



FLOOR ALERT

VOTE “NO” ON SB 856

Our wildlife conservation organizations, which collectively represent hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women, landowners, and other wildlife enthusiasts across California, urge you to **VOTE “NO” on AB 856**. We certainly are aware of the damage wild pigs can do to property and to wildlife habitats, and we could support reasonable, mutually agreed to mitigation measures. However, we believe that the changes proposed in SB 856, as amended May 19, 2022, are too extreme and would seriously impact the ability of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to successfully manage wild pigs and diminish the hunting opportunity they currently provide.

Our major points of opposition to SB 856, as amended May 19, 2022, are that the bill would:

- *Remove the game mammal status of wild pigs and reclassify them as an exotic game mammal, allowing them to be killed in large numbers by nearly any means except poison, while also allowing them to be hunted at night by firearm – greatly diminishing the ability of enforcement to effectively combat the poaching of other game animals at night.*
- *Require DFW to prepare a plan for the management of wild pigs no later than January 1, 2024 – which would not provide DFW adequate time to prepare a comprehensive, effective plan and seriously compromise the ability of DFW staff to complete critically needed management plans for bears, wild sheep, deer, and bobcats that are currently in process.*
- *Reduce opportunities for the public to successfully hunt wild pigs. Wild pigs are often the first big game hunted by youth and adults new to hunting. Hunting wild pigs is an important means of teaching both youth and adults hunter skills, safety, and sportsmanship.*
- *Make high fence pig hunts unlawful – eliminating hunting opportunity for those individuals with disabilities or other special needs who do not have the physical ability to hunt other wildlands.*
- *Likely result in a substantial reduction in the annual revenues deposited into the Big Game Management Account – impacting the annual funding available for programs and projects critical to the health of all big game species.*

FOR ALL THESE REASONS – PLEASE VOTE “NO” ON SB 856