



Talking Points for wildlife

ACT NOW

Speaking points relating to Region 7B (Peace Region) proposed hunting closures.



Additional resources are available at:

www.wildsheepsociety.com/actnow

If you need additional assistance, contact us via email at:

communications@wildsheepsociety.com

Science Based Wildlife Management First

- Current moose population estimate 60,637
- Sustainable harvest for moose 5-10% of the population
- Sustainable harvest for moose in wolf control zones 15-20%
- Conducting wolf control for caribou recovery in 12 management units
- Sustainable moose harvest 4,801-7,455 in Peace Region – government is proposing a harvest of ~635 animals
- No scientific support to close caribou hunting or reduce model hunter harvest by 50%

Net loss

- 50% hunter harvest, 70-80% reduction in hunters, 75-85% reduction in hunter days
- Economic loss \$14-16 million in resident hunter expenditures

These proposed decisions contradict the Vision, Principles & Goals of Together for Wildlife, the Provincial Wildlife Management Strategy. It is unacceptable that in the adolescence of the Strategy's implementation its Vision, Principles and Goals are being disregarded in decision making. Instead of upholding these, the proposed decisions are being made under social values, instead of science and evidence-based management and dealing with the cumulative effects of resource extraction. I am deeply concerned that the province is negotiating away sustainable hunting instead of confronting the cumulative effects of unsustainable resource extraction.

The decision sets a worrying precedent for hunters and their families. If the province is willing to cut BC hunter access so significantly where there is no scientifically demonstrated need and where wildlife populations are in fact robust, can we expect similar closures in other regions?

There is no conservation rationale for the government's approach. The Peace region has the highest density of moose populations in BC. The province's own data indicates hunting is sustainable and that licensed hunter harvest is low. The province seems willing to negotiate licensed BC hunters away in favour of Site C, logging, and oil and gas.

In our opinion, the backgrounder released by the Ministry is backwards in its approach.

Research, and population improvements should be the immediate and first steps in this process- not the last, followed by regulation proposals and changes if required. Managing wildlife needs to be a priority, instead of managing hunters. As conservationists, we would fully support any regulation changes where evidence and science showed a population concern. However, this is not the case.

WSSBC recognizes First Nations rights and titles in British Columbia.

Contact

Please let the Wild Sheep Society of BC know how about the success of your meeting by email at communications@wildsheepsociety.com. Thank you for taking the time to meet with your elected official. We encourage you to do so every six months until we see positive change for wildlife.