**2021-017- Petition for Big Game Hunt changes**

Petition items listed below in priority order

1. **Returned Tag Reissuance**
   * **FGC Action**- Recommend CDFW report on the number of Deer, pronghorn, Elk and Sheep tags that have been returned and not reissued for the past 5 years. Based on this number recommend that the department reach out to the license contractor to create a program to reissue those tags. This has been done with numerous contractors and could modeled similar to the Nevada Department of Wildlife tag reissuance program which was implemented in 2021.
   * CDFW data shows that is 2021 shows that:
     + 809 X-Zone general deer tags were not issued. Many of these were due to fire closures but many of these tags could have been reissued to hunters that would have used the tags.
2. **Bass Hill Muzzleloader and Archery Boundary Change**-
   * **FGC Action**: Recommend approval for boundary adjustment for both M8 & A26 hunts.
   * The current boundary (Lassen County portion of X6A) for these hunts were established in the 90’s with no scientific reasoning. The boundary was established based on where the deer traditionally ranged during the hunt season (Lassen County portion of X6A is lower elevation). In the past decade, the deer have ranged throughout the entire zone during the seasons. By expanding the boundary to include the entire X6A zone the department would provide additional opportunity and quality of an experience. The proposed language is included:
   * 360(C)(21)- (21) M-8 (Bass Hill Muzzleloading Rifle Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: ~~That portion of Lassen County within the area described as Zone X-6a (see subsection 360(b)(8)(A)).~~ In those portions of Lassen and Plumas counties within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 147 and Highway 36 near Westwood; east on Highway 36 to Conservation Center Road at Susanville (County Road A-27); east on Conservation Center Road to Highway 395 at the town of Litchfield; east on Highway 395 to the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road (County Road 320); east on the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road to the Nevada-California state line; south on the Nevada-California state line to the UP-WP railroad line near Herlong; west on the UP-WP railroad line to the Herlong Access Road (County Road A- 25) at Herlong; west on the Herlong Access Road to Highway 395; north on Highway 395 to County Road 336 at Milford; southwest on County Road 336 to U.S. Forest Service Road 26N16 near the Plumas-Lassen county line; west on Forest Service Road 26N16 to Forest Service Road 28N03 at Doyle Crossing; west on Forest Services Road 28N03 to Forest Service Road 29N43 near Antelope Lake; south on Forest Service Road 29N43 to County Road 111 at Flournoy Bridge; south on County Road 111 to Forest Service Road 24N08; south on Forest Service Road 24N08 to County Road 112 at Lake Davis; south on County Road 112 to Highway 70; west on Highway 70 to the Highway 89 junction at Blairsden; west on Highway 89/70 to the Greenville Y west of Quincy; northwest on Highway 89 to Highway 147 at Canyon Dam; north on Highway 147 to the point of beginning.

* + 361(b)(23) - (23) A-26 (Bass Hill Archery Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: ~~That portion of Lassen County within the area described as Zone X-6a (see subsection 360(b)(8)(A)).~~ In those portions of Lassen and Plumas counties within a line beginning at the junction of Highway 147 and Highway 36 near Westwood; east on Highway 36 to Conservation Center Road at Susanville (County Road A-27); east on Conservation Center Road to Highway 395 at the town of Litchfield; east on Highway 395 to the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road (County Road 320); east on the Wendel-Pyramid Lake Road to the Nevada-California state line; south on the Nevada-California state line to the UP-WP railroad line near Herlong; west on the UP-WP railroad line to the Herlong Access Road (County Road A- 25) at Herlong; west on the Herlong Access Road to Highway 395; north on Highway 395 to County Road 336 at Milford; southwest on County Road 336 to U.S. Forest Service Road 26N16 near the Plumas-Lassen county line; west on Forest Service Road 26N16 to Forest Service Road 28N03 at Doyle Crossing; west on Forest Services Road 28N03 to Forest Service Road 29N43 near Antelope Lake; south on Forest Service Road 29N43 to County Road 111 at Flournoy Bridge; south on County Road 111 to Forest Service Road 24N08; south on Forest Service Road 24N08 to County Road 112 at Lake Davis; south on County Road 112 to Highway 70; west on Highway 70 to the Highway 89 junction at Blairsden; west on Highway 89/70 to the Greenville Y west of Quincy; northwest on Highway 89 to Highway 147 at Canyon Dam; north on Highway 147 to the point of beginning.

1. **Elk Season Dates**
   * **FGC Action**: Recommend extending Elk hunt season dates to accommodate potential fire closures. While there are some overlaps with antlerless hunts the longer seasons would create no issues with hunter crowding. The list of Elk Hunts, existing seasons (strikethrough) and proposed season is below:

Subsection 364

* + - R(3)(A)(B), V(1)(A) Marble Mountains Bull/Antlerless/Apprentice - Shall open on the Wednesday preceding the second Saturday in September and continue for ~~12~~ **60** consecutive days.
    - Y(1)(A) Marble Mountain Muzz/Archery- Shall open on the last Saturday in ~~October~~ **November** and extend for ~~9~~ **30** consecutive days.
    - R(1)(A)(B) Siskiyou Bull and Antlerless- Shall open on the Wednesday preceding the second Saturday in September and continue for ~~12~~ **90** consecutive days.
    - S(1)(A)(B), V(2)(A) Northeastern General Bull/Apprentice- The bull season shall open on the Wednesday preceding the third Saturday in September and continue for ~~12~~ **30** consecutive days.
    - W(1)(A) Northeastern Archery- Shall open on the Wednesday preceding the first Saturday in September and continue for 12 consecutive days. **Shall reopen the last Saturday is October and continue for 60 consecutive days**.
    - U(1)(A)(B), V(3)(A) Cache Creek Bull/Antlerless/Apprentice - Shall open on the second Saturday in October and continue for ~~16~~ **60** consecutive days.
    - U(13)(A) East Park Reservoir- Shall open on the first Saturday in September and continue for ~~27~~ **60** consecutive days.
    - U(16)(A)(B) Lake Pillsbury Bull and Antlerless - Shall open Monday following the fourth Saturday in September and continue for ~~10~~ **60** consecutive days.

1. **General Deer Tag additional hunts**
   * **FGC Action**: Recommend that CDFW implement a minimum of **three** of the below opportunities in the 2023 season cycle. Updates to deer management plan are not needed for this action since no net take increase is proposed and is very low-risk.
   * These hunts are listed in the petition under General, muzzleloader and Archery. Some have been changed to accommodate traditional archery.
   * All hunts method of take could be modified based on CDFW’s approach. Example: making more of the opportunities archery if increase take concern is determined.

Rational for tag allocations and no net increase in take:

**General Example:**

**A Zone South Late Rifle Tag:**

* Propose allocating 35 Rifle tags
* Projected 60% harvest success would result in 21 bucks being harvested.
* Existing A Zone General Tag Quota: 65,000
* A Zone Tags issued in 2021: 28,777
* A Zone estimated harvest/success in 2021: 7,921, 27.5% success rate.
* 75 tags would be removed from the A zone general tag quota to accommodate for this hunts projected take to ensure that the hunt does not result in increased take. Additional general tags could be removed if a more conservative approach were to be taken.
* Lower harvest/success is projected for proposed traditional archery hunts which could allow for additional opportunities.
  + **Opportunities**
    - **A Zone North Late Traditional Archery Tag**- 15-35 tags, Starts the following Saturday after A zone rifle and runs for 9 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the A North Zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 65,000 tags that are allocated for A zone.
    - **A Zone South Late Rifle Tag** - 15-35 tags, Starts the following Saturday after A zone rifle and run for 9 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the A South Zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 65,000 tags that are allocated for A zone.
    - **Snow Mountain Wilderness Early Rifle**- 5-15 tags, Starts the last Wednesday in July and runs for 5 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the B1 & B3 zone within the Snow Mountain Wilderness. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 35,000 tags that are allocated for B zone.
    - **Late Season rifle Buck Hunt in d6**- 20-50 tags, Starts the first Saturday in November and runs for 5 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the D6 Zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 10,000 tags that are allocated for D6 zone.
    - **Late Season rifle Buck Hunt in d7**-20-50 tags, Starts the first Saturday in November and runs for 5 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the D7 Zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 9,000 tags that are allocated for D7 zone**.**
    - **D3 Late Muzzleloader Hunt**- 10-20 tags. Start the following Saturday after D3 rifle and run for 9 consecutive days. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 33,000 tags that are allocated for D3-5 zone.
* **D4 Late Muzzleloader Hunt**- 10-20 tags. Start the following Saturday after D4 rifle and run for 9 consecutive days. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 33,000 tags that are allocated for D3-5 zone.
* **D5 Late Muzzleloader Hunt**- 10-20 tags. Start the following Saturday after D5 rifle and run for 9 consecutive days. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 33,000 tags that are allocated for D3-5 zone.
* **Jackson State Forest Muzzleloader Buck Hunt**- 10-20 tags- Start the third Saturday in October and run for 9 consecutive days. Falls within the boundaries of the Jackson State forest in A Zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 65,000 tags that are allocated for A zone.
* **King Range Late Traditional Archery Buck**- 20-30 tags. Runs the last Saturday in October and runs for 9 consecutive days. Hunt falls within B4 zone. Can hunt private and public lands within the B4 zone. This tag allocation can be removed from the general 35,000 tags that are allocated for B zone. This could be expanded to B zone wide.
* **Late Archery buck in C1-C3**- 15-35 tags, Starts the following Saturday after C3 rifle (latest date) and runs for 14 consecutive days. Tag is good for all public and private lands within the C1-C3 Zones. This tag allocation can be removed from the 12,870 tags that are allocated for C1-4 zones (includes rifle, general, archery and apprentice).
* **Apprentice Honey Lake Wildlife Area Early buck Rifle Hunt**- 5-10 tags. Apprentice can hunt on CDFW lands (Dakin & Fleming) wildlife areas. Starting the First Saturday in August and runs for 9 consecutive days. This tag allocation can be removed from the tags that are allocated for X6a or determine by local biologist since the wildlife area is currently not open to X6a deer hunting.
* **Apprentice Late Season X4 hunt-** 10-20 tags. Start the First Saturday in November and runs for 9 consecutive days. This tag allocation can be removed from the 599 tags that are allocated for X4 zone.

1. **Party Applications Turn Back rule (Grandma loophole)**
   * **FGC Action**- Recommend language be added to 2023-2024 regulations. Easy change widely supported-Proposed language is:

A person surrendering a tag awarded through a group application is eligible for the following:

(a) if all group members surrender their permits more than XX days before the start of the season for which the permit is valid, all group members may:

(i) have previously acquired preference points reinstated plus one for that years application period;

(ii) applicants may be eligible for a refund consistent with Section XXXX;

Notwithstanding the limitations in this section, a person who obtains a permit through a group application may surrender that permit after the opening date of the applicable hunting season and have previously acquired bonus points or preference points for the permit species restored, provided the person:

(a) is a member of United States Armed Forces or public health or public safety organization and is deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or national emergency;

(b) surrenders the permit to the department, with the tag attached and intact, or signs an affidavit verifying the permit is no longer in their possession within one year of the end of hunting season authorized by the permit; and

(c) satisfies the requirements for receiving a refund in Subsections R657-42-5(3)(c) and (d).

1. **Second Bear Tag**
   * **FGC Action**- Recommend that CDFW make available a second bear tag for all hunters or successful hunters.
   * Sales would cease once the 1,700 take quota is met for the 2023 season.
   * CDFW could monitor this closely to determine if there are any impacts or increased net harvest.
   * Potential pilot program while bear management plan is in process.
2. **Archery Only Elk Opportunity on Grizzly Island**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW plan for an additional archery-only opportunity for 2024 season
3. **Archery/Muzzleloader Sheep opportunity**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW plan for an additional archery-only opportunity for 2024 season
4. **Split Rifle C Zones**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW publicly scope this proposal for the potential opportunity for 2024 season**.**
5. **Split Archery C Zones**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW publicly scope this proposal for the potential opportunity for 2024 season**.**
6. **Split Zone X3b**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW publicly scope this proposal for the potential opportunity for 2024 season**.**
7. **General Deer Tag/Archery Separation**
   * **FGC Action-** Recommend that CDFW publicly scope this proposal for the potential opportunity for 2025 season**.**
8. **Additional based on public comments**
   * **Marble Mountain EMU Elk Tag Additional Opportunities**
   * **FGC Action**: Recommend CDFW increase elk hunting opportunity and move people through the draw process through the creation of new hunts.
   * CDFW acknowledges elk population in Marble Mountain EMU is growing
   * Modern archery elk hunting has an average %20 success rate in other states for hunts occurring during the rut. Hunting outside the rut has a lower success rate.
   * Traditional Archery method has an even lower success rate than modern archery.
   * FGC & CDFW will have to define “traditional archery”. For example, “single string bows (recurves, longbows, selfbows) free of any mechanical assistance to propel the string other than the bending of the bow’s limbs, *e.g.*¸cams or pulleys. Bows lacking any electronic device used to aid the shooter.”

**Marble Mountain EMU Traditional Archery Either Sex**

* Propose adding a new hunt with 10 tags
* Two week season November 8-21