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**Addendum to:**  
Kootenay Region Wildlife Regulations  
Proposed Changes for Comment (2010-11)

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This addendum was prepared on October 16, 2009 in response to initial meetings with government personnel (e.g., provincial government headquarters, agriculture-wildlife program staff, conservation officers) and stakeholders.

The following corrections should be made to the original document “Kootenay Region Wildlife Regulations Proposed Changes for Comment (2010-11)”:

1. For regulation R41011-10, the proposal for Option 1 should state “Open a general 3-point *or better* bull season in Kootenay agriculture/winter range zones *from September 1-19*”.
2. Two proposals have the regulation number R41011-12. When submitting comments, please refer to **R41011-12a** for the proposal to align limited entry hunt seasons for antlerless elk and to **R41011-12b** for the proposal to open limited entry hunts for antlerless elk outside of agriculture/winter range zones.

The following are new proposals:

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**Proposal:** Open a General Open Season for any bull elk in Kootenay agriculture/winter range zones from September 1-9. This would replace other options for younger bull hunts proposed in regulation number R41011-10 (3-point or better, or spike bull seasons).

**Regulation number:** R41011-17 (cross reference R41011-10 for other bull open season proposals)

**Location:** Agriculture/winter range zones in the Slokan/Castlegar, Creston, East Kootenay Trench, and Elk Valley

**Management Units:** Zone C of 4-08 (Slokan/Castlegar), Zone C of 4-06, 4-07 (Creston), Zone X of 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-26 (East Kootenay Trench; may be expanded), Zone A of 4-23 (Elk Valley; may be expanded)

**Species:** Bull elk (any age)

**Objectives:** 1) Increase hunter opportunity, and 2) Reduce enforcement costs (compared to 3-point or better, or spike bull seasons)

**Rationale:** An any bull GOS in agriculture/winter range zones would substantially increase bull hunting opportunities in the Kootenay Region. The proposed agriculture/winter range zone season would be early in the fall, and therefore would focus harvest primarily on non-migratory animals. This would ensure that the season poses minimal risk to the elk population, or bull to cow ratios. Still, some migratory bulls do move in to low elevation areas during the rut, particularly in areas with abundant non-migratory cows, so monitoring would be required to ensure that there is not an overharvest, and that bull to cow ratios remain above 20 bulls:100 cows.

This season would provide additional hunting pressure on non-migratory elk, which may decrease the non-migratory population and/or encourage movement out of agriculture/winter range zones. This in turn would reduce crop depredation and late summer overgrazing on winter range. The proposed September 1 to 9 season overlaps with the proposed new season for the youth/senior hunt in agriculture/winter range zones. This would provide opportunities for people across various age groups to hunt together in early September. For example, a parent could hunt bulls while their son or daughter hunts antlerless elk. The season would close before the 6-point or better GOS opens on September 10<sup>th</sup> to reduce enforcement difficulties.

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**Proposal:** Open a General Open Season for antlerless elk in Kootenay agriculture/winter range zones from September 10-19.

**Regulation number:** R41011-15 (cross reference R41011-11 for other antlerless elk General Open Season proposals)

**Location:** Agriculture/winter range zones in the Slovan/Castlegar, Creston, East Kootenay Trench, and Elk Valley

**Management Units:** Zone C of 4-08 (Slovan/Castlegar), Zone C of 4-06, 4-07 (Creston), Zone X of 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-26 (East Kootenay Trench; may be expanded), Zone A of 4-23 (Elk Valley; may be expanded)

**Species:** Antlerless elk

**Objectives:** 1) Increase hunter opportunity, 2) Simplify regulations, 3) Increase hunter recruitment and retention and 4) Reduce elk crop depredation and overgrazing on Crown Land

**Rationale:** A GOS for antlerless elk would:

- Increase opportunity for all ages of hunters and allow hunters to select the area to hunt in (within agriculture/winter range zones).
- Allow hunters to hunt an area year after year without having to apply and be drawn for an LEH permit. This would likely increase hunter success and allow relationships to build between landowners and hunters
- Encourage recruitment for people who are not youth or senior hunters.
- Contribute to elk population reductions and therefore reduce crop depredation and overgrazing.

This hunt would be relatively low risk because it is early in the fall, and restricted to low elevation areas only. Therefore only non-migratory elk would be targeted. If there is a higher than anticipated harvest, we would reduce LEH permits to achieve overall population targets. If

this season is introduced, the youth/senior season would be shortened to 9 days, from September 1-9 (see regulation number R41011-11).

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**Proposal:** Combine Management Units in Zone X for antlerless elk Limited Entry Hunts, to create a southern trench agriculture/winter range zone (MUs 4-02 to 4-05, and 4-20 to 4-22) and a northern trench agriculture/winter range zone (MU 4-26, and possibly 4-24, 4-26, 4-34 and 4-35 if zone is expanded).

**Regulation number:** R41011-16 (cross reference R11011-13 for other zone boundary change proposals)

**Location:** Zone X of 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-26 (East Kootenay Trench; may be expanded)

**Management Units:** 4-02 to 4-05, 4-20 to 4-22, 4-26 (and possibly 4-24, 4-26, 4-34 and 4-35 if zone is expanded)

**Species:** Antlerless elk

**Objectives:** 1) Simplify regulations, and 2) Reduce administrative costs and 3) Reduce enforcement costs

**Rationale:** This proposal would provide opportunities for hunters with an LEH permit to hunt in several different management units in the southern or northern East Kootenay Trench. This flexibility could improve the hunt experience as well as success if hunters were able to select areas depending on factors such as private land access and elk distribution during a particular year. Combining management units would simplify regulations, reduce administrative costs (there would be fewer LEH draws, maps, etc.) and reduce enforcement costs. We are proposing to create a southern and a northern zone, since the northern Trench has fewer elk overall, fewer non-migratory elk, and less conflict with agricultural producers. Hence, the target harvest rate is typically lower in the north than in the south. One risk of this proposal is that hunters could concentrate even more, which could reduce the quality of the hunt experience. Another risk is that some areas could have a very high harvest. However given that the LEH seasons with significant numbers of permits would close prior to October 10, the bulk of the harvest would focus on non-migratory elk. LEH permits issued after October 10 (if seasons are expanded until January) would need to be conservative to avoid overharvest of non-migratory elk.

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