

2010-11 Final Hunting Regulation Proposals: Kootenay Region

February 5, 2010

Regulation proposal	Number	Decision	Rationale
Change mule deer season	R41011-01	Partially accepted	<p>We support aligning seasons with provincial direction which includes a bow season Sept. 1-9 for any buck; 4 pt buck seasons Sept 10-30 & Nov 1-15; any buck seasons for the month of Oct; and a youth season for any buck Sept 1-9.</p> <p>We will NOT be adding an LEH antlerless season for does this year.</p>
Change white-tailed deer seasons	R41011-02	Accepted	<p>About half the people and clubs that responded supported this suite of changes. The only change to our seasons in Region 4 is a GOS for does during October 10-31 and a antlerless season for youth during the month of Nov.</p>
Change lynx hunting and trapping seasons	R41011-03	Modified	<p>Concerns were raised that hunter kill may increase substantially because of the relatively large number of houndsmen in the Kootenays. The ability of the current population to support an increased harvest is uncertain and there is little chance of acquiring monitoring resources. Having a rule similar to prohibiting cougar hunters from taking animals accompanied by young would make this change more supportable. We plan to pursue this in future.</p> <p>We plan to suggest lengthening the trapping season because the trapper kill is unlikely to increase much.</p>

Regulation proposal	Number	Decision	Rationale
Change Crawford Bay shotgun only shooting area to a no shooting area	R41011-04	Accepted	Strongly supported by the public and the fact that there have been several recent safety incidents in this area.
Add a bow season for full curl sheep	R41011-05	Rejected	Bighorn sheep are usually on winter ranges by mid October; public opinion was that it wouldn't be a very sporting or challenging hunt and that this hunt would be stressful for the entire herd prior to winter.
Open an LEH season for ewe bighorn sheep	R41011-06	Rejected	Public opinion wanted the ewes transplanted elsewhere rather than hunted. However, transplant locations are very limited. Improving winter range habitat was also considered a better response to herd health pressures.
Close a portion of 4-32 to goat hunting	R41011-07	Accepted	Strong public opinion in favour of this regulation change.
Move from an LEH to a GOS system for mountain goats in some MUs where conservation risk is low	R41011-08	Accepted: MU 4-27 to 4-39 excluding MU 4-31 and 4-32	This regulation was supported by many in the public and the majority of hunting clubs that responded. And, this change adheres to MOE policy which commits government to reduce barriers to harvest when a user group is not able to achieve their allocation of the hunt. The current proposal is to move MU's: MU 4-27 to 4-31, 4-33 to 4-34, 4-36 to 4-39 to GOS.
Open a General Open Season for ≥6 point bull elk in West Kootenay MUs currently on LEH	R41011-09	Accepted with shorter season for 2010 and 2011, Oct 1-20	Public opinion was mixed and there were strong opinions on both sides of the issue. However, the GOS better meets objectives to simplify and harmonize regulations, and will increase hunter opportunity.

Regulation proposal	Number	Decision	Rationale
Open a hunt for younger bull elk (any bull, spike or 3-point)	R41011-10; R41011-17	Accepted spike season from Sept 10-19 in Creston, South Trench and Elk Valley agriculture/winter range zones only	A spike bull season in agriculture/winter range zones ¹ only is the most conservative younger bull season and will ensure that bull to cow ratios remain high. Less than half of yearling bulls are spikes (the remainder are larger than spikes), so there is little risk of overharvesting this age cohort.
Expand and align General Open Seasons for antlerless elk in agriculture/winter range zones	R41011-11; R41011-15	Accepted <u>Sept 1-9</u> bow only GOS (Creston, S Trench ² , Elk Valley zones); <u>Sept 10-19</u> youth/senior GOS (Creston, S Trench); <u>Sept 10-30</u> youth/senior GOS (Elk Valley) <u>Sept 20-30</u> GOS for all resident hunters (S Trench)	Early season General Open Seasons will focus harvest on non-migratory elk, and will contribute to elk population reductions which will reduce crop depredation and overgrazing. The seasons will allow people to hunt an area year after year without having to apply and be drawn for an LEH permit, which will likely increase hunter success and allow relationships to build between landowners and hunters.
Align/lengthen LEH seasons for antlerless elk in agriculture/winter range zones	R41011-12a	Accepted (see details below) <u>Slocan</u> : Sept 1-Feb 28 <u>Creston</u> : Oct 1-Feb 28 <u>S Trench</u> : Oct 1-Oct 10 <u>4-26</u> : Sept 20-Oct 10 <u>Elk Valley</u> : Oct 1-10	Limited Entry seasons will start immediately following General Open Seasons. Seasons will not be lengthened in the S Trench and Elk Valley until harvest rates from new 2010 General Open Seasons are monitored. LEH seasons may be expanded in these zones in 2011 or 2012.
Open Limited Entry Hunts for antlerless elk outside of agriculture/winter range zones	R41011-12b	Rejected	There will be many new seasons for antlerless elk in 2010. Therefore, we plan to hold off on opening seasons outside of agriculture/winter range zones until the effects of these new seasons are monitored to determine whether population objectives are being met.

¹ Agriculture/winter range zones include Zone C of 4-08 (Slocan, Castlegar), Zone C of 4-06, 4-07 (Creston), Zone X of 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22 (S Trench), and Zone A of 4-23 (Elk Valley).

² Note that the South Trench zone does not include MU 4-26. There will be no open seasons for antlerless elk in 4-26, however Limited Entry Hunts will continue.

Regulation proposal	Number	Decision	Rationale
Expand the agriculture/winter range zone in the Elk Valley and East Kootenay Trench	R41011-13	Accepted for Elk Valley; Rejected for northern East Kootenay Trench	The new Elk Valley zone will be expanded from Fernie to north of Elkford along the main valley, to increase hunter opportunity, achieve population targets and reduce hunter crowding. There was significant opposition to expanding the zone north in the EK Trench, because of relatively small and possibly stable or declining elk populations. This will be re-assessed for 2011 following additional consultation and population assessments.
Increase sub regional quotas for cougar from 15 to 20 in the East Kootenay and from 5 to 12 in caribou areas of the south Kootenay	R41011-14	Accepted	Supported by most hunters except the EK Trailhounds Assn. Cougar numbers appear to be increasing throughout the East Kootenay and hence this hunt should be sustainable.
Combine MUs in the southern Trench and northern Trench (Zone X) to create 2 larger zones	R41011-16	Accepted for the S Trench; Rejected for the N Trench	See R41011-13 for rationale for rejecting a northern zone at this time. Creating a larger zone in the South Trench will provide opportunities for hunters to hunt in several different MUs, which could improve the hunt experience and success rates. Combining MUs will simplify regulations, and reduce administrative and enforcement costs.

Summary of Proposed Hunting Seasons for Agriculture/Winter Range Zones

Slocan/Castlegar

- Sept 1-30 Antlerless elk LEH
- Oct 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Nov 1-30 Antlerless elk LEH
- Dec 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Jan 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Feb 1-28 Antlerless elk LEH

Creston

- Sept 1-9 Bow only antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-19 Youth/senior antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-19 Spike bull elk GOS (all resident hunters)
- Oct 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Nov 1-30 Antlerless elk LEH
- Dec 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Jan 1-31 Antlerless elk LEH
- Feb 1-28 Antlerless elk LEH

South East Kootenay Trench

(Zone X 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22)

- Sept 1-9 Bow only antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-19 Youth/senior antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-19 Spike bull elk GOS (all resident hunters)
- Sept 20-30 Antlerless elk GOS (all resident hunters)
- Oct 1-10 Antlerless elk LEH

MU 4-26

- Sept 20-30 Antlerless elk LEH
- Oct 1-10 Antlerless elk LEH

Elk Valley

- Sept 1-9 Bow only antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-30 Youth/senior antlerless elk GOS
- Sept 10-19 Spike bull elk GOS (all resident hunters)
- Oct 1-10 Antlerless elk LEH