-adjusted dollars of 47% (U.S. Department of Commerce). About 13% of these expenditures (\$32.2 billion in 1982) are estimated to have occurred in California, which accounts for slightly over 10% of the nation's population. This includes \$2 billion estimated by the U.S. Travel Data Center to have been spent by out-of-state visitors traveling for recreation, sightseeing, or entertainment. These expenditures, which support the recreation and leisure industry in California, amount to more than 8% of the 1982 gross state product, and account for 11.5% of total California resident consumer spending, exceeded only by housing and food.

Figure 1

Projected Increase in Consumer Spending on Outdoor Recreation by Facility (1982-2000)



Activity Expenditures

Table A provides estimates of average daily participant expenditures for California's more popular away-from-home recreation activities. Total annual expenditure estimates for each activity were determined by multiplying average daily expenditures by total annual participation days for the activity, a figure derived from the Statewide Recreation Needs Analysis study. Annual participation expenditures for these predominantly outdoor recreation activities totaled \$19.2 billion. About half of these expenditures were transportation and travel-related. Non-transportation-related expenditures for several activities were derived from data generated by this study and surveys of trade organizations and recreation establishments throughout the state.

TABLE A

ESTIMATED AWAY FROM HOME RECREATION EXPENDITURES BY CALIFORNIA IN CALIFORNIA FOR 1982

Activity	Average Activity Day Expenditure per person	Total \$ Spent
Bicycling	3.90	461,205,420
Horseback Riding	19.78	366,443,291
Tennis	6.90	323,646,709
Golf	23.89	732,654,220
Bowling	8.91	300,263,080
Pool Swimming	6.56	410,430,533
Picnicking	13.02	972,031,405
Hiking & Backpacking	13.73	733,834,862
Nature Appreciation	12.51	810,777,727
Visiting Scenic Areas	14.56	715,755,186
Crafts & Hobbies	7.89	377,949,463
Camping	29.05	1,442,771,736
OHV	45.03	1,144,666,440
Snow Skiing	49.23	369,016,019
Sports Activities	17.28	3,337,727,040
Boating	33.53	1,275,967,385
Jogging	3.03	664,335,680
Fishing	32.00	1,661,078,080
Hunting	65.00	494,310,700

Location of Activities

Away-from-home recreation and leisure activities can take place at government-owned facilities, private facilities, or those owned jointly by government and the private sector.

The data indicates that about 62% of all away-from-home recreation and leisure expenditures can be attributed to the use of government or joint government and non-government facilities. These government-facility-related expenditures (amounting to nearly \$12 billion in 1982, or about 40% of all recreation and leisure spending) illustrate the importance of public recreation lands and facilities to California's economy.

Referring again to Figure 1, the expenditure ratio of government and non-government facilities is projected to remain about the same to the year 2000, with a slight increase in joint facility expenditures. With this in mind, and considering that expenditures related to participation in recreation and leisure activity at public

facilities currently support about 40% of the recreation and leisure industry and account for 4.6% of California consumer spending, investment in public recreation lands and facilities should be an integral part of state, regional, and local economic development programs. Land acquisition and facility development to accommodate high-expenditure activities projected to grow rapidly will be particularly desirable (Table C).

TABLE C

HIGH EXPENDITURE, RAPID GROWTH RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Activity	Projected Increase in Participation, 1980-2000	Average Expenditure
Golf	53%	\$23.89
Snow Skiing	49%	49.23
Boating	38%	33.53
Visiting Scenic Areas	35%	14.56
Fishing	32%	32.00
Hiking & Backpacking	32%	13.73
Nature Appreciation	31%	12.51

RECREATION AND LEISURE-RELATED REVENUE RETURNS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The recreation and leisure industry is an important source of state and local government revenue. State and local tax revenue generated by business firms operating within the industry, personal income tax paid by industry employees, and local property tax revenue generated by public and private recreation facilities provide the greatest contributions. However, significant revenues also accrue from a variety of non-tax sources.

State Revenues

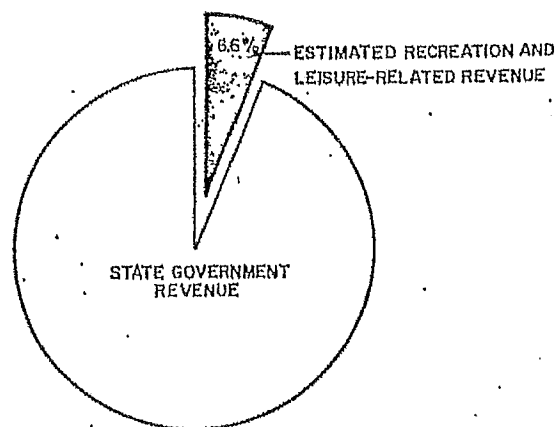
California residents and businesses paid about \$20 billion in state taxes for fiscal 1980-81. It is estimated that about \$1.3 billion of this revenue is attributable to the recreation and leisure industry.

This figure is derived as follows. The California Franchise Tax Board data indicate that about \$220 million was paid in corporate taxes by more than 49,000 recreation and leisure-related business establishments, and \$275.8 million in personal income

tax was paid by industry employees. Estimates based on State Board of Equalization data indicate that an additional \$638.9 million was collected in state sales tax on recreation and leisure-related product sales. Additionally, motor fuel tax related to recreation and leisure activity and travel amounted to about \$197.3 million (see below).

Figure 2

Recreation and Leisure-Related Returns
to California State Government as a
Percentage of Total State Revenue in
Fiscal Year 1980-81



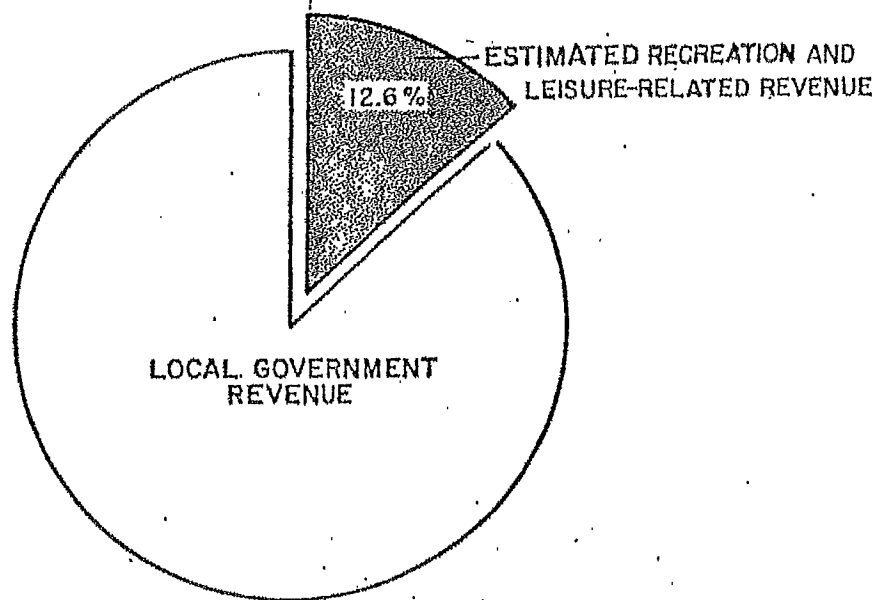
In addition to the taxes just discussed, the state derives an additional \$975.6 million in annual income from licenses and fees associated with recreation and leisure.

Local Revenues

More than \$640 million collected by California's cities, counties, and special districts in fiscal 1980-81 is estimated to have been generated by recreation-related business activity and employment, and public recreation facilities (see below). This is 12.6% of the \$5.1 billion of local revenue for that year.

Figure 3

**Recreation and Leisure-Related Returns
to Local Government as a Percentage of
Total California Local Government
Revenue in Fiscal Year 1980-81**



Recreation and leisure-related property tax revenue, based on an estimation of taxes paid on privately owned recreation lands and taxes resulting from property value enhancement attributed to urban and suburban public parks, is estimated to have been \$360.3 million (56% of total recreation and leisure-related local revenue in 1982).

Local park and recreation use fees accounted for an additional \$147.5 million, or 23% of total local government recreation and leisure-related revenues.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEVADA ▼

Nevada State Parks, as part of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, studied the question of outdoor recreation's contribution to the state's economy. Although completed in late 1980, this study continues to be used by state and local planners to help predict economic impacts. Such information is valuable to Alpine County recreation providers because many visitors originate from Western Nevada cities and towns. The following summary includes the use trends and economic impacts for those recreation activities identified.

I. INTRODUCTION

This study assesses the impact of outdoor recreation on the Nevada economy. Although indoor recreational activities (gambling and other forms of entertainment) are the more widely recognized recreational attractions in Nevada, outdoor recreation also supports a significant share of economic activity in the state.

Recreationists visit Nevada in large numbers to participate in cross-country and downhill skiing, hunting, off-highway vehicle (OHV) driving, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and other outdoor activities.

These visitors provide revenues for income and jobs in the state through purchases in restaurants and groceries, from rental and purchase of sporting equipment and through expenditures for lodging and other goods and services. Studies indicate that many who visit Nevada primarily for outdoor recreation also gamble and participate in other indoor entertainment activities (e.g. Colberg, 1978).

Nevada residents also contribute substantially to the Nevada economy from purchases for outdoor recreation-related sporting goods, recreational vehicles (RV's), sports clothing, and from purchases related to in-state recreational travel. Government expenditures for management (marinas, campgrounds, etc.), and for capital improvements (e.g. tennis courts, swimming pools) to recreational areas also fuel the state's economy, providing outdoor recreation-related jobs in the public sector, as well as income to private contractors and their employees.

A. Economic Impact and the Regional Economy

The process by which recreational activities produce jobs, income and tax revenues in a region has features somewhat different from the way in which activity in other industrial sectors impact a region's economy. In general,

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economic activities may be divided between primary (or basic) activities and secondary activities (also called non-basic, service, or residentiary activities).

Primary industrial sectors of the economy are those that provide income and jobs to a region through exports to other regions. Typically, these activities (e.g., farming, mining, manufacturing) produce goods which are sold outside the region, earning income for employees and profits for owners of the producing firms.

Resident's purchases fuel the secondary sector of the economy, providing revenues for additional jobs, income, and taxes.

There is a fine dividing line between the primary and secondary sectors. Nearly all economic activities overlap the two sectors, producing, at times, some goods and services for export, and some for consumption within the region. To analyze a regional economy, economists usually place industries in one or the other sector, depending on whether the majority of their output is destined for export or for local consumption.

The recreation industry is typical of difficult-to-categorize sectors. Recreational activities may serve local residents as well as tourists. For example, a ski resort may sell its services to a region's residents or to tourists. Tourist skiers bring fresh income into the region, buying lift tickets, equipment, food and lodging. These purchases generate employment and income for the region's residents. The "tourist portion" of the ski resort is a primary sector activity. Resident skiers, on the other hand, recirculate the region's income in their purchase of ski goods and services. The "resident portion" of the ski resort is a secondary sector activity.

Expenditures related to outdoor recreation in Nevada arise from at least five distinct sources: (1) travel expenditures in Nevada by visitors from outside the state, (2) capital expenditures in Nevada for outdoor recreation equipment by these visitors, (3) capital expenditures by Nevada residents for outdoor recreation equipment and clothing, (4) in-state travel expenditures by Nevada residents, and (5) expenditures by federal, state, and local governments for outdoor recreational capital improvements or resource management.

Travel expenses are usually defined to include costs directly related to a specific trip, including transportation expenditures, food and liquor purchases (from groceries, liquor stores, bars, and restaurants), lodging (including camping), and entertainment. Travelers may also spend money for other retail goods, such as clothing, gifts, souvenirs, and sporting equipment.

For the outdoor recreationists, these travel and capital expenses vary widely by type of recreation activity. Campers and backpackers typically make most of their equipment purchases in the region of residence. Groceries may also be purchased at home and transported to the recreational destination. Lodging expenses are often limited to small space or user fees in parks or campgrounds. Purchases by campers or backpackers in the region of

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destination might be limited to single gasoline purchase, a few groceries, and possibly a restaurant visit.

At the other extreme, the downhill skier makes many purchases at the recreation destination, including lift tickets, equipment rental, lodge rentals, and meals. Expenditures may also include the purchase of ski equipment and clothes. The ski lodges themselves, if owned by visitors, represent major capital investment in the region of destination.

II. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OUTDOOR RECREATION VISITATION TO NEVADA

1. Outdoor Recreation Visitor Expenditures

The amount of money travelers spend while visiting an area is the critical bridge to determining the impact on the destination region's economy. Unfortunately, the existing data on visitor expenditures is limited. Survey data frequently cannot be generalized to other regions. Many studies do not state their assumptions or rely on faulty procedures for determining daily tourist expenditures (see Cahill and Neale, 1979, for further discussion).

Visitor expenditure studies for Nevada, like visitation studies, are generally unreliable. It has been necessary to draw from studies of outdoor recreation expenditures in other states to obtain a feel for how much outdoor recreationists spend on journeys to Nevada.

Probably the leading national survey on the topic is the U. S. Travel Data Center's annual National Travel Expenditure Study (United States Travel Data Center, 1977). The Center, a private Washington, D. C.-based firm, uses a nationwide household survey which it correlates with data from the Bureau of the Census' National Travel Survey (Bever, 1978). The study estimates that all U.S. Travelers spent an average of \$23.07 per person per day on journeys of 100 miles or more in 1976. Visitors to Nevada spent an average of \$35.98 per day, among the highest for any state (U.S. Travel Data Center, 1977). The high cost of trips to Nevada undoubtedly reflects large expenditures for gambling and related activities.

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Table 1

Expenditures per Person per Day
by Outdoor Recreation Travelers in the
United States, 1976 (1988, adjusted for inflation)

Expenditure Category	Expenditures Per Person Per Day, 1976
Transportation	\$ 5.86 (12.25)
Lodging	4.04 (8.48)
Food	10.44 (22.18)
Entertainment	2.07 (4.32)
Incidentals	3.60 (7.42)
Total	\$ 26.01 (54.65)

Note: For travel of 200 miles or greater, round trip.

Source: U.S. Travel Data Center, 1976 National Travel Expenditure Studies, 1977.

The study calculated that outdoor recreationists traveling 100 miles or more in the U.S. spent an average of \$26.01 per person per day in 1976, a figure larger than the average for all travelers in the U.S. but smaller than the average for all visitors to Nevada. These figures are broken down by expenditure category in Table 1.

Using past surveys and updating expenditure amounts to 1979 prices, this study has estimated 1979 average expenditures per person per day for outdoor recreationists in Nevada. These estimates are displayed in Table 2, Estimated Daily Expenditures of Resident and Non-Resident Outdoor Recreationists in Nevada by Primary Outdoor Activity, 1979.

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Table 2

Estimated Daily Expenditures of Resident and Non-Resident Outdoor Recreationists in Nevada by Primary Outdoor Activity, 1979

Primary Activity	Expenditures Per Person Per Day, 1979 (1988, adjusted for inflation)	
	Residents	Non-Residents
Camping, backpacking	\$12 (\$20)	\$16 (\$27)
Hunting	\$35 (\$58)	\$60 (\$99)
Downhill Skiing	\$25 (\$41)	\$55 (\$95)
Outdoor Recreation- Overall Average	N/A	\$40 (\$76)

Note: Figures represent average expenditures per person per day for each activity. For non-residents, some expenditures are made outside Nevada. Estimates are updated from earlier studies using the United States Consumer Price Index for retail goods and the Gasoline Price Index to estimate increases in transportation costs.

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III. FUTURE TRENDS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION IN NEVADA

The future of outdoor recreation and its impact on the economy of Nevada may best be examined first by looking at factors affecting future nationwide trends and then at variations which are likely to affect Nevada individually.

For national trends, it may be informative to look at recent trends in factors that caused the sharp increase in outdoor recreation participation between 1965 and 1977.

(1) Increase in leisure time - leisure time for Americans should continue to increase as the work week gets shorter, allowing greater participation in outdoor recreation.

(2) Women joining the labor force - this trend should continue, giving women greater individual incomes, allowing for larger participation in outdoor recreation.

(3) Decline of baby boom offspring - the bulge in the curve of 25-35 year persons caused by the post-war baby boom is receding, reducing the number of persons in the age bracket considered to be the prime purchasing age for outdoor recreation goods and services.

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(4) Increased options for elderly - increase in their relative share of income should continue to increase recreational demand among the elderly.

(5) The physical fitness movement - Americans are expected to continue their interest in personal health and physical fitness through outdoor recreational activity.

For Nevada, the outdoor recreation future is probably not as bleak as one might suppose from considering the effects of gasoline prices on travel patterns of Californians, major contributors to outdoor recreation participation in Nevada. First, the population of Nevada continues to grow rapidly. This trend will have a positive effect on resident outdoor activity and purchases. Moreover, newcomers to Nevada tend to be young, and more active outdoor recreation participants. Second, although California's population is not growing at previous rates, there are a large number of persons of child-bearing age in that state. The number of babies born in California reached an all-time high in 1979, indicating that there will be a growing future demand for outdoor recreation activity near to Nevada's borders. Third, California's outdoor recreation opportunities are becoming overcrowded. Nevada is a logical choice to receive a portion of overflow demand.

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SORENSENS ▼

Throughout this study, questions about the economic impacts of increased recreation were considered. How much could the County expect to benefit financially from such increased use? Other case studies in this section reflect research that identifies how much money tourists and recreationists spend in other areas. Based on this kind of information, it is obvious that increased visitation will result in increased revenue to the County. However, this information shows only a general trend; it cannot show specific increases.

To give a better sense of what the County can expect, this section provides a case study looking at actual and projected tax increases from an Alpine County business. Sorensens Resort was chosen for this case study for several reasons. First, Sorensens stands to gain the most directly from increased access to the lands under USFS acquisition consideration. Secondly, John and Patty Brissenden have owned and operated this resort for six years, providing a good historical tax record. And thirdly, they have completed a comprehensive master plan for the resort's future. This allows a realistic tax projection based on planned improvements.

This case study shows a marked increase in tax revenue produced by a resort completely dependent on recreation and tourism. Other businesses in the county may benefit from increased recreation in different ways, yet this example clearly shows some benefit will be felt.

In 1981, Sorensens Resort consisted of 20 cabins rented on a monthly basis and a small restaurant. The resort at that time was rundown and operated inefficiently. In 1982, John and Patty Brissenden purchased the 165 acres and began to renovate and plan for the future. In March of 1987, the Sorensens Report Expansion Master Plan and resulting EIS were completed. By that year, all the existing structures had been renovated and the resort was operating as a year-round resort offering a wide range of recreational activities.

Sorensens Resort currently includes 23 cabins, an owner's residence and a guest duplex. The small restaurant serves resort guests and others, though it is not open for all meals. Also in the restaurant, guide books, artwork, wine and other gift items are available.

The resort offers conference facilities for small groups and many organized recreational activities. These include guided nature walks, astronomy and art lessons, and cross-country ski rental and lessons. Also, the owners will arrange special events for guests. This includes weddings, llama pack trips and equestrian rides at Kirkwood Stables.

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The future of the resort shows ambitious plans. The EIS provides a description at buildout, in approximately 15 years. It states:

It is planned that Sorensen's will be a destination resort featuring accommodations for conferences, seminars and workshops. The facilities will include bed and breakfast and timeshare lodging as well as a sauna and spa on the premises. The resort will sponsor year round outdoor activities centered on the resort as well as surrounding areas.

Specific facilities expansion includes:

Cabins. Twenty existing cabins will be renovated and remain on the lower benchlands near Highway 88, with some increase in density on the side of the creek. (All renovation is completed, 1988)

Twenty proposed housekeeping cabins will have one bedroom with kitchen and bathroom facilities with wood exteriors. They will be located behind and to the east of the existing Norway House on two smaller benches that afford some views of the meadows and will be tucked into the hillside and screened with existing vegetation.

Fifteen larger housekeeping cabins or vacation timeshare cabins will be sited around a small lake above the existing resort area. These cabins will consist of 2 or 3 bedrooms, living room, kitchen and bath facilities and the present design concept is a log or wood exterior to blend with the existing landscape.

Bed and Breakfast Lodge. The lodge will consist of 18 rooms, approximately 16 of which will be European style with a common bath at the end of the hall and the remainder will be private suites. The lower floor will consist of a restaurant facility with a small lounge area, dining area which will seat approximately 50 to 75 people and could double as a conference room for guests. The manager's quarters and gift shop will also be housed on this floor.

Other Living Units. Two hostel cabins will be located in close proximity to the lodge and will sleep 18-20 people each, dormitory style. These units will also serve as conference rooms.

Not included in this description, the resort may also offer mountain bike rentals and expand the cross-country ski operation. The latter currently provides some groomed trails, and ski rentals and lessons. The expansion could include many more km of groomed trails, and ski and clothing retail.

John and Patty Brissenden have seen not only their resort and plans grow, their tax contribution to Alpine County has grown also. The following table shows a 205% increase in property tax as they have renovated the existing structures. As more improvements are added, this could increase as much as 12,094%. Also, with the additional rooms and retail opportunities planned, their TOT and sales tax contributions rise.

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The following record shows the actual increase in tax revenue generated by Sorensens between 1981 and 1987 as well as that projected for 2002 (planned buildout for the resort).

	Property Tax	Sales Tax	TOT (Bed Tax)
1981(1)	\$ 2,400	Unknown	\$ 1,754
1987(2)	\$ 4,932 (+205%)	\$ 624	\$ 16,790 (+957%)
1988(3)	\$ 7,432 (+150%)	\$ 1,000* (+160%)	\$ 22,330 (+132%)*
2002(4)	\$63,833*(+858%)	\$10,470*(+104%)	\$110,000 (+492%)*

Total \$ collected by Alpine County from Sorensens resort:

1981: \$ 4,154 (plus amount of sales tax generated)
1987: \$ 22,346
1988: \$ 30,762
2002: \$184,303*

- (1) The year before the Brissenden's purchase. See above for a facility description.
- (2) Facilities: All original structures restored and area operated as a resort with wide variety of recreational activities available year-round.
- (3) Facilities: Owner's house added, also three new cabins built and original owner's unit renovated as a guest duplex.
- (4) Facilities: Buildout. See above.

*Projections. All projections for this comparison should be considered conservative. No attempt was made to account for increased building costs as the resort develops, increased resort prices, inflation, or changes in the various tax rates. The latter may change in the future as Alpine County's TOT rate is several percentage points below other California counties with similar tourist-based economies.

A factor that could offset this tax contribution would involve increased need for county services. In this case, however, the 1987 EIS did not identify any public service needs that project mitigations could not address.

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Conclusion:

This example shows the long-term economic benefits of public recreation and tourism to Alpine County. Other benefits produced by the success of businesses such as Sorensens include: the increased value of nearby private land; heightened awareness of Hope Valley as a destination recreation area; and the possibility of currently vacant land to develop and provide recreational amenities.

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Hope Valley
Economic and Recreation Study

Final ▼ April 1989

▲ Economic
Summary

Economics Summary ▼

This section is a summary of the employment potential, and the economics of the proposed land purchase. These figures are the best estimate that could be made at this time, as collected from the participants in this study.

Employment

As recreation is seasonal, few of the private sector groups hire anyone full-time. The figures are what the participants considered to be "year-round, full-time equivalents". For example, Caples Lake Resort employs almost 15 people at their peak season (August). This works out to be 5 full-time equivalents.

The projected employment figures are based on the owner/manager's vision of their resort. All the public groups such as the USFS refused to predict future staffing levels because that is totally dependent on legislative whim. The estimates appear to be low if the resorts develop as envisioned. With an economic slow-down or some other development inhibitory, these estimates will be high.

EMPLOYMENT

Recreation/Support Services Provider	Current	1998
USFS*	.4	.4
CA State Parks	.10	.10
CA Fish and Game	.5	.5
Kirkwood		
Kirkwood Stables**	1	5
Kirkwood Nordic Center**		
Sorensens	4	10
Caples Lake Resort	5	8
Tahoe Winter Sports**	.5	.5
Woodfords Inn	2 (family members)	3
Woodfords Station	2 (family members)	2
Total	25.4	39.4

* Includes only Toiyabe Forest, no information gathered for the El Dorado Forest portion of the study area.

** These businesses are seasonal only.

Land Purchase

The Hope Valley has become a major nonurbanized recreation resource adjacent to the Lake Tahoe Basin in California and Nevada. While the Lake Tahoe Basin still remains the major recreation destination in the Sierras Hope Valley has become a destination for low intensity recreation including hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and camping. In addition, there is one destination resort, Sorensons, and at opposite ends of the Valley area Kirkwood ski area, and the towns of Woodfords and Markleeville. Adjacent to Markleeville is the Grover Hot Springs a favorite day use and camping area. Hope Valley lacks significant commercial services and public utilities which has delayed its growth as an intensive recreational center. Recently, the area has become the subject of intensive debate about the potential for further development. Its proximity to the Lake Tahoe Basin has resulted in pressure to intensify development activity.

The Trust for Public Land has purchased options on larger tracts of land within the study area and has identified a number of potential options for subsequent conveyance of the optioned lands. In addition, the voters of California recently passed Proposition 70 which provides bond funds for open space acquisition, local recreation funds, historic preservation, and fisheries and state park development. Included within the \$81.3 million allotted to the California Wildlife Conservation Board is \$4 million to purchase land within the Hope Valley. Alpine County is also included as the recipient of \$100,000 in automatic grants. The Proposition includes \$11 million for historic preservation, and \$5 million for trail development for the entire State. These funds must be applied for and the County would need to compete with other counties in the State.

The Trust for Public Land has purchased options on two properties known as the Dressler and the Helm's property. The Dressler property includes approximately 4,000 acres, and the Helms property under option includes approximately 11,000 acres. Acquisition of these properties and subsequent conveyance to a public agency would result in the reduction in property tax collections by Alpine county.

The historical taxable assessed valuation of the Dressler property is \$298,000, estimated property tax proceeds are \$2,983 annually. The Helms property is currently assessed at \$3,234,710 and the estimated property tax collections are \$32,347 annually. The historical taxes received by the county were approximately \$36,000.00. The new assessment, as of 1988, of these properties is approximately \$70,000.00.

Conveyance to a public agency could result in the loss of up to \$70,000.00 to the County in property taxes annually. In 1984-85 secured and unsecured property taxes totalled \$845,000. There is a period of approximately One to Three years before the total impact of the reduction will be recovered by the

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combination of private and public funds. The impact of this reduction can be offset by additional development of recreation opportunities within the study area or by additional development within other areas of the County. This additional development of recreation opportunities will be tied to the proposed purchase. The proposed acquisition would necessitate revisions to the current County General Plan. These revisions must incorporate measures to offset the impact of the acquisition including recreational, commercial and residential development.

The Forest Service currently returns 25% of revenues generated on properties included in acquisitions to the county. Additional revenue would accrue to the county from these lands upon use for increased recreational or resource activity. In 1987, Alpine county received \$13,470 from county lands within the Toiyabe National Forest. The current Forest Service Plan envisions reconstruction of the Hope Valley Campground, promotion of continued grazing activity, retention of natural conditions, and within 20 years construction of the 120 unit Faith Valley campground. At this time the Forest Service was unable to give a figure of revenues that would be generated by the proposed purchase.

Assessed Taxes

Helms	\$32,347.00
Dressler	2,983.00
Total	\$35,330.00 (Historical)
Total	approx. \$70,000.00 (Current)

Proposed Land Exchanges

<u>Parcel</u>	<u>Assessed Value</u>
Woodfords 80 acres	220,000.00
Shay Creek	195,000.00
Kirkwood 20 acres	140,000.00
(Buildout	4,500,000.00)

The privatizing of the Shay summerhome area which includes 35 dwellings, with an assessed value of the land is \$195,000, will bring in an undetermined tax increase as the property is reassessed since the residents own all the improvements including structures and the water system.

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As the Economic Case Studies in the previous section showed, if the current developed recreation facilities continue to expand (i.e. Sorensens Resort) their taxes within 3 years will be approximately \$78,221.00. This amount alone will off-set the impact of the reduction to the county tax base. Assuming that the other developed recreation facilities will continue to expand at near or same rates, Alpine County will have traded a short term wind-fall with a more stable long range economic plan. Public lands are a critical component of California's recreation and leisure industry, about 40% of all recreation and leisure spending, amounting to \$12 Billion in 1982, was related to the use of public lands.

Summary of the Proposed Land Purchase

ALPINE COUNTY TAX SCHEDULE THRU 3/20/91

Produced: 3/01/89

The Helms Property	\$46,987
The Dressler Property	\$ 5,395
The Orvis Property	\$ 6,783
	\$59,165

Note: The Helms value is based on an average of 2 years of taxes at Total \$70,000 and 3 years of the historical rate of \$32,948.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Est. Close Date</u>	<u>Tax Value</u>	<u>Paymnts to Co.</u>	<u>Form of Credit</u>	<u>Net gain or Loss</u>	<u>Cum Total</u>
Horsethief Canyon Phase 1	closed	\$2,461*				
Burnside Lake	closed	\$2,694*				
Hope Villy North	closed	\$0	\$8,270	WCB in-lieu pmt		
Dangberg Camp	closed	\$12,052*	\$18,875	WCB in-lieu pmt		
Horsethief Canyon Phase 2	closed	\$398*				
W of Pickett Peak	closed	\$101				
E of Calpine Mine	closed	\$191				
Burnside Mine	closed	\$195				
NW of Pickett Peak	closed	\$31				

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<u>Project</u>	<u>Est. Close Date</u>	<u>Tax Value</u>	<u>Paymnts to Co.</u>	<u>Form of Credit</u>	<u>Net Gain or Loss</u>	<u>Cum Total</u>
Burnside Lake	closed	\$87				
Sub-total closed projects		\$18,210	\$27,145		\$8,935	\$8,905
Orvis	3/31/89	\$3,497	\$10,710	WCB in-lieu pmt		
Fredericksburg Canyon	4/15/89	\$1,090*				
Deep Canyon	5/15/89	\$168	\$2,091	Shay Creek Exchange		
Little Indian Valley	6/30/89	\$238	\$714	Kirkwood exchange		
Vaquero Camp	6/30/89	\$1,876*				
Monitor Pass	6/30/89	\$2,089*				
Sub-total by	12/10/89	\$8,958	\$13,515		\$4,557	\$13,462
Carson Pass	12/31/89	\$3,287				
Clover Valley	1/31/90	\$422				
Big Indian Valley	1/31/90	\$377				
Armstrong Pass	6/30/90	\$2,129*				
Poison Flat	6/30/90	\$1,337*				
Bagley Vly Phase 1	6/30/90	\$1,505*	\$1,530	w/150k BLM exchange		
Bagley Vly Phase 2	6/30/90	\$6,024*				
Von Schmidt	6/30/90	\$494*				
Hope Valley	6/30/90	\$12,786*				
Sub-total by	12/10/90	\$28,361	\$1,530		(\$26,831)	(\$13,369)
Faith Valley	3/20/91	\$499				

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<u>Project</u>	<u>Est. Close Date</u>	<u>Tax Value</u>	<u>Paymnts to Co.</u>	<u>Form of Credit</u>	<u>Net Gain or Loss</u>	<u>Cum Total</u>
Sawmill Creek	3/20/91	\$210				
Red Lake Creek	3/20/91	\$2,418				
N of Red Lake	3/20/91	\$472				
E of Crater Lake	3/20/91	\$20				
E of Alpine Mine	3/20/91	\$17				
Sub-total by	12/10/91	\$3,636	\$0		(\$3,636)	(\$17,005)
Total by	12/10/91	\$59,165				

* Helm's tax values are based on the 3/2 average and are close approximations.

Within the study area of Hope Valley the focus is on recreational opportunities development. Three public entities may become involved in management of the acquired lands depending upon the method acquisition, the United States Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and the California State Parks system. If Federal funding is received as is currently being solicited, management would most likely be by the Forest Service as part of the Toiyabe National Forest. If acquisition occurs using funds from Proposition 70 through the California Wildlife Conservation Board the California Department of Fish and Game could obtain management responsibility over 25-50% of the Hope Valley purchase. The Department of Fish and Game plans on developing a cooperative recreation plan with the USFS for management of these lands. The primary concern of Fish and Game is to lessen the impact of cattle grazing upon the fishery habitat. Upon a determination of the appropriate level of grazing activity for the entire valley by both entities each entity would administer their own land separately.

In summary, plans for any of the potential management agencies interested in the Hope Valley acquisition are vague at this point. The lack of these plans will delay implementation of any increased recreational opportunities. The County will suffer the loss of tax revenues for at least 1-3 years while management alternatives are assessed. Dispersed recreation activity will most likely be the focus of management alternatives. Fees generated from these alternatives cannot be predicted due to the lack of implementation plans.

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It is this study's recommendation that the Alpine County become actively involved in area planning with a focus on recreation as a source of revenue. And that they seek funding from Proposition 70 to help with their planning needs for these recreation areas. Absence of fee based recreational uses will result in a continuation of revenue losses by the county from acquisition. These losses can only be minimized by early attention to recreational opportunities. Proposition 70 contains funding which could be applied for by the county but long term revenues can only be guaranteed by the implementation of recreational and resource master plans.

Needs to be reviewed

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▲ Appendix

References
Interviews

Needs to be reviewed

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▲ Interviews

United States Forest Service

Jim Nelson
Neil Botts
Marcia Joseph
Milt Kauffman
Chuck Lowerie

California State Parks

Bob Macomber
Gary Howard
John Scull
Ross Henry

Nevada State Parks

Jim Najima

California Fish & Game

Jim Messersmith
Pat O'Brien

Alpine County

Leonard Turnbeaugh

Alpine County Chamber of Commerce

Dodie Halverson

Needs to be reviewed

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Private Sector

Woodfords:
Sorensens:

Grace
John & Patti Brissenden
Mike Lenoy

Caples Lake Resort:
Tahoe Winter Sports:
Kirkwood Stables:
Kirkwood Associates:
Sierra Ski Touring:
Husky Express:

Joe Voss
Ari Makinen
Jim A. Hagen
John Wagnon
Dave Beck
Dotty Dennis

Needs to be reviewed

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Alpengroup ❄

Design & Planning Related Disciplines for Alpine Environments

Project Team

For

Economic and Recreation Study
For Hope Valley

Philip Caterino - Principal Planner

Sue Irelan - Senior Planner

Susan Lindstrom - Cultural Resources

Jerald Misfelt - Biophysical

James Dana - Planner/Economics

Michael Capp - Project Analyst

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RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,
COUNTY OF ALPINE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
SUPPORTING CHANGING SHAY CREEK FROM
FEDERAL OWNERSHIP TO PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

RESOLUTION NO. 88-026

WHEREAS, Alpine County values the open space, historic, recreational and scenic beauty of Hope Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Trust for Public Land has acted in a manner to purchase lands in Hope Valley for preservation and public access; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of Alpine County is already federally or state owned and the loss of property taxes to the general fund will be significant as these lands are purchased and transferred into public ownership; and

WHEREAS, in working with the County of Alpine, Trust for Public Land has agreed to work on certain conditions and projects which will help to alleviate the tax loss by transferring Shay Creek Forest Service lands near Markleeville into private ownership to relieve the tax loss in Hope Valley by putting homes in Shay Creek on the local property tax rolls; and

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service, Trust for Public Land, Alpine County, and the residents of Shay Creek are in unanimous agreement about the transfer; and

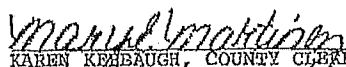
WHEREAS, all land transfers regarding the Forest Service are currently in litigation and require an Act of Congress for exemption;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Alpine County Board of Supervisors unanimously requests an Act of Congress to exempt Shay Creek from the litigation in order to proceed with the transfer of Shay Creek into private ownership.

AYES : Supervisors Jardine, Freeman, Jung, Gansberg and Chairman Bennett
NOES : None
ABSENT: None


JOHN BENNETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE
ALPINE COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ATTEST:


KAREN KERBAUGH, COUNTY CLERK
AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
By Mary E. Martinez, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


HENRY G. MURDOCH, COUNTY COUNSEL

**Transcription of Discussion about Hope Valley Wildlife Area During
April 17, 2024 California Fish and Game Commission
Meeting as Prepared by Staff**

September 17, 2026

Chad Dibble: So, following the February meeting, uh, the Department and the Commission staff met with Supervisor Griffith of Alpine County. We discussed Supervisor Griffith's, uh, statements made at the meeting regarding the services provided by Desolation Hotel formally, uh, Sorensens. We expressed concern that there was no formal agreement for the services while recognizing and appreciating the long-term contributions of the community.

Uh, supervisor Griffith mentioned that he thought there was an agreement at one point executed many years ago, but neither party was able to produce the document.

Following that meeting, we dug deeper into our files and actually met with some of our more tenured staff and were able to find an agreement executed 24 years ago, uh, for operation and maintenance of, of the fishing pier and the parking lot improvements on Hope Valley Wildlife Area. It turns out that agreement actually expires next year in 2025.

The agreement stipulates that the premises and facilities would be available for fishing and other recreational opportunities without charge. We believe that this agreement, uh, does provide a basis for removal of Hope Valley Wildlife from the Lands Pass Program and we intend to have continued discussions with Alpine County regarding updating this operating agreement.

The Department's recommendation to you will therefore be amended to support the removal of Hope Valley Wildlife Area, with the understanding that a renewed or new agreement will be signed by both parties. We intend to provide that updated memo to you at your June meeting.

Should you grant Petition 2018-016, the removal of Hope Valley would require a formal rulemaking. Um, so if granted, our recommendation is that that change be added to the list of amendments to Title 14 and be included in the next lands, uh, regulatory package, which is tentatively scheduled for 2025, that also would give us, uh, ample time to ensure that an executed agreement is done, a new agreement is, is executed prior to bringing you a formal, uh, rulemaking change.

Supervisor David Griffith: Yeah, thank you very much. Uh, Chairman Murray and commissioners and also Mr. Dibble. Um, where were we? I'm very happy to, um, hear what, uh, uh, Deputy Director Dibble has said. Um, we will do our best to live up to his expectations. Uh, this is a project that, um, the community and the county have been involved in right from the beginning, uh, including, um, lobbying to get the \$25 million, which allowed the state to buy Hope Valley. Um, and we hope to be able to continue it. So, I really, uh, uh, appreciate Fish and Wildlife's, uh, uh, looking into it and, um, respectfully ask you to approve all his recommendation. Thank you very much.

Samantha Murray: Uh, the only petition we're taking an action on today is 2023-12, which is on groundfish descending devices. Um, so would anybody like to make a motion?

Unidentified speaker: Oh, yes.

Samantha Murray: Oh, sorry. And referring Petition, 2024-01. Many apologies. Yes.

Mike Yaun: And, and you had a recommendation from the, the verbal recommendation from the Department regarding, I don't have the, I don't have the staff summary in front of me, but the, the Hope Valley petition, I don't remember the number.

Samantha Murray: That's right. Hope Valley too. So, a great time for somebody besides me to make this motion.

Erika Zavaleta: I'm happy to try to make this motion. Um, I'll move that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations to grant in concept Petition 2023-12, refer Petition 2024-0. Okay. I'm realizing as I get here that I'm gonna need help with the language and maybe clarification from Deputy, Deputy Director Dibble about, um, uh, whether we should be taking action today or specifying that we will take action at our June meeting. Help me out here.

Mike Yaun: Yeah, if you're, if you're okay with me answering that,

Erika Zavaleta: Please.

Mike Yaun: I think, and, and with Chad potentially giving vigorous head nods if he disagrees, but <laugh>, uh, I, I think the proposal was that you grant Petition 2018-016A, uh, and that, uh, Director, Deputy Director Dibble just had noted that granting it as with any petition granting, it does not mean that it becomes a regulation. You would need sub, you would need regulations to change it subsequent to that.

Erika Zavaleta: Okay. And we're good to go forward with everything you described about a 2025 rule rulemaking timetable.

Chad Dibble: Correct. And that's 2018-016?

Erika Zavaleta: Yes. That I, that part I got, that was the only part I got, I think, apparently. Okay. I'll move that the Commission adopts the staff recommendations to grant in concept Petition 2023-12, refer Petition 2024-01 to the Department for review and recommendation and grant Petition 2018-016

Darius Anderson: Second.

Samantha Murray: So, we have a motion by Vice President Zavaleta, a second by Commissioner Anderson. David, could you read the role?

David Haug: Vice President Zavaleta.

Erika Zavaleta: Aye.

David Haug: Commissioner Anderson.

Darius Anderson: Aye.

David Haug: Commissioner Sklar.

Eric Sklar: Aye.

David Haug: President Murray.

Samantha Murray: Aye. So, the motion passes unanimously.



Tracking Number: (2025-12)

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: Phillip Sanders

Address: [REDACTED]

Telephone number: [REDACTED]

Email address: [REDACTED]

2. Rulemaking Authority (Required) - Reference to the statutory or constitutional authority of the Commission to take the action requested: California Fish and Game Code Section 200

3. Overview (Required) - Summarize the proposed changes to regulations: Modify the bicycle regulations on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area to allow bicycle use on roads or levees for transportation between parking lots and hunting areas during the water-

4. fowl season.

5. Rationale (Required) - Describe the problem and the reason for the proposed change: The current regulations that restrict bicycle use on the Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA unfairly limit access for older hunters and junior hunters who would be better able to access waterfowl hunting opportunities via bicycle rather than on foot. Bicycle access is already allowed on type A and type B waterfowl hunting units. Bicycles on these types of units enable access for hunters for whom walk-in only access would be impractical and allow hunters in free roam areas to more easily spread out rather than compete for sites close to the parking lots. Hunters should not be required to pay for the privilege of using bicycles for access to waterfowl hunting, which is what limiting bicycle use to only type A and B units does. Instead, hunters should be allowed to use bicycles for improved access on type C waterfowl units as well. The Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA has existing, convenient roads and levees that lend themselves to bicycle access as-is, and would not require any alterations to implement this access and equity improvement.



SECTION II: Optional Information

6. **Date of Petition:** 9/3/2025

7. **Category of Proposed Change**

☐ Sport Fishing

☐ Commercial Fishing

X Hunting

☐ Other, please specify:

8. **The proposal is to:** *(To determine section number(s), see current year regulation booklet or <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs>)*

X Amend Title 14 Section(s):

☐ Add New Title 14 Section(s):

☐ Repeal Title 14 Section(s):

9. **If the proposal is related to a previously submitted petition that was rejected, specify the tracking number of the previously submitted petition**
Or X Not applicable.

10. **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: 10/8/2025

11. **Supporting documentation:** Identify and attach to the petition any information supporting the proposal including data, reports and other documents:

12. **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: None

13. **Forms:** If applicable, list any forms to be created, amended or repealed:

SECTION 3: FGC Staff Only

Date received:

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