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June 5, 2008

✓ British Columbia Wildlife Federation
#101-3060 Norland Avenue
Burnaby, BC V5B 3A6

Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia
PO Box 94675
Richmond, BC V6Y 4A4

Re: Proposed changes to Mule Deer hunting regulations for the 2008/09 season

Dear Stakeholders:

Our wildlife staff in the Cariboo Region (Region 5) have conducted composition inventories on Mule Deer within the Region and determined that the buck:doe ratio has fallen below management objectives. In order to maintain quality hunting experiences and ensure that management objectives are met, the Wildlife Program is re-evaluating the mule deer buck harvest strategy in Region 5.

There is currently no conservation concern for Mule Deer in this Region. To the contrary, we are confident that the overall population is very healthy. While the buck:doe ratios are lower than desired, we do not believe the current ratios are low enough to negatively impact breeding success or fawn recruitment. The actions we are considering are only intended to recover the male component of the population to the stated management objective of at least 20 bucks/100 does, and to maintain quality hunting experiences.

An initial regulation proposal was developed that included a moratorium on the late '4-point' buck season (November 21 through to November 30) and shortening of the any buck season to November 10 from November 20. In addition, while maintaining the 2-buck bag limit, an additional restriction included limiting the buck harvest such that only one buck could be harvested in each of the remaining seasons (ie: if a hunter harvested a buck during the early '4-point' season they would be able to harvest another in the 'any buck' season, but would not be allowed to harvest 2 bucks in the any buck season).

We have postponed making these changes, or any changes to the Hunting Regulations, until 2009 so that we can fully evaluate management options for the 2009 mule deer hunting season and consult with stakeholders on these options.

Please feel free to contact our Fish and Wildlife staff with any questions or concerns you may have.

Regards,



Tom Ethier
Director