

**KOOTENAY WILDLIFE HARVEST ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 19, 2008 – Creston**  
**Meeting #3 MINUTES**

Attendees:

Garth Mowat, MOE  
Kelly Lode, MOE  
Ken Robins, SGOA  
Steven Leuenburger - add to email list: [hunting@ramcreek.ca](mailto:hunting@ramcreek.ca)  
Brian Huscroft, WKO  
Don McNamar, BCTA  
Jim Turner, TBBC  
Wally Kampen, WKO  
Tara Szkorupa, MOE  
Larry Hall, Resident Hunters Assoc - observer

Meeting Commenced @ 9:00 Creston time

Meeting Adjourned @ 3:10 Creston time

Housekeeping:

- Members can claim mileage for travel to these meetings. Fax to Kelly Lode for Dave Dunbar's approval - Fax 489-8506. Application sheet attached.



Expense  
aims.pdf (191 KE)

- Review of last meeting minutes:
  - South of Kokanee Park reg change accepted to close for GB.
- Ken Robins to call Irene Teske to suggest goat transplant proposal in burn area where habitat is good. Irene has experience in transplants.
- Alternates for SGOA are Brian Glaicar and Sean Beswick

**1. Review regulation changes suggested by Region 4 staff for 2008/09**

- Website was created for public input/comment – gives everyone a chance to state opinions. This also formalizes the procedure for Victoria. What we've learned is more specific questions need to be asked. How much weight is given to the responses given on the website compared to discussions from this group?
- Suggestion was made that the LEH synopsis should state that out of the number of tags issued, the total allowable harvest is \_\_\_\_\_. State that the % of hunter success will be factored in so that they know if harvest is high in one year, LEH permits will likely be reduced the following year.

**Action all:** LEH cow season – talk to clubs and bring forward. BH said WKO club would like this in place for all species. Based on scientific information, we need to push more towards cow seasons.

## 2. Review GOS for spike/fork moose

- Regulation change was submitted and then retracted by Region because the funding support for population monitoring by HCTF was turned down.
- Wildlife Inventory fund will begin again this year and a proposal for moose monitoring program will be the top proposal from Region 4. Cost for the 1<sup>st</sup> year monitoring is \$40K but cost will decrease to about 20k in subsequent years. Support for the GOS was due to the fact there was a monitoring program as part of the proposal.
- Moose will now require compulsory inspection.
- GOS moose regulation may be re-submitted next year if monitoring support is found.
- Standardization of LEH season dates (Oct 15 – Nov 15) in most MUs. Success rate will dictate the number of authorizations for the following year. KR felt this was a regulation change that should have waited until next year because of its impact on GOs.
- This GOS issue will be brought up again next year so members need to start this discussion with their club members. SL/KR have requested information on our harvest strategy – **Action (Tara)**.
- Survey results – Tara will send out spreadsheet of moose LEH numbers (draft and final) – **Action**. Numbers will be updated next year based on population estimates for both resident hunters and GOs. A cow season could be used to reduce populations below carrying capacity and increase calf production, but should be done slowly over a 5 year period to avoid predation risks.
- Moose count was done in the West Kootenay for caribou recovery. 59 moose were counted in total but population estimate will be much higher. Most moose were in the Trout Lake area, 3 moose in the Duncan area and moderate numbers in Nakusp and Meadow Creek.
- Moose inventory completed in Elk Valley, upper Flathead & Lodgepole. Tara to send link to report once it's on the web - **Action**

## 3. Proposed road closures (Englishman Creek and those from Golden Planning process)

- Mike Knapik handling Englishman Creek closure in consultation with First Nations. Peter Holmes looking after Holt Creek reg change. Garth will bring Holt Creek proposed reg change to next meeting – **Action**.
- Dave Dunbar is starting a review of all road closures in Region 4. The review will begin internally before going out for public consultation/comment.

## 4. Cougar quota or regulation changes

- A proposal was submitted from the East Kootenay Trailhounds Association for discussion. The two items discussed were: 1) Change opening day to Nov 15, and 2) excess/incidental female kills be carried over to the following year.
- SL doesn't agree with the carry-over of incidental kills because they argue these animals would die anyway.
- SGOA submitted a proposal for a change in zone boundaries and/or female quota and would like to see a set quota maintained for 3 years before revising.

- Garth is not in favour of changing zone boundaries because they were developed that way due to caribou recovery. Option 1 would be Garth's preference: Zone A-15 females, Zone B-5 females, Zone C-10 females.
- It was reported in more detail that Cougar populations were on the increase
- BH would like to see Zone B increased to 10 females. WK agreed
- Have cougar discussion with club members – female quota and open date (Nov 15 or Dec 15?). **Action all**
- **BH & WK opposed later opening**
- Note – if cougar numbers increase in the caribou recovery areas, Garth will change quotas without KWHAC discussion.

#### **5. Review lynx and bobcat regulation changes**

- Management plans were stopped in Victoria, so no reg changes will be made this year.
- No reg change submitted for quota change on bobcats.
- May hear something by July.

#### **6. Elk Management**

- 2008 Rocky Mountain Trench Elk Inventory summary handed out by Tara.
- Tara has requested harvest success numbers for the sr/jr hunts from Victoria. Those numbers are needed for estimating harvest under the jr/sr GOS and for LEH hunts.
- It is important to have estimates for both migratory and non-migratory elk.
- The only flexibility for the upcoming hunting season is setting LEH numbers.
- In 2009 we can look at different options: re-assess Elk Management Plan to see if we proceed; look at longer antlerless seasons; GOS for jr/sr beginning earlier or lasting longer; 3 point or better.
- BH – What about going to LEH cow seasons outside of Zone X?
- Cows' health in the Trench appears quite poor which could result in fewer calves.
- Grazing land – need to balance forage between elk and cattle.
- Range measures are being developed that ranchers will have to comply with.
  
- Jeff Morgan (MOE) has been rolling out the 'Provincial Agriculture Zone Wildlife Program' which is an initiative between MOE and MAL to help by providing landowners some compensation.
- MOE has committed to handling wildlife numbers in agricultural areas.
- There will be funding for additional inventory, new biologist in the Kootenays and a new program will be implemented based on wildlife management in the agricultural areas.
- The Enfranchisement Program connects hunters to landowners to open up hunting opportunities.
- MAL hiring agr/wildlife specialist.
  
- Survey done in Creston. Elk in Kid Ck / Goat Ck not mixing much with animals wintering in agr areas.
- Population estimate 999.

- Calf ratio was in low 30's; bull ratio about 44
- Recommendations for next year – liberalize hunting in Zone X if they are eating themselves out of winter range. WKO would support adding cows to LEH.
- Plan for the Trench is to try to reduce non-migratory population.
- Wally attended WK Elk Management Plan meeting where there was no Ministry representation. The need for education came out of the meeting. Sound information is needed to make sound decisions and that information seems to be lacking. The panel will provide scientific/technical advice and individuals can make their own decisions. A presentation put on by the WKO on Elk/Wildlife management will be given in Castlegar June 8<sup>th</sup> and Wally invites all to attend. Wally to let Garth know of time, venue, etc.

#### **7. Recommendations from Jim Turner: attached**

- Jim has brought these ideas forward for thought. He asks that if there are any points groups seem opposed to, please get in touch with Jim so he can expand on them.
- Discussion around youth hunting: expand to include 2 weekends, set up mentor/youth program, simplify CORE program.



KHWAC Spring 08  
Archery Proposal - Bc

#### **8. Move some goat MUs to GOS**

- Garth suggests waiting to have this discussion until the Access review is complete. GOS for goats depends so much on access.
- WK WKO & EK are 100% behind a GOS for goat where populations justify it e.g. Guaranteed LEH.
- This topic will be discussed in more detail at next meeting.
- Irene Teske to be invited to next meeting – **Action**.

#### **9. Review 2 elk surveys and 3 moose surveys done this winter. Review sheep survey results**

- Garth went through Elk Valley populations.
- Sheep survey done in Elk Valley 4-23. Results: 2002 – 590, 2005 – 570, 2008 – 670.

#### **10. Proposed deer surveys for next winter and why**

- Mule deer buck / doe ratios in East and West Kootenays.
- The WK think their season is too liberal, while the EK feel theirs is too tight.
- Garth will apply for money to survey 4 winter ranges (units) in December (Fort Shepherd Flat, Kitchener Face, Pickering Hills, Premier Ridge and Wigwam Flats).
- BH suggested mule deer doe season to protect bucks.
- DM wondered about a bow season for the Kimberley/Cranbrook area. It is up to the individual cities to decide on deer management.

- A Deer Management Plan is needed. If you would like something specific, bring forward from clubs.

#### **11. Ecosystem Restoration in the West Kootenay – copies passed out.**

- Clubs should read and provide comment. Clubs may not agree with rankings and should state that.
- Discuss strategic level plans with clubs.
- Garth to circulate plan electronically or provide website – **Action.**

#### **12. Caribou – what we have done over the winter**

- Budget in Victoria for Caribou recovery – about \$1M annually for entire province.
- New regulations around habitat conservation, recreational impacts, and population management.
- Predation is largest limiting factor.
- Trappers have been hired to manage wolves. Garth insists helicopters are the most successful way to manage wolves but Victoria won't accept that. Trappers can't reduce wolf in high numbers.
- Wolves have been managed in the South Purcell herd but only one has been killed so far.
- If calf ratios don't change, it will show Victoria that we've tried but trapping alone won't do much for wolf numbers.
- No concrete discussion on alternate prey management. Past positions have WKO & EK strongly opposed
- Partial shut-down of logging in winter in areas caribou are present. There could be a major impact to Forestry. Logging is part of the predation issue.

**'Predator Surveys within Kootenay Region Mountain Caribou Recovery Areas' data summary report available to those that would like it. Let Garth know.**

#### **13. December bow season for turkeys and archery only seasons for GOS sheep.**

- Bring ideas forward to meeting so members can take back to clubs and can be voted on the following meeting.

#### **14. Antlerless Deer Sr/Jr season Zone X**

- BH would like to see this increased to 30 days (Oct 1 – 30) from current 10 days

#### **15. Disabled Hunting**

- Larry Hall spoke regarding disabled hunting access.
- Human Rights Tribunal coming up in near future which could come up with some decisions.
- A Disabled Hunting Policy from Victoria came out which Larry was not happy with and is now going to mediation.
- Why not add 'disabled' to the sr/jr hunts?
- Garth said that we're still waiting for a definition for 'disabled' that will be used provincially. Dave Dunbar is currently dealing with this issue. Garth does not feel this committee is the right place to resolve these issues.

- Will be brought up at next meeting.

**\*\*Need timely distribution of draft minutes – ‘Confidential’**

**Next meeting – a conference call will be scheduled for early August and is by phone.**