

**ACTION ITEMS from Meeting of the  
PAZWP-KBR Regional Agriculture Wildlife Committee (RAWC)**

**DATE: Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012**  
**TIME: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm (Cranbrook time)**

*Ponderosa meeting room at FCBC, 1902 Theatre Road, Cranbrook, BC*

**Participants**

Jeff Morgan – FLNRO – PAZWP Manager – via CONFERENCE CALL

Faye Street – Kootenay Livestock Association

Andy McDonald – Waldo Stockbreeders Institute \*

Darrell Smith - AGRI Resource Agrologist

Mannie Roberts – BCTA local representative

Donna Thornton - FLNRO-PAZWP Ag/Wildlife Specialist

Glyn Killins – EKWA \*

Rob McKeeman – Disabled Hunters

Sue Crowley – FLNRO Ecosystem Specialist

Paul Rasmussen – FLNRO Director of Resource Management

Dave Dunbar – FLNRO F&W Section Head (now retired)

Mike Malmberg - KLA

Dave Weir – FLNRO First Nations Officer

Tara Szkorupa – FLNRO Wildlife Biologist

Jordy Thibeault -KLA president

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Henry Forstbauer (KLA guest)

Hugh McLuckie (KLA guest)

Tony Pighin (KLA guest)

Randy Rothwell (KLA guest)

Dan Pighin (KLA guest)

Noreen Thielen (KLA guest)

Tim Ross (KLA guest)

Steve Street (KLA guest)

Dave McNamar (KLA guest)

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**Agenda**

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|---------------|--|
| 09:00 – 09:30 | Coffee mingle ( <i>coffee, tea, muffins</i> ) - introductions for new members and guests – attendance recorded.  |
| 09:30 – 10:15 | No review of action items from prior RAWC meeting (#5) as guests here for one purpose – Tara Szkorupa presented the estimated results of the 2010/11 GOS for antlerless elk (ppt emailed out). |
| 10:15 – 10:30 | Mike Malmberg provided a brief presentation on the Income and Expense Statement for a “typical” cow model ranch, provided hard copies.   |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Handed out Becky Phillip’s 2011 ARDCorp funded report of the GIS study of Elk Use on Private Land.   |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | Discussion on why meeting the goals of the Kootenay Elk Management Plan has not relieved the ranchers/farmers elk issues? Tim Ross presented elk numbers from Skookumchuk.                     |
| 12:00 – 12:30 | Questions? Wrap up. No suggested date for next RAWC meeting but plan for a THINK TANK conference call on January 31, 2012.   |

**NEXT MEETING?** Early Spring in Creston, tentatively May 2012?

Donna will send out a tentative date later, thanks! (Call 250-365-8607 or email [donna.thornton@gov.bc.ca](mailto:donna.thornton@gov.bc.ca))

**Brought Forward Action Items** (not dealt with, as guests in attendance)

**Meeting Notes, New Action Items & Agreements**

The distributed agenda was not followed at all, as Tara's presentation was what the guests had come to see, in light of the hunting regulation change proposal to discontinue the GOS in the EK RMT for 2012 - 2014.

**GOS Results** – cow elk harvest numbers were calculated from the hunter surveys (fairly accurate as have ~80% survey response rate); however, no way to confirm if hunters are exaggerating and these numbers are actually inflated.

-meat shop numbers show that in Fernie, ~100 bulls and ~40 cows/calves/spikes taken in 2010, with all agreeing that there were fewer taken in 2011.

--statistics show that **NON** Migratory Elk have about a ~70% survival rate, very **LOW** for an ungulate, most of the mortality from hunting, although road and rail collisions and poaching are factors. Migratory and Partially Migratory Elk have about a ~90% survival rate.

-discussion on if LEH tags are bought by non-hunters and activists and then ripped up and not used? Unable to account for these in statistical calculations.

-discussion on if Region's wolf numbers are up? No current population estimate for the KBR but anecdotal information suggests that they are increasing across the province, as are other predators like cougars.

**ACTION ITEM:** see if an incentive payment possible for wolf carcass (shot or trapped)? So far, government subsidizes removals only in Mt. Caribou habitat areas. EK trappers and G&O's will pay as well. *Government has no additional funds at this time to cover that cost.*

**ACTION ITEM:** promote the development of a KBR Wolf Management Plan with a zoned approach around agricultural areas. *Donna will bring to Garth Mowat, Sr. Wildlife Biologist.*

**ACTION ITEM:** *Donna asked for a letter from KLA to support a request for extra COS coverage for the Wild Predator Loss Program (AWP kill verification and predator control), also for public outreach.*

**ACTION ITEM:** discussion on poison baits and under Bill 19, what is the 'unwise' use of attractants? *Donna will contact Micheal Badry to find out.*

-more discussion on why there appear to be increasing numbers of elk showing non-migratory behaviour while Tara's calculations show the Kootenay EMP targets have been met in the South RMT Population Management Zone (30% reduction). The AWP payments are also remaining roughly the same from 2008-2010 or even increasing on a declining amount of cultivated fields. Range quality also declining, ecosystem restoration/enhancement is not happening quickly enough or over a large enough area.

-discussion on agricultural land options to target non-migratory elk:

- To have a private land only GOS (like in the Omineca?)? *Do not think it will be a quality hunt and provide sufficient hunter satisfaction to be popular or even remove many elk.*
- To have "kill permits" explored as a means to direct hunter pressure in specific circumstances where other more traditional hunting methods cannot work. *Not sure that this will be an acceptable option for HQ, as Donna has requested it several times already.*
- To work at finding funding to implement some aversive conditioning options? *(Try for \$ from HCTF for use of herding dogs?)* Think a hazing permit will be much easier to obtain from KBR Regional Director.

**Handouts & Attachments:**

- Mike Malmberg's Income and Expense Statement for a "typical" cow model ranch.
- Becky Phillip's 2011 ARDCorp funded report of the GIS study of Elk Use on Private Land