

Minutes
Kootenay Wildlife Harvest Advisory Committee Meeting
March 21, 2011 7:00 PM Mountain Time (conference call)

Participating on Call:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Garth Mowat | Patrick Stent | Donna Thornton |
| Kelly Lode | Paul Rasmussen | Jim Turner |
| Dave Dunbar | Chris Stagg | Kevin Marasco |
| Tara Szkorupa | Tyrell Robins | Arnold DeBoon |
| Irene Teske | Ken Robins | Andy Pezderic |
| Don McNamar | Steven Leuenberger | Rick Filmore |
| Brian Huscroft | | |

New Director of Resource Management – Paul Rasmassan (Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations) was introduced to the Committee. Paul works out of the Nelson office.

KWHAC Membership – Dave Dunbar is reviewing the functions of alternates and overlapping terms. Appointment letters to be sent out to members shortly. Should there be an alternate for each member or each organization? Members are asked to let Dave know who their alternates are. Dave to sort out ToR. There is a meeting in Victoria March 28 that Dave will be attending. One topic of discussion will be to determine a better means of regulation consultation with hunters/anglers. Dave will circulate any information from the meeting to the members of KWHAC. Shane Ford recommended using a tracking sheet to keep track of recommendations. Current membership list:

| Organization | Member to be appointed | Alternate to be appointed |
|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| EKWA | Andy Pezderic | Kevin Marasco |
| EKWA | Chris Stagg | ? |
| WKO | Rick Philmore | Brian Huscroft |
| WKO | Gary Gallo | ? |
| SGO | Steven Leuenberger | Dave Beranek |
| SGO | Ken Robins | ? |
| BCTA | Don McNamar | Frank Rad |
| Archers | Jim Turner | ? |

New Regions – how does it affect us? New regional boundaries – southern part of Okanagan part of the Kootenay Boundary Region. The aim is to be one region instead of separating East and West. Paul reports to Tony Wideski (Regional Executive Director). The Boundary area will probably need to be incorporated into this committee. Right now will go thru Okanagan but Paul will be signing off. Area based ADM now in place (Dave Peterson). AI-Garth verified that Boundary consultation for the 2012 regulation change cycle will be done in Region 8.

Access update (Dave Dunbar)

Background – in 2004 there were about 100 motorized access closures; now there are about 80. Review was done to remove redundant closures. There seems to be low compliance in MVHACs because little information is available to the public. In that regard, one of our objectives was to ensure information and better maps were made available to our stakeholders. At present, most of the AMA maps are available on the Ministry website. Since 2004, more than 20 closures (including management decisions for 2010 season) were eliminated. For 2010, 6 MVHACs were eliminated, 8 motorized closures amended and one MVHAC was reconfigured and amended to an AMA. At present an AMA review is underway to decide whether there are MVHACs that would be better suited as seasonal closures (AMA's). A second objective is to determine if there are disabled hunting opportunities within AMAs that do not undermine the overall intent of these conservation areas (e.g., specific roads or seasonal openings). Field assessments will be required prior to our anticipated completion date of June 30th. Money may be a stumbling block as funds may run out by Mar 31, 2011.

Jim Turner suggested that PDF maps of these new closures be created and made available on the web for people to print themselves (with UTM coordinates of closure points).

Ecosystem Restoration update

Andy pointed out the EK Trench committee is far from gone. Due to staffing short fall in the Ministry office, now considering turning process over to a 3rd party. Garth to forward reports from Andy.



er-newsletter-feb20
11-web.pdf



Coordinator Report
Feb 17 2011.doc

West Kootenay ER Committee still alive and hopeful to start projects again once government gets settled. Their task is very similar to EK's committee. Entire program has been turned over to MNRO, not Forests. Lisa Tedesco is the ministry rep for the WK. In the EK, BC Parks is completely independent. Garth isn't aware of any ER work being done on the south end of Kootenay Lake. It is a caribou recovery area but suggests speaking with Lisa to find out for sure.

Caribou update

Transplant from south Purcells is not going ahead; the population that they were drawing from has declined. Trying to identify another herd but transplanting is a challenge. Cary Gaynor working on wolf movement as they relate to caribou - 3 wolves and 2 caribou already collared. Caribou were collared in the upper Hell Roaring and top end of Sanca. Collaring taking place right now – 2 yr project. Revelstoke project – we will manage moose to 500. Williams Lake ongoing sterilization project on wolves – any pups produced are killed. Report within next 2 years. Penning program during last meeting in Kamloops to increase recruitment of young calves. Wolf reduction will probably not be done through aerial removal, trapping is the only

option right now. Only caribou herd declining is the herd near Revelstoke; others are stable right now.

Ungulate Survey results



2010-11 wildlife
monitoring summary.

Mule deer results show that surveys should take place in November and not in Dec to capture the true numbers. Should probably do a more broad-based sampling across the MU's. Target is at least 20 bucks per 100 does. 4-06 and 4-07 are the only MUs with survey results in the West Kootenay. Some think there are major problems with deer in the WK but no science to confirm. Snow conditions limit surveys in the WK. Biggest issue is getting a reasonable sample size for the WK. RF-Data is available from our club but nobody seems interested in studying it.

Moose – Harvest was a little lower this year and under AAH. Bull to cow ratio decline could mean our estimates are too high or, 15% harvest rate may be too high. **ACTION** – Tara to get AAH numbers for last 10 years. No composition survey in Revelstoke area this year. 2003, 2007 calf ratios were quite low-24; 2010 they were 28. Will count again next year. Wolves or Grizzly bear are likely killing the calves.

West Kootenay Elk – past survey results in the West Kootenay showed bull numbers much higher, although sample size was often small and confidence intervals were large. Very few spikes in any of these survey areas. RF-How can monitoring be done in the WK with the new GOS compared to the 16 LEH tags available in the past? Some felt it was a bit of a gong show during this GOS - a lot of access issues in the narrow valleys. RF feels there needs to be compulsory reporting for this new hunt. 100 bulls out of 4-8 seems drastic. Garth stated that as long as the bull to cow ratios remain sustainable, we will continue and monitor. When electronic licencing becomes finalized, it will be easy to ensure mandatory reporting. The e-licencing is being worked on in Victoria but has been delayed with all the changes in government. For now, hunter survey numbers are what we've got to work on. If we get down below target bull to cow ratios, then we change the regulation. It will take 4-5 years of monitoring to see the final result since it can change year to year.

2010 hunter harvest for moose and mountain goat

Moose – CI data 2008, 2009, 2010. Overall harvest of bull moose went up slightly after introduction of spike fork season – some areas might be of greater concern. Still below AAH numbers. Guide kill below AAH and resident a bit below as well. How accurate are numbers on the reporting? Tara feels the quality of data is better now than in 2008, compliance seems high now. Tara is working on comparing the CI data, LEH hunt survey, and Hunter sample. We will be calling all hunters that didn't supply the data already and hopefully this will add to data sources. Revelstoke population estimate is around 650, target is 500. Planning to put out permits for bull moose this year (about 60 throughout 2 management units).



Moose CI data
2008-2010.xlsx

Mountain Goat. New goat GOS units: 4-27 to 4-30, 4-34, 4-36, 4-37, 4-39. The average harvest during the LEH period of 2006 – 2009 for the new goat GOS units was 14. The harvest in 2010 was 19. There was an increase in goat harvest in 4-27A, 4-29, 4-30A, 4-34A, 4-34B, 4-34C, 4-36B. 4-27A had a substantial increase in harvest from an average of 1 per year during LEH to 3 in 2010 increasing the harvest rate from 1.4% to 4.3%. The harvest in 4-30A increased from 1 per year during LEH to 2 in 2010 which increased the harvest rate from 1% to 4%. In addition in 2010, 3 female goats were harvested in 4-34 (A and B) and 1 female in 4-29. We will continue to monitor female harvest and increased goat harvest rate closely.

Proposed Regulation Changes for 2011 (only emergency changes allowed)

Closing the South Rockies (4-21 to 4-24) and South Purcells (4-20) grizzly units to hunting because the maximum kill has been exceeded. KGB committee to meet in early April to try and discuss ways to avoid these situations.

Adding some mule deer doe seasons to address urban deer issues.

Urban deer is a huge issue in the southern part of the province. Urban Deer Committees have been formed to deal with urban deer – primarily mule deer. Only the City of Kimberley has contacted Irene regarding a controlled urban hunt. Deer counts have been done in Cranbrook, Invermere and Kimberley: Cranbrook – 92, Invermere - 200 Kimberley – 200, within city limits. Sparwood still to do count. Grand Forks has high numbers of Whitetail deer. City of Kimberley suggesting a hunt – possibly around golf courses. ADM approval was needed to change regulation for this hunting season; will be posted on website if that happens. Proposed antlerless hunt on selected private land and golf courses, within city limits, Nov 16 – Dec 15 (post regular season). Irene would like to increase deer bag limit. City wants to issue permits prior to people going out so they can regulate hunters. Leaning towards shotgun only but Irene would like to discuss bow hunting with Jim Turner before making a final decision. Concern with archery as there may be wounding of deer and not kill. We need to be very careful that injured deer do not walk into town. This hunt is not confirmed yet. Bag limit wording – is it possible to make it clear enough? Hoping Ian Hatter will answer that. Committee members should get back to Irene by early May with their thoughts. 2 things for member’s organizations to discuss - bag limit change to 3; how will butchers know that the deer came from Kimberley special tag? Permit must accompany harvested deer to butcher? Perhaps people should have to report back even if they didn’t harvest a deer. Is there a target harvest for the 100 deer? How many permits will be allowed out at one time? Need to limit the number of hunters at any one time. Irene wants the City to work out details. Perhaps make the regulation that the urban deer won’t count towards their bag limit? What about a sundry (kill) permit? Committee members noted that Whitetail

problem is EK wide – bag limit should be increased. Committee member input should be given directly to Irene with any implications for this draft regulation change: Irene.Teske@gov.bc.ca.

Possible Regulation Changes for 2012

Expanding the north trench elk cow hunt to address crop depredation concerns. - Andy doubts the clubs in his area will support the expanded trench elk cow hunt.

EKWF would like to increase regional deer bag limit to 3

Wolf hunting “no close season” - Andy

Put these 2012 regulation changes in tracking sheet.

Possible regulation changes for 2012

Drop the bobcat quota for trappers. – data supports this change

Start lynx hunting season earlier. – data supports this change

Other

Dave Dunbar received letter from CODA (Cdn. Outdoor Disabled Alliance) with 11 specific issues listed. About 4 related to special seasons for disabled. 5 or 6 relate to issues that could result in safety issues which Dave is not supportive of. Corporate decision made that disabled hunters can have someone along with them to assist in dispatch and retrieval. Dave will be addressing directly to Larry Hall. ACTION: attach letter (below). Dave will cc KWHCA members with follow-up correspondence. The response back to Larry may take some time as headquarters will need to be involved.



Attention.doc

2010 C&E Strategy Summary for KWHAC – Donna Thornton

The Compliance & Enforcement Strategy (C&E) was developed due to safety concerns regarding the number of new out-of-town hunters that could potentially be drawn to Zone X of 4-03 by the new 2010 hunting opportunities in the East Kootenays. The C&E Strategy was developed by PAZWP in partnership with the Kootenay Livestock Association (KLA) and endorsed at the spring 2010 meeting of the Kootenay Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee (RAWC). The strategy required extensive planning and coordination by the Conservation Officer Service (COS) and was funded by PAZWP to a maximum of \$10,000, to help defray the costs of the extra COS field time. The total costs for the project, above the COS regular salary, fuel and vehicle costs, came to \$17,411.30, with the COS contributing the difference to cover the required overtime hours.

The C&E Strategy was further supported by PAZWP by collaborating with the KLA to obtain funding from ARDCorp (\$12,000 was received from the Agriculture and Research Development Corporation). This money paid for the KLA’s GIS contractor to create the digital layers for the

map products, printing these maps and landowner signs for the landowner information packages, plus displays for the two hunter check stops on two main highways (#3 & #95). The communications plan for the C&E Strategy was developed and implemented by PAZWP to advise the public about the elk hunting season changes, educate hunters as to their responsibilities and inform them about the C&E road blocks/hunter check stops and extra COS field patrols that would occur during the GOS.

At the Hwy #3 Rampart rest area, 193 hunters were stopped, provided with information, and 4 warnings and 5 charges were laid within 46 man hours. At the Hwy #95 Larsen Road area, 173 hunters were stopped, provided with information, and 6 warnings and 7 charges were laid within 50.5 man hours. Charges ranged from infractions of the *Wildlife Act*, *Liquor Control Licence Act* to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and their regulations. The COS laid 5 of these charges and 5 of the warnings. Local hunters were 68 to 102 non locals on Hwy #3, and 52 to 114 non locals on Hwy #95.

The COS also conducted enhanced field patrols in Zone X of 4-03 during September 20-30/10 to cover the new hunting season. Statistics were compiled on the number of hunter contacts by location by the COS during the hunting season on the field patrols. Of the total 526 hunters contacted, 349 were asked as to residence within BC; local hunters were 138 to 211 non locals. In 25 patrols, these 526 hunters received 14 charges and 18 warnings given within 222 man hours. Charges ranged from infractions of the *Wildlife Act*, *Firearms Act* and the *Trespass Act* to the *Motor Vehicle Act* and their regulations. Only 2 of the 14 patrol charges and 2 of the 18 patrol warnings were from trespassing on private land. The statistical results from the COS indicated a 'better than normal' compliance rate with the laws (4.7% non compliance rate). One suggested reason for this compliance was that it was due to the increased public awareness from the PAZWP/KLA collaboration with the COS Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, and the heightened GOS profile from the public communications and education initiative.

Next meeting tentatively some time in June.