

**Kootenay Wildlife Harvest Advisory Committee Meeting  
June 30, 2010 7:00 PM Mountain Time (conference call)**

*MINUTES*

**Participating on call:**

**Garth Mowat**

**Dave Dunbar**

**Kelly Lode**

**Andy Pezderic**

**Brian Glaicar**

**Don McNamar**

**Donna Thornton**

**Rick Philmore (replacing Wally)**

**Jim Turner**

**Chris Stagg (replacing Kent P)**

**Shane Ford (MOE)**

**Ken Robins**

**AGENDA:**

**Review the recent hunting regulation changes**

Changed regulations:

Mule deer: No antlerless season. Victoria added Youth season which overlaps with the bow season (Sep 1-9). Jim doesn't feel there was adequate consultation on season dates that have been added and find they come as a bit of a surprise. The Youth season was decided in Victoria, not specifically recommended from our Region. Garth was against a late December season; the only regions that have this Dec season are the ones that had it already in place. The deer tend to be very vulnerable in that late season. Frustration with this process was expressed, especially when decisions are made in Victoria. Worried that wildlife numbers will crash. Dave is hopeful that Shane Ford will be able to help to improve the process. Rick doesn't feel there is any data to confirm these counts/decisions. Dave said there is monitoring in place to review these numbers.

White-tailed deer: regulation changes were written in Victoria and modified many times. Final seasons are: buck season as usual (Sep 10-Nov 30), open antlerless season from Oct 10-31, youth either sex season from Nov 1-30, youth buck season Sep 1-9, and bow season from Sep 1-9. The late bow season may get re-instated this year but it won't be in the synopsis. Bag limits are aligned – can't shoot 2 does. The aggregate bag limit is 2, only one may be a buck and one may be antlerless. Jim stated concern over the negative impact on bow hunters. Dec 1 – 20 was 2 does but that has changed. Dec 1 – 20 should be either sex. Aggregate bag limit is 2 for late hunt. **Garth to check wording**. Jim wondered if the early youth season (Sep 1-9) could be removed in the next round of regulations to respect bow hunters, since there is a youth either sex season Nov 1-30.

Lynx: our proposed regulation change was rejected; Victoria did not feel our lynx numbers could sustain the hunt. Trapping season change was tossed as well. Victoria says there could be an amendment to the lynx and bobcat season rule, “prohibiting hunters from taking animals accompanied by young”. Garth will push for that amendment next time around. Original proposal was to have same season dates for bobcat and lynx, but that was rejected. Trappers would like to get rid of bobcat quota. They’d like to be able to keep and sell a cougar that is caught incidentally. No word from Victoria yet but Garth has a feeling Victoria isn’t in support of it.

Crawford Bay: accepted

Bow season for sheep: rejected – Victoria was not in support. Want Bow Policy completed first.

Open LEH for ewe bighorn: rejected. Range quality a concern

4-32 Goat: accepted - strong public support

LEH to GOS goats: 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-35 and 4-38 are LEH - greatest conservation risk. Jim would like to see a bow opportunity in these units in the future.

GOS for >6 point bull elk in WK: there was concern stated around the absolute # of bulls killed. Bow season concern – people may want to take part in the hunt so badly that they’d go buy a bow just to be able to hunt. We need to try to minimize total kill to bulls. Rick wondered if harvest would be monitored, will there be enforcement, CI’s? There will be extra COS support during the 20 day hunt to help with enforcement. Aaron Canuel (COS Inspector) is currently drawing up an enforcement schedule. We can’t afford to put elk on CI. Hunter surveys are fairly accurate. We need \$\$ for long term funding of inventory data.

Open hunt for Younger bull elk: A spike season was proposed and accepted in 3 agriculture/winter range zones - Sept 10-19 followed by GOS for antlerless Sep 20-30 in Trench. EV proposal and Creston did not go through.

Expand and align GOS for antlerless: combined zones into one zone (one ag zone). Some changes to the zone so check map. Half of northern trench zone has been recommended – priority for inventory work. Expand EV special zone for elk was done – substantially increased.

Align/lengthen LEH season for antlerless elk: Tara thought this was supposed to go through but it isn’t. Need to check. Andy – thinks this zone should be re-named; calling it 4-03 X Zone is confusing when it combines more than one zone.

Open LEH for antlerless elk outside of ag/winter zones: Rejected

Cougar: accepted

### **Review the access changes that were made**



Regulation  
mamry for Dave.d

Table should be circulated to club members to review.

Concern that amendments are not reflected in the regulations synopsis, e.g. Sproule Creek. Dave said there is no references made to the deletions. Jim says signage needs to be updated and perhaps a link off the website directing to what changes have been made. Dave agrees that good maps (downloadable) and signage are important. Ken – asked about ? closure (4-32) and why the proposed VAHC didn't happen. Garth cannot recall the discussion but will get back to Ken. Dave reminded everyone that the Access review is not finished yet. Additional stages to pursue – some VAHC's that would be better suited as AMA's. Some VAHC's may get seasonal/spring access. Convert some to seasonal AMA's. Garth would like to see some open where GB are concerned.

### **Review changes to LEH tag numbers: antlerless moose in Rev**

There wasn't much change this year; many hunts were dropped. Moose in Revelstoke down to 1. Last year was increased because of target numbers. Data that came in after showed that population is still declining. No cow tags will be put out in Revelstoke. About 24 were killed in last year's season.

### **Review recent game population information**

Elk Management Plan is done and summary of the Plan is on the web. Elk monitoring project (collars) has begun and will continue over the next few years. The information gathered will be put in a population model. Reports suggest no decrease in elk numbers in the last 5 years in the Trench.

Elk Population Review is done and an email will be sent out with website. No money right now for elk monitoring in the WK GOS. Will apply for funds and may look internally for help. HQ supported this GOS and part of the commitment was enforcement and likely monitoring.

Mule Deer conservation surveys – HCTF support. Last year was a bad year to survey (poor winter). Money has been carried over and hope to continue that again this year. Garth can email this report if wanted – email Garth or Tara directly to request.

HCTF for Moose monitoring – 4-23 highest spike/fork moose kill. 4-32 - 6 spikes per 100 bulls.

Will survey 4-32 again this year. Compensation program has many surveys going on this year.

Moose 4-32, MD Hoffert area in mid trench – elk bull ratios, moose and mule deer surveys, we'll ask for elk money from Victoria.

**Monitoring plans that are in place (mule deer, moose, sheep, elk, cougar, wolves); other hopeful plans (wolverine, moose in Revelstoke)**

No plans for goat surveys. Flathead moose surveys #1, Elk Valley would be #2. Sheep, elk and mule deer survey in Selkirk area. South Purcells wolf survey regarding caribou. Wolf survey in Revelstoke if sufficient money. Cougar survey in central Selkirks. Wolf and Caribou in south Selkirks. Wolverine survey being talked about between AB/Montana/ and Garth has been asked to help out with the Flathead area. Moose in Revelstoke possible or calf ratio survey because it is less expensive.

**Shane Ford will briefly discuss the consultation process – is the process we have working?**

Shane will review the consultation process for F&W branch fishing, hunting, access. He will be reviewing the regional process as well. Try to make it more efficient and more satisfying for stakeholders. Shane is the Project Manager and this position is scheduled to end Feb 2011. Try to streamline regulatory process. FN and Stakeholder engagement is part of his mandate. Has idea of what exists in 9 regions and now would like to work with individual groups, e.g. Trappers, GOS, BCWF to get a sense of the issues. He will pass his recommendations to Tom Ethier and Ralph Archibald. Shane would like to attend the KHWAC Aug meeting.

**Present the hunting changes being discussed at this time (few). NOTE: there will be no GOS reg changes next year so there is no hurry. Elk GOS in WK, increase size of EK Trench and Elk Valley LEH zone? Urban deer regulations.**

Dave says the hunting aspect of the urban deer population is very limited. Very little support from the mines in Kbly. Minister Penner supportive of pilot project in the Kbly area. Cranbrook, Invermere and Elkford now interested in forming a committee. Dave thinks we should provide a report to communities and encourage them to poll residents to see how they feel – is there really a problem? Work with councillors to develop Management Plan for Kbly. Give them options and poll residents to see how much they are willing to pay to remove the deer (per household charge possibly). Jim would have concerns with having a hunting season in a community – how would that look; negative publicity? Andy wondered if a hunting cull would help or would they eventually come back? Dave doesn't think they'd come back readily. Referendum will begin the process of deciding what we're going to do with the urban deer.

Regulation changes are now for 2 years. All Elk GOS regulations in WK will align with the rest of the region. Ken questioned who is putting this proposal through. Dave said we have been directed to align seasons but because this GOS caused such opposition, converting all to GOS season has been put off for 2 years.

Increase size of Ag zone in Trench or adding new zone. Take into consideration a name change.

Northern Ag Zone 4-34 and 4-35. Andy feels 4-26 should be included in northern zone (or at least the northern half of 4-26). Inventory/monitoring needs to be done in this area first. 4-34 and 4-35 are number one priority for PAZWP's surveys.

LEH zone in EV – winter range in EV very heavily over grazed and maybe should be in Ag zone. Andy said EV clubs are concerned about the grazing areas and don't feel they should be called 'Ag Zones' – name it for what it really is. High elevation areas are a concern because of the sheep that winter there. Forage carry-over is very low. The elk eat much more than the sheep.

**Brief mention of trapping regulation changes being request by the two Trapper's Assoc.**

Cougar, Bobcat quota, Lynx season length, black bear – take two. Caribou recovery, trapper training, carcass collection. Carcass collection will carry-on again this year. Snare training this year.

**Update of KGB.**

Goal of this committee is to reform GB management for the region. Like consistency in availability and not constant changing of reg changes. How to disperse hunter kill across the region. Yahk unit has small GB population. South Purcells about 80 – small population. 4-32 resident kill is very clumped and none are killed in the north portion. Possibly create 2 LEH zones to fix this issue. No one from WK is currently on this committee. Committee meets once a year before regs go out - looking at fine scale issues.

Regulation changes that may come up? – Jim inquired about an archer full curl sheep season, and mule deer late season for archery. Goat archery season Sep 1-9, not an easy hunt and hides aren't good that time of year anyway. Donna says maybe the Wildlife Act should be changed to include shotguns and slugs. Don mentioned range problems, over grazing and wondered what was being done about it. Garth said progress is happening but it is slow. MOF has bought into the sampling of winter ranges; Forest Practices Board had complaint about range management and Tara got back to them and commits us to lowering the elk population and commits MOF to range/permit reductions. ER program was not cut from MOF so that's good news.

Donna – ToR – alternate representatives, what happens now? Dave explained – process is they are elected by their group and then it comes to MOE and Dave writes a letter indicating whether or not they will accept them on the committee. Group should send letter into Dave.



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Next meeting: defer meeting until we receive kill data? Will have CI results regionally in Dec.

KWHAC  
Jun 30/10

If we hold off until Feb we will have survey numbers. Any reg changes that may develop in the meantime could be managed via email.

**Arrange next meeting for late January or early Feb. to discuss survey results and hunter harvest from 2010 season. Likely meet in Creston.**