

I thought this month would be a good time to talk about hogs. No, not the kind that guzzle gas but the feral kind that populate our hills. As you will recall they used to be pests and as a result they had no season or tag requirements. DFG decided to make them a big game animal and require a tag to hunt. From there they issued a book of five tags and they were a game mammal.

In the San Diego area they became so plentiful and frequented such rough terrain that hunters rarely hunted them. There is a move to do depredation hunts in that area. The plan is to hire shooters and shoot them from helicopters.

In our local area there is discussion about the damage done to the forest and oak trees and moving some of the population. At the present time in the North State if they are damaging crops or land you may obtain a depredation permit from DFG and shoot them. This will require written permission from the land owner that you are acting as his agent and with his consent.

If you are hunting hogs in California the use of electronic calls is illegal in California as per California Department of Fish and Game Code Section 3012 for all birds and mammals except coyotes, bobcats, American crows and starlings(title 14 Section 475). A caution word about crows. They look an awful lot like ravens which are protected. The only difference is they (DFG) say ravens are a little larger than crows.