



Lower Sherman Island Duck Hunters Association



April 3, 2018

The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
State Capitol, Room 5046
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1311 (Berryhill) – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Hertzberg:

Our organizations, which collectively represent hundreds of thousands of sportsmen, urge you to support SB 1311 (Berryhill), which would create an annual hunting and fishing combination license (i.e. sportsman’s license).

SB 1311 would provide an additional licensing option for hunters and fishermen that would offer the convenience of only having to purchase one license per year. Recognizing that California currently has some of the highest hunting and fishing license fees of any state, the bill would also offer some cost relief (exact price still to be determined) as opposed to buying each hunting and fishing license separately.

Many other states, including neighboring Oregon, Arizona and Nevada, offer annual combination licenses to residents (and in some cases non-residents). The licenses have proven popular, as many sportsmen both hunt and fish on an annual basis.

California hunting and fishing license sales have generally declined since the 1970s. While many states have introduced new types of licenses to encourage more people to participate in the outdoors, the number of licenses that California offers has remained relatively low.

A study cited in a recent report entitled "Exploring Recent Increases in Hunting and Fishing Participation" found that "an important factor that may have increased license sales is changing types of licenses (e.g., creation of new licenses, repackaging or renaming licenses). Of state fish and wildlife agencies that were polled in the survey, from 28% to 37%, depending on which year was considered, named license type changes as a factor affecting their license sales increase."

According to Responsive Management, which has done extensive research on hunting and fishing licenses and consumer demand, "Such (licensing) changes, which can include repackaging of licenses or a recombination of various privileges, can have the effect of marketing because the hunter and/or angler may perceive that a better deal is available, that the license is "new and improved," or he or she may simply be reminded of the opportunities to hunt and fish."

By effectively encouraging more people to both hunt and fish, the combination license should generate additional funds for fish and wildlife conservation purposes through increased Pittman-Roberson and Dingell-Johnson excise tax revenues on hunting and fishing equipment. (In 2017 California was apportioned \$25.6 million and \$16.6 million, respectively, of these funds through grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.)

The combination license would also likely generate additional hunting and fishing license stamp and tag revenue for the Department of Fish and Wildlife by encouraging some people who currently only fish, for example, to try out hunting and therefore purchase hunting stamps and tags. In 2017, about \$14 million was generated for wildlife conservation purposes from California hunting license tags, stamps and other validations and about \$6.5 million generated from fishing validations.

The price of the license created under SB 1311 would be annually adjusted for inflation, similar to other hunting and fishing licenses, with monies deposited in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.

With the Automated Data Licensing System now fully implemented, the Department of Fish and Wildlife should be able to offer additional licensing options for hunters and fishermen more easily and at less cost than in the past.

For these reasons, please support SB 1311 when it is considered by your committee.

Sincerely,



Mark Hennelly, California Waterfowl Association



John Devney, Delta Waterfowl



Roger Mammon, Lower Sherman Island Duck Hunters Association and California Striped Bass Association



Don Kirby, Cal-Ore Wetlands and Waterfowl Council



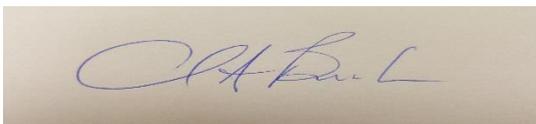
Maddy Folk, The Black Brant Group



Darryl Williams, Wild Sheep Foundation, California Chapter



Lori Jacobs, California Houndsmen for Conservation



Chris Bowles, California Bowman Hunters Association and State Archery Association