



Peace Region Wildlife Regulations Proposed Changes for Comment (2010-11)

INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes changes to hunting regulations currently under consideration in the Peace Region. These changes, if approved, will be effective and appear in the Hunting and Trapping Regulations Synopsis beginning July 1, 2010. We welcome and will consider your comments as we finalize changes to the regulations. Proposals for regulation changes result from requests by Rod and Gun Clubs, other non-government organizations, and the public at large. Others we develop from technical studies of trends in wildlife populations and hunter use and success in the region. This document provides some of this background to assist you in understanding the rationale for each regulation change proposal.

WHO CAN COMMENT?

Anyone with an interest in hunting or trapping in British Columbia can comment.

HOW CAN I COMMENT?

We will accept comments in a number of forms. In order of preference, your options are:

(a) electronically via email to **Peace.PermitLicences@gov.bc.ca**; please use "**Regulation Changes 2009/10**" in the subject line

(b) conventional mail to the Peace office of the Ministry of Environment:
400-10003 – 110 Ave
Fort St John, BC
V1J 6M7

(c) via FAX to Peace office of the Ministry of Environment at Attn: Wildlife Section 250-787-3490.

To assist us in getting the best possible information, **please use the forms we provide in this package**. An MS Word file is available should you wish to use a computer.

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS?

The deadline for submission of comments is **December 1, 2009**. Comments received later will still be reviewed. However we can not guarantee that they will be incorporated in developing 2010/11 regulation proposals.

HOW WILL THE MINISTRY USE MY COMMENTS?

Hunting and trapping regulations contribute to the three main goals of the wildlife program:

- (a) Maintain the diversity and abundance of native species and their habitats throughout British Columbia
- (b) Provide a variety of opportunities for the use and enjoyment of wildlife
- (c) People and wildlife living in harmony

In addition, the Ministry currently places a high emphasis on hunter recruitment and retention. Complex regulations are a barrier to recruiting and retaining hunters and hence regulation simplicity is a current priority.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Government of British Columbia is committed to protecting the privacy of people whose personal information is held by government through responsible information management practices. Any personal information provided to the Government of B.C. is collected, used and disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act or other applicable legislation.

Peace Region Wildlife Regulations Proposed Changes for Comment (2010-11)

Elk:

Regulation 1

Current Regulation:

- 1) 7-42B, 7-57, 7-58 – **6pt bulls** Aug 15 – Oct 31.
- 2) 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31, 7-35, 7-36, 7-43 to 7-46** - **6 pt bulls** - Sept 1 – Oct 31. (** includes portions of MU's 7-20, 7-21, 7-35, 7-45 and 7-46 not located within Zone A of 7-21)
- 3) 7-20 Zone A* - **3 pt bulls** - Sept 1 – Oct 31. (*Zone A fully encompasses MU's 7-32, 7-33 and 7-34, it also includes portions of 7-20, 7-21, 7-35, 7-45 and 7-46.)
- 4) 7-20 Zone A* - **Antlerless** - Sept 15 – Oct 31. (*Zone A fully encompasses MU's 7-32, 7-33 and 7-34, it also includes portions of 7-20, 7-21, 7-35, 7-45 and 7-46.)

Proposed Change:

- 1) 7-42B, 7-57– **6pt bulls** Aug 15 – Oct 31.
- 2) 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31, 7-36, 7-43A, 7-46** - **6 pt bulls** - Sept 1 – Oct 31. (** includes portions of MU's 7-20, 7-21, and 7-46 not located within Zone A of 7-21).
- 3) 7-20 Zone A*, 7-43B, 7-44, 7-45+ and 7-58 - **3 pt bulls** - Sept 1 – Oct 31. (*Zone A fully encompasses MU's 7-32, 7-33, 7-34 and 7-35, it also includes portions of 7-20, 7-21, 7-45 and 7-46. +7-45 also includes portion of 7-45 not located in Zone A).
- 4) 7-20 Zone A*, 7-43B, 7-44, 7-45+ and 7-58 - **Antlerless** - Sept 15 – Oct 31. (*Zone A fully encompasses MU's 7-32, 7-33, 7-34 and 7-35, it also includes portions of 7-20, 7-21, 7-45 and 7-46. +7-45 also includes portion of 7-45 not located in Zone A).

Rationale:

The current elk hunting regulations associated with the agricultural land within the Peace region had excluded some agricultural land in the northern portion of the agricultural zone. The four proposed regulations are to add MU's 7-44, 7-45, 7-58, the northern portion of 7-35 and 7-43B to the agricultural zone seasons. Conflicts between elk and agricultural land owners continue in the Peace Region.

Caribou:

Regulation 2

Current Regulation: MU 7-57 is open for 5 point bull caribou from Aug 15 – Sept 30.

Proposed Change: Divide the MU, with the area north of the Halfway River open for 5 point caribou Aug 15 – Sept 30, and the area south of the Halfway River closed to all caribou hunting.

Rationale: The Graham caribou herd, which is part of the southern mountain national ecological area is classified as Threatened federally, and Blue listed provincially. Conservation is a primary concern for the Graham caribou herd and Ministry of Environment feels that a hunting season for this herd is contrary to that goal at this time.

The Pink Mountain caribou herd occupy the area north of the Halfway River in MU 7-57. This herd is part of the Northern Mountain ecotype, and are Blue Listed provincially and classified as species of Special Concern federally. There will continue to be a hunting season for this herd.

Bison:

Regulation 3

Current Regulation:

Area	Dates	Class
7-57A	Oct 1 – Oct 31	Bull
7-57A	Nov 15 – Nov 30	Either sex
7-57A	Dec 1 – Dec 15	Either sex
7-57A	Dec 16 – Dec 31	Either sex
7-57B	Oct 1 – Oct 31	Bull
7-57B	Nov 5 – Nov 19	Either sex
7-57B	Nov 20 – Dec 5	Either sex
7-57B	Dec 6 – Dec 20	Either sex

Proposed Change:

Area	Dates	Class
7-57A	Oct 1 – Oct 15	Either sex
7-57A	Oct 16 – Oct 31	Either sex
7-57A	Nov 1 – Nov 15	Either sex
7-57A	Nov 16 – Nov 30	Either sex
7-57A	Dec 1 – Dec 15	Either sex
7-57A	Dec 16 – Dec 31	Either sex
7-57A	Jan 1 – Jan 15	Either sex
7-57A	Jan 16 – Jan 31	Either sex
7-57B	Oct 1 – Oct 15	Either sex
7-57B	Oct 16 – Oct 31	Either sex
7-57B	Nov 5 – Nov 19	Either sex
7-57B	Nov 20 – Dec 5	Either sex
7-57B	Dec 6 – Dec 20	Either sex

Rationale:

The plains bison population is assumed to be increasing and MoE is using legal harvest as a means to control population growth and geographic expansion of the population. We have steadily increased the annual allowable harvest of bison since the inception of the hunt and are continuing to do so. While attempting to meet this goal we also want to maintain a quality hunting experience for hunters in the area which requires spreading the hunting effort over a longer time period. We have divided the month long seasons in October into 2 week long seasons. We have added a 2 week hunt in zone A from Nov 1 – Nov 15, and extended the season into January. Geographically zone B is much larger and there is less need to space hunters out in time. The bull only season has been replaced by an either sex season to reduce complexity and increase harvest of female bison.

Regulation 4

Current Regulation:

No hunting season for wood bison in the Peace Region.

Proposed Change:

Introduce a Limited Entry Hunt for wood bison from the Etthithun herd.

Rationale:

Wood bison are listed as Threatened federally and Red Listed provincially, however the population is near the maximum number desired for the area. A limited hunting season, in combination with First Nations harvest, is being proposed to manage the number and range of the herd. The season would have a restricted geographic area.

Cougar:

Regulation 5

Current Regulation:

Mu's 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58

Dec 1 to Feb 28

Proposed Change:

Mu's 7-19 to 7-22, 7-31 to 7-36, 7-42 to 7-58

Sept 10 to Mar 31

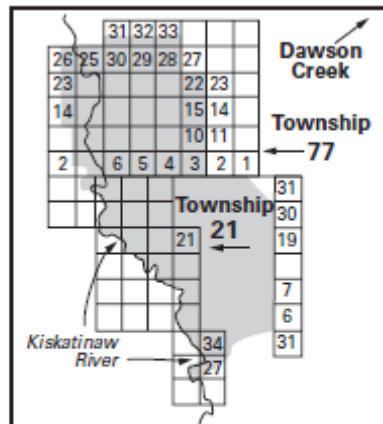
Rationale:

Increase opportunity for hunters to harvest a cougar. Aligns Peace cougar seasons with the Omineca cougar seasons.

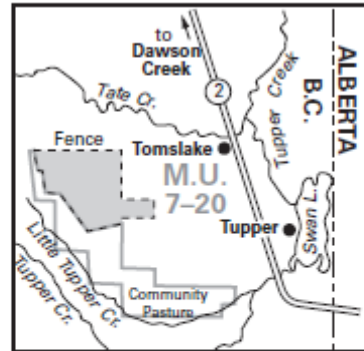
Regulation 6

Current Regulation:

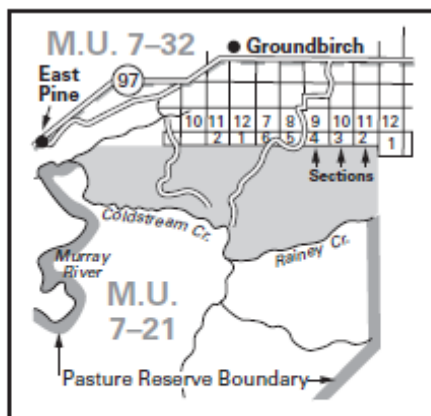
The current regulations are Maps H2, H3, H5, H9, H12 and H15 in the hunting synopsis. All six of these community pastures have varying degrees of hunting or firearms closures.



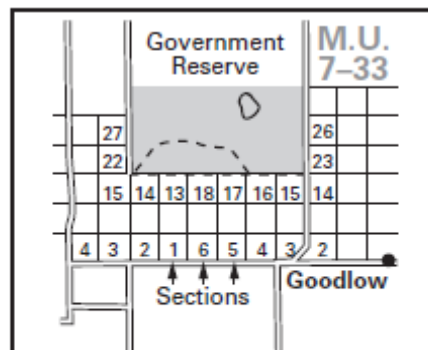
Map H2 Bear Mountain No Hunting Area (situated in MU 7-20), from June 1 to Oct 15.



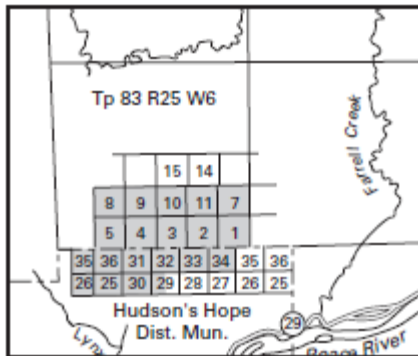
Map H3 One Island Lake Firearms Using Shot Only Area (situated in MU 7-20) from June 1 to Oct 15.



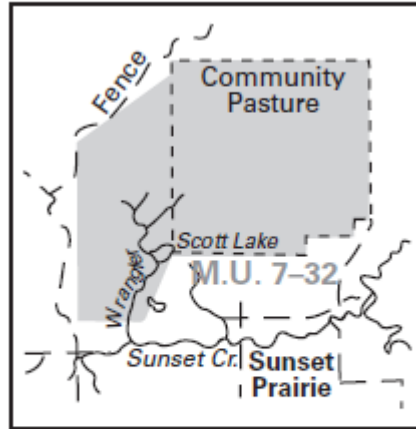
Map H5 Groundbirch Firearms Using Shot Only Area (situated in MU 7-21) from June 1 to Oct 31.



Map H9 Goodlow No Hunting Area (situated in MU 7-33) from June 1 to Oct 15.



Map H12 Farrell Creek Firearms Using Shot Only Area (situated in MU 7-35) from June 1 to Oct 15.



Map H15 Sunset Prairie No Hunting Area (situated in MU 7-32) from June 1 to Oct 31.

Proposed Change:

Remove all hunting and firearms restrictions within the community pastures.

Rationale:

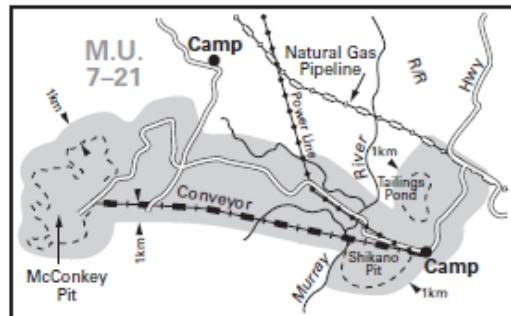
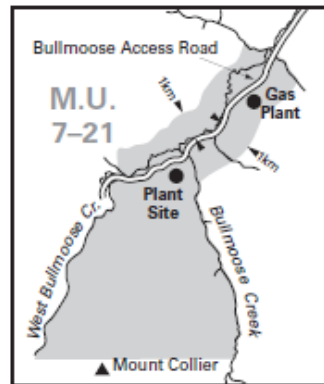
Over the last three years the Ministry of Environment has been lobbied by the agricultural community to liberalize hunting seasons within the agricultural areas around the Peace Region to reduce the impact of wildlife on the cereal and forage crops. The Ministry has brought in major changes to the elk and deer hunting seasons to help alleviate some of the issues. All of the community pastures found on the above mentioned maps fall within that agricultural zone and serve as refuge sites for populations of elk and deer. The opening of these areas to the harvest of elk and deer in the region will be another step to address the concerns of the farming and ranching community with regard to wildlife impacts on their livelihood in the Peace Region. The removal of these closed areas creates more opportunity and simplifies the regulations.

Regulation 7

Current Regulation:

The current regulations are Maps H6 and H7 in the hunting synopsis, Bullmoose mine and Quintette Coal no shooting areas.

Map H6
Bullmoose Mine
No Shooting
Area (situated in
MU 7-21).



Map H7 Quintette Coal No Shooting Area
(situated in MU 7-21).

Proposed Change:

Remove these two no shooting areas from the regulations.

Rationale:

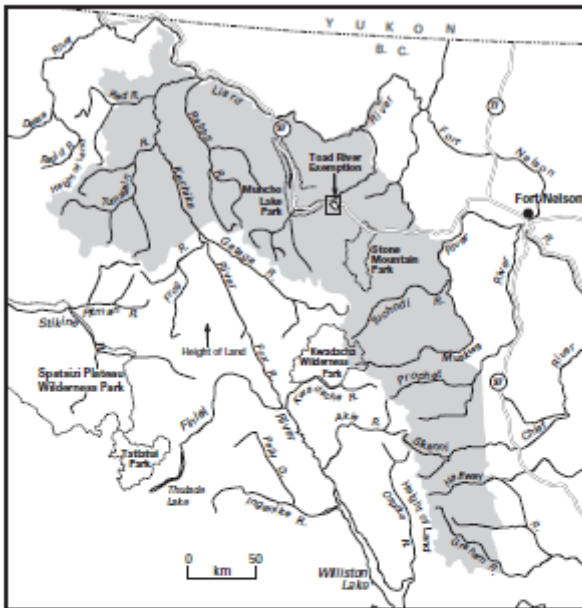
Both of these mines are now closed and not operating. Currently the Ministry of Environment is not bringing in any new closures around mines, this falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Energy and Mines.

The removal of these closed areas creates more opportunity and simplifies the regulations.

Regulation 8

Current Regulation:

The current regulations are Map H19 in the hunting synopsis, Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area.



Map H19 Muskwa-Kechika Access Management Area (situated in MUs 7-36, 7-42, 7-43, 7-50, 7-51, 7-52, 7-54, 7-57) and Klingzut Mountain Motor Vehicle Closed Area (situated in MU 7-42). Maps showing boundaries and motor vehicle routes within the Muskwa-Kechika AMA can be viewed in the MoE and Ministry of Forests offices in Fort Nelson, the MoE office in Fort St John [(250) 787-3225], and srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/lrmp/mk/index.htm. Larger scale maps can be purchased from McElhanney Associates in Fort St. John [(250) 787-0356].

Proposed Change:

Change the West Toad Corridor from any vehicle allowed within 400m to vehicles less than 500kg (ATV) allowed within 10 m of route from the guide camp and ending at West Toad River.

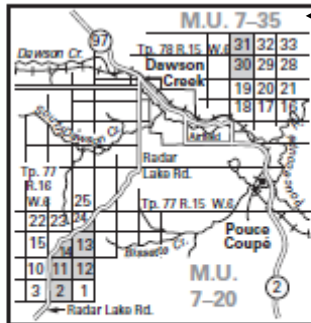
Rationale:

The access route has always been a horse and ATV trail and is impassable to larger motor vehicles. Changing the route designation better reflects the actual condition of the access route. The route crossing the West Toad River can be hazardous to the public and leads only to private property (lot 3227).

Regulation 9

Current Regulation:

The current regulation is Map H4 in the hunting synopsis, Dawson Creek Environmental Demonstration No Shooting Area.



Note: MU 7-35 should read MU 7-33;
this will be corrected in the new
Synopsis

Map H4 Dawson Creek Environmental Demonstration No Shooting Area
(situated in MUs 7-20, 7-33) between
9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily.

Proposed Change:

The proposal is to close only Sections 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14 (Situated in MU 7-20) to hunting year-round.

Rationale:

This change is being recommended to improve public safety following a request from the Bear Mountain Nordic Ski Association who is concerned about the safety of recreational users who use this area year-round. No changes are being recommended for Sections 30 and 31 (situated in MU 7-33).

Mule Deer & White-tailed Deer:

Regulation 10

Current Regulation:

The combined bag limit for deer in Region 7B is three. The bag limit for antlerless mule deer is one. The bag limit for mule deer bucks is one. The bag limit for antlerless white-tailed deer is one. The bag limit for white-tailed bucks is one.

Proposed Change:

The combined bag limit for deer in Region 7B is two. The bag limit for antlerless deer is one. The bag limit for mule deer bucks is one. The bag limit for white-tailed bucks is one.

Rationale:

This change is being recommended after reviewing the 2008 hunter sample data. Since 2005 hunters hunting deer in the region have increased (Mule Deer hunters by 26.8% White-tailed Deer hunters by 59.8%) also corresponding to this is hunter days have increased (MD by 78% and WT by 75%). While the number of hunters and the number of hunter days have increased the number of hunter days per kill has also increased for Mule Deer by 38.2% and for White-tailed Deer by 31.20%. This change is being proposed as a measure to reduce deer harvest while maintaining hunter opportunities.

**Peace Region Wildlife Regulations
Comments on Proposed Changes for 2010/11**

Comments Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to document your concerns and suggestions. The information you provide is important to us and will be considered thoroughly. **We will not be able to respond to submissions.**

Note: For web security reasons we have to post this document on the web as a PDF file. If you want to email us your comments without having to use this form, just ensure that you identify in your email the regulation number, as shown above in this document, and the associated comments, along with any other suggestions you may have. The email address to send your comments to is Peace.PermitLicences@gov.bc.ca and is also listed on the first page of this document.

Contact Information (optional)	
Name:	
Address:	
Email:	
Telephone & fax:	
Representing:	Club or organization if applicable; indicate your position (e.g. president, etc.)

Group you identify with (Please check the most appropriate categories):

- First Nation
- Farmer/Rancher
- Resident Hunter
- Guide/Outfitter
- Naturalist/Non-consumptive user
- Government employee
- Other. Describe: _____

Where do you currently live?

- Peace Region
- Vancouver Island
- Thompson Region
- Kootenay Region

- Cariboo Region
- Skeena Region
- Lower Mainland
- Omineca Region
- Okanagan
- outside of BC

Comments on Proposed Changes to Region 7B Regulations		
Regulation Number	Agree With Proposal? (check one)	Comments and Concerns (attach additional pages if desired)
1	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
2	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
3	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
4	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
5	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	
6	yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/>	

Comments on Proposed Changes to Region 7B Regulations		
Regulation Number	Agree With Proposal? (check one)	Comments and Concerns (attach additional pages if desired)
7	yes ___ no ___	
8	yes ___ no ___	
9	yes ___ no ___	
10	yes ___ no ___	

Comments on Proposed Changes to Region 7B Regulations

Regulation Number	Agree With Proposal? (check one)	Comments and Concerns (attach additional pages if desired)
<p>Other ideas and concerns not described in the proposals (use additional pages if necessary):</p>		