

## Mission Statement

CCWR works to promote the highest standards of animal care in wildlife rehabilitation by providing education and networking opportunities among wildlife rehabilitators and regulatory agencies.

## Winter 2016

# How NOAA is HELPING THE WHALES

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, pronounced like “Noah”) is an American scientific agency within the United States Department of Commerce focused on the conditions of the oceans and the atmosphere. NOAA warns of dangerous weather, charts seas and skies, guides the use and protection of ocean and coastal resources, and conducts research to improve understanding and stewardship of the environment. In addition to its civilian employees, 12,000 as of 2012, NOAA research and operations are supported by 300 uniformed service members who make up the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

As part of their duties, NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation’s living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

In addition to being responsible for dolphins, porpoises, seals and sea lions in U.S. waters, an important function of NOAA is to affect rescue of whales entangled off our nation’s coastline. The

leading cause of death for whales off the U.S. coast is entanglement in fishing gear followed by getting hit by a ship. Shipping lanes have been shifted away from known whale spots and migration paths on both US East and West coasts to help prevent whale ship strikes. NOAA responded to over 50 whale entanglement calls off the U.S. coast in 2015.

When NOAA Fisheries Service biologists assemble a whale rescue team it will include experts from NOAA and also, depending on the location, state wildlife officials, marine mammal center personnel, veterinarians with experience in marine mammals and the U.S. Coast Guard. The U.S. Coast Guard is the Department of Homeland Security’s maritime law enforcement agency charged with enforcing The Marine Mammal Protection Act. As one of the federal stewards to the marine environment, the Coast Guard welcomes the opportunity to assist

NOAA Fisheries Service in protecting marine mammals and preserving the nation’s valuable natural marine resources.

Freeing an entangled whale can take days or weeks depending on weather conditions so the first step is to attach a telemetry buoy that will emit a radio signal so they can continue to locate the whale each day.

The following are a few articles about NOAA’s efforts in the whale entanglement problem.

- NOAA rescues endangered North Atlantic Right whale off Florida coast  
<http://www.publicaffairs.noaa.gov/releases2005/dec05/noaa05-r136.html>
- NOAA rescues endangered right whale off Charleston, SC coast  
<http://www.noanews.noaa.gov/stories2004/s2193.htm>
- NOAA rescues entangled humpback whale off San Diego, CA coast  
<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2015/10/31/rescue-team-attempts-to-disentangle-whale-off-san-diego-coast/>
- NOAA led response team successfully frees humpback whale off Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii  
[http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/news/rescue\\_news.html](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/news/rescue_news.html)
- NOAA Fisheries Service  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>
- NOAA  
<http://www.noaa.gov>
- Report a stranded/beached marine animal  
<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/report.htm>
- NMFS National Enforcement Hotline for Violations  
1-800-853-1964 📞

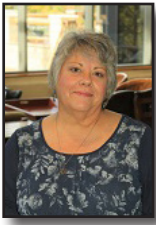


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# JOIN A CCWR COMMITTEE

By Kathy Bolen



In order for us to continue to provide the best possible service we can to our members, we are always looking for help with our committees. If you would like to join one of our committees all you have to do is submit an application, found at [http://www.ccwr.org/files/2016\\_Committee\\_Application\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ccwr.org/files/2016_Committee_Application_Form.pdf).

Our current list of committees includes Advocacy, Awards and Recognition, Evaluation, Finance, Laboratory, Membership, Nominating, Scholarship, Symposium, and Publications (which consists of Digital Community, Brochure, Newsletter and Website). All of the committees can use assistance and

expertise. To find out more about the purpose of the individual committees, visit the CCWR website at <http://www.ccwr.org/about/committee-directory.html>.

'It takes a village to raise the family'. The Advocacy, Membership and Symposium committees could really use some additional volunteers.

Should you have any questions regarding the committees and what would be expected of you, please feel free to contact any of the Board members and specifically the chairperson of the committee(s) you are interested in ([info@ccwr.org](mailto:info@ccwr.org)). You can belong to more than one committee and you can always switch to a committee that more suits your interests and involvement. ↻

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already done so, please renew your CCWR membership which was due January 30. You can either renew online at [www.ccwr.org](http://www.ccwr.org) and pay via Paypal or you can download and print your application/renewal form from the CCWR website at: [http://www.ccwr.org/files/2016\\_Membership\\_Application-1.pdf](http://www.ccwr.org/files/2016_Membership_Application-1.pdf) and mail your application, along with a check payable to "CCWR", to:

**CCWR Membership, 2352 Cromwell Ave., Clovis, CA 93611**

Please make sure you indicate whether the application is for an Individual, Organizational or Family membership. As we are in the process of updating and revising our membership database it is important that you fill out your application completely. Any questions, please contact our new membership chair, Nancy Barbachano at [nancy4woodpeckers@gmail.com](mailto:nancy4woodpeckers@gmail.com).

**WATCH THE CCWR ENews!!! FOR DETAILS ON THE 2016 SYMPOSIUM IN FRESNO ON OCTOBER 22-24**

# ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Sharon Ponsford

Exciting news for wolves. Not only do we have our first wolf pack in Shasta County, but a male wolf has recently been spotted in Modoc County. So, the word must be out in the wolf community that wolves are protected in California. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Wolf Management Plan is just being reviewed by the public at the moment.

CCWR had members at every Department of Fish & Game Commission meeting in 2015. Members spoke to the following issues:

- Banning prizes for wildlife killing contests/PASSED
- Fought to keep the 150 yard minimum trapping regulation (Title 14, Section 465.5 (g) (3) that Animal Pest Management Services is requesting to relax/ONGOING
- Getting the Tri-Colored Blackbird listed as Endangered/ the Commission voted to start this process at December 2015 meeting
- Supported a total ban on the commercial and recreational trapping of bobcats/PASSED

- Supported the listing of the Gray Wolf as an Endangered Species under the California ESA/PASSED (this happened in 2014, but in 2015 the first wolf pack was spotted in Shasta County and was welcomed)

## ONGOING CAMPAIGNS

- Keeping Cats Safely Contained—we love our cats, but should keep them contained in house.
- Tree Trimming—how to enforce laws, how to work with tree trimmers.
- Working with the Wildlife Resources Commission on Predator Management Reform in California

Also, one important thing to point out is that we are ALL advocates just because of the work we do, but when we join forces with not only our fellow members, but with other conservation organizations, we have more impact. We definitely are beginning to be noticed at these meetings!

View the dates of the 2016 Commission meetings at <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2016/>. ↻

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CDFW MEETING NOTES

*Intro by Nicole Carion, Notes by Leslie Bale*  
This year, Nicole Carion, Wildlife Rehabilitation Coordinator for California Department of Fish & Wildlife, held two regional meetings in California; one in northern California and one in southern California. The northern California regional meeting was taped and is available online until February 23, 2016. The presentations will be available for 30 days.

There were 7 presentations given and each has a separate link. Please note in the Presentation titled “Enhanced Surveillance for Wildlife Diseases,” Devin Dombrowski will give an overview of the WRMD updates. You will not be able to “see” his presentation because he was demonstrating WRMD “real time” and did not have a power point. Later in the presentation Terra Kelly, will begin speaking and begin the power point.

- CDFW Wildlife Rehabilitation Update, Nicole Carion, CDFW <https://youtu.be/y9zRXZUOmco>
- Enhanced Surveillance for Wildlife Diseases in California, Devin Dombrowski & Terra Kelly, CDFW <https://youtu.be/OdLWcAHpJWo>
- Update on Pesticide Issues, Stella McMillin [https://youtu.be/hrP\\_V593bX4](https://youtu.be/hrP_V593bX4)
- Oiled Wildlife care Network, Christine Fiorello, OWCN <https://youtu.be/pjsriDeqzsz>
- Avian Mortality Investigation: 2015 Summary, Krysta Rogers, CDFW <https://youtu.be/TSYAx1QZ-WY>
- Nongame Species Mortality Investigation, Dr. Deanna Clifford, CDFW <https://youtu.be/kJm28LzYtRE>
- USFWS Regulation Review, Jen Brown, USFWS <https://youtu.be/MbCfdTE7oQ4>

These recordings were made for California Wildlife Rehabilitation Permittees and their official volunteers, only. Please do

not send to outside entities, or infringe on these recordings.

A reminder to wildlife organizations; any volunteer that handles wildlife OR has contact with the public via education programs or handling telephone calls is required to comply with the two hour minimum continuing education requirement by Fish & Wildlife. Having your volunteers view the videos of the regional Fish & Wildlife meeting listed above will qualify as their continuing education.

Nicole is forming a committee to read through the NWRA 4th edition minimum standards and adjust the language to apply to California wildlife rehabilitation and confirming the caging sizes are appropriate for all species listed. Contact Nicole at [Nicole.carion@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.carion@wildlife.ca.gov) if you are interested in being on the committee.

In addition to the California Fawn Committee headed by Dave Cook there are now the Eagle Committee headed by Dr. Vickie Joseph and the Predatory Mammal Committee (fox, bobcat, coyote) headed by Ashley Kinney.

Keep in mind the below notes are only some of the highlights or the information presented. View the full presentations at the links provided near the beginning of this article.

Stella McMillin reminded us that pesticides can only be used for the animals listed on the label. If an animal targeted isn't listed on the label, it's an illegal use of the pesticide.

Issues with poisons:

**Pyrethroid** insecticides used by Exterminators washes into waterways.

**Anti-coagulants** last for several months in tissue, it accumulates in the liver. Avitrol is

for use by licensed pest control companies on pigeons and starlings and is scattered like seeds on the ground.

There is a concern that first generation anti-rodenticides (FGAR) and causing animals to be more susceptible to mange. FGAR may also cause flight/mobility problems that lead to sub-lethal impacts with cars and structures.

**Strychnine** is only legal to use underground for gophers. Strychnine acts quickly, if birds are seen falling dead out of trees or off light poles, misuse of strychnine would be suspect.

**Bromethalin** is for use on mammals. Bromethalin poisoning presents as neural signs, paralysis of rear limbs and can persist over several days. It may be misdiagnosed as Hit By Car (HBC) or Distemper. It is dispensed by bait/wax cubes.

**Pentobarbitol** is a veterinary euthanasia drug. It should never be in the environment. Several Turkey Vultures were exposed, presumably by feeding on improperly disposed carcasses.

Dr. Deana Clifford reported that Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) is now found in felids (African Lions).

CDV was responsible for 11 gray fox deaths in a solar development area of Riverside County. CDFW is trying to determine if the stress of the construction of solar panel farms in wildlife habitat and/or the UV radiation from the panels result  
*(continued on page 5)*

## REMINDER PERMIT RENEWAL DATES

Region 1 — 10-31-16  
Region 2 — 06-30-16  
Region 3 — 12-30-17  
Region 4 — 10-30-16  
Region 5 — 03-31-17  
Region 6 — 10-30-16

By Nicole Carion



Wildlife Rehabilitation  
Coordinator  
Senior Environmental  
Scientist  
Wildlife Investigations Lab  
Ca. Dept. Fish and Wildlife

Adenovirus is a disease that affects California's mule deer population and is often encountered by wildlife rehabilitators who rehabilitate fawns. The infection seems to reach its peak in late summer when the highest numbers of fawns are in rehabilitation. The virus can cause acute death and is upsetting to see in both the wild and especially in a rehabilitation setting after a tremendous amount of time and effort has been put forth to rehabilitate the fawns.

The history of adenovirus in California stems back to 1993 and 1994 when a significant mortality event occurred in several counties throughout California. Crude estimates during the event showed the mortalities affecting around 1000 animals, most of which were fawns (Swift 1997, Woods et al. 1996). At the time the mortality event was occurring it was unknown what the causative agent was. Necropsy findings were similar to hemorrhagic disease caused by the bluetongue virus (BTV) or epizootic hemorrhagic disease virus (EHDV), but not the same. It seemed this was a new virus. The necropsies for this event were conducted by the California Animal Health and Safety Laboratory (CAFHS) and mainly by a pathologist named Dr. Leslie Woods. Microscopic examination and transmission electron microscopy revealed that a previously unrecognized adenovirus was the cause (Woods et al. 1996). Adenovirus was found in carcasses from Siskiyou, Shasta, Tehama, Lake, Yuba, Nevada, Sacramento, Sonoma, Tuolumne, San Mateo and Marin Counties and was the suspected cause of mortalities in Modoc, Trinity, Calaveras, Santa Clara, Monterey, San Luis Obispo and El Dorado counties,

as well. Historical tissues from as far back as 1987 also revealed adenovirus in Sonoma County.

The definition of adenovirus is complicated but, generally, adenovirus causes widespread systematic inflammation of the blood vessels or vasculitis. This leads to leakage of fluid into the tissues and loss of oxygenated blood to regions of tissue. Inflammation of the blood vessels and damaged blood vessel walls in the lungs cause a buildup of fluids in the lungs often resulting in pneumonia (Woods et al., 1996). In the intestine the damaged blood vessel walls cause hemorrhage into the lumen. Adenovirus also causes pulmonary edema. Typical symptoms of infected animals include an affinity for sources of water, excess salivation, fatigue, diarrhea, regurgitation, abscesses on the lips, tongue, gingiva, nasal cavity, pharynx, esophagus, and abomasum and seizures (Woods, et al., 1996, 1999; Swift 1997, 2001a).

One notable difference between adenovirus and the other two hemorrhagic viruses (BTV and EHDV) is adenovirus does not spread by a vector species, but by close contact with affected animals. It also seems to be highly contagious with an incubation period of 4-16 days post exposure with death occurring acutely (Woods, et al., 1999).

In the summer of 2014, and continuing into 2015, deer carcasses submitted to CAFHS revealed another possible adenovirus event. Adenovirus has been cited as the cause of death for many deer in several counties starting in the summer of 2014 and continuing through the summer of 2015. In reality many deaths are reported to the department but very few fresh carcasses are available for necropsy. Although the number of carcasses submitted may seem too small to determine an event, the percentage of positive animals is comparative. Adenovirus was identified

in eight of the seventeen deer that were submitted for necropsy in the period from January 1, 2015 - July 30, 2015. This was a substantial jump from the four out of forty-eight deer submitted in 2014. Current evidence indicates there was (and still may be) a significant adenovirus mortality event occurring, which may have begun in the summer of 2014. The reasons for the increase in adenovirus mortalities is not fully understood, but the ongoing drought may play a role as groups of deer congregate to acquire food and water. Artificial feeding sites may increase exposure to infected deer and wildlife rehabbers should never provide supplemental food for fawns they released (long term) or wild deer in their area.

If your organization worked with the department to submit a carcass to the CAFHS lab, the department now has the results available from the period of time between January 1, 2014 - July 30, 2015.

Wildlife rehabilitators should keep an eye out for deer showing symptoms of adenovirus and notify the department (statewide rehabilitation coordinator and or local biologist) if a fresh adenovirus "suspicious" carcass is available. If a member of the public wants to report a mortality event or die-off of deer (or any animal) in their area, they should be advised to report it to their local biologist and or the Wildlife Investigations Lab via the online mortality reporting form: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Investigations/Monitoring/Mortality-Report>.

Deer adenovirus is a pathogen specific to deer and is not known to affect domestic livestock, nor is there known risk to humans, but rehabilitators (and members of the general public) should always wear gloves when handling affected carcasses and the carcass should not be fed to other animals as a food source in a rehabilitation facility. 🦋 (see references on page 5)

# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CDFW MEETING NOTES

*Continued from page 5*

in a suppression of the animals immune system which results in their susceptibility to mange.

Sarcoptic mange is found in coyotes and to a lesser extent, bobcats and mountain lions.

Deana pointed out that squirrels have their very own mange virus.

Krysta Rogers reported that avian mortality increased for Cholera, Trichomonosis, Salmonellosis, Mycoplasmosis, Avian Pox and Avian Paramyxovirus-1. Alcohol Poisoning, noted in the spring when the fermented berries thaw and are fed upon by the birds increased with multiple species affected.

Starvation had increased mortality in Cassin's Auklet, Common Murre and Brandt's cormorant. It was attributed to El Nino.

West Nile Virus was most common in bird-eating raptors feeding on infected prey.

Other miscellaneous causes of avian mortality was trauma (of all kinds),

wind turbine, vehicle collision, gunshot, electrocution, starvation, infection.


Jennifer Brown, United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) reported that USFWS was still working on getting Epermits up and running. Jennifer also reviewed some points of the Standard Conditions for permits touching on euthanasia, feather possession and eagle carcasses. All eagle feathers and/or whole eagle carcasses must be shipped to USFWS National Eagle & Wildlife Repository.

A reminder to all to submit form 3-202-12 to USFWS before transferring any birds anywhere other than another licensed rehabilitator.

USFWS needs dimensions and photos of new enclosures for approval. The photos will become a resource to guide new permittees in the construction of their cages.

Curt Clumpner gave an update on the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). OWCN works with NOAA (see NOAA article on cover of this newsletter edition) on oiled wildlife. OWCN is still trying to develop more inland oiled wildlife centers and improve

their mobile response unit to inland wildlife oilings. Curt invited everyone to attend the Oilapalooza conference in the Fall of each year. Follow OWCN on Facebook to get updated information.

Each presenter profusely thanked the wildlife rehabilitators in attendance and all wildlife rehabilitators in California for the work they do. California Department of Fish & Wildlife firmly believes data from wildlife rehabilitators is extremely underutilized for keeping track of emerging and diverging diseases. If all wildlife rehabilitator's data can be kept on Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Data Base (WRMD), California could be the first state in the United States to use the data as a statewide surveillance program. Wildlife Rehabilitators have the opportunity and keen eye to observe when something is not quite right with the species they admit for care. 

## California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators Profit & Loss Statement January through December 2015

### Income

Memberships	
Individual Memberships	\$4,615.00
Family Membership	\$1,200.00
Organization Memberships	\$1,680.00
Total Memberships	<u>\$7,495.00</u>
Jessen Scholarship Fund	(\$300.00)
Symposium	\$33,799.40
Promotional Sales	\$1,501.73
Donations	\$355.40

### Total Income

\$42,851.53

### Expense

Bank Service Fees	\$64.00
Fees, License, Permits	\$418.00
Insurance - BOD	\$1,362.00
Board Expenses - Mtgs & Food	\$200.00
Gifts	\$87.00
Merchandise Purchases	\$469.11
Outside Services	\$464.01
PayPal Fees	\$933.23
PO Box Rental	\$44.00
Postage	\$252.23
Printing	\$228.59
Telephone	\$123.34
Website Expense	\$909.00
Symposium - Expenses	\$19,742.89

### Total Expense

\$25,297.40

### Net Income

\$17,554.13

## ADENOVIRUS INFECTION IN CA MULE DEER REFERENCES

- Shirkey, N., Gonzales, B., Woods, L., 2015. Update of Adenovirus Infection in Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) 2014-2015 as of 7/30/15. Report CDFW
- Swift, P. 1997. Update on Systemic Adenovirus Infection in Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*). Report CDFW.
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- Woods L. 2001b. *Infectious Diseases of Wild Mammals, Third Edition Chapter 9: Adenoviral Diseases*. Iowa State University Press 202-213.
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- Woods, L. P. Swift, B. Barr, M. Horzinek, R. Nordhausen, M. Stillian, J. Patton, M. Oliver, K. Jones, N. MacLachlan. 1996. Systemic Adenovirus Infection Associated with High Mortality in Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in California. *Veterinary Pathology* 33: 125-132.

# FISH AND GAME UPHEAVAL REVEALS SHIFT IN STATE WILDLIFE POLICY

By Peter Fimrite

From *S.F. Chronicle*, January 15, 2016

Updated: January 23, 2016 7:59pm

The sudden resignation of the most adamant defender of hunting and fishing on the California Fish and Game Commission could put the finishing touches on a sweeping philosophical shift in the way the state views wildlife, sets rules for fishing and controls predators like mountain lions and wolves.

## CHAOS AT FISH & GAME

Commissioner Jim Kellogg retired in late December in frustration over what he termed a lack of consideration for the sportsmen and women he represents. The resignation — combined with the unrelated recent departures of commission President Jack Baylis and Sonke Mastrup, the commission's executive director — sets the stage for Gov. Jerry Brown to appoint conservationists to the increasingly pivotal state board.

Such a move may, observers say, complete the transformation of the commission from an organization that advocates for fishing and hunting to one that safeguards endangered species, preserves habitat and protects California's top predators from slaughter.

But it won't happen without a fight. While environmentalists say they are finally

getting a fair shake in the high-stakes political game of wildlife management, advocates for outdoor sports fear that they have lost their voice and that the role they have played in the protection of species is being forgotten.

## FACING DIVISIVE ISSUES

The five-member commission, whose job is to recommend policies to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, has been wading through divisive issues that could profoundly impact the future of the state, including what to do about diminishing salmon populations, sick sea lions and disappearing sea otters.

How California responds to growing numbers of wolves, coyotes and mountain lions is a central battle. The question is whether the predators should be tolerated or encouraged — or driven away by guard dogs or gunned down when they get too close to people or livestock.

Historically, the commission has been made up almost entirely of hunters and fishermen, but that focus has changed in the past several years.

"It has been going through a transition from a predominantly hunting and fishing commission to more of an environmental commission," said Bill Gaines, a hunting advocate and lobbyist for the outdoor sports community. "They are responsible for a lot of things that would never have been on their agenda several decades ago."

Brown, who is responsible for appointments on the commission, did not say when he would fill the vacancies.

"We aim to fill all of our vacancies with the most qualified, capable and committed candidates from a broad and diverse pool of applicants," said the

governor's spokesman, Evan Westrup, in a written statement. "That ultimately dictates the timing of our appointments."

## SHIFT OF POWER

Fish and Game's transition ratcheted up over the past few years with the departures of two commissioners: Michael Sutton, an avid hunter and fisherman who nevertheless disapproved of trophy hunting and supported marine protections, and Daniel Richards, who was famously photographed with a dead mountain lion he had killed in Idaho.

Richard Rogers, who was not considered a friend of the outdoor sporting community, also left the commission last year.

The replacements for Sutton and Rogers — Anthony Williams, a 47-year-old lawyer and Democratic consultant from Huntington Beach who is the first African American in the commission's 145-year history, and Eric Sklar, 52, of St. Helena — are viewed as more on the conservation side of the ledger.

But it was the resignation of Kellogg, who often teamed up with Sutton and Richards, that was viewed by many as the end of the line for the hunting and fishing coalition on the commission.

"I'm leaving pretty much out of frustration," Kellogg said in an interview. He had been on the board for 14 years when he retired Dec. 31, the longest-serving member of the commission.

"I'm just tired of being the only one fighting the fight for the hunters and fishers," he said. "The first 12 years I won most of the battles, and the last couple of years I lost almost every battle."

The changes on the commission are an illustration of a statewide phenomenon.



Wildlife advocates expand target after bobcat ban. Photo: Michael Macor, *The Chronicle*



*Wolf conversation plan drawn up for California,  
Photo: Michael Macor, The Chronicle*

Californians, more than ever, regard wildlife, including apex predators, as a valuable part of the ecosystem instead of as food or vermin.

Chuck Bonham, the director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, says he is committed to embracing science-based wildlife and ecosystem management while preserving the history and traditions associated with hunting and fishing.

### TELLING NAME CHANGE

Clearly, though, there has been a movement away from those traditions. The transformation became vivid in 2012 when then-Assemblyman Jared Huffman of San Rafael, who has since been elected to Congress, introduced a bill to change the name of the department that has managed fishing and hunting in California since 1872 from “Fish and Game” to “Fish and Wildlife.”

The bill passed in 2013 despite opposition from hunters, who saw it as a signal that game animals would soon be made off-limits. The commission itself, however, maintained the “Fish and Game” moniker despite lobbying by environmental groups to change the names of both the commission and the department it serves.

The name change was part of a slew of legislation requiring, among other things, that the department take into account ecosystem balance and sound science when managing wildlife. To conservationists, it represented a rejection of an archaic view

that wildlife is meant to be shot or speared and mounted on a wall.

“It has become a more open-minded forum where Californians of all viewpoints can be heard and, on any given day, anyone can win,” said Jennifer Fearing, a lobbyist for the Humane Society of the United States and other animal protection organizations. “I think it was stacked against conservationists for so long that any shift seems like a victory for conservation.”

Many farmers, ranchers and rural residents, however, believe the state is turning away from them as they struggle to hold on to their heritage.

“I come from the days when most people grew up with a fishing pole and kids spent most of their life outdoors. Today kids just sit on the couch with their cell phone,” Kellogg said. “The whole world is changing. What people don’t understand, though, is that when there isn’t any hunting in California, there won’t be any native wildlife, because it is the hunters and fishermen who spend the money on wildlife management.”

In fact, Gaines has argued, hunting and fishing tags and license fees contribute \$80 million to \$100 million a year to the Department of Fish and Wildlife — roughly a quarter of the annual budget. He said 60 percent of the interior wetlands of California are privately owned, preserved and managed for duck hunting, and that the national wildlife refuge system is overwhelmingly funded by hunters.

### FEWER HUNT, FISH

At the same time, noted Gaines, recent studies have shown that only 10 percent of Californians actively support hunting. The number of state residents who hunt and fish has been declining for decades, according to researchers.

Hunting groups believe animal rights

advocates want to outlaw the pastime entirely. They point to recent laws banning bobcat trapping, the use of lead bullets, coyote killing contests and the hounding of bears and bobcats.

The establishment of vast marine protected areas along the coast and the recent release of a draft management plan for carefully handling wolves, which are expected to multiply in California after a long absence, served as further proof to some ranchers and sportsmen that they are playing second fiddle to what they see as tree-hugging, save-the-whales city slickers.

Far from wanting to ban hunting and fishing, Fearing said she just wants state policymakers to listen to all sides. Until recently, she said, anyone who introduced science that contradicted rural ranching and pro-hunting doctrine was dismissed.

“If you want the rest of the state to chip in and advocate for more resources to make sure we have robust protection of our wildlife, you have to convince the public that you are an agency that shares their values,” Fearing said. “I think they are doing that now. It’s incumbent on them to grow that trust.”

Geoff Shester, the California program director for the marine advocacy group Oceana, said he hopes the Fish and Game Commission will be guided by a responsibility to protect rather than destroy in the future.

“What’s happening is not an antifishing or antihunting perspective,” said Shester, who has fought for the protection of ecosystems, including the San Francisco Bay herring fishery. “It’s more about how to do these activities responsibly. Dealing with issues like overfishing is good for both fishing communities and for the conservation community.”

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