

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

DATE: Thursday, 10th November 2011
TIME: 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (Cranbrook time)

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

Participants

Jeff Morgan – FLNRO – PAZWP Manager

Dave Hillary – EKCP A/Manager

James Barber - MOE COS

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

Gary Glinz – Ranger Logistics

Glyn Killins – EKWA *

Brian Huscroft – Creston Valley Agricultural Society

Rob McKeeman – Disabled Hunters

Marc Andre Beaucher – CVWMA

(* no personal email – send to office)

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Agenda

09:00 – 09:30 - Coffee mingle (*coffee, tea, muffins*) - introductions for new members – attendance

09:30 – 10:00 - Review of action items from prior meeting

10:00 – 10:15 - Report on the Disabled Hunters subcommittee/Outdoor Edge articles and media opportunities

10:15 – 10:30 - Report on the success of the 2010 antlerless elk GOS/Update on final report from KLEP

10:30 – 10:45 - Update on Upper Columbia aerial elk inventory survey from Jan. 31, Feb. 1&2, 2011, hand out report/also Elk Monitoring final report by Becky Phillips and Tara Skorupa

10:45 – 11:00 - Update on 2011 ARDCorp funded elk telemetry/GIS project with KLA/BCCF and the new 2012 application to HCTF/CBT/ARDCorp for Private Landowner Outreach in the EK Trench

11:00 – 11:15 - Update on Kill Permits/KWHAC participation

11:15 – 11:30 - Update on 2011 ARDCorp funded 'Hunter Landowner Link' website

11:30 – 12:00 - Discuss proposed regulation changes for 2012, see new AHTE consultation website for proposals, develop ideas on ways to remove more elk

12:00 – 12:30 - *LUNCH BREAK (soup, wraps, cookies)*

12:30 – 13:00 - Presentation on proposal for access onto & across private land for hunting by Gary Glinz

13:00 – 13:30 - Review the new T.O.R., discuss, revise and/or accept

13:30 – 14:00 - Nick's Island Dyking District elk fence update, wait until after Mt. Caribou transplant/collaring project completed

14:00 – 14:30 - *HEALTH BREAK (coffee, tea, juices)*

14:30 – 15:00 - Presentation from Sue Crowley on 'East Kootenay Restoration' provided by Donna

15:00 – 15:30 - Questions? Wrap up and suggest date of next RAWC meeting

**announced CMIAE Urban Wildlife conference in April 2012, at Prestige in Cranbrook

NEXT MEETING? Early Spring in Creston, tentatively May 2012

Please R.S.V.P. to Donna if unable to attend, thanks! (250-365-8607 or donna.thornton@gov.bc.ca)

Brought Forward Action Items (last RAWC minutes on screen)

Item #1 Donna

Park the Wildlife Act amendment for now, but work at Regulation amendment to use shotguns and slugs for elk in specific locations by permit. *In progress.*

Item #2 Andy McDonald?

(see CBT website at: <http://www.cbt.org/Funding/?Programs>). Andy McDonald reported that the Waldo Stockbreeders Institute was going to apply to the Columbia Basin Trust and their Community

Initiatives Program for funding but he hasn't heard back yet on their success (*and he hasn't submitted any receipts or received any money either!*).

Item #3 Brian Huscroft?

To check with the Creston Agricultural Society if they want a representative from the vine or orchard fruit or crop sectors on the RAWC. *In progress. Donna to pester Brian and then follow up with the Creston Agr'l Society.*

Meeting Notes, New Action Items & Agreements

1. Discussion on AGRI and AWP compensation payments, still need more grass in EK as AGRI of the provincial government cannot continue to pay money for crop depredation forever. Peace, Cariboo and EK are 3 major areas for payments.
2. Brian Huscroft recommended Creston bow season to be all month, not just 20 days in December, for either sex Whitetail. James Barber commented on orchards in Creston being hit hard by wildlife this year and wanted WHT season to go to end of January. Also to expand the LEH boundary. After further discussion, want either sex whitetail in all of Region 4 to go to end of December. Also a GOS for Whitetail. **Action Item** - Donna to suggest season extension to HQ and to chat with Garth, Mike and Leo **again** about moving LEH boundary in Corn and Dodge Creeks.
3. A 'disabled hunter' season, either alone or combined with the Youth/Senior season, is not possible with the present perspective of HQ. **Action Item** - Donna to write a proposal for a pilot project under a permit in the EK and approach Paul Rasmussen? Jeff Morgan to research the current F&W Policy and Procedures. Robert McKeeman to review what Montana does.
4. Report to RAWC on the 'BC Outdoors Passport' by Gary Glinz, have had a very low uptake so far by the public. No more trespass complaints called in to the COS from the 2011 GOS in Creston but Cranbrook had a few issues. **Action Item** - Gary will write another article for the 'Outdoor Edge' magazine.
5. KLEP final report. **Action Item** – *In progress. Jeff has received numbers from Faye and Tara.*
6. Discussion on ways to remove more elk, to meet 30% reduction goal of the EMP. Suggested to put the Youth/Senior hunt at the end and the GOS at the beginning (first 7-10 days), to increase hunter success (so that the elk would not be so wary and become nocturnal so quickly?). The Youth could still take advantage of Christmas holidays for hunting. **Action Item** - Donna to check with Tara/Stephen to see if this is possible, or if HQ's hunter recruitment initiative is more important than hunter success?
7. Discussion on getting an agricultural representative on the KWHAC. RAWC has an EKWA rep, so want as aggie in with the hunting lobby as well. **Action Item** - Donna to contact Dave Dunbar with the request.
8. Brian Huscroft interested in applying for funding to build moveable hunting blinds. **Action Item** - Donna will help him with developing a proposal to CBT and/or HCTF.
9. Discussion on Kill Permits, they are an available legal tool, but Regional Managers issue them when in-field damage is severe and when ALL other reasonable prevention and or mitigation options have been attempted. In general, if hunting is possible, FLNRO prefers to rely on regulated hunting to address issues with problem wildlife. In areas where the harvest of relatively few individual animals and/or the hazing of herds is required on an ongoing basis, FLNRO can consider the creation of LEH hazing oriented hunts that are intended to move animals away from areas of conflict (these hazing oriented hunts are not designed to significantly reduce wildlife numbers). **Action Item** - Jeff and Donna to complete review to the kill permit procedure (*The Management of Problem Wild Ungulates*). **Action Item** – Donna to consider the creation of LEH hazing hunts where required in Region 4.
10. Gary Glinz presented a powerpoint show on Hunting Access in the East Kootenays. He'd like the RAWC to form a Road Access subcommittee to look at correcting some of the inaccuracies in the

Regional District maps, also to try for corporate sponsorship of better signage? Brian Huscroft and Glyn Killins volunteered to help out.

11. Nicks Island Dyking District elk fence in Creston was briefly discussed, Brian Huscroft gave summary. He has worked hard to get local landowners to work together on one fence, rather than each farm fencing separately. **Action Item** – *No action on fence yet. Delay HCTF application for funding to collar some Creston elk (SW herds), until the Mt. Caribou transplant has been completed (not enough expertise, manpower or telemetry equipment available).*
12. Passed out hard copies of the PAZWP-KBR 2011 brochure and the Terms of Reference for the RAWC; both had to be re-written to reflect the government's changes. The TOR had one correction with the distinction between the BCCA's Regional group and their Districts. (Also, one later correction was emailed in, as the COS are still under MOE!)
13. Wrap up and determine date for next meeting, tentatively May, 2012.

Handouts & Attachments:

- New PAZWP 2011 brochure, Upper Columbia final report, Elk Monitoring report, 3 D fencing article (two papers to be sent out electronically).
- RAWC Terms Of Reference document with revised language to reflect government's most recent transformation – send out electronically with correction to BCCA District, and add correct COS department.