

# HEATHER HADWICK

MEMBER FOR THE 1ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



## FACT SHEET

### AB 1912 – Enabling Deer Archery Hunters to Defend Themselves

#### IN BRIEF

Deer hunters in remote backcountry areas can face threats from apex predators and criminal activity.

Assembly Bill 1912 allows deer archery hunters to carry firearms for self-defense.

Specifically, this bill removes the statutory prohibition that prevents deer hunters from carrying concealed firearms during the archery season.

#### BACKGROUND & ISSUE

In 1957, California enacted Fish and Game Code Section 4370. This created an archery season for hunting deer and prohibited hunters during that season from possessing a firearm, believing that the creation of an archery season would be unworkable if hunters were allowed to have firearms. This was later amended in 2013 to authorize a peace officer to carry a concealable firearm.

Since then, concerns about personal safety while hunting have increased. These concerns arise from two main sources: dangerous animals and criminal activity in remote areas. In 2024, two boys were attacked by a mountain lion which killed one and injured another.<sup>1</sup> The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has also acknowledged increased public safety risks as a result of drug trafficking in rural areas.<sup>2</sup>

Current law also broadly allows hunters to conceal carry while fishing or hunting, but deer archery hunters are specifically excluded.<sup>3</sup> This prohibition has proven to be anachronistic

given only one citation has ever been issued for a violation of Section 4370.

#### SOLUTION

To ensure that all hunters can defend themselves from threats in remote wilderness, AB 1912 authorizes deer hunters to carry concealable firearms.

AB 1912 will preserve the integrity of the deer archery season while ensuring hunters can remain safe.

#### SUPPORT

California Bowmen Hunters (Co-Sponsor)  
California Deer Association (Co-Sponsor)

#### CONTACT

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<sup>1</sup> <https://abcnews.com/US/1st-fatal-california-mountain-lion-attack-20-years-leaves-1-dead-el-dorado-county/story?id=108442272>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=165510&inline>

<sup>3</sup> Penal Code §25640.