

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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March 3, 2020

California Fish and Game Commission PO Box 944209 Sacramento, CA 94244-2090 Email address: fgc@fgc.ca.gov

Re: Support of Proposed Changes to Elk Hunting Regulations

Honorable Commissioners:

Because increasing size and abundance of Roosevelt elk is such a large issue negatively impacting Humboldt County landowners, the County of Humboldt is in favor of the proposed changes to the Northwestern Elk hunts. We believe these changes will increase flexibility in harvest based on California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) biologist-review elk counts providing the maximum flexibility to expand and contract harvest based on annually accrued science-based data.

The proposed regulations will allow for the sustainable management of elk populations in Northwestern California while coexisting with sustainable agriculture businesses on which the animals depend for their forage and survival.

The County understands and supports the CDFW elk herd management goals specifying target levels for the proportion of bulls to cows in the herds, and that these ratios are maintained and managed by periodically modifying the number of tags. The County supports the fact that final recommended number of tags will be based upon findings from annual harvest, herd composition counts, and population estimates and encourage staff to take action to reduce negative elk-human conflict through appropriate harvest whenever possible.

Therefore, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors supports the proposed regulation changes concerning the 2020-2021 mammal hunting season, Section 364, (r) Department Administered General Methods Roosevelt Elk Hunts, Section (2) (A) for the Northwestern Hunt.

The proposed changes are as follows:

Bull tags, from 15 to 0-44; Antlerless tags, from 0 to 0-58; and Either Sex Tags, from 0 to 0-3. There is no proposed change in the season which shall open on the first Wednesday in September and continue for 23 consecutive days.

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Sincerely,

Estelle Fennell, Chair Humboldt County Board of Supervisors