



For Immediate Release

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Inquiries

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The Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia (WSSBC) is a conservation-mandated Society founded in 1998 for the protection and enhancement of wild sheep throughout the province.

As a stakeholder in wildlife in the Province of BC, we hold a position on the Provincial Hunting Trapping and Advisory Team and have done so for several years. A brief history of PHTAT can be found [HERE](#).

The PHTAT consists of membership from the Wild Sheep Society of BC, British Columbia Wildlife Federation, BC Trappers Association, Guide Outfitters Association of BC, United Bowhunters of BC and the Wildlife Stewardship Council.

Our seat on PHTAT allows us to see drafts that are put forward by the province, and other stake and title holders from around the table. Proposals can be made from local member clubs, single membership as well as organizations, and the government.

Recently WSSBC, through our PHTAT membership, had representation on a Fair Chase sub-committee. Numerous proposals were put forward by ministry staff and through the committee process members are solicited to provide input on the proposals.

These new proposals are currently open for public consultation at:
<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ahte/hunting>

Some members have raised concerns about our participation on this committee and our stance on the proposals put forward. One of these issues brought forward is pertaining to a regulation proposal to ban scope use on bows during bow only season. This regulation change was proposed by the government as a solution to high success rates in moose bow only seasons. When offered solutions; the sub-committee supported the least restrictive option, from an opportunity perspective, which allowed cross-bow use (albeit without a scope) during the bow only season.

While we did participate in the process as a PHTAT member, it is important to note that we as an organization are not advocating for any of these “Fair Chase” changes. These proposals were introduced by government and received input by a diverse committee including multiple stakeholders and government.

The Wild Sheep Society does not designate a formal stance on any of the ‘Fair Chase’ proposals as they do not pertain as a conservation concern. We believe in science-based wildlife management relying on biologists and experts. Conservation concerns are at the forefront of our decision making.

Please remember that none of these proposals are in legislation as of yet and are simply at the input stage. Feedback during the public consultation process will influence which proposals will become legislation.

The Province is soliciting input from the public on these proposals, and we encourage everyone, particularly our members to have their say. To leave input, please follow the following [LINK](#) and sign in with your BCiD as you would with your hunting license and LEH.

Please be respectful, polite and courteous with your response. It is critical that every one of us have our say.

In Conservation,

Board of Directors
Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia