



Alberta Fish and Game Association Policy Statements Related to Fisheries and Water

Fishing: February 2018

2.5 Selective Harvest of Fish

2.5.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association recognizes that fish are an important source of food for mankind. The harvest of fish must be done in ways that allows for the successful live release of non-target fish species; target fish species that fall within protected size ranges or other overlying restrictions; and incidental species such as amphibians, birds and mammals. In addition, monitoring and research activities related to fish populations should employ strategies and techniques that allow for the live release of fish rather than current lethal sampling protocols

RELATED POLICY STATEMENTS

Access and Land Use: February 2020

6.7 Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)

6.7.1 The AFGA believes in public access to public lands, and that all OHV access to public lands should be achieved in a non-destructive, environmentally responsible manner.

6.7.1.1 The AFGA is opposed to unsustainable and destructive use of publicly accessible land and of fish and wildlife habitat by any means.

6.7.1.2 The AFGA recognizes that unrestricted OHV access may not be compatible with limited areas such as those identified in land use plans, small parcels, and some sensitive terrain.

6.7.1.3 The AFGA supports the use of designated OHV routes.

The AFGA favours the concept of partial rather than complete reclamation of obsolete industrial roads, utilizing existing infrastructure such as bridges and culverts for designated OHV routes. Done concurrent with eliminating OHV traffic from nearby sensitive terrain, this would provide net environmental and recreational benefits greater than complete reclamation of such infrastructure.

6.7.1.4 The AFGA is in favour of all revenues collected by the licensing of OHVs being directed to the development of hardened designated OHV routes and the enforcement of existing OHV use regulations that protect habitat.

6.7.2 The AFGA supports the use of OHVs for back country access, including retrieval of harvested big game, and stresses that an OHV operator must avoid damaging the environment when using an OHV.

6.7.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association stresses that an OHV operator must consider the enjoyment, comfort and safety of others when using an OHV and will operate the OHV in such a manner as to minimize disturbance to fish, wildlife and other users.

6.7.4 The AFGA supports the provision of special OHV and Weapons permits and licences to hunters who have serious disabilities.

POLICY STATEMENTS RELATED TO FISHERIES AND WATER UNDER REVIEW

The following policy statements date from February 26, 2005, and earlier. They are currently undergoing review and may not represent the current position of the Alberta Fish and Game Association. The Alberta Fish and Game Association also has position statements that are developed using a grass roots resolution process. They are debated and voted on at the Alberta Fish and Game Association Annual General Meeting. These position statements reflect the majority viewpoint expressed by members on issues based on being passed three times in a five-year period. Policy, position statements, and resolutions are used to guide the association in it's advocacy undertakings.

2.0 FISHING

2.1 Habitat Enhancement

- 2.1.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes in a firm position for habitat protection on streams, lakes and ponds in Alberta and for rehabilitation where habitat has been altered.
- 2.1.2 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that adequate fish hatchery facilities are necessary for a good management program.

2.2 Power Craft on Fishing Lakes & Streams

- 2.2.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes Provincial restrictions for environmental protection should be enacted in certain circumstances to reduce the negative impact on fish and wildlife resources.
- 2.2.2 The Alberta Fish and Game Association supports encouraging users of power driven watercraft to use discretion and caution while considering the activities of other users of the water.
- 2.2.3 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that speed boat restrictions should exist along the lakeshores of all fish-bearing lakes.

2.3 Game Fish Management

- 2.3.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that game fish management in Alberta should be directed to provide the optimum number of angling opportunities for Alberta residents.
- 2.3.2 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that game fish management should insure sustainability of fish stocks.

2.4 Competitive Fishing – Derbies and Tournaments

- 2.4.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association supports properly managed competitive fishing events. Management should include increased awareness and elimination, where possible, of all factors contributing to unintended fish mortality.
- 2.4.2 The Alberta Fish and Game Association maintains that competitive fishing events must be licensed and sponsored only by non-profit organizations, with a substantial percentage of over-cost income returned to the fishery resource in the form of project funding.
- 2.4.3 The Alberta Fish and Game Association believes that private or commercial competitive events should not be allowed.

2.5 Commercial Fishing replaced by Selective Harvest of Fish (February 2018)

2.6 Aqua-Culture

- 2.6.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that importation of any exotic or non-indigenous fish species for the purpose of aqua-culture on Alberta be subject to environmental risk assessment studies.
- 2.6.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that no exotic or non-indigenous species of fish be raised in water bodies with a drainage outlet to a river or stream in Alberta unless the stock is sterile and appropriate screening occurs.
- 2.6.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that no species of fish that are a threat to fish habitat be propagated in Alberta.

3.0 NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1 Water Resources

The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that no license to dam or divert water should be issued without extensive study and public discussion regarding the effect on the area and total environment.

3.2 Water Resources Minister

The Alberta Fish & Game Association strongly supports the establishment of two ministries by each of the governments of the province of Alberta and Canada for the safeguarding of water.

3.3 Water Export

The Alberta Fish & Game Association condemns any government policy, which would permit or undertake future exports of Canadian water to foreign lands.

3.4 Flooding Across Borders

The Alberta Fish & Game Association requests the Federal Government to prohibit provincial Governments from making any deals with foreign powers or any companies resulting in Canadian land being flooded by dams erected across any provincial or territorial boarder.

3.5 Nuclear Energy

The Alberta Fish & Game Association is, not at this time, opposed to the concept of nuclear electric power generation in Alberta subject to the safe disposal of radioactive waste and effective environmental assessment.

3.6 Water

- 3.6.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association endorses the promotion of the recycling of effluent waters for agricultural and industrial use.
- 3.6.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association endorses and supports strategies and regulatory development that ensures minimum stream flow requirements to maintain aquatic food production and healthy fish populations.

3.7 Wild Rivers

The Alberta Fish & Game Association is committed to preserving some free flowing rivers, streams, and portions thereof as is now being given to the damming and diverting of our rivers and streams for the purpose of agricultural, domestic and industrial use, and shall include, but not be limited to those listed in Schedule A.

Schedule A

Battle Creek, (49° 38" 110' 00") within Cypress Hills Park watershed.

Greyburn Creek, (flows NE into Battle Creek, 14-8-1-W4, 49° 38" 110' 01") within Cypress Hills Park watershed.

Mild River, (1-1-5-W4, 49° 00" 110' 33") from west boundary of Writing on Stone Park to the U.S. border, Crown land on either side. Most important part is from Range 9 W4 to the U.S. border.

Castle River, (flows NE into Oldman River 27-7-30-W4, 49° 36" 113' 59") watershed upstream from the Carbondale River, including all tributaries.

Oldman River, (27-11-13-W4, 49° 57" 11' 42") upstream from the Forest Boundary including all tributaries and full watershed.

Highwood River, (flows NE into Bow River 26-21-28-W4, 50° 49" 113' 47") upstream from the Forest Reserve Boundary including all tributaries and full watershed.

South Saskatchewan River, (50° 53" 110' 00") from SE corner of British Block downstream to Saskatchewan border on east bank area, not in the restricted area.

Ghostpine Creek, (flows SE into Red Deer River, 34-29-21-W4, 51° 32" 112' 54") from the Red Deer River upstream for the section which is in the badlands area as far north as the road east from Morrin.

Cottonwood Creek, (flows S into Galwey Creek, 2-29-W4, 49° 08' 113° 51'") below reservoir for approximately 3 to 4 miles.

Clearwater River, (16-39-7-W5, 52° 22' 114° 57'") from park boundary to forest reserve boundary.

South Ram and watershed (flows NE into North Saskatchewan River 39-10-W5, 52° 23' 115° 25'")

Panther and Red Deer Rivers, (Panther flows NE into Red Deer 31-10-W5, 51° 39' 115° 19', Red Deer 50° 58' 110° 00'") from National Park boundary to the edge of the forest reserve.

Blackstone River, (flows NE into Brazeau 52° 50' 116° 07'") and tributaries including Wapiabi Creek (flows NE into Blackstone 42-17-W5, 52° 37' 116° 20'") and Cardinal Creek (flows E into Brazeau 52° 52' 117° 18'").

Shunda Creek (flows E into North Saskatchewan 40-13-W5, 52° 28' 115° 47'").

Battle River areas (49° 38' 110° 00'") from Hardisty to the Saskatchewan border.

Red Deer River, (50° 58' 110° 00'") in the vicinity of the Badlands Park, comprising areas both up and downstream from the park.

Elbow River, (14-24-1-W5, 41° 03' 114° 02'") flows east into Bow River.

Sheep River, (32-20-28-W4, 50° 44' 13° 51'") flows east into Highwood River.

Dutch Creek, (11-3-W5, 49° 54' 114° 23'") flows east into Oldman River.

Cataract Creek, (16-5-W4, 50° 24' 114° 35'") flows north into Highwood River.

Hay River, (35-8-W5, 52° 03' 115° 05'") flows east into Clearwater River.

Raven River, (28-35-3-W5, 52° 02' 114° 22'") flows SE into Red Deer River.

House River, (56° 12' 112° 30'") flows NW into Athabaska River.

Clearwater River, (56° 12' 112° 30'") flows east into Athabaska River.

La Biche River, (31-69-18-W4, 55° 19' 112° 44'") flows W into Athabasca River.

Sand River, (19-62-W4, 54° 23' 111° 02'") flows south into Beaver River.

Brazeau River, (45-9-W5, 52° 56' 115° 12'") flows E into North Saskatchewan River.

Wolf Creek, (54-16-W5, 53° 38' 116° 17'") flows N into McLeod River.

McLeod River, (59-12-W5, 54° 09' 115° 42'") flows NE into Athabaska River.

Bow River, (22-11-13-W4, 49° 51' 111° 41'") flows E into Oldman River.

Stauffer Creek, (16-34-4-W5, 52° 05' 114° 30'") flows SE into Raven River.

Smokey River, (18-83-21-W5, 56° 11' 117° 19'") flows N into Peace River.

Wapiti River, (7-71-2-W6, 55° 08' 118° 18'") flows NE into Smokey River.

Whitemud Creek, (26-51-25-W4, 53° 27' 113° 33'") flows into Blackmud Creek

Chinchaga River, (58° 53' 118° 20'") flows N into the Hay River

Wabasca River, (58° 22' 115° 20'") flows N into Peace River

Berland River, (58-25-W5), tributary of the Athabaska River.

Simonette River, (68-26-W5), tributary of the Smokey River

3.8 Water Management in Alberta

- 3.8.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that the use of naturally occurring water should remain as a free right for non-consumptive purposes.
- 3.8.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes there should be no inter-basin transfers of water without a full investigation of the implications to the donor and the receiving watershed.
- 3.8.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that the sale of lakebeds and riparian areas should be prohibited.
- 3.8.4 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes the government should protect and where possible obtain the ownership of lakebeds, riverbeds, and riparian areas from private ownership.