

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 13, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 589

**Introduced by Senator Harman
(Coauthor: Senator Aanestad)**

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bill Berryhill, DeVore, and Silva)

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Sections 331, 332, 1528, 3686, 4332, 4656, 4751, 4902, and 4903 of, to add Sections 711.1 and 3953 to, to repeal Section 3685 of, and to repeal and add Sections 3684 and 4334 of, the Fish and Game Code, relating to hunting.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 589, as amended, Harman. Game hunting.

Existing law requires all money collected under the provisions of the Fish and Game Code, including money received as a result of the sale of licenses issued under the provisions of the code, to be deposited into the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, unless otherwise provided. Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Game to operate wildlife management areas on a nonprofit basis for multiple recreational uses. Existing law authorizes the department to issue an annual wildlife area pass or a day use pass that authorizes the bearer to enter and use facilities and programs on designated department-managed lands. Existing law grants authority to the Fish and Game Commission to issue tags and licenses for the hunting of antelope, elk, upland game birds, deer, wild pigs, bears, and bighorn sheep upon payment of a fee, to be deposited into the fund.

This bill would establish the Upland Game Bird Account within the fund to permit separate accountability for the receipt and, subject to

appropriation, the prescribed expenditure of revenues from upland game bird validations and stamps.

The bill would establish the Big Game Management Account within the fund to permit separate accountability for the receipt and, subject to appropriation, the prescribed expenditure of revenues from antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and bighorn sheep tags.

The bill would exempt projects funded from the accounts from the State Contract Act and from statutory provisions relating to the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

The bill would make various conforming changes relating to the establishment of the accounts.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 331 of the Fish and Game Code is
2 amended to read:

3 331. (a) The commission may determine and fix the area or
4 areas, the seasons and hours, the bag and possession limit, and the
5 sex and total number of antelope (*Antilocapra americana*) that may
6 be taken under regulations that the commission may adopt from
7 time to time. Only a person possessing a valid hunting license,
8 who has not received an antelope tag under these provisions during
9 a period of time specified by the commission, may obtain a tag for
10 the taking of antelope.

11 (b) The department may issue a tag upon payment of a fee. The
12 fee for a tag shall be fifty-five dollars (\$55) for a resident of the
13 state, as adjusted under Section 713. On or before July 1, 2007,
14 the commission shall, by regulation, fix the fee for a nonresident
15 of the state at not less than a fee of three hundred fifty dollars
16 (\$350), as adjusted under Section 713. The fee shall be deposited
17 in the Big Game Management Account established in Section 3953
18 and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended, in
19 addition to moneys budgeted for salaries of persons in the
20 ~~department, for the expense of implementing this section.~~
21 *department as set forth in Section 3953.*

22 (c) The commission shall direct the department to annually
23 authorize not less than one antelope tag or more than 1 percent of
24 the total number of tags available for the purpose of raising funds

1 for programs and projects to benefit antelope. These tags may be
2 sold at auction to residents or nonresidents of the state or by another
3 method and are not subject to the fee limitation prescribed in
4 subdivision (b). All revenues from sales pursuant to this subdivision
5 shall be deposited in the Big Game Management Account
6 established in Section 3953 *and, upon appropriation by the*
7 *Legislature, shall be expended as set forth in that section.*

8 (d) The commission shall direct the department to annually
9 authorize one antelope tag of the total number of tags available
10 for issuance to nonresidents of the state.

11 SEC. 2. Section 332 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
12 to read:

13 332. (a) The commission may determine and fix the area or
14 areas, the seasons and hours, the bag and possession limit, and the
15 number of elk that may be taken under rules and regulations that
16 the commission may adopt from time to time. The commission
17 may authorize the taking of tule elk if the average of the
18 department's statewide tule elk population estimates exceeds 2,000
19 animals, or the Legislature determines, pursuant to the reports
20 required by Section 3951, that suitable areas cannot be found in
21 the state to accommodate that population in a healthy condition.

22 (b) Only a person possessing a valid hunting license may obtain
23 a tag for the taking of elk.

24 (c) The department may issue an elk tag upon payment of a fee.
25 The fee for a tag shall be one hundred sixty-five dollars (\$165) for
26 a resident of the state, as adjusted under Section 713. On or before
27 July 1, 2007, the commission shall, by regulation, fix the fee for
28 a nonresident of the state at not less than one thousand fifty dollars
29 (\$1,050), as adjusted under Section 713. The fees shall be deposited
30 in the Big Game Management Account established in Section 3953
31 and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended, in
32 addition to moneys budgeted for salaries of the department, ~~for~~
33 ~~the expenses of implementing this section and Section 3951. as~~
34 *set forth in Section 3953.*

35 (d) The commission shall annually direct the department to
36 authorize not more than three elk hunting tags for the purpose of
37 raising funds for programs and projects to benefit elk. These tags
38 may be sold at auction to residents or nonresidents of the state or
39 by another method and are not subject to the fee limitation
40 prescribed in subdivision (c). All revenues from sales pursuant to

1 this subdivision shall be deposited in the Big Game Management
2 Account established in Section 3953 *and, upon appropriation by*
3 *the Legislature, shall be expended as set forth in that section.*

4 (e) The commission shall direct the department to annually
5 authorize one elk tag of the total number of tags available for
6 issuance to nonresidents of the state.

7 SEC. 3. Section 711.1 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to
8 read:

9 711.1. The department shall annually maintain on its Internet
10 Web site, and include in the annual State Budget submitted by the
11 Governor, a fund condition statement that displays information on
12 the condition of revenues and expenditures both for dedicated and
13 nondedicated revenue sources.

14 SEC. 4. Section 1528 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
15 to read:

16 1528. (a) Lands, or lands and water, acquired for public
17 shooting grounds, state marine (estuarine) recreational management
18 areas, or wildlife management areas shall be operated on a
19 nonprofit basis by the department. Multiple recreational use of
20 wildlife management areas is desirable and that use shall be
21 encouraged by the commission.

22 (b) Except for hunting and fishing purposes, only minimum
23 facilities to permit other forms of multiple recreational use, such
24 as camping, picnicking, boating, or swimming, shall be provided.
25 Except as provided in Section 1765, and to defray the costs
26 associated with multiple use, the commission may determine and
27 fix the amount of, and the department shall collect, fees for any
28 use privileges. However, tours by organized youth and school
29 groups are exempt from the payment of those fees.

30 (c) Only persons holding valid hunting licenses may apply for
31 or obtain shooting permits for public shooting grounds, state marine
32 (estuarine) recreational management areas, or wildlife management
33 areas.

34 SEC. 5. Section 3684 of the Fish and Game Code is repealed.

35 SEC. 6. Section 3684 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to
36 read:

37 3684. (a) The Upland Game Bird Account is hereby established
38 within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

39 (b) All funds derived from the sale of upland game bird hunting
40 validations and upland game bird stamps shall be deposited in the

1 Upland Game Bird Account to permit separate accountability for
2 the receipt and expenditure of these funds.

3 (c) Funds deposited in the Upland Game Bird Account shall be
4 available for expenditure upon appropriation by the Legislature to
5 the department. These funds shall be expended solely for the
6 purpose of acquiring land, completing projects and implementing
7 programs to benefit the upland game bird species, and for related
8 public hunting opportunities and related public outreach. The
9 department may also use these funds to enter into contracts or to
10 award grants to reimburse, upon completion of the projects,
11 nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the
12 Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) for related
13 habitat projects. Any land acquired with funds from the Upland
14 Game Bird Account shall be acquired in fee title or protected with
15 a conservation easement and, to the extent possible, be open or
16 provide access to the public for upland game bird hunting. The
17 department may also use funds from the Upland Game Bird
18 Account to pay for administrative and enforcement costs of the
19 programs and activities described in this section. The amount
20 allocated from the account for administrative costs shall be limited
21 to the reasonable costs associated with direct administration of the
22 programs and activities described in this section.

23 (d) An advisory committee, as determined by the department,
24 that includes interested nonprofit organizations that have goals
25 and objectives directly related to the management and conservation
26 of upland game bird species and primarily represent the interests
27 of persons licensed pursuant to Section 3031 shall review and
28 provide comments to the department on all proposed projects
29 funded from the Upland Game Bird Account to help ensure that
30 the requirements of this section have been met. The department
31 shall post budget information and a brief description on its Internet
32 Web site for all projects funded from the Upland Game Bird
33 Account.

34 (e) Upland game bird projects authorized pursuant to this section
35 are not subject to Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of
36 Division 2 of the Public Contract Code or Article 6 (commencing
37 with Section 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and
38 Veterans Code.

(f) The department shall maintain the internal accountability necessary to ensure compliance with the collection, deposit, and expenditure of funds specified in this section.

SEC. 7. Section 3685 of the Fish and Game Code is repealed.

SEC. 8. Section 3686 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

3686. Projects authorized pursuant to Section 3684 shall be governed by Section 1501.5. With the approval of the entity in control of property affected by a project, the department may make grants to, or enter into contracts with, nonprofit organizations for the accomplishment of those projects, or the department may reimburse the controlling entity for its costs of accomplishing the project.

SEC. 9. Section 3953 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

3953. (a) The Big Game Management Account is hereby established within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

(b) All revenues from the sale of antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and sheep tags, including any fundraising tags, shall be deposited in the Big Game Management Account to permit separate accountability for the receipt and expenditure of these funds.

(c) Funds deposited in the Big Game Management Account shall be available for expenditure upon appropriation by the Legislature to the department. These funds shall be expended solely for the purposes set forth in this section and Sections ~~331, 332, 3951, 3952, 4332, 4334, and 4751~~ 3951 and 3952, and Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 450) of Division 1, Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 4650), and Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 4900), including acquiring land, completing projects, and implementing programs to benefit antelope, elk, deer, wild pigs, bear, and sheep, and expanding public hunting opportunities and related public outreach. The department may also use these funds to enter into contracts or to award grants to reimburse, upon completion of the projects, nonprofit organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3)) for related conservation projects. Any land acquired with funds from the Big Game Management Account shall be acquired in fee title or protected with a conservation easement and, to the extent possible, be open or provide access to the public for antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, or sheep hunting. The

department may also use funds from the Big Game Management Account to pay for administrative and enforcement costs of the programs and activities described in this section. The amount allocated from the account for administrative costs shall be limited to the reasonable costs associated with direct administration of the programs and activities described in this section.

(d) The department may make grants or enter into contracts with nonprofit organizations for the use of the funds from the Big Game Management Account when it finds that the contracts are necessary for carrying out the purposes of this article.

(e) An advisory committee, as determined by the department, that includes interested nonprofit organizations that have goals and objectives directly related to the management and conservation of big game species and primarily represent the interests of persons licensed pursuant to Section 3031 shall review and provide comments to the department on all proposed projects funded from the Big Game Management Account to help ensure that the requirements of this section have been met. The department shall post budget information and a brief description on an Internet Web site for all projects funded from the Big Game Management Account.

(f) Big game projects authorized pursuant to this section are not subject to Part 2 (commencing with Section 10100) of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code or Article 6 (commencing with Section 999) of Chapter 6 of Division 4 of the Military and Veterans Code.

(g) The department shall maintain the internal accountability necessary to ensure compliance with the collection, deposit, and expenditure of funds specified in this section.

SEC. 10. Section 4332 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

4332. (a) Any resident of this state, 12 years of age or over, who possesses a valid hunting license, may procure one tag for the taking of one deer by one person during the current license year, upon payment of the base fee of ten dollars (\$10) for the license year beginning July 1, 1986, and the base fee as adjusted under Section 713 for subsequent license years.

(b) Any nonresident of this state, 12 years of age or over, who possesses a valid hunting license, may procure one tag for the taking of one deer by one person during the current license year, upon payment of the base fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for

1 the license year beginning July 1, 1986, and the base fee as adjusted
2 under Section 713 for subsequent license years.

3 (c) If provided in regulations adopted by the commission under
4 Section 200, any resident of this state, 12 years of age or over,
5 who possesses a deer tag may procure one additional deer tag for
6 the taking of one additional deer during the current license season,
7 upon payment of the base fee of twelve dollars and fifty cents
8 (\$12.50) for the license years beginning July 1, 1986, and the base
9 fee as adjusted under Section 713 for subsequent license years.

10 (d) If provided in regulations adopted by the commission under
11 Section 200, any nonresident of this state, 12 years of age or over,
12 who possesses a deer tag may procure one additional deer tag for
13 the taking of one additional deer during the current license season,
14 upon payment of the base fee of one hundred dollars (\$100) for
15 the license year beginning July 1, 1986, and the base fee as adjusted
16 under Section 713 for subsequent license years.

17 (e) All revenues pursuant to this section shall be deposited in
18 the Big Game Management Account established in Section 3953
19 and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended ~~for~~
20 ~~deer conservation and management purposes.~~ *as set forth in that*
21 *section.*

22 SEC. 11. Section 4334 of the Fish and Game Code is repealed.

23 SEC. 12. Section 4334 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
24 to read:

25 4334. (a) The commission shall annually direct the department
26 to authorize, pursuant to Section 1054.8, the sale of not more than
27 10 deer tags for the purpose of raising funds for programs and
28 projects ~~to benefit deer as set forth in Section 3953.~~ All revenue
29 from the sale of tags pursuant to this section shall be deposited in
30 the Big Game Management Account established in Section 3953
31 *and, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended as*
32 *set forth in that section.*

33 (b) These tags may be sold to residents or nonresidents of the
34 State of California at auction or by any other method and are not
35 subject to the fees prescribed by Section 4332.

36 (c) These funds shall augment, not supplant, any other funds
37 appropriated to the department for the preservation, restoration,
38 utilization, and management of deer. All revenues derived from
39 the sale of these tags shall be remitted to the department by the
40 seller.

1 SEC. 13. Section 4656 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
2 to read:

3 4656. Revenues received pursuant to this chapter shall be
4 deposited in the Big Game Management Account established in
5 Section 3953. These funds shall be available for expenditure by
6 the department ~~solely for wild pig management~~ *as set forth in*
7 *Section 3953.* The department shall maintain all internal accounting
8 measures necessary to ensure that all restrictions on these funds
9 are met.

10 SEC. 14. Section 4751 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
11 to read:

12 4751. (a) Any resident of this state, 12 years of age or over,
13 who possesses a valid hunting license, may procure the number
14 of bear tags corresponding to the number of bear that may legally
15 be taken by one person during the current license year, upon
16 payment of a base fee of fifteen dollars (\$15), as adjusted under
17 Section 713, for each bear tag. Fee revenues pursuant to this
18 subdivision shall be deposited in the Big Game Management
19 Account established in Section 3953 and, upon appropriation by
20 the Legislature, shall be expended ~~for bear conservation and~~
21 ~~management purposes~~ *as set forth in that section.*

22 (b) Any nonresident of this state, 12 years of age or over, who
23 possesses a valid California hunting license, may procure the
24 number of bear tags corresponding to the number of bear that may
25 be legally taken by one person during the current license year upon
26 payment of the base fee of one hundred five dollars (\$105), as
27 adjusted under Section 713, for each bear tag. Fee revenues
28 pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the Big Game
29 Management Account established in Section 3953 and, upon
30 appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended ~~for bear~~
31 ~~conservation and management purposes~~ *as set forth in that section.*

32 SEC. 15. Section 4902 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
33 to read:

34 4902. (a) The commission may adopt all regulations necessary
35 to provide for biologically sound management of Nelson bighorn
36 sheep (subspecies *Ovis canadensis nelsoni*).

37 (b) (1) After the plans developed by the department pursuant
38 to Section 4901 for the management units have been submitted,
39 the commission may authorize sport hunting of mature Nelson
40 bighorn rams. Before authorizing the sport hunting, the commission

1 shall take into account the Nelson bighorn sheep population
2 statewide, including the population in the management units
3 designated for hunting.

4 (2) Notwithstanding Section 219, the commission shall not,
5 however, adopt regulations authorizing the sport hunting in a single
6 year of more than 15 percent of the mature Nelson bighorn rams
7 in a single management unit, based on the department's annual
8 estimate of the population in each management unit.

9 (c) The fee for a tag to take a Nelson bighorn ram may be
10 determined by the commission, but shall not exceed five hundred
11 dollars (\$500). Fee revenues shall be deposited in the Big Game
12 Management Account established in Section 3953 *and, upon*
13 *appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended as set forth*
14 *in that section.*

15 (d) The commission shall annually direct the department to
16 authorize not more than three of the tags available for issuance
17 that year to take Nelson bighorn rams for the purpose of raising
18 funds for programs and projects to benefit Nelson bighorn sheep.
19 These tags may be sold to residents or nonresidents of the State
20 of California at auction or by another method and shall not be
21 subject to the fee limitation prescribed in subdivision (c).
22 Commencing with tags sold for the 1993 hunting season, if more
23 than one tag is authorized, the department shall designate a
24 nonprofit organization organized pursuant to the laws of this state,
25 or the California chapter of a nonprofit organization organized
26 pursuant to the laws of another state, as the seller of not less than
27 one of these tags. The number of tags authorized for the purpose
28 of raising funds pursuant to this subdivision, if more than one,
29 shall not exceed 15 percent of the total number of tags authorized
30 pursuant to subdivision (b). All revenue from the sale of tags
31 pursuant to this subdivision shall be deposited in the Big Game
32 Management Account established in Section 3953 *and, upon*
33 *appropriation by the Legislature, shall be expended as set forth*
34 *in that section.*

35 (e) No tag issued pursuant to this section shall be valid unless
36 and until the licensee has successfully completed a prehunt hunter
37 familiarization and orientation and has demonstrated to the
38 department that he or she is familiar with the requisite equipment
39 for participating in the hunting of Nelson bighorn rams, as
40 determined by the commission. The orientation shall be conducted

1 by the department at convenient locations and times preceding
2 each season, as determined by the commission.

3 SEC. 16. Section 4903 of the Fish and Game Code is amended
4 to read:

5 4903. Revenue from the fees authorized by this chapter shall
6 be deposited in the Big Game Management Account established
7 in Section 3953 and ~~shall be expended for purposes of the bighorn~~
8 ~~sheep program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, shall be~~
9 ~~expended as set forth in that section.~~ Administrative overhead shall
10 be limited to the reasonable costs associated with the direct
11 administration of the program. These funds shall be used to
12 augment, and not to replace, moneys appropriated from existing
13 funds available to the department for the preservation, restoration,
14 utilization, and management of bighorn sheep. The department
15 shall maintain internal accountability necessary to ensure that all
16 restrictions on the expenditure of these funds are met.