



The Alberta Fish and Game Association is your voice in conservation

June 1, 2022

Honourable Jason Nixon
Minister of Environment and Parks, House Leader
Office of the Minister
323 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB, T5K 2B6
Emailed to: aep.minister@gov.ab.ca

Travis Ripley
Executive Director
Fish and Wildlife Stewardship Branch
Environment and Parks
Emailed to: Travis.Ripley@gov.ab.ca

Dear Honourable Jason Nixon and Mr. Travis Ripley,

The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) through its resolution process makes submissions to the Government of Alberta annually. The process involves an AFGA Affiliated Club, Zone, or Provincial Executive developing a resolution. Resolutions arising at a club, Zone, or provincial level move along a path that leads to broader endorsement.

At a club or Zone level, ratification is required by the Zone. Following discussion, the resolution is voted on at the Zone level. If approved, it is submitted to the AFGA Provincial Executive for review to ensure that it has met the criteria under the AFGA resolution process. Most resolutions end up on the floor at the AFGA Annual General Meeting for debate and voting by attending delegates. Those that receive a threshold of 75% support from the voting delegates are forwarded to the agency or organization that can provide a response. Resolutions that are defeated or do not make this threshold are not lost in the process. They are brought up during our ongoing discussions with the government and aid AFGA policy development.

Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) has provided formal feedback on AFGA resolutions for decades. There are benefits both to AEP and AFGA from this process. Most important is knowing what the Alberta angling and hunting community (citizens) believe are directions that AEP should be taking on issues. The feedback from AEP is greatly appreciated by AFGA members and Executive.

There are resolutions that when reviewed by the AFGA Provincial Executive are forwarded directly to the appropriate agency. The reasons are they are consistent with the policies and positions of the AFGA. Such resolutions are either local in context or considered urgent. Three recommendations tied to meaningful engagement were sent to AEP through Travis Ripley on February 8, 2022. The issue of meaningful engagement is a priority concern for AFGA. At the time of writing this letter, no acknowledgement or response from AEP has been received.

In addition to the resolutions, the formal position statements of AFGA are attached. These position statements result when a resolution is endorsed by the AFGA voting delegates three times in a five-year span. They provide important input for consideration related to issues that AEP has before it. No new positions statements were created this year. Attached is a copy of the current position statements.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association requests that the Government of Alberta review these resolutions and provide comment. The hope is that the viewpoint of Albertans will be reflected in future policy, direction, and regulation pertaining to wildlife and fisheries in Alberta.

Yours sincerely,



Victor Benz
President, Alberta Fish and Game Association

cc.:
AFGA Provincial Executive, Zones, and Clubs

Enclosure:

Alberta Fish and Game Association 2022 Resolutions with 75% or higher support
2022 Alberta Fish and Game Association Position Statements



Alberta Fish and Game Association 2022 Passed Resolutions > 75%

Number	Title	Drafted By	Submitted By
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Wildlife Resolutions

2022-W-1	Antlerless Elk	Sherwood Park Fish & Game	Zone 5
2022-W-2	Feral Wild Boar	Morinville Fish & Game	Zone 4
2022-W-3	Outfitter Allocations	Willow Valley Trophy Club	Zone 1
2022-W-4	Elk Licence	Willow Valley Trophy Club	Zone 1
2022-W-5	Chronic Wasting Disease	Drumheller & District Fish & Game	Zone 2
2022-W-6	Online Licence Wait Period	Okotoks & District Fish & Game	Zone 2
2022-W-7	Mountain Goat Management	Zone 6	Zone 6
2022-W-8	Black Powder Season	Lacombe Fish & Game	Zone 3

Wildlife Resolutions and Recommendations

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-1

Antlerless Elk

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) increase elk harvest opportunities for antlerless elk in WMUs where elk overpopulation is causing conflicts with landowners, thus avoiding elk culls.

Brief:

There have been some requests from landowners in certain regions of the province to initiate a cull of their local elk herds because they are raising havoc with crops, and stored grain and hay products. The increase of antlerless elk harvest opportunities in problem WMUs will allow hunters to harvest more elk in these areas.

Resolution is passed, 94% in favour

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-2

Feral Wild Boar

Be it resolved that: the AFGA take a strong proactive role in addressing and assisting possible eradication of the feral wild boar population which is building up in the province.

Brief:

Since the introduction of these pigs about 25-30 years ago as an agricultural enterprise, some have escaped into the outdoors at large, and have multiplied with worrisome rapidity. There is grave concern of the damage they can bring upon the environment and the domestic livestock industry. This great threat is still in its early stages but poses a potential risk of enormous measures.

An open season for hunting has shown to have the opposite effect to that desired, as it scatters the herds and increases the breeding numbers.

This is probably at least as serious as CWD and deserves our most serious consideration.

Perhaps this could be viewed as similar to Alberta's very successful rat control program which depends on the vigilance and expertise of all concerned, all aided and abetted by the Provincial Government.

Resolution is passed, 96% in favour

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-5

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Be it resolved that: in an effort to lower the CWD transmission rates in in the province, AEP increase the number of antlered mule deer tags in any WMU that has had CWD for the past two years.

This increased number of tags is to be available by creating a separate draw only for Alberta residents that are 12-17 years of age. These tags are for the rifle season only.

Brief:

It is well documented that mule deer are the largest carrier of CWD and therefore the largest spreaders of it. Increasing the number of mule deer buck tags should result in lower CWD transmission rates. By limiting these tags to youth hunters, who must be accompanied by an adult when hunting, it should not put more pressure on landowners, and the traffic on rural roads should not increase either as most of those adults would probably be hunting already anyway.

By making these tags for rifle season only it will also not affect the number of archery hunters in an area.

Resolution is passed, 78% in favour

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-6

Online Licence Wait Period

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request the Government of Alberta implement a 12-hour wait period before hunting licences purchased through the on-line method become valid to use.

Brief:

With the ability of hunting licences to be purchased through the AlbertaRELM app on mobile phones, it is possible for hunters to purchase a licence and fill out a tag immediately after killing an animal without having pre-purchased the licence (i.e., they poach the animal, then buy the tag immediately afterwards on their phone). Enforcement of poaching is very difficult in this situation. This fee avoidance also reduces funds available for wildlife management and may generally lead to an increase in licensing fees going forward. A 12-hour delay would help prevent this tactic.

Resolution is passed, 84% in favour

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-7

Mountain Goat Management

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that AEP prepare and implement management plans for the various mountain goat herds in the province in 2022.

Brief:

Mountain goat herds are declining through out the province. Without management plans, the herds will continue to decline until they are in a crisis situation like the caribou.

The decline of mountain goats is largely due to predation. The Caw Ridge herd was once the largest in the province at 160 head. Today there are 30 with one old billy. The reason for this decline was predation as there was no hunting allowed in this time period.

This drafter personally saw, while in Pine Patrol, five grizzlies, in a "u" shape, herding goats up a hill. Only by reducing predation can the herds be saved.

Some herds only have old billies in them and need to be replaced by younger ones. All avenues must be explored to find younger billies for some herds like the Caw Ridge herd.

Resolution is passed. 98% in favour



ALBERTA FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENTS

Updated April 27, 2022

Fisheries / Management

1. Management of Alberta's Fisheries resources must include a public consultation and endorsement process aimed at increasing consumptive harvest and/or recreational use of the overall Fisheries resource.
2. Cool water fisheries (Walleye, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, Lake Whitefish) have as their default fisheries management objective (priority) sustainable harvest.
3. Management of piscivorous birds, such as Double-Crested Cormorants, must be a tool available and used by managers to ensure sustainability of fisheries and overall ecosystem balance.
4. Habitat protection, enhancement, restoration, and development with the objective of optimizing overall aquatic ecosystem function should be the driver of fisheries management rather than current focus on regulating the harvest of individual fish species.

Fisheries / Management / Species

1. Rainbow Trout
 - a. The harvest of Rainbow Trout (naturalized species) in all flowing waters of the current Watershed Management Unit ES1 be allowed through appropriate angling regulations.
2. Bull Trout
 - a. Limited harvest of Bull Trout in watersheds that can sustain harvest be initiated in Alberta through the development of appropriate angling regulations.
3. Northern Pike
 - a. Most waterbodies that contain Northern Pike populations should be managed with a three (3) fish harvest limit and no size limit angling regulations (current provincial standard).
 - b. Waterbodies that contain Northern Pike populations that would benefit by the development of special regulations for a variety of reasons including social, economic, or environmental must be based on specific biological criteria supported by a public consultation process.
4. Yellow Perch
 - a. Most waterbodies that contain Yellow Perch populations should be managed with a fifteen (15) fish harvest limit and no size limit angling regulations (current provincial standard).
 - b. Waterbodies that contain Yellow Perch populations that would benefit by the development of special regulations for a variety of reasons including social, economic or environmental must be based on specific biological criteria supported by a public consultation process.

5. Lake Sturgeon
 - a. Any change to Lake Sturgeon angling regulations in Alberta must be supported by a rigorous public consultation process.
 - b. In the event of the need for additional angling regulations aimed at ensuring the sustainability of Lake Sturgeon populations in Alberta, such regulations must be developed in a manner that will not impact angling opportunity for other species co-habiting the ecosystem.

Fisheries / Management / Stocking

1. As a high priority, Walleye stocking in Alberta needs to be reinstated in lakes and reservoirs subject to habitat limitations (supplemental stocking) and/or for recovery purposes and/or establishment of put and take fisheries (depletion fisheries management objective).
2. Yellow Perch stocking should occur in Alberta to reintroduce and recover populations related to low oxygen or water levels in lakes and reservoirs.
3. Yellow Perch should be introduced and stocked into waterbodies such as small ponds, dugout and borrow pits that have suitable habitat to support the species.
4. Greater percentage of Alberta's stocked trout fisheries should be with multiple species of trout or other salmonids in order to provide diversity of angling experience and increased opportunity. (bench line 2018 stocking reports)

Fisheries / Aquaculture

1. Tiger Trout and Splake should be added to the list of fish species permitted for aquaculture to raise and provide to recreational and commercial fish culture license holders for stocking in private waterbodies.

Environment / Habitat / Fisheries

1. No net loss of fish habitat principles must be incorporated into government policy and regulation.
2. Fisheries program priorities by government and/or supporting agencies must emphasis protection, enhancement and development of fish habitat.
3. Waterbodies at risk of winterkill should have aeration systems installed by government and/or supporting agencies.
4. Habitat programs that improve the health of aquatic ecosystem must be initiated by government and/or supporting agencies on waterbodies prone to summer or winterkill of fish.

Environment / Water / Wetland

1. No peatland drainage will be permitted in Alberta unless an offsetting formula that mandates the replacement of such wetlands is in place.
2. Sedimentation incidents in waterbodies or wetlands must be reported and be publicly available.
3. Monitoring and enforcement by government or supporting agencies of sedimentation incidents at waterbodies and wetlands needs to be increased.

Hunting / Management / Species

1. Big Game – Cervids
 - a. Establishment of a deer and elk hunting season on the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve (David Lake).
 - b. Trophy Sheep Special Licences where currently not on a priority draw, be changed where successfully drawn applicants cannot reapply in the future – create a once in a lifetime opportunity only.
2. Big Game – Birds
 - a. Development of a Wild Turkey Management Plan for Alberta.
 - b. Establish an open Sandhill Crane season province-wide in conjunction with the other migratory bird seasons.
 - c. Establish a Mourning Dove season in Alberta.
3. Big Game – Predators
 - a. Establish a limited entry hunt for grizzly bears in any portion of the province where a population exists to sustain a harvest.
 - b. Establish an archery-only cougar season without dogs prior to the existing fall general cougar season.

Hunting / Management / Methods

1. Implementation of a mandatory big game registration system for all big game harvested in Alberta that would apply to all licensed, status Indian and Métis hunters.
2. The current regulations restricting the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) be removed from Alberta's Hunting Regulations.
3. All allocations for big game to outfitters in each WMU be cancelled where residents are applying and have to wait for more than three (3) years to be drawn for a specific tag.
4. Alberta Environment and Parks to release to the public an annual summary of all big game outfitter licence allocations by WMU for all big game species.
5. Development of regulations that increase resident waterfowl hunting opportunities by restricting the number of days or the timing of the hunting seasons that an outfitter may operate, and in so doing, reduce the conflict and competition for receiving access to hunt on private lands.
6. Removal of the “no hunting with a pistol or revolver” clause from the Alberta Hunting Regulations.
7. Crossbows be included in all archery seasons.
8. Creation of a partner licence for Antlered Elk and for Antlerless Elk Special Licences that are same as that which is now available for Moose Special Licences.
9. Change current regulations restricting the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to allow hunters who are paraplegic or quadriplegic or have permanent spinal injuries that confine them to a wheelchair, to hunt any big game throughout the non-motorized Public Land Use Zones (PLUZs) still referred to as Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZs) along the East Slopes Region of Alberta with the use of a “side by side utility vehicle” (UTV).
10. Change the current Alberta Hunting Regulations to allow the use of a leashed dog to track wounded animals.

11. That a waiting period for new residents of Alberta be instated before they are able to apply for resident hunting licenses and tags.
12. That Government of Canada amend the Criminal Code 84(1) (c) and Firearms Act prohibiting firearm suppressors so they can be used for recreational shooting and hunting. Furthermore, following such amendment, the Government of Alberta amend the Wildlife Act Schedule 1 Item 1 (8) to allow the use of firearm suppressors while hunting.



Alberta Fish and Game Association 2022 Resolutions and Recommendations with Results

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Drafted By</u>	<u>Submitted By</u>
Fisheries Recommendations			
2022-FR-1	Trout Population Decline	Calgary Fish & Game	Zone 2
2022-FR-2	Spring Lake Catch Limits	Edmonton Trout Fishing Club	Zone 4
2022-FR-3	Lesser Slave Lake Task Force	AFGA Provincial Executive	AFGA Executive
Wildlife Resolutions			
2022-W-1	Antlerless Elk	Sherwood Park Fish & Game	Zone 5
2022-W-2	Feral Wild Boar	Morinville Fish & Game	Zone 4
2022-W-3	Outfitter Allocations	Willow Valley Trophy Club	Zone 1
2022-W-4	Elk Licence	Willow Valley Trophy Club	Zone 1
2022-W-5	Chronic Wasting Disease	Drumheller & District Fish & Game	Zone 2
2022-W-6	Online Licence Wait Period	Okotoks & District Fish & Game	Zone 2
2022-W-7	Mountain Goat Management	Zone 6	Zone 6
2022-W-8	Black Powder Season	Lacombe Fish & Game	Zone 3
Wildlife Recommendations			
2022 WR-1	Mule Deer Special Licence	Willow Valley Trophy Club	Zone 1
2022-WR-2	Elk Season Change	Lacombe Fish & Game	Zone 3

Fisheries Recommendations

Fisheries Recommendation 2022 FR-1

Trout Population Decline

Be it recommended that: the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta prioritizes fishery management policy to address the decline in naturalized trout populations (Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout) in the Bow River and its tributaries, by way of the immediate establishment of a special task force of both government officials and fisheries stakeholders to develop a sustainable fisheries management plan.

Brief:

The 2018, University of Calgary research report documented a 43-50% decline in Bow River Rainbow Trout populations from 2003 to 2013 (1) with limited evidence of the cause. Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) conducted a series of Bow River fish population surveys from 2018 to 2021 which support that the decline in trout populations continue to this day (2). It is speculated that the Bow River trout population may well be as low as 25% from the 2003 population levels. A Bow River creel survey conducted in 2018 has indicated increased angling pressure on the fishery (3) that may well have contributed to the trout population decline. AEP established the Bow River Cumulative Effects Science Team in 2020 to investigate the reasons for the decline. An AEP - Bow River Fisheries Education Seminar (4) took place in the fall of 2021 to inform the fishing community of the cumulative effect modeling.

It is unclear as to the direction the Government of Alberta will take to develop a strategy to enhance the Bow River fishery. The Calgary Fish and Game Association believes that a task force is required to deal with the issues impacting the Bow River. The loss of this important world-class recreation fishery could account for more than \$25 million to the local economy and impact the viability of south-western Alberta's foothill trout fisheries.

REFERENCES:

- Multiple Challenges Confront a High-Effort Inland Recreational Fishery in Decline. Cahill CL, S Mogensen, KL Wilson, A Cantin, RN Sinnatamby, P Christensen, JR Reilly, L Winkle, A Farineau and JR Post. 2018. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.
- Bow River Fisheries Management Zone ES1/PP1.
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/40a348e3-dca0-4431-8142-e01006f3bc32/resource/e554bacc-dcf4-4952-8789-7adc5250b712/download/aep-bow-river-fisheries-management-zone-es1-pp1-2021-10.pdf>
- Survey to Estimate Angler Effort on the Bow River:
<https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/79bd9089-9a59-4c9c-8acb-3a577595780f/resource/a10213f7-e736-4604-92ae-95b543007515/download/aep-survey-estimate-angler-effort-bow-river-2018.pdf>

Drafted by: Calgary Fish and Game Association

Submitted by: Zone 2

Fisheries Recommendation 2022-FR-2

Spring Lake (Stony Plain) Catch Limits

Be it recommended that: the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta reduce the daily catch/possession limit rate at Spring Lake (west of Stony Plain) from five (5) trout daily, down to two (2) trout daily.

Brief:

With the increased angling pressure, after the aeration issues of a couple of years ago were resolved, plus reduced stocking of rainbow trout in the past years because of capacity issues within the provincial hatchery system, the Edmonton Trout Fishing Club is proposing a decrease in catch and possession limits from five trout to two trout for Spring Lake.

Drafted by: Edmonton Trout Fishing Club

Submitted by: Zone 4

This recommendation was submitted at the previous Conferences in 2019 and 2020.

Fisheries Recommendation 2022-FR-3

Lesser Slave Lake Task Force

Be it recommended that: the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that the Government of Alberta immediately establish a special task force of both government officials and fisheries stakeholders to develop a sustainable fisheries management plan for Lesser Slave Lake and its watershed.

Drafted by Alberta Fish and Game Association Provincial Executive

Submitted by AFGA Executive

Brief:

This recommendation is consistent with the January 6, 2022, letter from the Alberta Fish and Game Association President to the Minister of Alberta Environment and Parks, regarding engagement and consultations. Considering the provincial importance of its sport fisheries and the sheer size of Lesser Slave Lake, the level of engagement is inadequate. This is complicated by a lack of data, framework limitations, and multiple issues impacting the watershed. Waterbodies of such importance in other jurisdictions would have as part of the engagement process, an advisory council in place. Two examples where such councils exist are Lake Mille Lacs in Minnesota and Lake Nipissing in Ontario. AFGA believes that such a council should be struck immediately before proceeding with sportfishing regulation changes.

Wildlife Resolutions and Recommendations

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-1

Antlerless Elk

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) increase elk harvest opportunities for antlerless elk in WMUs where elk overpopulation is causing conflicts with landowners, thus avoiding elk culls.

Brief:

There have been some requests from landowners in certain regions of the province to initiate a cull of their local elk herds because they are raising havoc with crops, and stored grain and hay products. The increase of antlerless elk harvest opportunities in problem WMUs will allow hunters to harvest more elk in these areas.

Drafted by: Sherwood Park Fish and Game Association

Submitted by: Zone 5 (Northeast Alberta Fish and Game Association)

In favour: 51 out of 54 – 94%

Opposed: 3

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-2

Feral Wild Boar

Be it resolved that: the AFGA take a strong proactive role in addressing and assisting possible eradication of the feral wild boar population which is building up in the province.

Brief:

Since the introduction of these pigs about 25-30 years ago as an agricultural enterprise, some have escaped into the outdoors at large, and have multiplied with worrisome rapidity. There is grave concern of the damage they can bring upon the environment and the domestic livestock industry. This great threat is still in its early stages but poses a potential risk of enormous measures.

An open season for hunting has shown to have the opposite effect to that desired, as it scatters the herds and increases the breeding numbers.

This is probably at least as serious as CWD and deserves our most serious consideration.

Perhaps this could be viewed as similar to Alberta's very successful rat control program which depends on the vigilance and expertise of all concerned, all aided and abetted by the Provincial Government.

Drafted by: Morinville Fish and Game Club

Submitted by: Zone 4

In favour: 53 out of 55 - 96%

Opposed: 2

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-3

Outfitter Allocations – as Amended

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that AEP revisit their policy of Outfitter allocations to limit their share of species licences to not more than 10% of the available resident special licences in any single WMU and eliminate the use of Species Management Area (SMA) to manage Outfitter allocations.

Brief:

Outfitters can currently choose from multiple WMUs to guide clients as long as they remain in their much larger SMU allocation. A resident hunter who draws a special licence is limited to a single WMU. In the sense of fairness and transparency to the residents of this province, Outfitter allocations should be as restrictive as they are for residents.

Drafted by: Willow Valley Trophy Club

Submitted by: Zone 1

Motion to amend Resolution 2022-W-3 by Rod Dyck, seconded by Brian Rudyk

Motion by Greg Bird to table the Resolution, seconded by Brian Rudyk, show of hands, over 40 hands (more than 50%) in favour.

Resolution is tabled for the next AGM

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-4

Elk Licence – As Amended

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that AEP allow all youth (under 18 years) and seniors (65 and older) who possess a general elk licence to harvest either a cow or a legal bull in all WMUs where elk can be hunted on a general licence.

Brief:

Currently many provinces and states encourage young hunters with more generous and less stringent restrictions in order to encourage them to become involved in the sport of hunting and fishing. Most areas of the province that have elk on a general licence have difficulty harvesting enough cows.

Drafted by: Willow Valley Trophy Club

Submitted by: Zone 1

Motion to Amend Resolution 2022-W-4 by Rod Dyck, seconded by Brian Rudyk, show of hands, over 30 hands (more than 50%) in favour.

In favour: 23 out of 51 – 45%

Opposed: 28

Resolution is Defeated

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-5

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

Be it resolved that: in an effort to lower the CWD transmission rates in in the province, AEP increase the number of antlered mule deer tags in any WMU that has had CWD for the past two years.

This increased number of tags is to be available by creating a separate draw only for Alberta residents that are 12-17 years of age. These tags are for the rifle season only.

Brief:

It is well documented that mule deer are the largest carrier of CWD and therefore the largest spreaders of it. Increasing the number of mule deer buck tags should result in lower CWD transmission rates. By limiting these tags to youth hunters, who must be accompanied by an adult when hunting, it should not put more pressure on landowners, and the traffic on rural roads should not increase either as most of those adults would probably be hunting already anyway.

By making these tags for rifle season only it will also not affect the number of archery hunters in an area.

Drafted by: Drumheller and District Fish and Game Association

Submitted by: Zone 2

In favour: 39 out of 50 – 78%

Opposed: 11

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-6

Online Licence Wait Period

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request the Government of Alberta implement a 12-hour wait period before hunting licences purchased through the on-line method become valid to use.

Brief:

With the ability of hunting licences to be purchased through the AlbertaRELM app on mobile phones, it is possible for hunters to purchase a licence and fill out a tag immediately after killing an animal without having pre-purchased the licence (i.e., they poach the animal, then buy the tag immediately afterwards on their phone). Enforcement of poaching is very difficult in this situation. This fee avoidance also reduces funds available for wildlife management and may generally lead to an increase in licensing fees going forward. A 12-hour delay would help prevent this tactic.

Drafted by: Okotoks and District Fish and Game Association

Submitted by: Zone 2

In favour: 46 out of 55 - 84%

Opposed: 9

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-7

Mountain Goat Management

Be it resolved that: the AFGA request that AEP prepare and implement management plans for the various mountain goat herds in the province in 2022.

Brief:

Mountain goat herds are declining through out the province. Without management plans, the herds will continue to decline until they are in a crisis situation like the caribou.

The decline of mountain goats is largely due to predation. The Caw Ridge herd was once the largest in the province at 160 head. Today there are 30 with one old billy. The reason for this decline was predation as there was no hunting allowed in this time period.

This drafter personally saw, while in Pine Patrol, five grizzlies, in a "u" shape, herding goats up a hill. Only by reducing predation can the herds by saved.

Some herds only have old billies in them and need to be replaced by younger ones. All avenues must be explored to find younger billies for some herds like the Caw Ridge herd.

Drafted by: Peter Blake (Direct Member)

Submitted by: Zone 6

In favour: 46 out of 47 – 98%

Opposed: 1

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Resolution 2022-W-8

Black Powder Season

Be it resolved that: black powder seasons be re-established in some of the eastern WMUs in the 200 series by allowing muzzle loaders in the last two weeks of the archery season. By re-establishing black powder seasons in the eastern WMUs of series 200, it would decrease the hunting pressure on existing muzzle loader seasons.

Brief:

Previously, the hunting public were encouraged to use muzzle loaders when they had the two-week muzzle loading season (2008+). Since the discontinuation of this opportunity, wait-times in the Wainwright deer season have skyrocketed.

Drafted by: Lacombe Fish & Game

Submitted by: Zone 3

In favour: 31 out of 50 – 62%

Opposed: 19

Resolution is passed

Wildlife Recommendation 2022-WR-1

Mule Deer Special Licence

Be it recommended that: the AFGA request that AEP establish a Special Licence for mule deer within the boundaries of the Oldman Dam Provincial Recreation Area for "primitive weapons" (i.e., archery, shotgun, and muzzle loading firearms).

Brief:

With the sanctuary provided by the Oldman Dam Provincial Recreation areas, adjoining farmers have suffered from the increase in the local mule deer population. A controlled harvest of both male and female mule deer by way of a special licence could help reduce the impacts substantially. By limiting the hunt to primitive weapons only, safety of the public in the five Day-Use Areas, four Camping Areas, and Group Use Area would be accounted for.

Drafted by: Willow Valley Trophy Club

Submitted by: Zone 1

Wildlife Recommendation 2022-WR-2

Elk Season Change

Be it recommended that: Meadows Wildlife Management Unit 429 return back to the original season dates of September 17 to November 30 instead of being the only 400 series Elk season to open late, November 1 - November 30.

Brief:

By changing the Meadows Wildlife Management Unit 429 back to the original season dates of September 17 to November 30 from November 1 - November 30, it would keep the season consistent with the rest of the Zone avoiding confusion and non-compliance incidents.

Drafted by: Lacombe Fish and Game

Submitted by: Zone 3