



Annual General Meeting 2010

10 April, 2010
1:00 pm

620 Bond Lake Road
Williams Lake, BC

Present: Tony Koett, Gerry Lucas, Sharon Haines, Garth Lee, Wayne Biffert, Barry Jenkins:

Meeting Chaired: Jacques Drisdelle, President

1:08 pm – The meeting was called to Order

1. **Minutes from last year's AGM** read by Jacques Drisdelle
Seconded by Tony Koett - Carried

2. **Treasurer's Report** submitted by Colin Almond and read by Jacques Drisdelle
Financial Report for the period of Feb 28, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Feb 28, 2009	Opening Bank Balance	\$1,764.80
Feb 28, 2009	Payment to Mike Fowler	\$62.04
Jan 18, 2010	Payment to Jacques Drisdelle	\$279.75
Various	Monthly interest	\$0.72
March 31, 2010	Ending Bank Balance	\$1,423,73

Moved by Jacques Drisdelle and seconded by Sharon Haines - Carried

3. **President's report** submitted by Jacques Drisdelle
Copy of the report is attached. Moved that the report be accepted – seconded by Tony Koett - Carried

4. **Committee Reports**

A. **Allocation Committee** – Garth Lee

Garth reported that in accordance with the recommendation made by Rodger Stewart of MOE to develop relationships with First Nations he has tried to get a meeting with the Canim Lake Band but has been unsuccessful. He did call Rodger Stewart to discuss the difficulties faced with establishing a rapport and Stewart mirrored the same frustration with the Northern Shuswap. He reported hearing back that some people felt that his comments at the December 8, 2009 meeting with MOE had been criticized for being too harsh and he wondered how are we to know what to ask about First Nations issues. Some felt that Garth's remarks were not offensive but others felt that due to a lack of understanding of how government works and the difference in the cultures that the remarks were abrasive without realizing it or without intending them to be. Garth feels that First Nations do not understand the value and importance of establishing positive relations with resident hunters and he is frustrated by this.

Going back to the December 8th 2009 meeting with MOE he expressed frustration that the meeting wasn't controlled and that it was a bit of a free for all. He feels that MOE placated the Region and that for them its business as usual and that we have lost momentum and lost out foothold in asserting any change.

B. Ecosystem Restoration Committee – Jacques Drisdelle

Jacques reported that his involvement on this committee is ongoing. As per last year's report that the Ecosystem Restoration Committee were looking for funding to develop a five year plan and hiring a consultant to put that plan together. That action has been achieved and a contractor has been hired and the five year plan will be ready by July 2010.

5. Regional Business

A. The Future for BCWF in Region 5

Concern was raised that the Regional BCWF Committee and its members are showing little interest or concern with the current issues that are affect the membership and the question was asked if we should fold and let Region 3 take over the work for our region. There were seven (7) members in attendance for this AGM and there should have been fifty people instead. Our regional members do not care about the issues that face them and why are a few sticking their necks out there for their sake. Paying their club membership isn't enough, people must become informed and aware that their hunting heritage is at stake. We are simply not a force for MOE to be reckoned with and we are not being successful in our work to be heard and effect change. The bottom line is that this concern has to be communicated within the region to as many members as possible and if there is no show of concern, we may need to just fold and stay home.

ACTION ITEM: As part of the discussion it was suggested that the Region hold a Conference Call in the next month or two to discuss this very issue.

B. MOE's priorities in question.

At present MOE priorities on wildlife management are ranked as follows:

1. Conservation
2. First Nations priority
3. Resident priority
4. Non-resident priority

The question asked is why are we accepting this? MOE use the first two priorities very effectively in barring us from having reasonable harvest allocations. We do not have a General Open Season for Moose while other regions do and there is no reasonable reason for that. We are being stonewalled every time with this equation. First Nations do not report their kills and MOE are forced to make up a number before deciding what the Annual Allowable Harvest will be. This is simply not acceptable.

C. BCWF Business Plan

The Federation's approach and methodology for dealing with the numerous serious issues facing resident hunters is wholly inadequate in some member's views. There is too much of a desire to keep MOE happy and not ask the hard questions of the Ministry and make them accountable. The Ministry uses stall tactics and are not following their own wildlife management policy. The Minister of Environment should be questioned directly on why there are not following their own Management Policy.

Jacques Drisdelle reported that there is more pressure being placed on MOE than the general membership is aware. The Ministry is being taken to task as to why they are not following their own management policy. There is some progress happening in this way, it may not appear obvious to some members at the present.

D. Legal Defence Fund vs Resident Hunter Priority Fund

There is some confusion as to which fund exists. Recently the BCWF made some recommendations for the Legal Defence Fund to take specific actions relative to the First Nations Roadblocks in the Clappan River Road in Northern BC but the Legal Defence Fund Committee came back and informed the Federation that they couldn't make those decisions and then advise the LDFC which actions to take. It is up to the LDFC to choose the issues, which they in turn propose to the Federation for their consideration.

E. Voting balance at BCWF Convention AGM

Concern was raised that smaller clubs in the interior are being outnumbered by the larger clubs in the Lower Mainland and Lower Vancouver Island as their hold the balance of power by virtue of having more votes on the Annual AGM. It was explained that the voting is on annual resolutions which do not affect specific regions but are for the betterment of general issues around the province. This year's convention resolutions were reviewed quickly and there are not that could or would adversely affect our region if passed. The final question was that we watch this process carefully to ensure that we are not disadvantaged in this process.



F. CORE – Becoming certified to instruct.

Tony Koett brought up the fact that he has been trying to become a certified CORE and Firearms Instructor but all attempts through Wes Swain and Jim Slater have failed. Barry Jenkins is the Chief Firearms Officer for the region and will assist Tony in getting certified.

G. Hosting a future BCWF Convention AGM

The BCWF is asking clubs is there are interested to take on the organization of the 2012, 2013 or 2014 Convention. This involves a lot of work and organization and the regional clubs are asked to consider the question.

6. Election of New Directors

President	Jacques Drisdelle	
Vice President	John Mihalicz	
Secretary/Treasurer	Sharon Haines	
Directors	Barry Jenkins	Williams Lake
	Tony Koett	Quesnel
	Sharon Haines	Alexis Creek
	Garth Lee	Lone Butte

3:20 pm Meeting Adjourned.

**Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Wildlife Association
(B.C. Wildlife Federation – Region 5)**

Minutes of General Meeting held February 28, 2009 at WLSA Clubhouse on Bond
Lake Rd, Williams Lake, BC

1. Meeting called to order by Mike Fowler at 12:12 pm, 13 members and 3 guests (T Buck Suzuki Foundation - Catherine Stewart plus Stan ?; Mike Ramsay, Wildlife Manager, MWLAP) present.

2. Catherine Stewart of the T Buck Suzuki Environmental Foundation made a presentation on the Sea Lice situation associated with salmon farming as it affects wild salmon recruitment and survival.

3. Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Annual General Meeting read by Colin Almond. Motion to approve moved, seconded and Carried

4. Financial report to February 28, 2009 by C. Almond. The bank balance was \$1764.80, an increase of \$661.64. Donations received from member clubs totalled \$1,083.00, and cash donations at the last AGM were \$142.06. A payment of \$564.36 was made to Mike Fowler to reimburse him for his expenses in attending a BCWF meeting in Vancouver in July, 2008. Motion to approve moved, seconded and Carried

5. There was no Correspondence to be read.

6. Committee Reports:

i) Ecosystem Restoration Committee. Jacques Drisdelle reported that 3 meetings were held by Ministry of Forests, and the scope was widened to include all ecosystems not just grasslands. A consultant will be hired to develop a 5-year plan. There will be a meeting next week to deal with 1st Nations participation.

ii) Wildlife Committee. John Willis was not present to report.

iii) Pine Beetle Roads Committee. M. Fowler said that this committee never got off the ground.

iv) 1st Nations Committee. Activities of this committee were covered in the President's Report following.

7. President's Report by M. Fowler. Access to the land base, fish and wildlife management, 1st Nations land claims, habitat fragmentation, privatization of natural resources and species at risk are still huge issues that face us. On 1st Nations, the appeal of the "Williams" Xenigwetin Tsilqotin decision will begin soon. This outcome will be of crucial importance to a large portion of the Central Chilcotin region. BCWF plans to file for Intervener status in the appeal, using funds from the BCWF Legal Defence Fund. Another resource issue is the agreement by the ILMB (Integrated Land Management Bureau) to reduce resident bear harvest on the QC Islands, made without opportunity for input by residents. Also, in the area of saltwater fishing, the decision by the Federal Dept of Fisheries & Oceans in 2008 to reduce the Halibut harvest retention amount allowed for the Recreational sector is a major concern. To date the Federal Fisheries Minister and DFO have ignored all input by Residents protesting the drastic reduction of access to Halibut for residents in favour of the Commercial sector. There seems to be little that BCWF can do legally to challenge the new DFO policy. Another very controversial policy affecting us regionally is the Mule Deer season changes and bag limit reduction to be implemented in Region 5 effective this year, which BCWF has opposed and continues to oppose as it seems to be more about optics than over harvest. We have also been very active in developing proposals to improve the moose LEH regime in Region 5 to increase hunter success rates; it is still possible that these changes could be approved by the Ministry in time for the 2009 season.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President: Jacques Drisdelle was elected by acclamation

Vice President: John Mihalicz was re-elected by acclamation

Secretary/Treasurer: Colin Almond was re-elected by acclamation

Directors:

- A. Lone Butte Fish & Wildlife Assoc (3) - nominees will be selected by LBFWA - TBA
- B. Williams Lake Sportsman's Association (3) - Barry Jenkins, club president plus 2 more TBA
- C. Quesnel Rod & Gun Club (3) – Wilf Pfeleiderer, club president plus Tony Koett & Ken Last
- D. Chilcotin Rod & Gun Club (1) – no representative present so TBA
- E. Bella Coola Rod & Gun Club (1) – no representative present so TBA

15 minute adjournment at 1:51 pm for Coffee break. The meeting reconvened at 2:08 pm, chaired by Jacques Drisdelle.

9. PRESENTATION by Mike Ramsay, MWLAP. Mike addressed four fish and wildlife priorities for 2009 in Region 5 from the Ministry's perspective. These are Moose Allocation and LEH reform; Deer management objectives and regulation reform; angling regulation simplification; and increased angler participation initiatives.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS:

i) ATV insurance. J Drisdelle commented on the January 24 meeting between BCWF and the RCMP on this subject. The RCMP is only concerned with ATV use on paved highways. Currently there is no helmet law in BC applying to ATVs. There is also no clear guidance as to what insurance coverage is required or available through BCWF. M.Fowler added that QRGH has printed labels for attachment to club membership cards giving the BCWF public liability policy details in case a member is challenged to provide proof of coverage. This apparently would be acceptable, but that is awaiting confirmation from the authorities. J Mihalicz said there are additional ATV specific coverage options available through HUB Insurance to cover for fire or theft etc at a cost in the \$150/year range.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

No other business

12. Meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Colin Almond, Sec. Treas.

Jacques Drisdelle, President

Cariboo Chilcotin Regional Wildlife Association
Financial Report for the period Feb 28, 2009 to Mar 31, 2010

Feb 28, 2009	Opening bank balance	\$ 1,764.80
Feb 28, 2009	Payment to Mike Fowler - reimbursement for AGM refreshments from Tim Hortons	(62.04)
Jan 18, 2010	Jacques Drisdelle - reimbursement of travel expenses for meeting with Minister Penner in Victoria BC	(279.75)
various	monthly interest received on balance deposited	0.72
		<hr/>
Mar 31, 2010	Ending bank balance	\$ 1,423.73

Colin Almond,
Secretary/Treasurer, BCWF Region 5
April 5, 2010

BC Wildlife Federation's 54th Annual General Meeting

Region 5 Cariboo/Chilcotin

A. Mule Deer Hunting Season Changes:

For the 2009 hunting season Region 5 saw a dramatic change in the allowable harvest from two Mule Deer bucks to one buck and a 10 complete closure from November 10 to 20.

The hunting seasons worked out drastically different from previous years.

1	Any Buck	Sept 10 – Nov 20	}	2008
2	4 Point Buck	Nov 21 – Nov 30		
Bag Limit			2 Bucks	
1	4 Point Buck	Sept 10 – Sept 30	}	2009
2	Any Buck	Oct 1 -30 Oct		
3	4 Point Buck	Nov 1 – Nov 10		
4	Closure	Nov 11 – Nov 20		
5	4 Point Buck	Nov 21 – Nov 20		
Bag Limit			1 Buck	

A second Mule deer could be harvested under an LEH Doe draw.

The reasons for these new seasons and restrictions we were told is that the bulk/doe ratio had decreased below the acceptable threshold of 25 bucks for each 100 does. Ministry's estimate was that the buck/doe ratio was at 18 bucks for every 100 does. The Ministry felt that they had to place some control on the harvest of bucks especially at the height at the rut in mid-November as bucks are highly vulnerable during that time. They felt that it will take at least 3 years to get this ratio back up to 25 bucks / 100 does.

Argument: As Regional Representatives we felt that the ministry's data was flawed for the following reasons:

- The conduct their counts after the fall hunting season sometime in early December. Deer are under pressure that not all will present themselves in open fields.
- Deer sitting inside the bush line for various reasons such as turning nocturnal due to hunting pressure will not be season and taken into the count.
- Some bucks, especially spikes and two points can be extremely difficult if not impossible or difficult of not downright impossible to identify at 300, 400, 500 and even further away, which invalidates the count results.
- You can't produce big trophy bucks based on shutting down hunting and trying to let the mule deer naturally grown large antlers because of a lack of pressure.
- We felt that if MOE wanted to improve buck/doe ratio then they should have increase doe LEH draws instead of reducing them in 2009.
- No where and at no time had the Ministry providing a total Mule Deer population for the Cariboo/Chilcotin and therefore were attempting to manage the overall population on no real or tangible data.

Response:

We mounted a media campaign calling the government's attempts at reducing mule deer hunting and harvesting flawed. One example of an article written in the 100 Mile Free Press is shown below.

Hunters up in arms over new hunting regs

By Joan Silver - 100 Mile House Free Press

Published: July 28, 2009 7:00 PM

Local hunters are upset with this year's hunting regulations. Jude Dion, Exeter Sporting Goods owner, called the regs "ridiculous" and totally one-sided. "We can kill them on the highway but it's not okay to eat them," he said. He said the new regs mean hunters can only shoot one buck instead of the usual two and this is the only area in the province that doesn't have an immature moose season. Dion said the area needs an open doe season to resolve concerns about the buck and doe ratio. "It really takes away from meat hunters for locals who don't care about the antlers," he said. "It seems to be going all kablooey when you can only have one four-point buck," said Dion. Jacques Drisdelle, BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) Cariboo/Chilcotin regional president, said the Ministry of Environment regional wildlife branch made a proposal to reduce the mule deer buck season from two bucks to one buck effective this year. "In consultation with the regional wildlife manager we were told that the reason for this proposal was to bring the buck to doe ratio more in-line with ministry policy of 25 bucks to 100 does," he said. He said the BCWF protested this proposal for a number of reasons. Drisdelle said the mule deer population in the Cariboo region is healthy and, in many cases, very high. He said the methodology used by the ministry for determining the buck to doe ratio is flawed. They conduct deer counts in open fields at the end of the hunting season during the day in specific locations but not representative of every area of the region. Based on what they count during one day they make their determination and it is not based on sound scientific methods. "One could do the same sort of count on a different day and find the buck to doe ratio higher or lower. It doesn't make sense," said Drisdelle. He said, in region 5, there was originally a four-point or higher buck season during the entire month of November. The ministry changed that to extend the "any buck" season to Nov. 20 and then opened the second season starting Nov. 21 for four-point or better bucks. This, in effect, made every buck vulnerable during the peak rut season. "This means that if — and I emphasize if — the buck ratio was adversely affected, it was from the direct result of the ministry experimenting with the four-point or better season during November," said Drisdelle. "Something that should never have happened and something that we objected to at the time." Drisdelle questions if the buck to doe ratio is down, as the regional Ministry of Environment claims, then why have they reduced the number of doe limited entry allocations for 2009. He said that is exactly what they have done and it completely baffles the BCWF. "It is our view that the local wildlife manager does not have the knowledge required to properly manage mule deer populations and that this recent effort is simply an exercise of chance rather than sound wildlife management practices," he said. Drisdelle said it's equivalent to playing a game of horseshoes to see who gets closest to the pin. He emphasized that the BCWF has made these views clearly known to the ministry at both the regional and provincial levels but have had no success in getting them to listen. Drisdelle said the BCWF has been asking for an immature bull moose season for the region but the request has repeatedly fallen on deaf ears. He said the ministry's own numbers show there are approximately 27,390 moose in the Cariboo region and that number is progressively increasing. He said the Thompson region, just to the south, has an open immature bull season from Sept. 20 to Oct. 31. The Omineca region to the north has an immature bull season from Sept. 10 to Nov. 5 and also have an open calf season, a youth season, a bow only and a youth bow season. "There is a ground swell of dissatisfaction over these closures imposed on BC residents because of a lack of will and a lack of sound wildlife management practices being exhibited by Ministry of Environment," said Drisdelle.

Another action was to solicit the advice and support of Ray Demarchi and Val Geist, both well known and reputable biologists. What followed was a series of correspondence between these two gentlemen and Regional representatives of the BC Wildlife Federation for Region 5. The

Provincial Allocation Committee was also consulted and provided insight and valuable input as to how best deal with the problem with government.

As a result of this consultation a letter was written by eighty retired MOE Biologists that was subsequently printed in the 100 Mile Free Press supporting resident hunter's position against the ministry's decision to curtail the Mule Deer hunt. This letter is printed in its entirety herein.

Joint Letter to the Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment,
on the need for improved deer and moose management in
Region 5, Cariboo-Chilcotin.

Dear Minister Penner,

Aug. 25, 2009

The eight signatories to this letter are retired senior wildlife biologists who have extensive wildlife management experience in the province of British Columbia. We write to express our concerns about the lack of biologically sound management strategies for mule deer and moose in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

This year's regulation changes saw the continued erosion of hunting opportunities for BC resident deer and moose hunters. The 100 Mile Free Press recently published several letters and articles from local residents complaining about the lack of hunting opportunities in the face of abundant deer and moose populations. Visiting resident hunters are seeking hunting opportunities in other regions or quitting hunting altogether, which has impacts on the regional economy — an economy which is already suffering from the severe economic downturn in the forest industry.

Overly conservative management of expanding deer populations results in damage to deer habitat; private gardens and ranchers' hayfields; attracts dangerous predators to the urban/forest fringe; and can result in increased vehicle/wildlife collisions. In numerous meetings and in correspondence with local BC Wildlife Federation members and in newspaper articles, the regional manager continues to rationalize his actions as being necessary to meet the needs of First Nations and for a perceived need to reduce the harvest of antlered and antler-less deer in order to restore the sex ratio.

As experienced BC wildlife managers, we recognize and respect the province's responsibilities for conservation and its fiduciary responsibilities to First Nations. It is our professional judgment, however, based on population inventory data provided by the Williams Lake Wildlife Office and the provincial Annual Hunter Sample and anecdotal reports of experienced hunters and ranchers, including some of our own observations, that deer and moose populations have reached and may be exceeding the carrying capacity of their habitats.

Responsible wildlife management puts conservation first, considers all interests and prescribes sustainable harvest levels, which, in the case of the Cariboo-Chilcotin, means greater hunting opportunities, not fewer as prescribed by the Williams Lake regional manager. The overly-restrictive regulations that have been implemented in Region 5 over the past 10 to 12 years place the deer and moose populations at risk for a severe over-winter die-off such as occurred in the Peace River in the 2006-2007 winter. Such die-offs occurred in the Cariboo and Chilcotin in the past when deer and moose populations exceeded the carrying capacity of their habitats and benefitted no one.

In our view, the actions of the Williams Lake regional manager are contrary to your ministry's wildlife management policies. Instead of encouraging more hunters through more liberal harvests to meet the goals of your ministry's Resident Hunter Recruitment and Retention Strategy and simplifying the regulations as prescribed in the Provincial Wildlife Harvest Strategy, the changes that were adopted for 2009-2010 added more restrictions and complexity to the already overly complex regulations.

Adjacent regions, namely the Omineca and Thompson-Nicola, have been administering successful moose management programs over a period of 25 years that sustain healthy, productive moose herds, produce more moose with fewer complaints and enjoy a high degree of public support. Despite these excellent examples, the Region 5 regional manager refuses to begin implementing a similar strategy. We respectfully

request that you institute an independent review of Region 5's mule deer and moose management strategies.

Pursuing your government's goal of science-informed and consensus-based resource management planning will not be possible as long as key members of your administration fail to fully support your policies and develop their own unilateral approaches to wildlife management.

Yours sincerely,

Dan Blower, retired BC Ungulate Coordinator
Ken Child, retired Omineca Region, Wildlife Section Head
Ray Demarchi, retired BC Chief of Wildlife
Fred Harper, retired Thompson-Nicola, Regional Wildlife Section Head
Doug Janz, retired Vancouver Region, Regional Wildlife Section Head
Dave Low, retired Thompson-Nicola, Regional Wildlife Biologist
Bill Munro, retired BC Wildlife Branch, Deputy Director
Bruce Pendergast, retired BC Manager, Wildlife Inventory Section

As a result of this letter contact was made with Donna Barnett, South Cariboo MLA for the Liberal Party. Through Donna Barnett a meeting was arranged with Minister Barry Penner of the Ministry of Environment for Victoria for October 20th. Representing the Region in attendance were Jacques Drisdelle, Regional President, Wilf Pfleiderer, Past President BCWF and Doug Janz, retired Vancouver Region, Regional Wildlife Section Head. Garth Lee of 108 Mile House was unable to attend due to poor weather. Doug Janz was one of the signatories of the above letter and was present to provide technical assistance in the presentation to the Minister.

Meeting with Minister of Environment: The meeting occurred in the Minister's Office at the Parliament Buildings and was also attended by MLA Donna Barnett, Tom Ethier, Director Fish & Wildlife Branch, Manager Wildlife Management Section. We were given one hour to discuss the Mule Deer hunting regulations with the Minister on this occasion.

After the meeting with the Minister we were invited to continue discussions with Tom Ethier and Ian Hatter. The meeting was cordial and constructive in that it gave regional representatives the occasion to ask direct questions and be provided with information.

Moose Open Season Proposed:

During this presentation a request to consider an open Moose hunting season was also proposed. The purpose for this recommendation is that many resident hunters from within Region 5 feel that they should be given the opportunity to hunt moose in their own region such as in Regions 3 Thompson and Regions 6 – Skeena and Region 7A – Omineca which all border Region 5 to the South, East and North. These regions enjoy a combination of spike-fork, bulls, and calves open seasons. Region 5 has no general open seasons on Moose and all hunting is on L.E.H.

Follow-Up meeting with M.O.E. in Region 5

The Ministry of Environment called for a regional meeting with resident hunters to discuss the changes in the Mule Deer regulations and hunting seasons and our proposal for an exploratory open general season on Moose as described above.

Tom Ethier and Ian Hatter of MOE Victoria traveled to Williams Lake and a meeting was held in Williams Lake on December 8, 2009 at the MOE Offices. The Regional Wildlife Manager Rodger Stuart, Mike Ramsay and other local Fish & Wildlife personnel were in attendance. Also in

attendance were club representatives from Quesnel, Williams Lake, 100 Mile House and Lone Butte.

What followed was open and frank discussion on Mule Deer and Moose hunting management and hunting seasons.

Mule Deer: MOE explained that they do not know how many Mule Deer there are in the Cariboo/Chilcotin but stated that their recent year counts indicate that the buck/doe ratio is down to 18 bucks for 100 does. They would like to see that ratio up to 25 bucks per 100 does or better. They stated feeling that it may take up to three years to get the ratio up to an acceptable level. They were asked if the closed ten days in November would be re-instated once the ratio returned to their accepted level and their answer was “yes.”

Moose: MOE stated that they were very much aware of the benefits of the Omineca Model for Moose hunting seasons and felt that it could be tried in Region 5 as a pilot project in management units 5-1 and 5-2 A,B,C, & D. Tom Ethier stated that they would be conducting a fly-over inventory in January and that the results would be available by mid February. From there the results and pilot will be discussed with the other stake-holders. If this does go ahead it will likely not happen in time for 2010 season. Things were left open ended and no one asked what they were looking for in the way of a count or why a count was needed to justify a pilot.

Predator Control: Many resident hunters and ranchers are highly concerned with the increased presence of wolves in Region 5. Everyone knows that wolves feed on moose and that they create havoc on moose inventory. Predator control also took up considerable time during the discussion on moose. A suggestion was made to lift the bag limit from November 1 to March 31 on wolves in order to provide some interest on hunting wolves and help keep their numbers in check.

Conclusion: The meeting concluded on a positive note and time will tell if Ministry staff is serious about follow-up to the three major issues discussed above and whether they heard our concerns. The last correspondence generated on these issues was from Rodger Stewart on February 12, 2010 and is listed in its entirety below.

From: Stewart, Rodger W ENV:EX [mailto:Rodger.Stewart@gov.bc.ca]
Sent: February 12, 2010 2:49 PM
To: Michael Fowler; Wilf Pfeleiderer; treeless@telus.net; Wayne Biffert; Garth Lee
Cc: Ethier, Tom ENV:EX; Clark, Brian J ENV:EX
Subject: UPDATE for Cariboo chapters of BCWF: Fate of moose survey in GMZ 5B

Unfortunately, I must advise that due to the atypically warm weather, lack of consistent snow cover and spells of poor low altitude visibility and flying conditions, we have had to cancel a moose survey in MU 5-02C that was planned with a special allocation of funding. We had the contracts in place in early January, well before the typical late January survey timing. However the onset of the prolonged and persisting warm spell means that altered moose behaviour would not be conducive to standard aerial survey practices. We need to have maximum daily temperatures between - 5 and -25 C, consistent snow cover, and suitable low elevation visibility and flying conditions. None of those conditions have been available since the first week of January. It is now beyond normal timing, daytime heating is excessive and there is no forecast of a change in conditions. Under the conditions we have experienced, moose would be seeking deep cover to avoid overheating, with unacceptable impacts on sight-ability relative to survey standards, and ability to deliver a competent population estimate.

This is a very unfortunate outcome as we had planned to undertake this stratified random block survey to collect data that is of critical importance to proper assessment of potential alternative moose hunting regulations. This lost opportunity combined with reflections on the management problems with spike fork seasons in the Thompson and Okanagan raise challenges respecting timely completion of the assessment of regulation alternatives we have committed to undertaking. The commitment still stands however. We have opened dialogue with the Northern Secwepemc First Nations communities on moose management in GMZ 5B, in order to share the information upon which our consultation on any regulations proposal may be based. I suggest that it may be important for the BCWF to build bridges with the First Nations communities in order that you may jointly share insights and information on moose management in this area. Such enterprise may assist government as we carry out our consultation obligations. In time, we will need to engage with the commercial sector as well on the prospect of an altered moose hunting regime. Meanwhile, we should be working to identify an opportunity to meet to update you on certain matters:

- We have information from the Fall deer classification surveys. Not good news. Needs to be coupled with our Spring counts, with data to be examined by our deer population model. This package of information should be complete by early May.
- After considering the nature of moose harvest data from the commercial sector, we believe we have ability to quantify the amount of hunting activity carried out by the commercial sector during the moose rut, including summary of harvest. We believe this information will be useful in informing our ongoing discussion respecting moose hunting by the resident and commercial sectors during the rut. I am working to determine when staff time may be allocated to this data compilation task.
- Your broadcast e-mail communications indicate that the BCWF is aware of changes to the administrative boundaries of government's resource ministries. I do not currently have information that I can share with your clubs, but expect that it will become available in a few weeks yet. I will let you know when I have the materials upon which we can review the boundary changes with you.

As always, call as needs may be.

Rodger Stewart
Regional Manager
Environmental Stewardship Division,
Parks and Protected Areas Division
Ministry of Environment
400 - 640 Borland Street
Williams Lake, BC V2G 4T1

Tuesday – December 1, 2009

Present: Barry Jenkins, Tony Koett, Ray Demarchi, Mike Fowler, Colin Almond, Roger Gysel, Vince Forsburg, Wayne Biffert, Garth Lee, John Mihalicz, Jacques Drisdelle

SPECIAL MEETING: This conference call was called for Region 5 delegates to discuss the upcoming meeting with MOE in Williams Lake, Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 1:00 pm, 4th Floor – 640 Borland St

Jacques called the meeting to order and advised that we were going to discuss the upcoming meeting with Wildlife Branch Director, Tom Ethier and Regional MOE Manager Rodger Stewart.

One point that Jacques brought up was that it occurred to him to ask Rodger Stewart if Guide Outfitters from the region were invited to this meeting. The email was sent on Monday, November 30th and reads:

***Dear Rodger,
11:57 AM***

Sent: Mon 30/11/2009

Thank you for setting up this meeting. We are trying to organize ourselves, under short notice to be ready for this meeting.

I have one question, are any Guide Outfitters invited to this meeting? We are hoping that this meeting is to address regional resident concerns and feel that this would not be a proper occasion to have Guide Outfitters present.

So far there has been no response to this email.

Everyone was in agreement that if GOs are invited and present that we are not staying for the meeting.

1. Ray Demarchi was asked to present a brief summary of the meeting that three of the eight retired biologists supporting our initiative had with MOE Victoria Staff on November 9th.
 - Also present with Ray were Doug Janz, and former Wildlife Branch Deputy Director, Bill Monroe. Others could not attend for various reasons.
 - Present from the Victoria Wildlife Branch were Ian Hatter, Gerald Kuzyk and Tom Ethier. Also present were Rodger Stewart and Mike Ramsay from the Williams Lake MOE office. Former Executive Director Al Martin chaired the meeting and Regional Operations Director; Brian Clark also attended the morning session.
 - Perhaps Rodger Stewart's overriding concern is First Nations allocation and there was someone from the Attorney General's Aboriginal Law Group to make a presentation on First Nations rights as it refers to hunting priority.
 - In the absence of First Nations Harvest information, Ray stated that the Omineca Region, with the same number of First Nations and similar predator populations assumes a certain level of harvest and then builds a management model for all users including resident hunters and nonresident hunters around that model.
 - Ray and Doug are in agreement that there is presently insufficient commonality in managing deer in BC. They feel it would be best to wait and see what they are planning to do in Region 5 and elsewhere in the southern regions before asking for an Independent review of management strategies.

- Both Doug and Ray as well as other members of their group including Fred Harper, are not convinced that the ministry's data collecting methods will produce statistically reliable data to determine and monitor the post season sex ratio in order to meet the targets set by the Region.
- Suggestion from Ray was that we should refrain from criticizing the government's data but rather ask them what they are doing now and what they are planning on doing.
- Subsequent to this meeting, Ray encouraged Tom Ethier to travel up to Williams Lake and meet with our group to discuss the issues and hopefully come to some consensus on ways to address the problems with game management in Region 5 but this may have already been in the works following the meeting with the Minister.

The big question is – What do we want?

- **MOOSE:** It was suggested that we may want to look at the Omineca model of managing moose, where there are seasons on Cow/Calf, Calf, Immature Bull and Mature Bull.
- Here in region 5 there is no commitment to looking at this model because of political problems with First Nations west of the Fraser River and Rodger Stewart is labouring over First Nations issues.
- **Point:** We need First Nations harvest data.
- **Comment:** The current management regime appears to assume that resident hunters and non resident hunters harvest the bulls with First Nations harvesting the cows and calves but without adequate information on FN harvests, this has not been proven to be the case and is therefore not a sound management strategy.
- **Question:** How can we find out what the First Nations harvest is?
- It was noted that recent responses from Rodger Stewart to Garth Lee were very bureaucratic and were not directly addressing the questions posed or the issues raised. Rodger tends to give patent answers to the basic questions of how moose are managed and allocated amongst the main user groups.

Ray . You can't stockpile moose or any other species of ungulates for that matter. In order to maintain a proper sex ratio and age class structure, you have to kill some cows. Harvesting both sexes of moose and deer stimulates the population and increases production, much in the same way that a rancher manages his cow herd for maximum productivity by harvesting both sexes.

Roger G. Feels that we do not have the number of moose that MOE claims and that we actually don't know how many moose there are out there. He travels throughout the Cariboo/Chilcotin by vehicle and airplane and he is not seeing the numbers that used to be there.

Ray D. Believes the Ministry's moose inventory data and population estimates and that we do have the density by which to allow a harvest of both sexes by resident hunters. The actual number or level of the population should not be the determining factor in whether there should be a harvest of both sexes because moose can live at high, moderate or low densities and still be harvested and waiting for populations to increase to previous levels is not a productive or useful course of action.

Comment supported by Doug Janz's observations and that of others over the past four years that wolf numbers have increased significantly and no one is addressing predation on moose or deer.

Ray D. We will never see the numbers that we saw back in the 70s. Ministry need to manage both sexes and not just bulls. What is more important is the biological balance and we need a higher ratio of bulls. .Managed moose populations produce an annual surplus that can be harvested or left for the predators or starvation. Under the Omineca model there is a harvest of cows, calves, spike and mature bulls. This is a better way of managing the population and is the method employed throughout all regions of Ontario.

An unmanaged or under-managed population results in an old, unproductive population. We cannot expect that we can wait for the population to increase first and then manage from that stage. You have to start managing the population now before it gets imbalanced and if it is already imbalanced it has to be managed back to a proper sex and age structure.

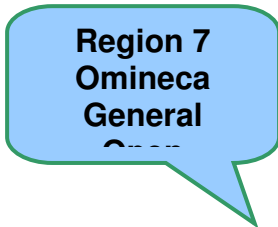
Questions we should be asking MOE are:

Q. We want you to deliver a management model that works.

Q. Who is going to be doing it and how?

Comment/Question: Why is Region 5 out of step with other regions in the province? Why is the solution in Region 5 to limit hunting opportunity in managing wildlife? This doesn't make any sense.

- Under hunter samples, the number of hunters is down around the province but especially in Region 5 because there are fewer opportunities without any benefit to having deer and moose fully recover to healthy and sustainable populations.



In the **Omineca Region 7** resident and non-resident moose harvest has increased, while in Cariboo Region 5 with the present management system harvest for both has decreased. Why is that?

7-2 to 7-18, 7-23 to 7-30, 7-38	* Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 10 – Nov 5	1
7-2 to 7-15, 7-17, 7-18, 7-24 to 7-30, 7-38	+ Calves	Oct 10 – Oct 25	1
7-17, 7-26	+Calves	Oct 1 – Oct 25	1
7-37, 7-39 to 7-41	* Spike Fork Bulls	Aug 15 – Nov 5	1
7-2 to 7-15	* Spike-fork Bulls	Sept 1 – Sept 9	1

Region 7 Omineca

Under LEH Regulations Synopsis for Region 7 Omineca for the 2009 hunting season there were 4,649 authorizations for a planned harvest of 1,550 moose. These LEH cover 96 separate seasons.

Region 5, Cariboo

Under LEH Regulations Synopsis for Region 5 Cariboo for the 2009 hunting season there were 3,030 authorizations for a planned harvest of 1,110 moose. These LEH cover 93 separate hunting seasons

- **Comment:** Try working with the Shuswap Nation on the east side of the Fraser River at first as you know that the Chilcotin on the west side are not receptive. It may be that you need to have a test period and area in order to show them the benefits in time so they can be won over.

Proposal 1 – Moose

That the Region 7 Omineca model be tried east of the Fraser River in select management units for shorter periods of time.

- Conduct more inventory on Moose
- Recruit First Nations to report their kill numbers

Suggestion: It might be worth suggesting that we would like to see a short GOS on Spike-fork, cow, calf, and mature moose seasons in specified management units. Make sure that under this scheme that the areas be opened up in order to place over-pressure on the local population.

Under the present system in the Cariboo the annual calf loss is probably 70% whereas in the Omineca the loss is likely less than 50%. This would mean a 20% gain in calves in this region or up to 1200 calves annually.

Roger G. We need to know what the moose population is before we ask for any changes. He believes that mule deer are down by as much as low as 75% from their peak of high numbers.

Ray D. MOE published estimated Moose populations in Region 5 in 2008 and those numbers should be fairly accurate. There is a stringent system and he pointed out that there were actual moose inventories conducted in recent years.

Roger G. I don't believe those numbers, there is no way we have that many moose.

Mike F. In 2003 when we had a spike fork season, hunter days went from 15,500 up to 35,000 hunter days in Region 5 and the mule deer harvest increased by 10% or 119 animals over the previous year. This did not result in an over-harvest.

What is the best managed region for deer in the province? None but Region 5 seemed to be on the right track until 2009.



Proposal 2 Mule Deer

**That the season return to “Any Buck” from September 10 to October 31
Four Point season from November 1 to 30
Bag limit 1 buck.**

Doe on LEH with perhaps expanded management units but increase the number of authorizations by 50%

If there is to be any closure, it would be best to be at the end of the rut instead of mid-November.

All in agreement

Manage the region with larger game management zones instead of micro-managing by small wildlife management units and subunits. Make managements units larger such as what Region 5 uses for Moose population estimates.

On the Coast open the Blacktail season for both antlered and antlerless deer . This is rugged country with limited access and dense bush where the 4 point season does not make any sense and must be eliminated.

There needs to be proper deer inventory conducted in the three representative management units. If we are told that the money is not available, then we need to put pressure on the Minister to ensure that the money is there to conduct proper inventory work.

We must not be divided in front of MOE at the December 8th meeting. The time to disagree on issues amongst us is during our meetings. If we show up for this meeting and have people voicing conflicting opinions, then MOE will likely ignore our concerns and continue on their own path.

Meeting called at 8:25 pm.