



Alberta Fish & Game Association

Appendix 2: AFGA Policy Statements

POLICY STATEMENTS OF THE ALBERTA FISH & GAME ASSOCIATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	HUNTING.....	1
1.1	Hunting or Fishing Lodge Leases	1
1.2	Sunday Hunting	1
1.3	Civilian Wildlife Patrol.....	1
1.4	Report-A-Poacher	1
1.5	Big Game/Bird Game.....	1
1.6	Lead Shot	1
1.7	Native Hunting.....	2
2.0	FISHING	2
2.1	Habitat Enhancement	2
2.2	Power Craft on Fishing Lakes & Streams	2
2.3	Game Fish Management	2
2.4	Competitive Fishing – Derbies and Tournaments.....	2
2.5	Commercial Fishing	3
2.6	Aqua-Culture.....	3
3.0	NATURAL RESOURCES.....	3
3.1	Water Resources	3
3.2	Water Resources Minister	3
3.3	Water Export.....	3
3.4	Flooding Across Borders	4
3.5	Nuclear Energy	4
3.6	Water.....	4
3.7	Wild Rivers	4
3.8	Water Management in Alberta.....	6
4.0	NATIONAL PARKS	6
5.0	TRAPPING	6
6.0	ACCESS AND LAND USE.....	6
6.1	Wildlife and Agricultural Conflicts	6
6.2	Wilderness Areas	7
6.3	Access Management	7
6.4	Game Ranching.....	8
6.5	Mining.....	8
6.6	Habitat Retention	8
6.7	Off-Road Highway Vehicles.....	8
7.0	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.....	9
7.1	Use of Carbofuran.....	9
8.0	FIREARMS USAGE.....	9
8.1	Firearms Legislation	9
9.0	JUNIOR CONSERVATION.....	10
10.0	MEMBERSHIP POLICY.....	10
11.0	GOVERNMENT	10
12.0	MEDIA REQUESTS	11

1.0 HUNTING

1.1 Hunting or Fishing Lodge Leases

The Alberta Fish & Game Association is opposed to assignment of hunting and fishing lodge leases on public lands for any exclusive use.

1.2 Sunday Hunting

[Revised in 2003, through Extraordinary Resolution E-1-2003]

The Alberta Fish & Game Association is in favour of Sunday hunting, province wide, to encourage and promote more recreational opportunities.

1.3 Civilian Wildlife Patrol

The Alberta Fish & Game Association endorses a Civilian Wildlife Patrol program that supports the Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers.

1.4 Report-A-Poacher

The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports the “Report-a-Poacher” programs and the reward monies offered therein as an incentive for all citizens of Alberta to participate.

1.5 Big Game/Bird Game

It is the policy of the Alberta Fish & Game Association to activate programs, wherever necessary, to conserve and/or manage our big game and bird game populations in Alberta and that we present before appropriate levels of Government the views, proposals and desires of the Association pertaining to the management of our big game and bird game.

1.6 Lead Shot

[Revised in 1998, through Special Resolution S-3-1998]

Canadian Wildlife Services has identified the use of lead shot for hunting and target shooting as creating a hazard for wildlife. There are some areas in Canada where high use of lead shot and local conditions magnify this hazard to unaccepted levels. Use of lead shot in Alberta presents relative low risk to wildlife.

Federal Migratory Birds Regulations as amended August 13, 1997 by the Governor in Council provide an increased amount of protection of migratory birds, wildlife, and the environment.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association maintains the position that no further regulations banning the use of lead shot in Alberta are necessary.

The Alberta Fish and Game Association will encourage the purchase and use of non-toxic shot on a voluntary basis.

1.7 Native Hunting

The Alberta Fish and Game Association adheres to the basic principles of equal treatment for all citizens of Canada in regards to fish and wildlife management and utilization.

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

- 2.5.1 The Alberta Fish and Game Association supports commercial fishing on waters and species that do not conflict with recreational use.
- 2.5.2 The Alberta Fish and Game Association supports methods of commercial fishing that allow sports fish to be safely released.
- 2.5.3 The Alberta Fish and Game Association (AFGA) recognizes that a Commercial Fishery in Alberta is a source of food for Albertans and income for those in the industry. The economic value of the sport fishery far exceeds that of the commercial fishery and provides recreation for thousands of Albertans. The AFGA, therefore, believes that commercial fishing:
 - a) Targeting game fish species in remote lakes be closely monitored to insure sustainability of populations,
 - b) Be encouraged to use seasonal opportunities to avoid incidental game fish catches,
 - c) Be eliminated on water bodies with marginal target species populations.

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 Athabasca River.

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

4.0 NATIONAL PARKS

- 4.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association recognizes the need of areas in Canada where large ecosystems can exist with as little impairment as possible.
- 4.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association does not support park expansion.
- 4.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that where consumptive use of fish and wildlife surplus as a management tool can be used, it should be considered.

5.0 TRAPPING

- 5.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that regulated trapping is a safe, efficient, and practical means of capturing individual animals without impairing the well-being of furbearer populations or the environment.
- 5.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports the use of regulated trapping for the sustained harvest of some species of furbearer for economic benefit, subsistence, and outdoor recreation, and as an effective method for managing or studying furbearers, controlling damage caused by furbearers, and reducing the spread of harmful disease.

6.0 ACCESS AND LAND USE

6.1 Wildlife and Agricultural Conflicts

- 6.1.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) supports the concept and practice of management of game species, as well as furbearers. To this end, AFGA strongly urges government management agencies to use the hunter and trapper to the greatest extent possible as a management tool to regulate populations and, where possible, to avoid or reduce damage from wildlife. This is preferable to complete dependence on service personnel and will result in better resource utilization.

- 6.1.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports the use of lure crops and diversion techniques to lessen or eliminate crop or livestock losses from wild life as a public service to farmers who cannot defend their property.
- 6.1.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) believes proper land use is urged in agricultural areas so as to perpetuate as much as possible a balance in wild species and avoid creation of monocultures. To this end, AFGA believes that marginal private lands and some public lands should be maintained in their natural states so wildlife of many species can exist near and in our settlements.

6.2 Wilderness Areas

- 6.2.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association does not support the concept of increasing the number and/or size of protected areas such as national parks, ecological reserves, Protected Areas, and special places as these typically result in reduced hunting and fishing opportunities.
- 6.2.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that immediate legislative action is necessary to protect public interests and prohibit the sale of our public lands and the renewable resources thereon.
- 6.2.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association endorses the use of public hearing in any disposition of public lands and does not support the loss of hunting and fishing opportunities on disposition of such lands.
- 6.2.4 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that clearly stated environment controls and responsibilities must be placed on exploiters of all resources; however, non-commercial users of public land must not be charged a fee or denied access at any time by a lease or permit holder other than for reasons given in the Recreational Access to Public Leased land Legislation.
- 6.2.5 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that hunting and fishing, the original and many times only form of recreation in these areas, should not be curtailed, limited or discontinued, in favour of other forms of recreation in these parks, countries or recreation areas.

6.3 Access Management

- 6.3.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports designated routes as part of a rational land use plan, particularly, in high use problem areas.
- 6.3.2 Both to assist lessees and public users of public lands, the Alberta Fish & Game Association will not condone illegal closure of access to public multiple use lands or closure of licensed vehicle use roads to public use, except in cases of extreme conditions of danger, and authorized only by a land use agency of Government.
- 6.3.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes in access, camping and parking areas with facilities adjacent to our lakes and streams are desirable.

6.4 Game Ranching

- 6.4.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) is strongly opposed to Game Ranching in Alberta. AFGA believes that game farming and ranching will be one of the greatest threats to wildlife, hunting and recreation in this province.
- 6.4.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that the government must move to phase out existing game farms and ranches, and ensure that no new game farms or ranches are developed.
- 6.4.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association is opposed to the trapping of wildlife to supply game farms.

6.5 Mining

The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) believes that Alberta's large coal reserves are valuable non-renewable resource and AFGA supports an orderly and timely use of this resource for public benefit following effective environment assessment and definition of end use and proper reclamation.

6.6 Habitat Retention

- 6.6.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association endorses the right of public ownership of wildlife and most vigorously opposes any system of sale of rights that will erode that principle.
- 6.6.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports the retention of habitat by the following three methods, in order of priority:
 - 1. Land acquisition;
 - 2. Leases/easements; and
 - 3. Volunteer agreements.

6.7 Off-Road Highway Vehicles

- 6.7.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes a person should be allowed to use an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) at any time to retrieve a killed big game animal by the most direct route possible and be allowed to bring an encased or broken down firearm and/or bow and arrows with him/her for that purpose. Exceptions would be in certain areas identified in access management plans.
- 6.7.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association encourages that an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) operator will make considerations of the environment when using an OHV so as to minimize any possible damage or to avoid damaging the environment if at all possible.
- 6.7.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association encourages that an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV) operator will consider the wishes, comfort and safety of others when using an OHV and will not operate the OHV in such a manner as to offend anyone in a purposeful manner.
- 6.7.4 The Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) recommends that the Government experiment with the provision of special permits to physically disabled individuals that would allow those individuals to hunt and use their firearms and/or bows and arrows

from an Off-Road Highway Vehicle (OHV). AFGA supports that these OHV permits should only be given to paraplegics and functional low-level quadriplegics with appropriate medical documentation.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

7.1 Use of Carbofuran

It has now been found that Carbofuran (an insecticide) decomposition rates can vary with pH and its effect on honey bees have been well documented. Human illness is being reported more frequently when and where carbofuran is being used. Now that carbofuran is being widely used, it is not the time to be learning about new problems with the chemical. Therefore, Alberta Fish & Game Association encourages that the Government immediately ban the use of the insecticide carbofuran (also known as Furadan) until further study demonstrates its safety to animals, including humans.

8.0 FIREARMS USAGE

8.1 Firearms Legislation

8.1.1 The Alberta Fish & Game Association has established policy statements regarding Firearms Legislation, in support of the following objectives:

- a) To ensure that Albertans continue to enjoy reasonable and generous access to all firearms.
- b) To develop and to ensure the preservation of opportunities to use firearms for recreational purposes including hunting, target shooting, gun collecting and for other purposes including pest control, investment and display.

8.1.2 The Alberta Fish & Game Association supports that Mandatory Firearms Training is requisite for all first time applicants for the Firearms Acquisition Certificate and that demonstrated proficiency in the care and safe handling of firearms should be a requirement for obtaining and using firearms.

8.1.3 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that, whether a right or a privilege, the private ownership of firearms is no less important than other basic freedoms.

8.1.4 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that violent crimes involving the use of a weapon of any description should result in severe penalties, with limited eligibility for parole.

8.1.5 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that ownership of firearms by private citizens is a Canadian tradition no less important than other cultural traditions.

8.1.6 The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes that firearm owners must be reimbursed for the value of any firearms and/or accessories where the value of these is adversely affected through Provincial or Federal legislation.

9.0 JUNIOR CONSERVATION

The Alberta Fish & Game Association believes in encouraging youth to participate in conservation activities relating to hunting, fishing and wise outdoor use.

10.0 MEMBERSHIP POLICY

The policy of the Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA) shall be to improve and promote membership at all times and by every means available. AFGA membership is open to all people who subscribe to the AFGA vision, mission and goals.

11.0 GOVERNMENT

The Alberta Fish & Game Association strongly encourages the Provincial Government to commit sufficient internal financial resources to the management and enforcement of our natural resources to ensure the adequate protection and effective use of fish and wildlife resources.

12.0 MEDIA REQUESTS

Format for responding:

1. It is the responsibility of the President to co-ordinate responses to the media and unless specifically authorized or directed to do so, no other person is permitted to respond.
2. Research past resolutions to determine if a position by way of a passed resolution has been taken. These have highest priority as the decision is member based.
3. If the request pertains specifically to a hunting/fishing/programs/environment matter, speak with the respective chair to gain further insight into the inquiry.
4. Research recent executive meeting notes to see if there have been discussions/decisions that have been made by the executive on the subject matter.
5. If we have AFGA representatives that are assigned to committees that have particular knowledge of the subject make attempts to get their opinion on the matter.
6. Prepare a written response that can be vetted by other available executive members before addressing the media directly.
7. Responses should be completed and available for distribution within a reasonable timeframe. (2-3 hours)
8. Responses may then be by e-mail, phone, in-person, or on camera.

Additional points to consider when speaking with reporters of any ilk. There are a number of others however these are the main ones that could be relied on.

1. If caught off guard when interview request is first made it's ok to say something like "I don't have both sides of the story yet so can I get back to you in the next little while?", "This was just brought to my attention so I'd like to get more information in order to provide you with an informed comment, can I call you back in?"
Should this not suit the interviewer then that's too bad, there will be others calling. It's best to miss an interview than to say something wrong. Reporters are trained to get a soundbite through any number of methods, i.e. multiple questions at once, dead silence.
2. No one is obligated to answer the question as asked, instead transition it through rephrasing it to something more flexible that can bring out the message that you want to get across in a positive manner. This is not evading the question which is not a proper thing to do. Questions can be narrowed or broadened this way, i.e. "Before I answer the question, it must be explained that...."
3. It's a good idea to re-state the question, especially on radio/tv and answer in a positive manner using short precise words. Avoid "yes/no" answers at all costs; they'll lead to disaster, i.e. "have you stopped poaching?" If the answer is yes then the comment would be "Oh you admit to being a poacher" If no then it's obvious.
4. To achieve clarity, it's ok to question the reporter, i.e. "Would you rephrase the question?", "I'm not sure I understand your question."
5. Remember that there is no such thing as "off the record".
6. If you want to kill the interview because you sense it's not going your way, start rambling about anything that you can segway into from the initial question. Once the reporter's eyes glaze over you've achieved your goal!