

# Hunting Chair Reports - Hunting and Fishing Friday

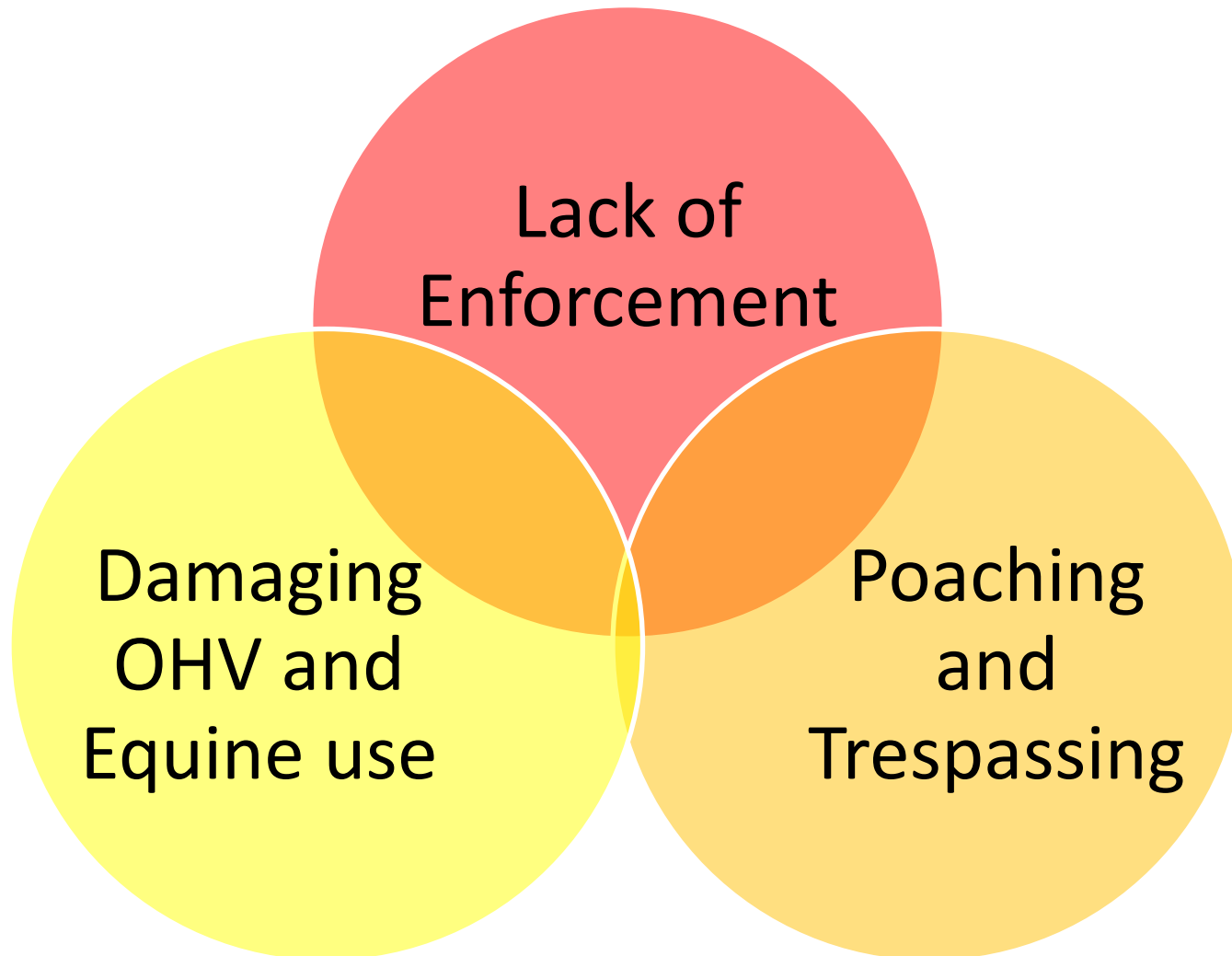
Alberta Fish and Game Association  
Conference

Friday, February 24, 2017

# Issues

- Lack of Enforcement
- Access
- Poaching
- Disrespectful hunter behavior
- Divisive hunter self-interest
- Instant messaging without critical thinking
- Proliferating “stakeholder” groups
- General Public perception
- Consultation processes

Lack of enforcement + Lack of respect  
= negative behaviors = public backlash!



# Harmful OHV and Equine use



- Indefensible use of public land
- A few heavy fines recently; too little, too late!
- Some see this as their “right” and the negative public image has been established

# Harmful OHV and Equine use



- Backcountry camping guidelines for packing adequate horse feed, not tying to trees, and distance from water bodies are rarely enforced
- Many popular horse camping areas are denuded of grass and polluted with invasive weeds – not wildlife friendly

# Poaching and Trespassing

- Not enough Fish and Wildlife officers to investigate complaints
- Inadequate budgets for patrolling
- Public confusion of hunters vs. poachers
- Many private landowners have had negative experiences with trespassing poachers, leading to access denial for all



# Group wants trophy hunting banned in Alberta

By [Michele Jarvie](#), *Postmedia* First posted: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 04:08 PM MST

A new conservation group launched Tuesday calling for the NDP to stop trophy hunting in the province.

African eco-safari operators Mike and Maryanne Donovan created the non-profit group Ban Trophy Hunting Ltd. on the heels of a national poll showing four out of five Canadians support legislation banning it.

The Insights West poll commissioned by Ban Trophy Hunting shows 88 per cent of Canadians are opposed to hunting animals for sport, 79 per cent oppose killing animals for their fur but 68 per cent are in favour of hunting animals for meat

# “Where do these people come from?”

- From the same mindset as those who destroyed the Canadian seal hunt (which started well prior to instant communication and lack of critical thinking on Social Media)
- And the emotional appeal of those who have stopped any meaningful action to control the ever growing number of invasive feral horses in Alberta
- And those who have apparently persuaded Canadian Tire companies to stop selling fur
- Misinformed and hypocritical as these people are, no Alberta hunter can afford to think that “Trophy Hunting”, whether in Africa or Alberta is not “their” issue - “meat” hunters are next on the agenda!



# “Where do these people come from?”

- ***Huge Canadian Retailer Bans Fur!***
- *Following meetings with PETA, Canadian Tire—Canada’s most-shopped general merchandise retailer, which sells a wide range of sporting goods, apparel, and home products—agreed to stop selling fur! This commitment extends to its corporate-owned subsidiaries, including Mark’s, Sport Chek, National Sports, and Pro Hockey Life. This is a huge victory for animals because it means that nearly 1,100 locations have stopped selling fur in-store and online.*

# What to do?

- The “local food” movement notwithstanding, as more and more of our population becomes further isolated from where their food comes from, the pressure on wild harvest will likely increase
- If one has never raised and processed a domestic animal for food, or harvested a wild fish, bird, or animal, “we” need to understand that it is very hard for “them” to understand how anyone else could.

# What to do?

- Accept that some extreme past practices are not defensible and be aware of our image
- Cooperate and share effort where common ground exists – even with groups we may disagree with on some issues
- Write reasoned, respectful letters
- Report poachers!
- Recognize that in spite of all the issues, we still enjoy tremendous opportunity for wild harvest in Alberta, that we all need to appreciate!

# Big Game Opportunity - Seasons

Big Game Seasons By WMU Series (Excluding Antelope)	Archery Only Seasons			General Seasons		
	Draw	Non-Draw	Total	Draw	Non-Draw	Total
Prairie 100	2 <b>18%</b>	9 <b>82%</b>	11	31 <b>84%</b>	6 <b>16%</b>	37
Parkland 200	3 <b>8%</b>	34 <b>92%</b>	37	31 <b>84%</b>	6 <b>16%</b>	37
Foothills 300	9 <b>23%</b>	31 <b>78%</b>	40	40 <b>74%</b>	14 <b>26%</b>	54
Mountain 400	6 <b>19%</b>	25 <b>81%</b>	31	24 <b>69%</b>	11 <b>31%</b>	35
Boreal 500	7 <b>25%</b>	21 <b>75%</b>	28	28 <b>74%</b>	10 <b>26%</b>	38
Provincial Total Big Game Seasons	<b>27</b> <b>18%</b>	<b>120</b> <b>82%</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>154</b> <b>77%</b>	<b>47</b> <b>23%</b>	<b>201</b>

# Big Game Opportunity-Open Season Days

Big Game Open Season Days By WMU Series	Draw	Non-Draw	Total	Draw	Non-Draw	Total
Prairie 100	123 18%	553 82%	676	606 93%	46 7%	652
Parkland 200	91 4%	2120 96%	2211	1168 87%	179 13%	1347
Foothills 300	404 25%	1207 75%	1611	1707 71%	689 29%	2396
Mountain 400	207 21%	792 79%	999	1316 66%	686 34%	2002
Boreal 500	304 31%	676 69%	980	1450 71%	579 29%	2029
<b>Provencal Total Open Season Days</b>	<b>1129 17%</b>	<b>5348 83%</b>	<b>6477</b>	<b>6247 74%</b>	<b>2179 26%</b>	<b>8426</b>
<b>Big Game Hunters (Pg. 26 2016 Guide) 119,000; Bowhunting Permits 19%</b>			<b>22610</b>	<b>General</b>		<b>96390</b>
<b>Hunters/day Archery Only Seasons</b>			<b>3.5</b>	<b>General</b>		<b>11.4</b>
Province wide, Hunters/Day in General Seasons is in the order of 4 times Hunters/Day in Archery Only Seasons			<b>+ &gt;90 % Of Bowhunters</b>		<b>20349</b>	
			<b>Total Hunters General Seasons</b>		<b>116739</b>	
			<b>Hunters/day General Seasons</b>		<b>13.9</b>	
There is no General season opportunity in WMU 212 Calgary, 248 Edmonton & 410 Canmore. The only WMU's with no Non-Draw Archery opportunity for at least one species are Suffield and Wainwright						

# Provincial Mule Deer Opportunity

	Archery Only Seasons		General Seasons	
<b>Antlered Mule Deer</b>				
Number of Seasons	18		18	
Draw seasons %	<b>8</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>72%</b>
Non-Draw Seasons %	10	<b>56%</b>	5	<b>28%</b>
<b>Antlered and Antlerless Mule Deer</b>				
Number of Seasons	9		7	
Draw seasons %	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>71%</b>
Non-Draw Seasons %	9	<b>100%</b>	2	<b>29%</b>
<b>Antlerless Mule Deer</b>				
Number of Seasons	9		9	
Draw seasons %	0	<b>0%</b>	9	<b>100%</b>
Non-Draw Seasons %	9	<b>100%</b>	0	<b>0%</b>

# Zone Hunting Reports

- Zone 1 - Ian Gazeley
- Zone 2 - Glen Dundas
- Zone 3 - Rob Schultz
- Zone 4 - Phil Reiser
- Zone 5 - Brian Rudyk
- Zone 6 - Rick Houweling