



Alberta Fish & Game Association

News from ALBERTA

ON APRIL 27, 2019, the AFGA will be hosting its 56th Annual Wildlife Awards Banquet at the Polish Hall in Edmonton. This event is an opportunity for the AFGA to recognize Alberta's award winning harvests from the 2018 hunting & fishing seasons as well as honour photographers and award the Alberta Student Scholarship. Tickets are reasonably priced and if you would like to attend, contact the AFGA office or you can watch for them to be available on the AFGA website, www.afga.org.



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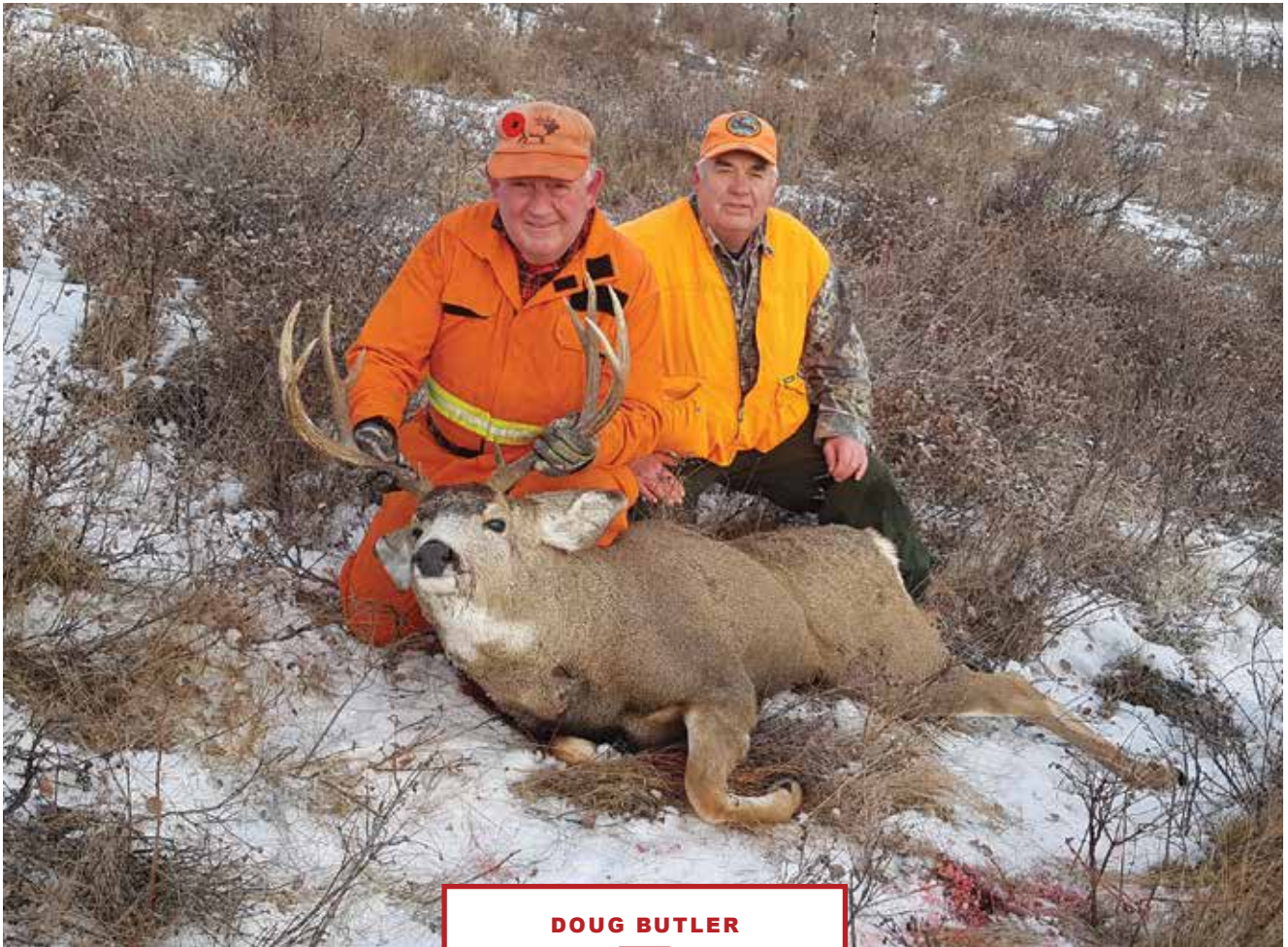
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*Please note that \$15 of your annual membership dues are allocated to *Outdoor Canada West Magazine*



Alberta Fish & Game Association

President's Report



DOUG BUTLER
PRESIDENT

BY THE TIME you're reading this, our annual conference and AGM will be over and a different executive will be serving you. I've certainly had a great run and look forward to a lesser role as your Past President. However we fit together, we will continue to stand for all Alberta outdoorspeople. I can't thank-you enough for the great support you've given me throughout my term. Two years can sure fly by, and I will strongly urge our organization to continue with the programs we have on the go. Improving communications and membership retention have been one of my top issues. Our new website and membership submission will be a struggle for a while, but the learning curve should

shorten as we all get used to it. We must continue our billings, communications, updates and news briefs etc. on a monthly mail-out process and continue to work with clubs as much as possible. The membership incentive program is also a great program to keep membership up. We must always be promoting the AFGA! I'll continue to work hard on these with our executive. Keeping a strong working relationship with other like-minded organizations has also been one of my priorities and this must continue.

Since my last report, we have been very busy. December had our entire executive meetings. It was a long day as we have many items on the plate right now. We put out a press release

on the "sale of public lands". Letters were also drafted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on habitat retention and restoration. We reviewed all the resolutions and I'm sure conference was interesting with many debates and our package will be sent to appropriate agencies pronto. We also met with the head of Fish & Wildlife and had a very good meeting. Many points were addressed, and we'll be keeping on top of them. Our "Hunt meeting" with the head of wildlife was also positive. Chelsea and I also met with the Parks planning people over the "Bighorn" plan and we released a press release shortly after. Keeping these leaders accountable is important and defines part of our job.

CWD is of great concern and it is now making more headlines nationally. We'll keep trying to find the right answer to this disease to save our ungulate population.

Our province will have an election in the spring. We've sent invitations to meet with the leaders of all parties and hopefully those meetings took place and we were able to let you all know each one's views on some of our top priorities. We hope each one of them will recognise that the votes of the angler, hunter and trapper matter! At all times we have many issues that we will continue to bring forward to the government. It's important to make sure they know that about 25% of all Canadians participate in fishing, hunting or trapping each year which generates more than \$15 billion for the national economy and funds a large share of fish and wildlife conservation. Some election priorities on our plate right now are:

- bringing back the Fish & Wildlife division and putting more importance on our natural resources and ensuring that this portfolio is properly funded
- promoting the value of fishing, hunting and trapping to the building a improved strategy that guarantees public access to crown lands
- investing in fisheries management to optimize fishing opportunities which includes increased stocking programs
- taking a leadership role in managing water levels, flows and dam decisions.
- doing an immediate review of moose management.
- establishing some kind of CWD management plan
- finishing all species-specific management plans. This must include Wild Turkeys as this has been delayed much too long. Non-target species must also be looked at such as double crested cormorants, swans, cranes and the list goes on
- investing more in volunteer community conservation projects
- following through on consultation with conservation groups and the public on all decisions and main-

taining transparency.

This list is much longer but we'll leave it at that for now.

Our new office has been in business for a full year now and is a much brighter place to stop in to than our old building which was on its last legs. Our mortgage has been reduced substantially through many generous donations and hopefully it is nearly finished with by now. Stop in when you get a chance to check it out.

We finished a variety of video clips on "Let's Go Outdoors" and hopefully we portrayed ourselves well. We don't showcase ourselves nearly enough and hopefully this helped. We also have an ad on Wild TV to better let people know we are here. Continue to watch these and use them as you can.

We still have plans for a new "Record book" and I sure hope it goes to print this year. We can always use good stories and pictures to include in it.


Our Wildlife Trust Fund still flourishes, and more properties are continually being added to the list. Help us out by purchasing a raffle ticket on a "side by side" (on our website or at the AFGA office). Draw will be in April. Also in April will be our Wildlife

Awards Banquet where we showcase the great diversity in wildlife we have here in Alberta.

Our MSL raffle (Minister's Special License for Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer & Elk) is ongoing and you can also purchase tickets in the same locations as above. All the money raised is used in conservation projects by a variety of groups and the winners have a great chance at that trophy of a lifetime. That's all for now!

Please remember to renew your membership or sign up for the first time. It's a small price to pay for peace of mind knowing we are always on top of all conservation practises and are the recognised voice of the Alberta Outdoorspeople.

Remember to continue to enjoy the outdoors and just being out there is sometimes more rewarding than the harvest. I managed to get in a great deer hunt with my brother this past fall and the success was not measured in the harvest although some great venison will be enjoyed this year!

Tight lines and straight shooting... 

Doug Butler
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Alberta Fish & Game Association

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Alberta Fish & Game Association

Executive Vice-President's Report



MARTIN SHARREN

EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

MINISTER'S SPECIAL LICENCE RAFFLE

The Minister's Special Licence Raffle tickets went on sale in January and just like last year we have placed a limit of 100 tickets per purchaser per day for each species for the first 90 days of sales. After the 90-day period anybody can purchase as many as they want. Due to the phenomenal

interest shown by hunters wishing to purchase these tickets, we have increased the number of available Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep tickets by 2,500 to bring the total to 15,000 and the antlered elk by 500 to 3,000. The available tickets for antlered mule deer remain at 2,500. The draw will take place at the AFGA office on Friday, August 02, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

2019 PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

Every year the AFGA recognizes individuals, Clubs or other entities who have contributed mightily to the conservation cause. Congratulations to the Provincial Service Award winners who were honoured at the just completed 90th Annual AFGA Conference:

*Alberta Fish and Game Association
Support Award
AltaLink*

*Darwin Cronkhite Memorial Award
Calgary Fish and Game Association*

*George E. Watt Memorial
Fund-Raising Award
North Eastern AFGA – Zone 5*

J.B. Cunningham Memorial Award

*Hillcrest Fish and Game Protective
Association*

*Lifetime Achievement Award
Bev Chipchase
Larry Busse*

*Outdoor Canada West
Communication Award
Calgary Fish and Game Association*

*Outdoor Ethics Award
Stephanie Roberts*

*Fulton Award
Duane Radford*


*Life Membership
Gord Poirier*

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

A great big thank you to all the Clubs that jumped wholeheartedly into the new membership program! Although there is a bit of a learning curve involved in the beginning, in the long run it will be of great benefit to Clubs and members alike which will result in more time for hunting and fishing activities. We value your feedback so please do not hesitate to contact me if you come across something that seems a little off or something that, in your mind, is really good. Remember that there is a certain amount of evolution involved in this or any other product and the way to help said evolution is through your feedback.

MORTGAGE UPDATE

As of December 31, 2018, the outstanding balance on the mortgage of our new office was at \$123,740 and with a little push from individuals, Clubs and conservation-minded supporters, we can wipe this out in a relatively short time so that our resources can be put into AFGA projects. Another way to look at this is that if every member kicked in only \$5 on a one-time basis, AFGA would be mortgage-free! 🐦



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1ST Vice-President's Report



BRIAN DINGREVILLE
1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

SO 2018 COMES to an end as I look out my living room window on this cold winter day here in southern Alberta. As we all know this has been an interesting year weather wise, lack of moisture, very strong winds, then too much moisture in some parts, extreme dryness in other parts, numerous forest fires with smoke that was unbearable,

Over the past couple of months AFGA Executive held its winter meeting with AE&P at our new office, going over many topics relating to hunting and fishing throughout the province which I am sure Jim will fill you all in on. Saturday, the Executive meeting was jam packed with a number of topics up for discussion but most important was an exciting new idea dealing with membership and how it will take AFGA into a new era. Over the next few months Head Office will be contacting clubs on how this program will work and I highly recommend each and every club to be open to this proposal!

The following week I attended a meeting in Calgary with regard to the Bighorn Wildland Provincial Park proposal. Those attending had representa-


tion from the Indigenous groups, Wild Sheep Foundation, APOS, Trappers Association, and myself representing AFGA, along with the Provincial Government. As per the Castle the goal of the government is to have all those involved to accept the designation plan and then the management plan will follow. Those that attended were very upset with this proposal saying they want to work with a management plan first. Once the designation is set to parks, in the areas which have been decided upon by the government, that designation will fall under park rules. I asked if the government was going to hold meetings in private with the Indigenous groups as per the Castle and the deputy minister said yes. Interestingly the individual who was representing the Indigenous became very upset on this comment, stating if those meetings were 'as per the Castle' they did not want anything to do with this plan. Since this meeting I have met personally with a leader from one of the Reserve members in the south asking him how their meeting with the Government went regarding the Castle and he stated that when parties meet on a consultation, the goal is to come together with a mutual plan that becomes part of the proposal. His exact wording was there were meetings but there was no agreed consultation, in other words he said the government did exactly what they wanted to do! Many of those attending this meeting in Calgary said they did not want to do the online survey because all questions lead to one conclusion, agreement to form the parks!

As many of you know I was very involved in the consultation regarding the Castle park proposal. Sadly I can see exactly where the Bighorn proposal is going and how this government is working hard to push it through. What I have seen over the past couple of months on the social media sites, is there has been a very hard push from

a number of users to do the online survey and to attend the public workshops. Hopefully you have taken the time to do this as well!

Shortly after the Calgary meeting I was given an invitation to attend the Medicine Hat Fish & Game meeting and I was very impressed to see the large turnout. Glen gave an excellent report with regard to his attending the AFGA executive meeting in Edmonton that brought out a number of questions from the members over CWD & the new membership program.

As I had mentioned in a previous report I was successful in acquiring a draw for an antelope and mule deer tag in zone 102. While I was in this area I attended the Southern Alberta Outdoorsman club meeting. It was very pleasant visiting with those long standing members of this club! As per my experience hunting in the southern area, they said they could not believe how many hunters were out this year with those draws. As per the comments from members from the Foremost Fish and Game club; many had no respect for the land owner. With the severe dry conditions throughout the province many are very concerned about wild fires plus the lack of Fish & Wildlife officer presence. Many are considering not allowing any access to their land in the future. One individual said to me it could get very western out here in the future! Sad when those who own the land are being overrun by those of no respect!

As my position of 2nd & 1st Vice President comes to a close I do thank each and every one for their support. When I was asked to take on the position of 2nd Vice I was asked by an individual, who I highly respect, what will you do for AFGA? Hopefully I have not let him or you down. 

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Alberta Fish & Game Association

2ND Vice-President's Report



IAN STUART

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT


AT THE TIME of this writing, 2019 has just begun and my New Year started out with the view in the attached picture; on one hand I am very happy to see deer numbers recovering locally, on the other hand less than happy that they have taken a liking to our stored hay when there is very little snow cover and they have plenty of other options! I don't begrudge the deer the small amount they eat, but the large amount they foul is another matter, so I will have to invest in a better fence.

On a Provincial level, 2019 will be "interesting" to say the least, with some changes in your AFGA executive (as mandated by our bylaws) and a Provin-

cial election coming up. Regardless of which party forms the next government, challenges to conservation and the wise utilization of Alberta's Fish and Wildlife resources will continue, and regardless of who is on the AFGA executive I am confident that your AFGA will continue to advocate for both habitat/ environmental protection and responsible utilization of those resources. The two are not mutually exclusive, and balanced management is never easy, but we have to keep working in that direction.

AFGA is and has to remain apolitical, both to retain our non-profit status and our need to engage with the government of the day, but that does not mean that we can't question policies that we consumptive conservationists disagree with, whether its sale of public land at one end of the spectrum or

losing responsible access and harvest opportunity to expanding parks at the other, as evidenced by recent press releases. Multiple members of your AFGA executive have been engaged with existing and aspiring government members and civil servants on these issues, as well as Federal firearms legislation, Chronic wasting disease, and a host of others. I encourage all AFGA members to engage individually as well – numbers count, and the "antis" are very good at inundating elected representatives with their viewpoint. We have to do the same. And we have to continue grow our membership, so please "give ink" - and sign up a new member or several!

Yours in support of the wise use of the Earth's resources. 

Ian Stuart, 2nd Vice President

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Fishing Chair Report

HAS THE THIRD-PARTY REVIEW OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN ALBERTA BECOME SWALLOWED IN BUREAUCRATIC QUICK SAND?

DARRYL SMITH
FISHING CHAIR

THE FIFTH MEETING of the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee was slated for November 26, 2018. At the last-minute late Friday afternoon on November 23 it was cancelled. A personal commitment was made by chair of the committee, Assistant Deputy Minister Operations, Alberta Environment and Parks, John Conrad that the meeting would be rescheduled in the immediate future. Neither a date nor the subject matter, the third-party review report by Dr. Cooke has been made available as I put my finishing touches to this column on January 3, 2019. One can only speculate about the reasons for the cancellation as the government had the completed report for several weeks prior to the scheduled meeting on November 26, 2018.

The Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee developed a "Terms of Reference". Its membership comes from the Government of Alberta – Alberta Environment and Parks, Government of Canada, local government, non-governmental organizations, and angling industry – service and retail and the fish and aquatic conservation community. The "terms of reference" states that "transparency will be a cornerstone of reporting and deliberations. Meeting information will be shared openly and widely."

During the fourth meeting of the committee on October 26, 2018 commitments were made by the Government of Alberta which was not fulfilled. This should have been a warning that something was in the wind. The draft science review focus questions related to the cool-water fish species (northern pike, walleye, lake whitefish, perch) were to be posted by mid-November to give stakeholder members time to comment. A pre-reading package was to be available to all members of the committee by Monday, November 19 which would include the "independent third-party science review" of management of cold-water fish species along the East Slopes. Communications with Government of Alberta employees slowed; went silent or unanswered during this period.

The sudden cancellation at the last minute was the only communication that

received from the secretariat of the committee except for being advised of the "Online Survey for Fisheries Regulations Changes 2019-2020" only minutes prior to the public announcement through Alberta RELM. The reason given for the cancellation was the review report was embargoed within the Government of Alberta as they had insufficient time to analyse.

The AFGA has a growing list of concerns about the process and actions of the Government of Alberta. These relate to the role and responsibilities of the "Fisheries Advisory Stakeholder Committee" and the continued direction of fisheries management in Alberta during the ongoing review period.

- The AFGA has repeatedly indicated the time lines for the review and discussions were too tight.
- Openness and transparency commitments by the Government of Alberta have been severely damaged due to the delay in providing the report to the committee. The review was supposed to be an independent process and as such should have been available to stakeholders at roughly the same time as the Government of Alberta.
- Lessons learned to date and advice given by the stakeholders related to fisheries management and processes appear to have largely been ignored or discounted. This is evident in the current "Online fisheries regulation surveys for 2019-2020" which showed little change from that of 2018.
- Throughout this process, the Alberta Fish and Game Association has voiced the opinion that there should be no changes to fisheries regulations until the review process is complete which must include additional stakeholder/public feedback and communication.
- The business as usual approach during the review period taken by Alberta Environment and Parks does not bode well for enactment of recommendations from the committee or those from the review reports.
- To date, what has taken place, can best be described as an internalized process where all resources and presentations have been from the perspective of the Government of Alberta.

At this point of time the Alberta Fish and Game Association is rapidly losing confidence in the process.

We are urging the Government of Alberta to restore confidence in the process through the following actions:

- Recognition that this is an "independent review process" where stakeholders and the Government of Alberta are equal partners. This will involve rewriting the terms of reference for the committee as trust has been severely eroded which is the outcome of the Government of Alberta not been able to fulfill its commitments of openness and transparency.
- Greater autonomy and involvement by stakeholders in the process including development of agendas, questions and presentations.
- The Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee must be provided with the embargoed report as initially presented to government.
- The committee must reconvene during January 2019. This implies giving participants ample time to review the initial third-party review report related to coldwater fisheries management as well, the draft science focus questions related to the second review process for coolwater species.
- The Government of Alberta must fulfill its commitments of sharing the information related Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee openly, widely and in a timely fashion, not only with the stakeholder committee but the public.
- No fisheries regulation changes should be made for 2019-2020 except due to environmental catastrophes (spill, etc.) until after deliberations and recommendations from the Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee are presented to the public through a consultation process likely in the summer and fall of 2019.

My hope is that by the time you read this a different picture will have emerged and the concerns of the Alberta Fish and Game Association have been addressed. Looking forward to the upcoming Alberta Fish and Game Association Annual General Meeting in Calgary from February 21 to 23. Know will see many of you there. The Fisheries Stakeholder Advisory Committee will be one of the topics during the Friday Feb 22 combined Hunting and Fishing sessions. Take some time to enjoy the great outdoors during this winter season and yes, the days are getting longer! 🐾

Darryl Smith, Fishing Chair



WHY YOU SHOULD BELONG TO AFGA & WHAT AFGA DOES FOR YOU

Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) is the oldest and largest conservation organization in Alberta dating back to 1908. As a volunteer-based, not-for-profit charitable organization it advocates the common interests of ethical hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts dedicated to the responsible stewardship of Alberta's environment.

AFGA is recognized by all levels of government as the official spokespersons for organized hunters and anglers interested in the conservation of fish and wildlife. When the AFGA makes a recommendation or takes a position, the Alberta government's elected officials must listen.

AFGA is membership driven and has a total membership of 25,000+ representing approximately 80+ affiliated fish and game clubs in over 450 cities, towns and villages throughout the province.

AFGA represents YOU, the members, but only effectively with your involvement and input.

The AFGA provides a unified position and stance on regulations, environmental concerns, wildlife and habitat issues relating to its member's hunting, angling and conservation interests in Alberta.

Can AFGA adopt every individual's personal perspective as our position? Of course not, there are differing opinions which is normal and expected in today's society. What AFGA can do is collectively develop consensus through an informed decision-making process within our organizational structure to represent your concerns as hunters, anglers and conservationists. **AFGA and YOU make a difference.** Having more members is critical as it increases our effectiveness in this time of conflicting viewpoints that are impacting our hunting and fishing heritage. **Only through numbers is there power to influence decision makers!**

AFGA ensures that the concerns of the outdoor community are identified during planning, regulation and legislative development. AFGA discusses and consults with regulators which includes providing and exchanging data to influence their management approach and decisions that are impacting

hunting, angling and conservation in this province. AFGA monitors whether subsequent application and implementation affecting outdoor-related issues is respected. For example, respect for the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan versus the political designation of the Castle Wildland Park; subsequently we advocated for designated off-highway vehicle routes in the Wildland Park.

AFGA has the ability to influence change to hunting or sportfishing regulations. When regulations would have negative impact on angling and hunting opportunity or not achieve management objectives, the AFGA is there asking for reconsideration. The AFGA advocates for comprehensive management plans with supporting actions that address cumulative impacts on our wildlife and fisheries resource. For instance, the AFGA played the pivotal role in stopping the implementation of proposed Eastern Slopes angling closures as they failed to address habitat.

Never forget, conservation started with hunters and anglers! In 1983, AFGA had the foresight to see critical habitat was disappearing rapidly and therefore created the Wildlife Trust Fund, the province's first land trust. Today the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund continues to grow. There are 100+ properties across the province, which encompass approximately 50,000 acres of critical and important fish and wildlife habitat now conserved in perpetuity. There are currently 2 acres of habitat conserved for every AFGA member and that number is growing rapidly, thanks to the members. The properties belong to YOU and are something to be enjoyed and treasured.

AFGA is democratic organization in which a member in good standing can run for an executive position; represent us on committees or in any other respective way.

WHAT AFGA CONTINUES TO DO FOR YOU REPRESENTATION:

- AFGA is in intense discussion with the Government of Alberta advocating for increased angling opportunity following changes to the 2018 angling regulations. This includes simplifying current sportfishing regulations through standardization, clear

and transparent fisheries management objective setting, and increased use of fishery management tools, such as stocking. Making significant changes to the "Northern Pike and Walleye Management Framework" is a major priority of the AFGA.

- Consistently and continually represents the Alberta hunter at the Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council (AGPAC), and preceding that the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group (AGMAG).
- AFGA represents the interests of the average Alberta angler at the Alberta Fisheries Management Round Table.
- AFGA is working with others to prevent the Government from rushing into making the Bighorn Backcountry as a "Park".
- AFGA has a representative on the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) Board of Directors.
- AFGA has representation on over 30 provincial committees (e.g., Caribou Recovery, Bull Trout Recovery, Feral Horse, Chronic Wasting Disease, Whirling Disease, Species at Risk, Grizzly Bear Management Plan, Wild Turkey Management Plan, Guide and Outfitter Allocation Review and more).

AFGA PROJECT/PROGRAMS:

- AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund properties are found from the extreme southern reaches of the province all the way north to Manning. At the heart of the Fund are the members, clubs and zones of the AFGA and the land acquisitions were made possible through their generous contributions, tireless fund-raising efforts and through partnerships with like-minded organizations and corporations. There are 100+ properties, which encompass approximately 50,000 acres of critical fish and wildlife habitat.
- An on-line atlas is available showing all Wildlife Trust Fund properties which are open to all forms of recreation, including hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and family outings.
- AFGA Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) Program and Youth Camps, along with other conservation, hunting and outdoor education programs not only ensure our future but focus

on family involvement.

- Annually, since 2009, teams of volunteers from AFGA, the ACA and other partners gather to work on the Pronghorn Antelope Travel Corridor Enhancement Project which has replaced and converted over 1200 kilometers of fencing to date to allow for easier pronghorn migration.
- Operation Grassland Community, in cooperation with landowners, promotes land stewardship to protect and enhance prairie wildlife habitats on over 900,000 acres.
- To support youth in their pursuit of conservation-related careers, the AFGA offers an educational scholarship.
- AFGA manages a Wildlife Awards program that recognizes exceptional photography, wildlife, fish, and birds harvested in the province for inclusion in the AFGA record book. Our organization is the official record keeper for the province.
- AFGA provides official big game measuring training and certification for individuals wanting to score big game and carnivore species.

ADVANTAGES:

- Access to (volunteers, expertise, financial assistance, etc.) to execute wildlife and habitat related conservation projects in Alberta.
- Opportunities to leverage the knowledge and contacts within a network of over 80+ affiliated clubs and 25,000+ members.
- AFGA affiliated fish and game clubs provide a host of additional benefits from firearm ranges.

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- AFGA's collaborative efforts ensured the provincial Government's establishment of the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act.
- AFGA, along with other like-minded groups, were instrumental in preventing the Canadian Tire Corporation from banning fur products in their stores as per PETA's desire.
- The adoption of youth being able to start hunting at age 12 was a result of AFGA's lobbying.
- AFGA was directly behind the opening of Sunday hunting across most of the province.

We can all give back to the betterment of fish and wildlife in Alberta by being involved and part of an Association that represents not only the angler, hunter, trapper, conservationist and outdoor enthusiast but all species and their habitat.



Program Chair Report



PROGRAM CHAIR REPORT
BY MARK ANDERSON


THE 2019 AFGA conference in Calgary has just passed and I hope that you or someone from your local club was able to attend. It's a great venue to meet other avid outdoorspeople and interact directly with the AFGA Executive and Provincial Environment, Fishery, and Wildlife Agencies. I'd encourage you to seek sponsorship from your local club and attend the next conference if you missed this one.

The AFGA summer youth conservation and Becoming an Outdoor Woman (BOW) camps for July 2019 are now open for registration. Campers will be coached by experienced trainers while learning survival skills, safe firearm use, archery, boating safety, knife use, fire-starting, hunter education, and other outdoor skills. Participants will come away with certifications in hunter's education, unrestricted firearms safety, and boater safety. Advanced youth campers (second year) will take additional classes in restricted firearms safety, wilderness survival, and leadership. BOW attendees will have the option of selecting a shortened

4-day camp if they already have their non-restricted firearm license. Check out the AFGA website here for more details and registration forms: <https://www.afga.org/conservation-camps/>.

I'm still working with Zone 1 clubs to open the Crowsnest Pass McGillivray Mountain camp for a week long AFGA youth conservation camp in late July 2019. Thank you to the volunteers that stepped forward to share your time and expertise to operate and coach at the camp. I'll provide more information as soon as I have it.

The AFGA has been working with Michael Short at Let's Go Outdoors (<https://www.youtube.com/user/LetsGoOutdoors>) to create some great videos highlighting the AFGA's conservation and volunteer activities. I'd encourage you to subscribe and share these videos to get the word out on what the AFGA is doing across Alberta.

Keep your powder dry, 

Mark Anderson
Program Chair
Mark.T.Anderson
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Youth Report




MIYAH CLARKE
AFGA YOUTH PRESIDENT

BY THE TIME you receive this magazine, the 90th annual conference will have already happened and I hope everyone who attended had a good time. On behalf of all the youth delegates, I would like to thank Pat Quinn, from the Sarcee club, and Mark Anderson, our provincial Programs Chair, for helping put together a great conference youth program! Also, thanks to Kelly Weatherall from Sarcee for chaperoning us; and all those who assisted and/or did presentations.

This is my last article as the Youth President for

the Alberta Fish & Game Association. Throughout these past two years, hopefully I have been able to bring more exposure to the youth and encouraged more to get involved. One of the goals for writing articles was not only to inspire youth, but also get clubs thinking more about how important it is to invest time in youth and gain their participation in outdoor activities.

Good luck to the newly elected AFGA Youth Executive. 

Miyah Clarke
AFGA Youth President

B.O.W CAMP

Become an Outdoor Woman is a program designed for women.

It is an opportunity for women 18 years of age or older to learn outdoor skills usually associated with hunting and fishing, but useful for many outdoor pursuits.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799

Jane Willisko: 780-986-3431

Robyn Karpinski: 780-977-0725





Club Events

Alberta Black Powder:	January 19, 2019	11:00am	AGM – Quality Inn North Hill, Red Deer – bp.quilter@shaw.ca
Athabasca Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Provincial Building – Sept to June
Barrhead Fish & Game:	Last Wednesday	7:30pm	Barrhead Legion – Sept to April
Beaver River Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & August
Breton Fish & Game:	4th Wednesday	7:30pm	Breton Golden Age Centre – 50th Avenue – except July/Aug/Dec
Busby & District Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Lone Goose Club House
Calgary Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Curve Distribution – 11056 48 Street SE
Camrose Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Superstore meeting room
Cardston Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:00pm	Civic Center
Clandonald & District Fish & Game:	3rd Thursday	7:30pm	Clandonald Coffee shop
Claresholm Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	N/A	Claresholm indoor range
Coaldale & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	The Range
Dickson Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	8:00pm	Dickson Fish & Game Hall: Contact Ike: 403-588-2646 or 403-728-3818
Devon Fish & Game:	4th Thursday	7:30pm	Pioneer 73 Centre: #29 St. Lawrence Avenue
Dunvegan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:30pm	Except July/Aug – Scouts Hall, Fairview, AB
Drumheller Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Except July/Aug
Edmonton Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:30pm	no info
Edmonton Old Timers:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Spruce Avenue Hall – 10240 115 Avenue
Edmonton Trout Fishing	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Queen Mary Park Community League – 109 Ave & 117 Street
Ft. MacLeod Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	NWMP Library –back door
Ft. Saskatchewan Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Old Train Station – Sept to June
High Level Sporting Association:	3rd Wednesday	N/A	no info
High Prairie Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Summer @ Range – Winter @ Amiro's
High River Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:45pm	For more info: www.hrfishandgame.wordpress.com
Hillcrest Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Hillcrest Fish & Game Hall – 22802 8th Avenue (October to June)
Innisfail Fish & Game:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Innisfail Royal Canadian Legion – except July and August
Iron Creek Fish & Game:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Lougheed Lions Den - Mainstreet
Lacombe Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Lacombe Legion (except July & August)
Lamont Fish & Game:	Last Monday	7:00pm	Lamont Lions Den – Contact Robyn Butler: 780-895-7799
Leduc Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Leduc Clubhouse – for more info – (780) 986-1807 - Sept to June
Lethbridge Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	LFGA Clubhouse – 9th Avenue & 10th Street South (except – July/Aug)
Lloydminster Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Except July & December – Grace United Church
Magrath Rod & Gun Club:	3rd Thursday	7:00pm	Magrath Library
Medicine Hat Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Ricky's Rest. private dining room (see Facebook page) - Sept to June
Millet Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Millet Fish & Game Hall
Morinville Fish & Game:	2nd & 4th Thursday	7:30pm	Morinville F&G Clubhouse – except July/Aug
Mundare Fish & Game:	Last Monday	6:30pm	Mundare Gun Range – May - August
Okotoks Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	For more info visit our website: www.okotoksfishandgame.com
Onoway & District Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:00pm	Education Centre @ gun range – (780) 924-0005 - Sept to June
Peace Wapiti Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Better than Fred's – 9903 101 St, Gr. Prairie - Sept to June
Picture Butte Fish & Game:	1st Tuesday	7:00pm	Archery Range – 464 Crescent Ave. (except Jul/Aug)
Ponoka Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:30pm	Clubhouse
Provost Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	8:00pm	Indoor Gun Range – 2km East of Provost (except July/August)
Red Deer Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Red Deer Legion (use Molly B door) – Tues if stat --except July/Aug
Red Earth Creek Rod & Gun Club:	3rd Tuesday	7:30pm	No other info
Rimbey Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Canalta Hotel: 5702 43rd Street – Sept to June
Rocky Mtn House Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	7:00pm	Rocky Museum Basement meeting room
Sarcee Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	Mtn View Funeral Home Auditorium – September to June
Sherwood Park Fish & Game:	Last Thursday	7:30pm	50 Spruce Avenue
St. Albert Fish & Game:	2nd Tuesday	7:30pm	St. Albert community Hall on Perron St. – September to June
St. Paul Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:30pm	Town Hall - Downstairs
Southern AB Outdoorsmen:	2nd Tuesday	N/A	Kings Home – 108 – 5th Avenue NE – Milk River
Spedden Fish & Game:	2nd Sunday	7:30pm	Ashmont
Spruce Grove Fish & Game:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Pioneer Centre – 301 Jespesen Ave. – Sp. Grove – (Except Jul/Aug & Nov)
Stony Plain Fish & Game:	2nd Monday	7:30pm	Stony Plain Community Centre, 51 Ave. – Jimmy: (780) 405-0015
Sundre Fish & Game:	3rd Tuesday	7:00pm	Sundre Community Center
Sylvan Lake & District:	1st Monday	7:00pm	Community Partner Hall
Taber Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	First Wendy's at Heritage Hotel
Thorsby Fish & Game:	3rd Monday	7:00pm	Sunnybrook Hall
Vegreville Wildlife Federation:	1st Thursday	7:00pm	Centennial Hall
Vermillion Fish & Game:	2nd Wednesday	N/A	Vermillion Provincial Building – Conference room
Viking Sports & Wildlife Society:	1st Tuesday	7:30pm	Clubhouse located near Viking
Vilna Fish & Game:	3rd Wednesday	7:00pm	Cultural Centre in Vilna
Wheatland Conservation & Wildlife:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	254073 RR 252 (north of Strathmore)
Whitecourt Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	7:00pm	Forestry Training Centre
Wildwood & District Rod & Gun Club:	2nd Thursday	7:30pm	Range in the clubhouse
Willingdon & District Fish & Game:	Last Tuesday	7:30pm	Willingdon Arena – upstairs clubroom – Sept to June
Wimborne & District Fish & Game:	1st Wednesday	N/A	Wimborne Hall

OTHER EVENTS

	DATE	TIME	DETAILS
Zone 1	April 7, 2019	TBA	Zone 1 AGM – Lethbridge F&G Hut
Zone 1	September 22, 2019	TBA	Zone 1 Fall Meeting – Lethbridge F&G Hut
Beaver River Fish & Game:	Every Wednesday	6:00 – 8:00pm	Youth / Adult Archery

Edmonton Old Timers Fishing Club is looking for you! Calling all fishermen over 50! You'll find lots of people to go fishing with both summer & ice fishing in the winter. We have meetings once a month with a guest speaker. For more info: Randy Collins 780-868-3944

*IF YOU WISH TO HAVE YOUR EVENT/MEETING PLACED IN THE OUTDOOR EDGE OR ON OUR WEBSITE...PLEASE EMAIL OR FAX INFORMATION TO OUR OFFICE: info@afga.org or fax: (780) 438-6872 (CHECK OUT OUR EVENTS CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION or EVENTS NOT LISTED HERE: www.afga.org)



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Hunting Chair Report

JIM CLARKE

HUNTING COMMITTEE CHAIR


IN MY LAST report, I noted that several of us attended a Moose population study report at the ACA office in Edmonton. I am happy to add since the presentation and at one of our meetings with AEP at our office in Edmonton, they committed to take a look at the population of Moose here in Alberta in relation to the Mountainous and Boreal populations to see what is happening to our Moose! This is very encouraging that we may find out why those populations are dropping.

In early December, we held the annual post hunting season with the executive of the AFGA as well as the Zone Hunting Chairs for those that could attend. It was held on a Friday night and I appreciate everyone who attended and especially Matt Besko from AEP - Director of Wildlife, Policy Division, Environment and Parks for attending an evening meeting especially while so much was on their plate that weekend! This meeting

was held the day after an AGPAC meeting also in Edmonton. Topics included status of updated Management plans for game species here in Alberta which hopefully can be presented at the 2019 conference, proposed regulation changes for hunting in 2019, APOS update and in relation to the allocation agreements, among others. Also of note was an update on Alberta Hunters: only 3% of the Alberta population hunt, the average age of hunters is 51, the age group 25 - 34 is the highest user group, the youth contingent is dropping - there is a proposal to reduce the minimum age of hunting for migratory birds as a start to get more youth involved before they get involved in other activities. On average, 20 WMU's are flown each year and with 140 total, it would take 7 years of perfect conditions to complete wildlife surveys in all WMU's in Alberta. The regulation proposals were just that...proposals. We will not know what is passed and moving forward until the Government of Alberta signs off on the regulation package so hopefully that takes place sooner than later so our regulation booklet can be printed earlier

in 2019. Of course as mentioned, AGPAC is continuing and it is quite a good working group as the meetings have been very productive and cooperative. I have asked for some of the responses we had back from the GOA on our 2018 resolution package to be put on the agenda for the next AGPAC meeting as that is what they said needed to be done. I will let you know the results of that after the next meeting.

By the time you are reading this, it is post hunting season for most species and in fact post conference. I hope you enjoyed the conference in Calgary this year and please let me know what you thought of the guest speakers we had in attendance for the Hunt portion of the meeting. I had asked for ideas from fellow Fish and Game members what they wanted to see or who they wanted to hear from and also conferred with the Zone Hunting Chairs to come up with topics and presenters! I hope it was informative.

Looking forward to a great 2019 and wishing you all the best in all your outdoor pursuits!! 

Jim Clarke, Hunting Chair

Zone 2 Report

DEB CLARKE

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR

ON BEHALF OF the 2019 AFGA Conference Committee, I would like to say Thank You for all the support received from fish and game clubs, members, sponsors, donors, and volunteers. With everyone's help our 90th annual conference in Calgary was a success! Hopefully everyone's experience this year was memorable, new acquaintances were made, and good information was exchanged.

I cannot say Thank You enough to the conference committee Matt Zazula, Mark Anderson, Rob MacKenzie, the Zone 2 club reps, my family (Jim & Miyah), along with the companion and youth coordinators, Ruth Langdon and Patrick Quinn respectively, and their facilitators. Thank You to the AFGA staff for their support in bringing all the thoughts, wants and

needs together and making everything happen for the event. The committees' and staff's hard work and efforts were truly appreciated!!


A special thank you to Chelsea Jaeger and her family for donating a pig, Faran Schaber for covering the butchering costs, and the High River Fish & Game club for looking after the roasting. Their combined contributions made our Luau party themed conference meet and greet night an extra special affair.

Overall, conference always provides an opportunity to talk directly with other individuals and gives a broader view of fish, wildlife, environment and habitat issues facing us in Alberta. Whether you were a delegate, companion, youth or guest who attended the 2019 conference please share the experiences and knowledge you gained with your club members and those you know.

The Zone 2 spring meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th beginning at 10:00 am. For location and additional details please contact me.

Looking for a good meal and night out on the town? There are still a few upcoming fish and game banquets: Wheatland - March 2; Sarcee - March 9; High River - March 16 and Calgary - April 27. Search club websites or Facebook pages for more information or contact me.

Support the AFGA Wildlife Trust Fund by purchasing a raffle ticket for a 2018 Polar Ranger 570 Side by Side. Tickets can be purchased on-line at <http://www.afga.org> or contact the AFGA directly. Ticket books to sell can be obtained from the office. Donations to the Trust Fund can be made at any time.

DID U KNOW: The 1993 AFGA Programs Chair, Sheila Ferguson, was instrumental during her tenure in having youth delegates attend the annual conference which continues to this day. Appropriately the theme in 1994 was, "Youth - Our Link to the Future. (Conservation Pride and Passion, AFGA 1908-2008 History Book) 

Deb Clarke, deb.clarke@telus.net



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Zone 4 Report

FARAN SCHABER
ZONE 4 DIRECTOR

IT HAS BEEN a while since I have had a submission in the OCW, but I have stated before that I am not a writer and I don't want to be putting in the same information as the rest of the executive. With that being said, I have received an email from the Spruce Grove club expressing their regret on not seeing a submission from Zone 4. In their email they had suggested that they could supply information for the submission. In that light, I will put it out to all the clubs in Zone 4, that if you have information, events, projects that you would like me to include in my submission, please forward the information and I will try and have it included in my submission, Please keep in mind that out

submission dates are 2 months previous to the magazine date.

In regard to TECK Coal, I have not received any new information. Some of the trails will still be inaccessible to the public until new and safe trails can be developed. My next trails meeting will be in June sometime.

The WTF will have announced at Conference what we have been working on for the last year. Please remember that we have the WTF Side by Side Raffle being drawn the end of April. If you want tickets or you can sell a book or two, contact the office.

As of the date that this comes out, our hunting draws should have ended, and you have a month to fill your fishing draws. 🐦

Faran Schaber,
Zone 4 Director
schaberfaran@gmail.com



Zone 5 Report



ROBYN BUTLER
ZONE 5 DIRECTOR

BY NOW, CONFERENCE has come and gone, resolutions were passed and defeated. I know our executive will forward them to the proper government offices and follow up on them. Thank you to all who took the time to put in the resolutions as your thoughts and

ideas are important. I believe the conference will have been a huge success and I'm sure the youth would have had an awesome time.

Please don't forget the upcoming youth camps at Narrow Lake. Both camps run in July, this is a wonderful

experience for our youth. B.O.W. (Becoming an Outdoor Woman) Camps are also running again this year in July and by this time the camps may be full but you are welcome to register and if there is room, they will be happy to accept you.

Zone 5 spring meeting will be hosted by Mundare on April 13, hope to see lots of you there. This meeting will involve club reports, which are very interesting, and you have a chance to hear what other clubs are doing i.e. fundraisers, youth activities and other club events. You can list your club events in this magazine by e-mailing sandieb@afga.org "attention Sandie" and she will put them in for you.

I strongly urge you to send me your events for the year so I or other Zone 5 members may be able to attend or possibly help out. I know many of you hold archery shoots and trap shoots and want more attendance? Let me send it out to the clubs for you.

Hope you all had a great ice fishing season. 🐦

Robyn Butler
Zone 5 Director

The Alberta Fish & Game Association 56th Annual Wildlife Awards Banquet

Saturday April 27, 2019 * Cocktails 6:00pm * Dinner 7:00pm
Polish Hall, 10960 - 104 Street, Edmonton, AB



For more information contact the AFGA office at 780-437-2342
or email: office@afga.org or visit our website: www.afga.org

Individuals may only purchase up to 100 tickets, per species, per day for the first 90 days of the ticket sales. On the 91st day this will change and individuals can purchase as many tickets as they want.



ANTLERED MULE DEER RAFFLE - VALUED AT: \$5,000.00

The winning ticket will be able to hunt one ANTLERED MULE DEER, in accordance with all provisions of the Wildlife Act and Wildlife Regulations. This special licence is valid anywhere in Alberta during a general mule deer season or special antlered mule deer draw season as identified in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. This licence is not valid in WMUs 728 & 730 (Camp Wainwright). This special licence is also valid from December 1 to December 31, 2019, anywhere in Alberta (except WMUs 728 & 730 Camp Wainwright) that has a general or special antlered mule deer season identified in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations.

Antlered Mule Deer - This licence does not authorize hunting on Sundays in Wildlife Management units (WMUs) where the Sunday hunting of big game is prohibited. (This condition applies only to the WMU's in the 100's) This licence does not authorize hunting in any location where hunting is prohibited (such as in a wildlife sanctuary, park, ecological reserve, or restricted area). If a season is archery only, then only archery equipment must be used. **Raffle Licence # 517707 – ONLY 2,500 tickets printed**



ANTLERED ELK RAFFLE - VALUED AT: \$6,000.00

The winning ticket will be able to hunt one ANTLERED ELK, in accordance with all provisions of the Wildlife Act and Wildlife Regulations. This special licence is valid in Alberta during a general elk season or a special licence antlered elk draw season as identified in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. This licence is not valid in WMUs 728 & 730 (Camp Wainwright), WMU 624 (Cypress Hills Provincial Park) and WMU 936 (Cooking Lake-Blackfoot Grazing, Wildlife and Provincial Recreation Area). In addition to the antlered elk seasons listing in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, this special licence is also valid from December 1 to December 31, 2019 in the following wildlife management units: Antlered elk: WMUs 102, 104, 108, 116, 118, 119, 124, 144, 148, 150, 151, 152, 164, 166, 200-203, 208; three point elk (or larger): WMUs 214, 216, 221, 224, 302 - 360, 400, 402, 429, 504 - 508, 510, 511, 520 - 523, 526, 527, 544; six-point elk (or larger): WMUs 404 - 408, 412 - 428, 430 - 446, 509.

Antlered Elk - This licence does not authorize hunting on Sundays in Wildlife Management units (WMUs) where the Sunday hunting of big game is prohibited. (This condition applies only to the WMUs in the 100's) This licence does not authorize hunting in any location where hunting is prohibited (such as in a wildlife sanctuary, park, ecological reserve, or restricted area). If a season is archery only, then only archery equipment must be used. **Raffle Licence # 517706 – ONLY 3,000 tickets printed**



ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP - VALUED AT: \$30,000.00

The winning ticket will be able to hunt one minimum 4/5 curl Trophy Sheep, in accordance with all provisions of the Wildlife Act and Wildlife Regulations. This special licence is valid during open hunting seasons in all locations having an open season to sheep hunt, including a special licence trophy sheep draw season as identified in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations. In addition to the trophy sheep seasons listing in the 2019 Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations, this licence is also valid: from November 1 to December 15, 2019 in wildlife management units: 302, 303, 306, 308, 400 - 406, 412 - 428, 430 - 437, 439 - 446; from December 1 to December 15, 2019 in wildlife management units 408 and 438; from November 1 to December 15, 2019 in that portion of WMU 408 that is east of Highway 40.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep - This licence does not authorize hunting on Sundays in Wildlife Management units (WMUs) where the Sunday hunting of big game is prohibited. (The WMUs for this hunt are not affected by this condition). This licence does not authorize hunting in any location where hunting is prohibited (such as in a wildlife sanctuary, park, ecological reserve, or restricted area). If a season is archery only, then only archery equipment must be used. **Raffle Licence # 517705 – ONLY 15,000 tickets printed**

Tickets may be purchased by calling 1(780) 437- AFGA (2342) by email raffles@afga.org, online www.afgaraffle.ca or fill out the form below and mail/fax/email

Minister's Special Licence – Ticket Order Form

NAME: _____ **Phone #:** _____

ADDRESS: _____

POSTAL CODE: _____ **ELK # of Tickets** _____ x \$10.00 = _____

MULE DEER # of Tickets _____ x \$10.00 = _____ **BIGHORN SHEEP # of tickets** _____ x \$10.00 = _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

VISA/MC # _____

EXP. DATE _____ **3 Digit Code:** _____ (back of card)

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Draw date August 02, 2019 at the AFGA office - 13045 156 Street, Edmonton, AB. Minister's Special Licence will only be redeemable until December 1, 2019 as it is only valid for the 2019 Hunting Season. Following this date the cash equivalent of the prize will be awarded. Must be 18 years of age (restrictions apply). Tickets will be sold to residents of Alberta only.