

CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE
STRATEGIC VISION PROJECT

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR REVIEW

Comments Through December 18, 2011

SIERRA BUSINESS COUNCIL

P.O. Box 2428 • Truckee, CA 96160 • p. 530.582.4800 • f. 530.582.1230 • www.sbcouncil.org

December 18, 2011

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.653.5656
StrategicVision@resources.ca.gov

To the Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

The mission of the Sierra Business Council is to pioneer innovative approaches and solutions that foster community vitality, environmental quality, economic prosperity, and social fairness in the Sierra Nevada. We administer noxious weed treatment projects with the goal of improving watershed health.

Invasive weeds are important to control. Large infestations can destroy the biodiversity of places we love and cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs and lost productivity annually. SBC strongly encourages the DFG and Natural Resources Agency to:

- Take a lead role in addressing invasive plants in California wildlands;
- Dedicate significant funding to invasive plant management;
- Partner with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs;
- Take an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework;
- Educate the public on the wildlife impacts of invasive species, and how citizens can help reduce the problem.

Thank you for prioritizing control and management of invasive weeds within the Strategic Vision.

Sincerely,



Kris Kuyper
Project Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Rick Johnson

Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2011 10:57 AM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject: Comments

Please consider the following comments on the strategic vision document.

Thank you.

Rick Johnson

Inverness, CA

Regarding mission and core values:

Consider changing the names of the department and commission. Hunting and fishing is important, for sure, but these agencies have broader responsibilities.

I would like to see the word "native" added to the mission and stewardship statements mentioning fish, wildlife, and plant resources . Also, add words such as "protect and enhance" where "manage" is used.

For example, the Commission should "ensure the long term sustainability of California's native fish and wildlife resources". The Department should "manage and protect California's diverse native fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and protect and enhance the habitats and natural processes upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public."

There is no expectation that these agencies can restore pre-historic conditions, rather the idea is that when decisions are made and priorities set, protection of native species, habitat and natural processes should trump enhancing a non-native fish or game animal population. Some non-native game populations should be targeted for reduction and elimination, if possible.

The action plans should identify priority programs for protection, enhancement of habitat and natural processes, and help for native species and genetic stocks. Shift more budget to support these efforts.

From: Rk Bose
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2011 5:08 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Comment

The preference for native plants is based on the fallacy that they provide preferred habitat for native animals, despite evidence to the contrary. Native birds are seen using non-native "weeds" for food, cover, and nesting areas; Himalayan blackberry, for instance, is a valuable habitat species for songbirds. Eucalyptus provides roosts and nesting spaces for owls and hawks, and foraging areas for birds as small as the brown creeper. Despite beliefs to the contrary, native bees do not preferentially use native plants. ("The Pollinator Crisis: What's Best for the Bees. Nature, 9 Nov 2011. <http://www.nature.com/news/2011/111109/full/479164a.html>)

Most crop plants in the US are non-native, whether wheat or apples. Life as we know it in this country would be impossible without introduced species. We do not find ducks differentiating between the food opportunities available in farms and those in the wild - which enables some of the great partnerships between agriculture and conservation.

"Weeds" are in the eye of the beholder, and "invasiveness" a matter of context. In many cases, the so-called "invasive" plants being destroyed - like eucalyptus - was in fact planted and is not actually invading anything. In other cases, so-called "invasions" have proved to be self-limiting, as in the case of Argentine ants or Africanized bees.

The native plant preference is essentially one of sentiment rather than science. A great deal of resources have been wasted on "restoration" efforts that require continuous support and frequently fail, while they destroy the existing functional ecosystems. Spending millions of dollars, thousands of hours of manpower, and using gallons of pesticides to destroy functioning eco-systems does not benefit native insects, birds, animals or fish. Especially it does not benefit the people who live around these "restoration" efforts.

The strategic vision should focus on ecological function and partnerships for effective ecosystems that work for humans and wildlife both. It should not waste resources in destructive battles against non-native and so-called "invasive" species.

Funding the California Invasive Plant Council is a waste of taxpayer funds.

Sincerely,

R.K. Bose

-----Original Message-----

From: Celia Kutcher
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: funding for invasive-plant programs

Sirs:

The Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is concerned that the threat that invasive plants pose to Orange County's, and all California's, native-plant communities is not being well-addressed at the state level now that CDFA has eliminated its WMA and related programs.

We suggest that DFG's 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," could and should include management of invasive plants that damage the state's wildlands.

We ask that DFG and the Natural Resources Agency take the leadership role in addressing invasive plants as an essential part of managing the the state's natural resources. This includes:

- Dedicating significant funding to management of invasive plants.
- Partnering with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs.
- Taking an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework.
- Educating the public on the impacts that invasive species have on ecosystem functioning, including wildlife, and how citizens can help reduce the problem.

Respectfully,
Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

From: Pea Ce
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 12:44 PM
To: Strategic Vision; pea-ce@live.com
Subject: Strategic Vision Comments

Attached are public comments for the Strategic Vision Draft document. Please reply to confirm receipt.
Thank you,
Randall Cleveland for the PEACE Team



PROTECTING **E**ARTH & **A**NIMALS **W**ITH **C**OMPASSION & **E**DUICATION

P.O. Box 846 • Newcastle, CA 95658 • pea-ce@live.com

Email: strategicvision@resources.ca.gov

December 15, 2011

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: DRAFT INTERIM STRATEGIC VISION POTENTIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these interim recommendations. We applaud the Strategic Vision (SV) undertaking support many of the stated goals. We agree that CA's natural resources are critically important, and we support the visions, goals, and mission of our natural resources agencies. In general, we believe the positive will far outweigh the negative as this process unfolds.

Below are some of our comments on the Draft document.

The Name and Focus must be changed for the Department of Fish and Game (DFG). We fully support a broad spectrum of DFG responsibilities for stewardship of fish and wildlife. We urge a Strategic Vision (SV) outcome to include changing the name of DFG to "Department of Fish and Wildlife" or "Natural Resources Stewardship Department" (NRSD).

Stewardship is a much more accurate and reliable word when dealing with natural resources than "management." "Management" by DFG has become synonymous with "Manipulation" of our natural resources to upset the natural balance of natural resources so that those with an addiction to the "thrill of the kill" can massacre species that belong to all of us—the very vast majority of people in the state. DFG decision makers appear to all be hunt-to-kill folks. There may be a few scientists in the mix who do not kill, but evidence supports the contention that DFG keeps much of the disgusting activities under the public's radar, knowing full well that if the truth were exposed, the 99% who do not support recreational killing would kill the DFG.

For example, if the public knew that when special pheasant hunts are conducted, many of the birds are not "wild" at all. They've been cooped up with hoods in crowded pens. They're taken out the morning of the hunt, spun around to ensure they're good and confused, frozen in terror, and planted so that when "flee" is the only option, they are easy targets. The lucky ones are killed, as opposed to being wounded, flopping around for the dog retrieval, subsequent killing, and lots of pats on the backs as if that were a real accomplishment. Tell the truth about these so-called "hunts" and let voters decide if DFG should be condoning, supporting, or allowing them at all.

A CA Dept of Natural Resources Stewardship would be supported by the 99% who do not consume wildlife, and might be demanded by a majority of them if they knew the truth of what really happens to wildlife in the name of recreational killing.

The name and focus of the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) must be changed. The mission of the FGC is good as it is—to ensure the long-term sustainability of the state's fish and wildlife resource. The name change here is equally justifiable and necessary.

However, the mission is muddled if it's interpreted to be "propagating..." fish and game.

The constitutional amendment referenced (Sec 20) "may" empowered the Legislature to delegate powers to the FGC relating to propagation. If all members of the FGC hunt to kill, or if any one of them does, then any vote on a "management" issue or policy setting, such member(s) is(are) acting with conflicts of interest. Whether a Commissioner is voting to expand a hunt, create a deer cull, kill predators, increase bear or any other kill quota, and/or voting to support or oppose related legislation, he/she(they) should recuse themselves from the vote due to a conflict of interest.

Qualification requirements for appointment to the FGC must be instituted. Because the Legislature has delegated to the FGC a "variety of powers, some general...some very specific," and because a major FGC responsibility is forming policies for DFG conduct, it is unacceptable and very inappropriate for there to be no qualifications or criteria in order to hold a position of Commissioner on the FGC. In fact, to many citizens who care deeply about wildlife, it is outrageous that a position that can create such important policies with long-lasting impacts can be filled with political pals and campaign donors. To bring integrity, intelligence, expertise, and sanity to the FGC, a set of qualifications and criteria should be established and met or exceeded before anyone can be nominated to serve on the FGC.

The FGC should be increased to seven members (possibly even nine). At least four commissioners should be appointed that meet criteria with expertise in ocean fisheries, inland fisheries, mammals, birds/waterfowl, invertebrates, etc. At least three commissioners should be appointed with expertise in natural resource stewardship from three general areas of the state—north, central, and south. If the Commission were to be expanded to nine members, then further geographical expertise could be established.

"Game" and "Nongame" issues must be balanced in the same ratio as "consumptive" and non-consumptive state citizen population ratios. The problems with both DFG and the FGC stem in part because, except for scientists employed to research and report, it appears the vast majority of other DFG employees are consumptive users. Their work gives them first crack at studies, first shot at hunts, and inappropriate advantages when it comes to consuming wildlife, game or nongame.

If they drag their feet or resist any changes, it should be totally predictable and expected. Whether they "cook the books" with regard to interpreting the scientific research is another story, but we believe there may have been instances where self interests (desiring more recreational killing activities), have influenced decisions, positions, etc., that haven't necessarily been made in the interest of sustainable natural resources. This is unacceptable, and if the 99% of non-consumptive state's population were aware of how such "insider" knowledge is used to the advantage of these hunt-to-kill DFG insiders, there might be DFG "occupies."

Staff and employees are entitled to their hobbies, but the non-consuming majority needs much better and bigger representation in all DFG and FGC decision making.

A review of historical problems demonstrates need for organizational changes. There is no need to reiterate the points made above, but part of the problem is the public's perception that DFG and FGC are together nothing more than a private hunt club disguised in public agency clothing. With major changes and greater sensitivity to

(and policies that satisfy) the 99% who do not consume, many of DFG and FGC's dysfunction would be eliminated.

The "Seven Strategic Initiatives" (2006) are admirable. But for special interests who are leading the agency, those might involve change, or, as mentioned. Without major shake ups, those who rule DFG and FGC are not going to budge. Reforms are definitely necessary.

We have stated before that a further indicator of a lopsided DFG and FGC is that the FGC has an "Al Tauscher Committee," but no "John Muir" Committee. Whatever public "good will" that might be established may be offset by decisions that are seemingly insensitive to a vast majority of the state's citizens. This is where public support may wane. This is where changes should be considered and made to build public support for funding priorities.

Our recommendation is that the memberships of both DFG administration, FGC, and all sub committees, should be more representative—more reflective of the ratio of consumptive and non-consumptive elements of CA's citizen population.

To create a successful Strategic Vision that has a possibility of succeeding with collaboration and consensus, in addition to bringing more independent scientists into the decision-making process, a more amicable environment at the table must be established. There must be a deeper understanding and respect for all opposing or counter positions.

We thank you for your attention to our views. With proper and fair representation, we are optimistic that the Strategic Vision process will find workable solutions to real challenges.

Randall Cleveland
For the PEACE Team

From: Andy Otto [mailto:aotto@truckeeriverwc.org]

Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 10:38 AM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: mbiddlecomb@ducks.org; 'The Nature Conservancy:>'; 'Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners:>'; 'Audubon California:>'; 'Defenders of Wildlife:>'; 'Tejon Ranch:>'; 'California Rangeland Trust:>'; 'California Waterfowl Association:>'; 'California Outdoor Heritage Alliance:>'; California.Association.of'@mx4.ceres.ca.gov; 'California Council of Land Trusts:'

Subject: Support for Funding of CA Invasive Plant Programs

Thank you for taking our comments, attached,

Andy Otto

Director of Restoration Programs

TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

P.O. BOX 8568

Truckee, CA 96162

(530) 550-8760 x 3

FAX: (530) 548-2500

aotto@truckeeriverwc.org

TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162
530-550-8760
www.truckeeriverwc.org

December 15, 2011

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California Natural Resources Agency
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916.653.5656
StrategicVision@resources.ca.gov

To the Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

The mission of the Truckee River Watershed Council is brings the *community together for the Truckee* – to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River watershed.

Our Weed Warrior program coordinates the detection and control of targeted invasive non-native plants before they have a chance to establish themselves. The strategy is “Early Detection, Rapid Response.” The program is managed by staff and has active involvement from volunteers. We coordinate with the Nevada Placer Weed Management Area.

Invasive weeds are important to control. Large infestations can destroy the biodiversity of places we love and cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs and lost productivity annually. The Weed Warriors strongly encourage the DFG and Natural Resources Agency to:

- Take a lead role in addressing invasive plants in California wildlands;
- Dedicate significant funding to invasive plant management;
- Partner with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs;
- Take an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework;
- Educate the public on the wildlife impacts of invasive species, and how citizens can help reduce the problem.

Thank you for prioritizing control and management of invasive weeds within the Strategic Vision.

Sincerely,

Andy Otto
Director of Land Use Compatibility



The Otter Project

www.otterproject.org

475 Washington Street, Suite A
Monterey, CA 93940
831/646-8837

December 16, 2011

California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) Project
Draft Interim Strategic Vision**

On behalf of the The Otter Project, our board of directors, and 3000 members we are writing to express our thoughts on the Draft Interim Strategic Vision document. We thank the staff of the strategic visioning process for this opportunity to provide input into this important process.

The protection and stewardship of California's natural resources are among our state government's most important long-term responsibilities. Further, we believe protection and stewardship is a wise investment in California's future. To that end, we offer the following comments on the Draft Interim Strategic Vision and the process for further refinement and elaboration:

- 1. Support for updating the DFG and FGC mission statements to more accurately reflect both the breadth of the Department and Commission's current statutory responsibilities and the values of Californians.** Specifically, we urge that both the DFG and FGC mission statements make clear that the shared core mission of the two entities is to "*protect, restore and 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.*"
- 2. Support for pathways to achieve high priority goals and objectives.** In its current form, Appendix B includes a startlingly broad array of potential suggestions for ways to achieve the goals identified in Chapter 3. As the strategic visioning process advances it will be necessary to narrow and prioritize this long list of potential actions into a more strategic set of achievable activities. We believe narrowing the brainstormed list down to achievable objectives is the difference between another bookshelf plan and *success*.
- 3. Support for a science informed process for decision making. If insufficient science exists, the DFG and FGC should take a precautionary approach and protect the resource.** We support the language of "best available science" and we urge both DFG and FGC to incorporate sound science into the decision making process. At the same time we recognize that science can sometimes be lacking or inconclusive; in these cases it is imperative that the Department take a precautionary approach that best protects the resource. Living resources should not be depleted while waiting for additional studies.

4. **Support for strategic partnerships.** Like a food web interconnectedness can insulate the DFG from a paucity of resources. Partnerships with universities, other agencies, municipalities, stakeholders, and NGOs can enhance the knowledge base and capacity of the Department. Californians are invested in the success of the Department of Fish and Game and we stand ready to partner.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and your hard word and dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Shimek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and "S".

Steve Shimek
Chief Executive

From: Kristopher Tjernell [mailto:ktjernell@csgcalifornia.com]
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 3:44 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson; Carol Baker
Subject: NGO input on the Strategic Vision draft document and process

Dear Melissa and Carol,
I've been asked to forward the attached document to you both. The group of non-SAG signatories has included in its letter support for specific aspects of the current Draft Vision as well as some thoughts about process over the coming months. Please let me know if you have any questions, and I'll forward them along.

All the best,
Kris

Kristopher Tjernell | Conservation Strategy Group

1100 11th Street | Ste. 200

Sacramento | CA | 95814

916.558.1516 (p)

916.833.5150 (c)

916.553.3071 (f)

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December 16, 2011
California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) Project
Draft Interim Strategic Vision**

On behalf of the undersigned conservation organizations we are writing to convey our collective thoughts on both the Draft Interim Strategic Vision document (dated November 22, 2011) and strategies to help ensure the effective implementation of AB 2376 (Huffman, 2010). We thank the staff of the strategic visioning process for this opportunity to provide input into this important process and its work products. In short we believe this process has been successful at developing a wide array of potential suggestions for how to improve fish and wildlife management in the State of California. The task ahead is to hone the many ideas on the table into a truly strategic, effective and actionable plan to move forward in 2012.

The protection and stewardship of California's natural resources are among our state government's most important long-term responsibilities. We believe that the current strategic visioning process provides an important and timely opportunity to help the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) most effectively contribute to meeting these responsibilities. Additionally, we support the efforts to date to engage a wide range of stakeholders, as it is our hope that this engagement will also lead to wider recognition and support for the work of the DFG and FGC. To that end, we offer the following comments on the Draft Interim Strategic Vision and the process for further refinement and elaboration:

1. **Support for updating the DFG and FGC mission statements to more accurately reflect both the breadth of the Department and Commission's current statutory responsibilities and the values of Californians.** Specifically, we urge that both the DFG and FGC mission statements make clear that the shared core mission of the two

entities is to “*protect, restore and 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.” We urge addition of the italicized language to the existing DFG mission statement to reflect DFG and FGC public trust responsibilities. Californians value a healthy environment and our state’s economy depends on thriving natural systems. The strategic vision process should align all of DFG and FGC activities behind a clear mission of effectively and efficiently safeguarding the state’s public trust assets.

2. **Support for specific goals and objectives (Chapter 3).**

In general, our organizations support many of the goals and associated objectives outlined in Chapter 3 of the Draft Vision. In particular, we support the inclusion of those goals and objectives that if fully achieved would have clear and significant positive impacts on California’s ecosystems. Specifically, we believe the following goals and objectives deserve high priority in the plan:

- a. **Goal 2: Highly Valued Programs and Quality Services.**
 - i. Objective 1: Protect, manage, enhance and restore wildlife resources.
 - ii. Objective 2: Help achieve and maintain healthy ecosystems.
- b. **Goal 3: An Effective Organization.**
 - i. Objective 1: Coordinate resource planning, policies, practices, processes and regulations with other agencies and organizations.
 - ii. Objective 2: Encourage and support strong internal, external and interagency communications and collaboration.
- c. **Goal 4: An Efficient Organization.**
 - i. Objective 2: Develop simple, clear, and consistent governance and permitting practices and processes.
 - ii. Objective 3: Manage capacity/resources.

3. **Support for pathways to achieve high priority goals and objectives.**

In its current form, Appendix B includes a startlingly broad array of potential suggestions for ways to achieve the goals identified in Chapter 3. As the strategic visioning process advances it will be necessary to narrow and prioritize this long list of potential actions into a more strategic set of achievable activities. Indeed, the success of this entire effort likely hinges on how effectively the long list of ideas currently contained in Appendix B can be transformed into a manageable set of high priority actions and aggressively pursued through administrative or legislative means, as necessary.

Those ideas that resonate most clearly with our organizations’ policy priorities, values, and strategic initiatives are scattered throughout Appendix B. Below are several specific suggestions for ways to achieve the above-stated goals and objectives that we view as high priorities. The suggestions below are consistent with several of the pathways identified in Appendix B.

- i. Improve transparency in program budgeting, funding & management.
- ii. Demonstrate innovative new models in wildlife and fishery management programs.
- iii. Elevate Natural Community Conservation Planning and other large scale conservation programs.
- iv. Reform restoration project permitting to reduce administrative impediments to restoration efforts.
- v. Improve communication and accountability between DFG Headquarters and DFG Regions.
- vi. Increase the role for and transparency of science in DFG and FGC decision-making.
- vii. Advance financing reforms to improve overall program sustainability. Short-term: identify opportunities to better support regulatory and conservation programs with adjustments to existing fee structures. Long-term: identify and pursue funding initiatives to help secure the future of DFG General Fund and/or special fund programs. Fundamentally, we do not believe that the DFG and the FGC can adequately implement and build public confidence in their work unless we can secure a clear, viable long-term source of funding dedicated to wildlife management and conservation.

4. Support for a new focus within the Strategic Vision process.

Our organizations appreciate the work that has been done by stakeholders and the Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC) to articulate suggested goals, objectives, and pathways. We believe strongly, however, that an effective strategic vision will only be possible if a new level of judgment is brought to the process early next year to ensure that the outcome is a clear and actionable set of recommendations. Following the public outreach effort currently underway, we recommend that the Executive Committee and BRCC take a more hands-on approach to prioritizing actions within the visioning process. We believe those bodies should be charged with determining:

- which sub-set of the stakeholder advisory group’s suggested goals, objectives, and pathways warrant further consideration;
- which specific recommendations can be implemented by direct administrative action;
- which recommendations would require legislative action; and
- how DFG and FGC should prioritize their resources to achieve their missions.

These critical questions and others are among those that remain unanswered. Consistent with the timeline for work products articulated by AB 2376, we strongly urge an

increased role for the BRCC and Executive Committee in 2012 to undertake the critical work described above.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Sara Aminzadeh
Acting Executive Director
California Coastkeeper Alliance



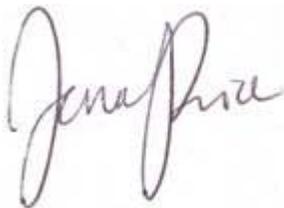
Karen Garrison
Co-Director, Oceans Program
Natural Resources Defense Council



Warner Chabot
Chief Executive Officer
California League of Conservation Voters



Sarah Abramson Sikich
Coastal Resources Director
Heal the Bay



Jena Price
Legislative Director
Planning and Conservation League



PRESERVING LAND AND RESTORING HABITAT FOR THE EDUCATION AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL

December 16, 2011

Subject: Support for Invasive Plant Control

Dear Natural Resource Agency member,

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy manages over 1,600 acres of open space in Los Angeles County. The spread of invasive plants throughout the Preserve has led to loss of habitat for listed species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), Federally listed as Threatened and California Species of Concern (SSC); the cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), a California SSC; the El Segundo blue butterfly (*Euphilotes battoides allyni*), Federally-listed as Endangered; and the Palos Verdes blue butterfly (*Glaucopsyche lydamus palosverdesensis*), Federally listed as Endangered. Invasive species such as *Euphorbia terracina* have been encroaching on these habitats. It is vital that DFG and the Natural Resources Agency need to address invasive plants to protect the state's ecological communities.

Past funding from the CDFA's invasive plant management programs (such as county-based Weed Management Areas) has allowed us to control invasive species in listed species' habitats. However, this funding has been eliminated. For invasive plants damaging the state's wildlands, the Natural Resources Agency must take the leadership role.

DFG and the Natural Resources Agency should:

- take the lead role in addressing invasive plants in California's wildlands
- dedicate significant funding to invasive plant management.
- partner with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs.
- take an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrea Vona".

Andrea Vona
Executive Director

From: kirk vyverberg
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2011 5:03 PM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Cc: Kim Delfino
Subject: Public Comment - Vyverberg - CAF&W Vision Draft Interim Recommendations

December 16, 2011

Melissa Miller-Hanson, Director
CA Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision Process
California Natural Resources Agency

**Interim Draft Review - Public Comments - Vyverberg
12/16/2011**

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Section 3.0 Given that the **Goals and Core Values** state that the success of this process "requires the systematic characterization of who DFG is, what we do, and how we achieve our goals," direct DFG staff input should be of the highest value.

Section 3.0 - Appendix H: **Summary of DFG Employee Comments** - Why has the DFG Survey Summary been eliminated from the current draft; and how are the BRCC and Executive Committee to directly know their input in a timely and relevant manner? Recommendations: DFG Program Managers [lowest, most applied level of management] could serve as Advocates that organize the input and share in the integration and reconciliation process with SAG recommendations.

4.1.3 **Barriers to Strategic Change within DFG** - Given that this companion report to the Legislature due in January, what is the criteria and schedule for selecting and interviewing current and past DFG employees? Will the stated December 16 deadline for these interviews be extended? Recommendation: Perhaps the greatest insight may be gained from those who have worked for multiple Resource Agency departments, gaining alternative experiences, solutions, and insight into inter-department conflicting policies and regulations. Combine these with interviews of the DFG Program Managers responsible for implementing change. Plus, further exploration of the *Fundamental Problems* identified above should begin to provide insight into the barriers to strategic change.

Kirk Vyverberg, Citizen
Sacramento, CA 95818

From: b herndon
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 9:58 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: General Comment

It would appear that to evaluate this document by a single individual would require several weeks of study. In order to protect ones freedoms and avoid un necessary financial burden by state agencies, the private citizen would be faced with a document written by numerous individuals over a long time span! This document is however a perfect example of the creation of huge bureaucratic agency to justify the additional cost of government and it's own existence. What did it cost to produce this draft? Are these programs broke? If not don't fix it. There must be a less complicated way!!

W Herndon

From: Zack Medinas
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 12:57 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Nor Cal Proposed Fishery Plan...

I don't really know where to start other than to say I am COMPLETELY flabbergasted.....

I was DFG's biggest fan when reduced the harvest of white sturgeon by sport anglers even though I DO NOT believe that sport fishermen make the biggest negative impact on sturgeon. Loss of habitat, pollution, and all the water sent to valley farmers and southern California residents make up most of what ails sturgeon.

Now this striper "plan".

It flat out stinks, and I really can't believe the DFG that not so long ago was soliciting extra money from we sport anglers for striped bass enhancement stamps has now done a complete 180 and wants us to believe we have too many stripers and our system cannot support them. Using subliminal catch phrases like "HOT SPOT AREAS" suggesting that these areas have too many stripers is another JOKE!

It's the lamest pile of crap I've been spoon fed EVER. Our striped bass fishery is a joke as it is especially in contrast to what it once was here in our state and while ALL our other fish specie thrived!

A guy these days can catch a 20 lber striped bass and he is treated like some sort of hero where in decades past all of our grandpa's had LOADS of days of individual striper limits that exceeded 100 lbs!

Funny,

Our salmon were thriving then and it's a miracle at the same time our stripers were as well? What was the difference then???

Now let's think about this.....What will be the impact on other sport fish after we further TRASH, or hammered out already WEAK striper fishing???

I'll tell you what.....

I'm a fisherman. One that has fished these waters MOST of my 43 years of life. I've spent HOURS on the water observing the success of others and myself for years. I do NOT take what others have written in books, or been led to believe, or witnessed in the 20 to 40 outings of actually being on the water as gospel.

I'm a fisherman. Not a College guy who is going to try and baffle you with BIG words or regurgitate others research but a guy who will explain our sport fishery in a nutshell.

Here in the Delta our main game is **Striped Bass, Salmon, Black Bass, and Sturgeon** (In that order).

Striped bass are fished for with a multitude of different techniques from anglers fishing bait at anchor/shore, throwing or trolling plugs, jigging, drifting live baits, etc. Stripers are accessible no matter your income level. You don't need a boat to have good results. Black Bass are popular too but they are a glorified sun fish and are as prolific as sewer rats.

Salmon, now there is a hot fish. VERY important to those with \$\$\$\$. Unlike the other 3 mentioned specie Salmon are a VERY "visable" valuable commodity. A cash crop for commercialization by commercial fisherman, and non fishing consumers. Oh and yeah, they are native.

It is EASY to see the money that changes hands over salmon. One needs to only go to the grocery store sea food section, or browse a menu at any fine restaurant.

What isn't as easily seen is how much anglers DUMP into our economy in pursuit of striped bass?

I will guesstimate there are 300 licenses sport anglers for every sport, or commercial salmon fisherman. I base this on the fact that stripers are a YEAR ROUND game and targeted by ALL social economic levels of anglers.

Salmon are valuable to big "organized" industry, commercial fisherman, and sport fisherman that own boats.

Now getting to the impact a decimated striper population would have on other fisheries.....

Sturgeon would be the main fish that would suffer tremendously! They are already in despair and IF you completely ruin striped bass sport angler pressure would turn to sturgeon who would get SMASHED with the same ferocity our bay halibut were hit with during the salmon closures.

Again, the difference there is halibut due to their frequent reproductive cycles can bounce back, unlike sturgeon where females only spawn once every 5 years or so.

Salmon in the delta is a seasonal game leaving the main show being **striped bass** and **sturgeon**. DFG's striper "PLAN" will RUIN our struggling sturgeon population for a **LONG** time and possibly leave them to never recover.

I have personally been releasing ALL stripers and sturgeon for YEARS. YEARS before I had to hear it official from biologist that we had a problem. I have been on the water and could see it for myself.

I RELEASED my fish in hopes to live long enough to one day see a fella with his kids who wasn't OCD like many of us are about fishing, but a regular guy that wanted to take his kids out for a fishing trip and be able to go out and catch a few sturgeon and maybe a nice limit of bass (this is FAR from a reality today).

In short I thought we would learn from our past and reflect on our previously healthy fishery our grand fathers had and realize the reality we could have them all (Stripers, Sturgeon, Salmon) once again.

ZACHARY J. MEDINAS

CONCORD, CA. 94521

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From: Lynch & Associates [mailto:lynch2@lynchlobby.com]

Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 3:19 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: Kathy Lynch

Subject: Comments on Strategic Vision - NSSF

Please see the attached comments on the Strategic Vision from the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

Lynch & Associates

1127 11th Street, Suite 610

Sacramento, CA 95814

Tel: (916) 443-0202

Fax: (916) 443-7353

Cell: (916) 838-6600

Email: lynch@lynchlobby.com



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

11 Mile Hill Road • Newtown, CT 06470-2359 • Tel (203) 426-1320 • Fax (203) 426-7182 • www.nssf.org

LAWRENCE G. KEANE
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
& GENERAL COUNSEL

December 14, 2011

Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson, Director
California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project. Draft Interim Strategic Vision: Potential Recommendations for the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Fish and Game Commission. November, 2011

Dear Ms. Miller-Henson:

The National Shooting Sports Foundation ("NSSF") is the trade association for America's firearms, ammunition, hunting and recreational shooting sports industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. NSSF has a membership of more than 6,500 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen's organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding California sportsmen, the U.S. military and law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The Draft Interim Strategic Vision is very broadly drafted and it contains little in the way of specific details and proposals required for an in-depth public review and comment.

It is anticipated, however, that the focus will sharpen and details will be added as a result of the Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC), Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) and Strategic Vision Executive Committee meetings scheduled to complete the project between January 5 and February 16, 2012.

Even though the final Strategic Vision is not statutorily due to be presented to the Governor and California State Legislature until July 2012, it is being rushed for submission by February 24, 2012, coincidentally the deadline for the introduction of new proposed legislation in 2012.

It is preferred that the BRCC, SAG and the Executive Committee continue their work on the Strategic Vision until the July 2012 deadline in order to receive as much public input on the final draft as possible. The public should be given ample opportunity to comment on the final draft before it is submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

The introduction of new proposed legislation prior to such maximization of public review, comment, and further redrafting as needed is considered inappropriate. It would leave too much of the final drafting to the Legislature and would subject the process of enactment of a Strategic Vision to too many political and emotional considerations that are not based on sound science and the principles of good wildlife management.

PROMOTE

PROTECT

PRESERVE

It would be far better to utilize the entire allotted time to provide the Legislature with a more complete work product.

AB 2376 was opposed by us in part because the statutory time frame provided was believed to be too short. A more thorough public review and additional comment time is necessary in order to develop a detailed and appropriate finished document prior to its submission to the Legislature.

The timeline established by BRCC is even shorter, thus increasing the likelihood that there will be inadequate opportunity for public input prior to initiation of the legislative process.

Many stakeholder groups have representatives that can, and have, represented them thus far during the BRCC/SAG process. However, the individual members of the public have not been adequately represented and can only be so via public review and comment periods. Though some public meetings were held in various locations, they were not convenient for many members of the public to attend. They should have further opportunity to participate.

Since the Draft Interim Strategic Vision lacks specific and detailed proposals for in-depth public comment, the following comments are based on some of the topics discussed by BRCC/SAG which are considered to be more controversial.

There are concerns that any increase in the amount of non-scientific public influence (“...desires of the public...”) in the Department’s wildlife management decision making will ultimately reduce the amount of decisions based on sound science and will increase those based on political and emotional considerations. The public already has adequate opportunity via the Commission hearing process to voice its concerns on most issues.

There has also been discussion of forming a “science committee” to advise the Fish & Game Commission. While qualified input could be helpful to the Commission, there is no mention in the draft document of any requirement for committee members to actually have scientific credentials that are relevant to wildlife management.

It would be counterproductive to give official scientific standing to persons who are not scientifically qualified. Under the present system, it is not uncommon for people to address the Commission on scientific matters in which they have no formal education. This is their right and the Commission has to decide who knows what they are talking about and who does not. It would be inappropriate, however, to place such people on a scientific committee that provides scientific guidance to the Commission. It would only inject more politics and emotion into a subject that should be decided scientifically.

Another consideration that needs much more attention is the matter of funding. If the Department and the Commission are reorganized in a manner that increases their costs, where will the additional funding come from? There is little money available in the State General Fund, and it is unrealistic to expect increased federal funding. It is likely there would be a proposal for substantial increases in sport hunting and fishing licenses, tags, and permits.

Any such increases would be strongly opposed. Current sport hunting and fishing licenses and fees are already substantial. Any increase would result in fewer people being able to participate.

Changes should not be proposed in the Strategic Vision unless there is specified funding available to implement them.

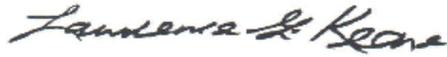
This opportunity to comment on the Draft Interim Strategic Vision is much appreciated. However, there is a deficiency in the amount of detail and specific proposals to comment upon. We look forward to commenting further on a revised, more detailed and specific Strategic Vision proposal before it is submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.

We also strongly urge that the accelerated timeline be abandoned in favor of continuing the Strategic Vision process until the statutory deadline of July 2012. If the rush is to meet the February 24, 2012 deadline for introducing new legislation, it is not necessary.

A "spot" bill can be introduced as a place holder until July at which time it can be amended to reflect the finished Strategic Vision document.

Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lawrence G. Keane".

Lawrence G Keane
Senior Vice President & General Counsel

cc: National Shooting Sports Foundation

From: Robert Deitz
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 12:38 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: Bill Gaines
Subject: Strategic Vision Project Comments

Dear Resources Agency,

I have reviewed the Draft of the Strategic Vision Project, and have some comments:

1) The plan calls for embracing and working with other agencies and interested parties to promote the agencies efforts. Separately it calls for promoting Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor recreation.
A suggestion be to specifically word a future goal to work with other government agencies and other interested parties to identify new lands and areas which could be included in the goal of increasing lands available for hunting and fishing. For example we have had many military bases close down in this state. Are there former Federal lands that could be made available for hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation such as camping? In many cases these uses existed before, but do not now. Some groups have acquired formerly private lands to be placed into the public trust. This would include not not be limited to the Nature Conservancy. But in some of those cases hunting has now not been allowed - where it was before or could logically could be. Can there be a requirement that all cooperative projects between the agency and interested parties must include open access for hunting, fishing, or outdoor recreation where possible?

2) There is a statement on page 32 - CEO Communication and Outreach:

"Utilize efforts by partners to promote DFG mission (i.e. The Humane Society enforcement efforts, resource conservation district land owner outreach) with proper firewalls and consideration of public perception of partners"

The Humane Society of the US (HSUS) has a publicly stated goal of eliminating Hunting and Fishing Worldwide. I do not believe the Resources agency should be partnering with a outside group that has a publicly stated goal of eliminating the purpose for the agency to exist. This would be like the EPA going to the Coal Mining industry for assistance in drafting mining regulations. There is a clear conflict of interest here - and it should be eliminated. This working document and effort should include feedback and information from effected parties only - not ones whose goal is to eliminate the agency.

3) The draft calls for increased efforts by Wardens to combat poaching and other illegal activities. Last year a bill was passed, SB1386, which called for the DFG to create two "Free Hunting Days" in the State. This would have the effect of introducing new people to the hunting sport - directly increasing funds available for the DFG via increased hunting license sales. Can this be incorporated into the document - creating and promoting the States "Free Hunting Days".

4) The Document calls for increased use of technology to make more information available. Currently there is no way to download the study booklet for the California Hunter Safety exam. You can take part of the test online - but you can not download the study book. Can this be made available.

Those are my initial comments. I would appreciate being added to your list for updates or future scheduled meetings.

Regards,

Robert Deitz, II
Placerville, CA

From: robert fusco
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 8:10 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: Robert Smith
Subject: Comments

A basic problem with lack of funding For DFG/ Resource Agency, is partially the result of the increased cost of licenses and decreased opportunities for recreational hunting and fishing. Hunting licenses should be very affordable in order to increase participation and encourage recruitment of more sportsmen and women into the field. The answer to increasing revenues is to reduce the cost and increase participation (bigger slice of the pie).

Another aspect is Hunter Education, which is a very low cost program because it is largely staffed by unpaid volunteer instructors but lacks really good public participation partly due to lack of knowledge of the opportunity to attend the free or very low cost classes. Advertisement is limited to DFG web page or local attempts (fliers, newspaper ads,etc.) by individual instructors "out of pocket".

Restoration of the Reserve Warden Program is another way in which to increase presence of Conservation Officers in the field at very low cost. This program was very popular and effective but was cut off probably because of Public Employee Union pressure.

DFG has acquired considerable land over the past several years but has not opened enough of it to public hunting to increase the "market base" and help to increase revenue. I suspect that this may be due to an "anti-hunting" bias which has developed within the agency. Managers have been able to keep hunting suppressed on DFG lands simply by failing to complete management plans which would address the issues of threatened/endangered species and allow managed hunting. Basically these areas are a cost without any recovery or without any significant biological advantage. Well managed hunting is a valuable activity and supports all wildlife while sustaining healthy populations of valuable game species

Thank you for your consideration,

Robert L. Fusco

--

bob

From: Lisa D Hoover
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: bruce bryan; heatherbrady@cal-ipc.ccsend.com
Subject: DFG and the Natural Resources Agency's Critical Role: Invasive Plants

Hello,

The elimination of funding for the mission-critical and long-standing role DFG and the Natural Resources Agency plays in managing invasive plants is disconcerting. The agency for which I work, the US Forest Service is signatory to three County Weed Management Area MOUs and an active participant in one of the WMAs as a steering committee member. WMAs are model entities for the Nation in that the matter of invasive plant management becomes borderless as it should be. While not always front and center or visible from Interstate 5; **progress is being made** in the wildland-urban interface and upper watershed wildlands with eradication of local invasive plant populations, management of leading edges, awareness building and increased incorporation of best management practices to prevent the introduction and spread of invasives.

The loss of the State's attention to invasive plants in wildlands, their educational and fiscal support, and their partnership in outreach and developing great projects will be to the detriment of the State's diverse habitats and the native flora and fauna these habitats support.

I would ask the State to reconsider their position.

Lisa D. Hoover
Forest Botanist/Noxious Weed Coordinator

From: Larry Main
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 8:37 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Statigic Vision

Being a Hunter and Fisherman for over 60 years, I am very concerned the direction the FGD is headed. Through the years, Hunters and Fishermen/Women have been the real conservationists. Many animals were brought back from near extinction, in the late 1800's, to the neat records we have today by Sportsmen and Women asking for laws to protect and provide welfare, habitat, Biological studies, etc. for all animals, whether they can be hunted or not.

Without Hunters and Fishermen, Who will pay the bill?

Larry E. Main

Magalia, Ca.

From: Lynch & Associates [mailto:lynch2@lynchlobby.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: Kathy Lynch
Subject: Comments on Strategic Vision - OSCC

Please see the attached comments from OSCC concerning the Strategic Vision.

Lynch & Associates
1127 11th Street, Suite 610
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: (916) 443-0202
Fax: (916) 443-7353
Cell: (916) 838-6600
Email: lynch@lynchlobby.com

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Dedicated to Preserving Your Rights To Hunt and Fish In the State of California

December 14, 2011

Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson, Director
California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project. Draft Interim Strategic Vision: Potential Recommendations for the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Fish and Game Commission. November, 2011

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Should you have any questions please contact our legislative advocate, Kathryn Lynch, at (916) 443-0202.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Ringgenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Keith Ringgenberg
President, Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition

cc: Outdoor Sportsmen's Coalition of California

From: Loro Paterson
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 4:20 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Hunting and fishing

I am writing to say that fishing and hunting opportunities should be emphasized in fish and game.

Getting out in the field or on/ along the water is a great outdoor experience. The more people that get out to visit and enjoy the environment the better chance that we can have the support to protect it.

Please keep open places and chances to get out and hunt and fish.

It is also very important to teach outdoor classes in all aspects of enjoying nature including hunting and fishing.

Thank you Loro Paterson La Honda, CA

Connected by DROID on Verizon Wirele

From: Lynch & Associates [mailto:lynch2@lynchlobby.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2011 3:07 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: Kathy Lynch
Subject: Comments on Strategic Vision - SCI

Please see the attached comments on the Strategic Vision from Safari Club International

Lynch & Associates
1127 11th Street, Suite 610
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: (916) 443-0202
Fax: (916) 443-7353
Cell: (916) 838-6600
Email: lynch@lynchlobby.com

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Safari Club International

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION • DEDICATED TO CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND PRESERVING HUNTING

December 14, 2011

Ms. Melissa Miller-Henson, Director
California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Project
California Natural Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

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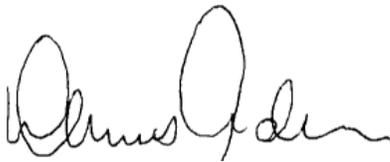
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "A".

Dennis Anderson
Safari Club International, California Legislative Coordinator

cc: Safari Club International

From: Carolyn Barnett
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 2:08 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: California's Strategic Vision for Wildlife comments.

Continue to keep California for both hunters and recreational use. Hunters do both and recreational users do both.

Carolyn L Barnett
95613

From: W. Karl Gross
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: comments on

Dear CA DF&G Strategic Vision:

The Draft Interim Strategic Vision is quite the hefty document and my comments are directed toward the entire process on the grand scale.

I'm astute enough to realize that politics does play a part, a part that should often be filled by science. Good science. Honest science. Not science swayed by, paid for by, or created by those with an agenda.

Please, make every effort to put forward the science research and let the politics show up in the hands and comments of the politicians.

If the spotted owl is in danger, show that and let the trees stand.

If the mountain lion is threatened, show that and stop all hunting.

However, if the science does not show danger to the spotted owl or threats to the mountain lion population, then see that the science is presented in an honest and straight forward manner.

If the politicians then take that good, honest science data and twist it 'round to be a lie and a bad law, so be it. At least the DF&G will sleep well at night.

Take Care & Stay Alert
WKG

From: Yolanda Graham
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Bass Fishing Tournaments in California

It has been my concern for awhile that this sport has been approaching the point where it could become more detrimental than helpful to the sport of fishing. Thus, I hope this comment is the correct forum to be addressed in the new Strategic Vision. Simply put, many of our inland waters, and specifically Clear Lake, have been pounded with fishing tournaments. Without the necessary and proven statistics on the effects of these tournaments on mortality rates I believe it is something the Dept. of Fish & Game should review. Most recently another situation has developed that will go unchecked by Bass Tournament Directors in their zeal to draw more participants. The new "Alabama Rig" an umbrella style lure with 3 hooks attached to it is being used in these tournaments. I'm sure that this will go unabated and unchecked by the entities running these events. I would hope that the Dept. of Fish & Game would initiate a review of these things in the near future for the Strategic Vision. In closing I would also like to say that I am not a disgruntled, hater of bass boaters or tournament fishermen. In fact, I own such a boat and I too fish organized tournament circuits. But I believe from my observations and experiences, that it is time that something be done about the numbers of these tournaments and their effects on our fisheries for the benefit of all people who enjoy the outdoors.

Mark Hale

From: Terry Hogan
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Comments to California Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision Project

I am Brooks Hogan, a resident of Orange County California, and I am submitting comments to the California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision Projects, as follows:

The current mission statements are way too generic and could lead to anything. For example: "Establishing appropriate fish and wildlife resource management rules and regulations" could allow the Humane Society of The United States (HSUS) to think it's appropriate and implement the complete elimination of hunting and fishing, or it could be appropriate to continue the policies of controlling to the carrying capacity of the environment ensuring the survival of species as is presently exercised by and for hunters and fishers.

Similarly, current vision statements are way too generic and could lead to anything. Again an example: " a clear understanding of the desires of the public" could allow the desire for a complete reversal of past policies precluding hunting and fishing. It is not right for a person, group or majority, even if it's 100 to 1, to stop another person's activities simply because they don't like the activity. If there's physical or economic harm involved, then a conflict should be resolved, but not just because someone doesn't like something.

Therefore, I recommend that these mission and visions statements, as well as the rest of the document, be revised to specifically include hunting and fishing in a way to ensure their retention in our state.

Thank you,

From: Natasha Hunt
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 8:05 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: additional comments

Having just looked at and filled out the online comment form, I hope it is OK to submit additional comments this way. I read the document and made notes with questions and impressions as I went. I will paste below what I noted in case any of it may be of help to you in this process... My comments questions and impressions in italics:

Mentioned in AB 2376

(8d) Update Wildlife action plan. *What is this?*

(13) Strategies for identifying stable funding options to fulfill the mission of the department while reducing dependency on the General Fund. *This is good*

"Laws and regulations: Enforceable and up-to-date statutory and regulatory codes that inform and influence stakeholder compliance and legislative decision-making.

Compliance: Consistent and publicly visible enforcement and compliance, supported by highly trained personnel and extensive public awareness of statewide rules, regulations, and associated public trust benefits." *This is part of the appendix B notes #7 & 8 they should be made a priority*

From table 1

"Utilize efforts by partners to promote DFG mission (i.e. The Humane Society enforcement efforts"
What is this?

Also from table 1

"Provide information on regulations and events online and by phone -- with limited written materials"
This is not good as many people still rely on the printed material and want to be able to have copies of such in the field

This I like

"Make information available in a regionally and culturally appropriate method, including written materials in areas with limited Internet access"

And this

"Simplify regulations in order in order to communicate them more effectively"

Include user groups in this

"Encourage a broad-based coalition effort of environmental and conservation organizations to tap into their memberships to work with each other to focus on five significant topics:

1. combat poaching
2. combat pollution
3. combat the illegal sales of wildlife parts
4. promote habitat restoration
5. promote increased enforcement presence (via game wardens) to protect the natural resources"

"Change the names of DFG and F&GC to reflect their mandates." *The names should not be changed*

This was in table 2

Utilize efforts by partners to promote DFG mission (i.e. The Humane Society enforcement efforts, resource conservation district land owner outreach) with proper firewalls and consideration of public perception of partners *Again, What does this mean and why the emphasis on humane society?*

In table 2 under public education *It does not mention working with Ed programs from user groups like Cal Waterfowl and National Wild Turkey Fed, etc this need to be included*

Also in table 2

The discussion of science, DFG needs to be sure that the science it uses is unbiased! This may be difficult with various interests being involved

NRS6. Continue working with onsumptive users in their support via purchasing licenses and stamps, as well as fundraising [Needs more clarity] YES

Glad to see that in partnerships with other stake holders, private landowners are beings emphasized, and that projects with them are being considered, but there is a lot of work to do there in order to establish any trust of the dept on the part of landowners

What is 1600 programs?

"Work with land owners, both private and those who may operate on leased state-owned ground, to build positive, trusting relationships which are mutually beneficial Goal 14

Work with organizations that outreach to landowners (to help create stronger relationships with private landowners) – i.e., California Farm Bureau, Ca cattlemen’s Association"

This is important

"Ecosystem-based Management Informed by Best-available Science

Summary Statement: An approach that recognizes the full array of interactions in a system, including humans, rather than single issues, species or services in isolation.

Broadly-informed and Transparent Decision-making

Summary Statement: Transparent decision-making procedures and outcomes that inspire public confidence and trust through the use of diverse, best available and credible information." *GOOD emphasis on credible and if it is fair who decides what best available is*

This is a real problem:

Public mistrust of science used to make decisions

Perception by some that factors other than biological science may be disproportionately relied upon to make decisions, causing lack of “buy-in” by stakeholders

The suggested fixes seem weak so far, this one might be getting close

Establish science advisory panel from multiple disciplines to advise director on major issues
commissioners do rely a lot on staff, and if staff is often biased

ESA issues do need to be addressed to be more consistent and realistic

From table 4 *all this needs to be addressed*

II. Integrity and trustworthiness of the use of results of research, monitoring and evaluation studies used to develop policies to manage natural resources

II. The scientific credibility of resource management decisions does not have the confidence of the public.

II.1.C. Define Best Available Science, Best Available Scientific Methods, and standards for applying them that conform to appropriate California and Federal standards (statutory and common law). (Table 2, Goal 10) {Best available is a moving target. Who decides?}.

There is a concern that political influence and pressure on DFG scientists, partners, and contracted third

parties have produced agenda-driven outcomes and have influenced the decision-making process.== *this is not addressed well enough in the "potential ways" why does this include social sciences?*

No comments on table 5

Table 6

"Refine mission statement to include "protect" or "protect and enhance" and not just sustain/manage language."

I don't think I agree with this

Permitting needs to be improved. just saying that some project has to be permitted by f&g like stream bed alteration if you take a fallen tree out of the creek or the EIS required to do controlled burn makes private landowners less likely to want to do projects and can lead to no management instead of responsible or wise management

Table 7

"F&GC should be limited to wildlife management for consumptive uses"

Who said this any why. If so we need more commissioners who are active hunters and fishermen

RP21. "Create a clear understanding of the regulations and associated statutes to ensure they are consistent for all to interpret" *this would be nice*

Table 8

The first part seems redundant, but a good point under enforcement is

Educate district attorneys and judicial branch about DFG laws, as it seems that much fine \$ isn't collected or is not used for its purpose in the co.

table 9

"II.4. Develop Science Quality Assurance Plan to guide scientific efforts to produce timely, credible, objective results.

A. Quality Assurance: Rigorous internal and external review of study proposals.

B. Quality Control: Rigorous administrative and peer review of completed studies" *make This one thing and use internal and external reviewing both cases*

Revenue Table 10

Partner with private sector, non-profits, NGOs, to manage DFG lands (e.g. AB 42, Huffman)- *this is the only suggestion I like so far*

Improve accounting system to enable it to track funding income and outgo (e.g., by species complex) so that resource users can see how much is required and how the funding is expended.- *this needs to be done as there is frustration about species specific tag monies misuse*

From: Bill Korbholz

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 11:41 AM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: Fred Crowder; jpowers@openspacetrust.org; Ellen Gartside; John Trewin; 'Karissa Anderson'; Don Thomas; 'Claire Elliott'; Paul Heiple; 'Ronald Pummer'; dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org

Subject: Comments on California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision

As one of approximately 50 Weed Management Areas in California, the San Mateo County WMA actively works at removing and destroying noxious weeds, and preventing their spread in San Mateo County. Much of our funding has historically come from the California Department of Food and Agriculture, but that funding is no longer available, and weed management is no longer a CDFA priority.

That is why it is essential for DFG to take leadership responsibility for fighting invasive plants in California. Weeds have a significant negative impact on our state's agricultural economy, biodiversity, and aesthetic value.

We respectfully request that the strategic vision for DFG include weed management as a key component of DFG's mission, and that significant funding be dedicated to managing weeds in California.

Sincerely,

San Mateo County WMA Steering Committee

From: Cree Morgan [mailto:Cree.Morgan@sonoma-county.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 1:39 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: 'Ducks Unlimited:'; 'The Nature Conservancy:'; 'Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners:'; 'Audubon California:'; 'Defenders of Wildlife:'; 'Tejon Ranch:'; 'California Rangeland Trust:'; 'California Waterfowl Association:'; 'California Outdoor Heritage Alliance:'; 'California Council of Land Trusts:'; 'karen-buhr@carcd.org'

Subject: Support funding for CA invasive plant programs

Hello,

Invasive plants are a top threat to the state's ecological communities. DFG and the Natural Resources Agency need to address invasive plants as an essential part of managing these resources.

Funding for CDFA's invasive plant management programs (such as county-based Weed Management Areas) has been eliminated. CDFA focuses on agriculture.

For invasive plants damaging the state's wildlands, the Natural Resources Agency must take the leadership role.

DFG and the Natural Resources Agency should:

- take the lead role in addressing invasive plants in California's wildlands
- dedicate significant funding to invasive plant management.
- partner with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs.
- take an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework.
- educate the public on the wildlife impacts of invasive species, and how citizens can help reduce the problem.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important issue....

Regards,

Cree Morgan



Cree J. Morgan
Agricultural Biologist/Standards Specialist III

Sonoma County Ag. Commissioner's Office
133 Aviation Blvd, Suite 110
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Telephone: 707-565-2371
Fax: 707-565-3850
cmorgan@sonoma-county.org

From: Gillies Robertson [mailto:Robertson@yolorcd.org]

Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2011 2:27 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: mbiddlecomb@ducks.org; jay_ziegler@tnc.org; kwoodmclaughlin@gmail.com; dtaylor@audubon.org; kdelfino@defenders.org; ereynolds@tejonranch.com; nvail@rangelandtrust.org;

jcarlson@calwaterfowl.org; bill@outdoorheritage.org; karen-buhr@carcd.org; darla@calandtrusts.org

Subject: Support funding for CA invasive plant programs

To whom it may concern,

Invasive plants are a top threat to the state's ecological communities. DFG and the Natural Resources Agency need to address invasive plants as an essential part of managing these resources.

Funding for CDFA's invasive plant management programs (such as county-based Weed Management Areas) has been eliminated. CDFA focuses on agriculture. For invasive plants damaging the state's wildlands, the Natural Resources Agency must take the leadership role.

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- take the lead role in addressing invasive plants in California's wildlands
- dedicate significant funding to invasive plant management.
- partner with WMAs, Cal-IPC and others on invasive plant management programs.
- take an active role in leading the interagency Invasive Species Council of California and implementing the actions recommended in its Strategic Framework.
- educate the public on the wildlife impacts of invasive species, and how citizens can help reduce the problem.

Thanks for your time in considering this issue

Gillies Robertson
Vegetation Management Specialist
Yolo County Resource Conservation District
221 West Court Street, Suite 1
Woodland, CA 95695
530/662-2037 x114
530/680-7118 cell

-----Original Message-----

From: charles warren

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 3:23 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject: 1776 and all that

Hi,

I notice that people who actually hunt and fish are not represented proportionately to their contribution of departmental funding.

I notice "science" enshrined when science seems to play little part in many decisions. For instance, I've never hunted mountain lions, but the restrictions on their hunt are probably deplored by the endangered mountain sheep. Now the elk which have been repopulating NE California are probably ambivalent. Yes. Lions can kill elk and particularly elk calves, but are even more serious predators on the dwindling population of deer. The elk probably appreciate their relative advantage. Another example is the dogma that ingested lead bullets are poisoning California Condors. I have tried hard to find the underlying science on that. It is known that eating PVC pipe is a fatal habit of theirs left over from chomping on mastodon bones, but the idea that condors eat bullets is inconsistent with my experience as a hunter. If the condors had wanted any of my bullets they would have had to dig them out of the ground, not the carcass. Is there any evidence, for instance time lapse photography, that indicates they actually do that? I can imagine an experiment. Of course in my proposed experiment no actual lead bullets need be employed.

This sort of thing can happen when a politically correct set of interests hijacks a regulatory process and uses it against the constituents who actually contribute a majority of its funding.

Charles Warren
Pleasant Hill, CA

From: Cahoon, Ted

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 2:01 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject: California Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision Project (CFWSV) comments

The strategic vision should include sport hunting. Sport hunting is a wildlife management tool which will actually bring in money to the state via licensing, rather than using public funds to use agency personnel, or worse, hire professional hunters to reduce wildlife numbers.

Ted Cahoon
Los Gatos, CA

From: James Clarkson
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 9:12 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: California's public lands

My name is James Clarkson,

I am a native born Californian and I love the wide open spaces of Northern California.

I have found it more and more difficult these days to enjoy my native land.

There are gates being placed on back roads that once allowed my family access to some of the best of nature.

I understand concerns by those that would erect such restrictions, but once again they are penalizing the law abiding citizens because they have failed to enact policies to effectively deal with the law breakers. I ask for your support to do your best to make sure that public lands remain fully accessible to non-invasive visits by all law abiding citizens.

There are city folk and there are mountain folk. For the latter, the great wild outdoors is our sanctuary. This is where we go to get in touch with our relationship to the world. Restricting our access to these public lands is like restricting our moments of worship, for this is when most of us feel closest to the God of our understanding.

Please always remember the bigger picture, freedom. To those that honor its blessings, there should be no restrictions.

May freedom live on in your life,
May you earn the respect of those who fight for your freedom,
May you always have eyes that can see the good in the world.

Best,
Jim Clarkson

From: Grant
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 5:40 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Strategic Vision

I read through the document and I am still wondering about a couple of issues.
Why doesn't the DFG spend their money on what they are supposed to spend it on?
Where exactly does the money from the various stamps (upland, waterfowl...) actually go? What has the DFG been doing with that money lately to improve wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities?

Another issue is what is DFG doing to recruit new sportsmen? I am a teacher and have had several students over the years very interested in wanting to learn more about hunting and fishing, but they don't know where to start. Does the Department realize if there are no sportsmen there's no need for their jobs?
One of the biggest problems in my opinion is the lack of access in California for sportsmen. There is public land, but so much of it has locked gates that don't allow access. My sons can't hike in 5-10 miles, hunt for the day, and then hike 5-10 miles back out. How does the DFG work with other agencies like the USFS and BLM to promote access for sportsmen?

Please continue to keep hunting and fishing a top priority with the DFG. I have bought all my licenses for over 20 years and I don't want to have to spend my time and money hunting in other states. There are plenty of children that want to participate in the outdoors, but to compete with other sports and video games there has to be places to hunt and fish, and they need to be easier to get to. Thank you very much.

Mike Daniels

From: Victoria Coots
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 8:30 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Monday Evening

I am writing in opposition to any further restraints in the use of our forests, and in the areas of fishing and hunting. California has gone off the deep end on restricting our ability to do just about anything in the name of "protecting the environment." Most of us do not need to be told to take care of our environment, we do it because we want to keep it nice, healthy and thriving. Government has become too intrusive. What government at every level need to start doing is repealing some of the ridiculous, unwarranted laws they have passed, like AB32.

Thank you,

Victoria K. Coots
Oroville, CA 95965

From: John Fitzgibbon
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 4:49 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Strategic Vision SAG

Dear Sir or Madam;

In the draft vision statement it states that the Stakeholders Advisory Group consists of 51 members (as listed in the appendix, also). It also states that there were 130 applicants for the SAG. Who were the 79 applicants that were rejected?

John Fitzgibbon
San Jose, CA

From: Sue Hubbard
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 7:08 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Subject: Fish and Wildlife Vision

Invasive non-native plants are a major threat to diversity of California's flora and fauna. In general monocultures or near monocultures of an invasive plant crowd out native plants and provide poor habitat for most insects and animals. My work involves controlling invasive plants and I know how hard a task this can be. I also know the rewards of seeing areas recover after the removal of native plants. In the past the CDFA has provided funding for Weed Management Areas but even that minimal funding source has now ended.

If DFG is to fulfill its mission to California's diverse fish, wildlife and plant resources it needs to focus its resources to protecting habitat from invasive plants both on property owned by the State of California and in other parts of the state.

Susan Hubbard
Salinas, CA

From: Scott Martin

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 2:14 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject:

Dear Commission;

Please support and promote more hunting and fishing areas in California. I grew up in San Diego. As a child my family took hunting and fishing vacations. Now I am a grandfather, my children and grandchildren love these same fishing and hunting family vacations. Please continue this great American pastime and heritage. Thank-you.

Carl Martin

San Marcos, ca.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ann & Fred Meyer

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 4:00 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject: 'strategic vision'

First of all, we do not have a stakeholder representative because we are members of the general public. We make up what would and should be the largest 'stakeholder' group, individual taxpayers.

We ask that you hold public meetings throughout the state of California, even in the more remote areas where people might have more difficulty getting to a meeting in an urban setting. Scrap your deadline to make any decision on your 'vision' until the majority stakeholders have the opportunity to voice their concerns and ideas. The public meetings need to be advertised at least one month prior to each meeting on local radio, local television and newspapers, including the Capitol Press. A large venue must be used with the ability to hold several hundred, possibly one thousand interested persons. The executive committee should attend all public meetings so they may address the ideas and concerns of the general public, who are not represented adequately by the SAG committee.

The idea that a 'special prosecutor' may be developed is unnecessary and alarming. This plan should be extinguished.

The only reason I knew about the meeting in Redding was because I read about it in the Record Searchlight the morning of the meeting. This was inadequate notification for something of this magnitude that could have similar effects on us as the spotted owl debacle has on the timber industry in Siskiyou, Shasta, Trinity, etc . Since the north state is home to most of the state's resources that are going to be possibly affected by your 'strategic vision' we, the real stake holders deserve more representation.

I hope you are all listening and give us time to voice our opinions. We don't like people who do not spend time in our area making the decisions regarding how we manage our publicly held lands. We hunt, fish and respect the land.

Ann & Fred Meyer
Redding, CA

From: rodney reindl

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 7:55 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Subject: Strategic Vision comments

HSUS has been in the forefront of anti-hunting and anti-fishing organizations. To include them in the essential functioning and activities of the DFG is nothing short of a slap in the face of California's sportsmen. A measly \$5000 has bought them an inordinate amount of influence, especially when topped by Director Bonham's comment that the new "mission" of the DFG will consider hunting and fishing sports to be secondary to other considerations. I might point out that sportsmen have been the bulwark, politically and financial;ly of the DFG and the overall conservation of California's resources. The "Mission" should be reconsidered and revised to eliminate HSUS and increase concern and consideration of the importance and contribution of California's outdoor sports community. Part of the Strategic Vision must include active DFG enforcement of anti-pollution laws against municipalities and businesses and take a more proactive approach, enlisting the aid and support of bonafide wildlife conservation organizations (NOT HSUS, PETA, etc.). Preservation and expansion of wildlife areas, with specific areas designated should also be included as essential ingredients to the "Vision".

Respectfully submitted, Rodney Reindl

From: Florin Tiru
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 11:06 PM
To: Strategic Vision
Cc: tflarticle@crpa.org
Subject: Comment on California Fish & Wildlife Strategic Vision Project (CFWSV)

I find important that the strategic vision promotes sport hunting as a recreational opportunity, as well as a wildlife management tool in California.

Thanks,
Florin Tiru
Irvine, CA



Sent from my Dell XPS i630. This message and any attachments contain information that may be confidential, proprietary or otherwise constitute non-public information. It is intended to be conveyed only to the designated recipient(s). If you are not an intended recipient of this message, please notify the sender by replying to this message and then delete it from your system. Use, dissemination, distribution, or reproduction of this message by unintended recipients is not authorized and may be unlawful.

From: Jeanette Wrynski [mailto:Wrynski@yolorcd.org]

Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 3:53 PM

To: Strategic Vision

Cc: mbiddlecomb@ducks.org; jay_ziegler@tnc.org; kwoodmclaughlin@gmail.com; dtaylor@audubon.org; kdelfino@defenders.org; ereynolds@tejonranch.com; nvail@rangelandtrust.org; jcarlson@calwaterfowl.org; bill@outdoorheritage.org; karen-buhr@carcd.org; darla@calandtrusts.org

Subject: Comments for DFG Strategic Vision

I'd like to log the following comments regarding the development of a Strategic Vision for the State Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Fish & Game Commission (F&GC):

Given the State's loss of the Integrated Pest Control Program within the Dept. of Food and Agriculture, I think it is CRITICAL that DFG take on responsibility for and coordination of the management of invasive species of all kinds throughout the state. This would include non-native plants, animals, fish, birds, insects, and reptiles/amphibians without respect to the habitats they occupy – agricultural, wildlands, parks or other, since these species don't distinguish between these kinds of boundaries.

It would, in fact, make more sense to have DFG manage these kinds of programs, rather than the strictly agricultural focus that the CDFA program had. These invasive species can occupy ALL habitat types.

The conservation work that we, other RCD's and our partner the NRCS (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) focus on is most often affected by invasive plants, so I see "weeds" as highly important, but I also have great concern for the condition of the Delta and all of the tributary waterways with the invasion of the host of aquatic invasives that are overrunning it.

Responsibility for invasive species management should include distribution of grant funding as well, for example as was done with the many Weed Management Areas (WMA's) which coordinated invasive weed control within and between counties.

Please give strong consideration to this significant gap in resource management and protection.

Jeanette Wrynski
Executive Director
Yolo County Resource Conservation District
221 West Court St., Ste 1
Woodland, CA 95695
530-662-2037 ext 118
530-681-3292 cell
530-662-4876 fax
wrynski@yolorcd.org