



for big game monitoring programs or aerial surveys, and the analysis of teeth from harvested species.

### PROPOSED LAW

This bill would expand the eligible entities for grants from the BGMA. Specifically, this bill would:

- 1) Authorize the department to make grants to, reimburse, or enter into contracts or other agreements with multiple entities for the use of the funds from the BGMA to carry out its purposes.
  - a) These entities include public and private entities, and federally recognized Indian tribes in addition to the already-eligible nonprofit organizations.
- 2) Make various minor technical changes to statute.

### ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT

According to the author, “[t]he Big Game Management Account (BGMA) is the primary funding tool the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) uses to deliver programs and projects in California which benefit antelope, elk, deer, wild pig, bear, and wild sheep. The BGMA was established by legislation passed in 2010 (SB 1058) which required that all big game tag revenues be consolidated and deposited into a single BGMA for use on projects and programs which benefit the big game species in greatest need. To further advance the ability of DFW to make the most effective and efficient use of big game tag revenues, the enabling legislation also expressly allowed DFW to make grants to or enter into contracts or other agreements with nonprofits to assist in delivering the program. However, an audit of the BGMA performed by DFW’s Audits Branch in 2020 determined that entering into contracts or agreements with for-profit or private entities to further the purposes of the BGMA may be in noncompliance with FGC 3953(d), and, as such, unlawful or unenforceable. SB 370 would correct this serious problem by expressly clarifying that DFW has the authority to also make grants to, enter into contracts or other agreements with public and private entities and federally recognized Indian tribes, as necessary, to deliver important programs and projects that promote the health of California’s big game species and their enjoyment by our public.”

### ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION

None received

### COMMENTS

Solves a principal finding in the audit. Changing the law to address an audit finding is in most instances likely not to be the preferred solution. In this instance, however, the change appears warranted. This change may help ensure that those best suited to perform certain tasks are eligible to receive the funds, and that critically-important projects are not unnecessarily delayed.

Additional goals. Efforts to sustain big game can also help meet additional established goals of the state. [Amendment #1]

**SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS**

**AMENDMENT 1**

**In FGC 3953(d) insert the following after “habitat conservation projects”**

“and to support and further the state’s biodiversity goals”.

**SUPPORT**

California Chapter – Wild Sheep Foundation (sponsor)  
California Deer Association (sponsor)  
Black Brant Group  
Cal-Ore Wetland and Waterfowl Council  
California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association  
California Chapters – Safari Club International  
California Hawking Club  
California Houndsmen for Conservation  
California Rifle & Pistol Association  
California Sportsman’s Lobby  
California Waterfowl Association  
Nor-Cal Guides & Sportsmen’s Association  
Outdoor Sportsmen’s Coalition of California  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
San Diego County Wildlife Federation  
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter – Safari Club International  
Tulare Basin Wetlands Association

**OPPOSITION**

None received

**-- END --**