

Fish and Wildlife Division
Office of the Assistant Deputy
Minister

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AR25660

August 5, 2010

Mr. Quentin Bochar
President
Alberta Fish and Game Association
6924 - 104 Street
Edmonton, AB T6H 2L7

Dear Mr. Bochar:

Thank you for your March 23, 2010 letter forwarding the 2010 resolutions that were passed by members of the Alberta Fish and Game Association at your annual conference on February 20, 2010. The Honourable Mel Knight, Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, has asked me to respond to the resolutions.

Attached is our response to the Association's resolutions. Additionally, many of these resolutions have been discussed by the Alberta Fisheries Management Round Table and the Alberta Game Management Advisory Group which have been established as provincial level advisory groups to review resolutions from all the organizations and clubs that have an interest in fisheries and game management. Your representatives at these groups can provide you with more detail of the discussions that occurred relative to the Association's resolutions. If you would like further information on any of these issues, please contact Jim Allen for game-related items at 780-427-4194, and Matt Besko for fisheries-related items at 780-427-7769.

Sincerely,



Deryl J. Empson
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachment

cc: Jim Allen
Matt Besko



Resolutions passed at the Alberta Fish and Game Association's (AFGA's) annual general meeting held in Edmonton on February 20, 2010.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-1-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) open the western portion of WMU 248 for shotgun, bow and arrow, crossbow and muzzle loader firearms seasons in Parkland County (outside the existing 'No Firearms Zone') as it is currently administered in the County of Strathcona; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Game Management Advisory Group. Not to be advanced due to current Parkland County by-law. Note that in 2008, Wildlife Management Branch worked with Parkland County to change by-law, but the county revoked the change after a meeting with stakeholders, including AFGA.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-2-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD implement a primitive or muzzle loading black powder firearms big game season from October 15 – October 31 throughout the province in all Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) with November firearm seasons that have a November 1 opening for rifle season; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. All stakeholders will take back to their organizations for discussion at next meeting.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-3-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD include crossbows in all archery seasons; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. All stakeholders will take back to their organizations for discussion at next meeting.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-5-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA be consulted by the Alberta government if there is to be any movement toward establishing any provincial park, wilderness or wildland area from what is currently crown land; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation is part of that group and is aware of the concern.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-6-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the hides of confiscated, accidental and incidental kills, as well as management disposals, be saved for an annual government management auction, where the public would have an opportunity to acquire a hide for taxidermy purposes; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. Wildlife Management Branch will check regulations and consult with Enforcement-Field Services on options.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-7-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD remove the 'No hunting with pistols or revolvers' clause from the hunting regulations; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Handguns are restricted by federal legislation. Reference to this will be retained.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-9-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD be obligated to provide for public consultation in respect to any new grazing license initiatives and that AFGA be recognized as a stakeholder group that provides input to the decision-making process; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Wildlife Management Branch has forwarded concern to the Lands Division.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-10-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA support the continuation of the current Fish and Wildlife policy where hunting and angling regulations are updated on an annual basis; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: The recently adopted policy is to update the regulations on a biannual basis. We will evaluate this schedule for efficiency and consider modifications following review.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-1-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD allow Alberta residents to hold special walleye harvest draw tags on more than one water body; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Is being considered along with the current levels of demand for the licences and is being discussed at the Fisheries Management Round Table.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-2-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD expand the walleye special harvest tags to include additional water bodies that can sustain a limited harvest; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: In 2010 special harvest tags became available in five former catch and release waters. Others are being considered for the 2011 season.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-3-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD initiate a limited harvest for bull trout in watersheds that can sustain a harvest; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: The status of bull trout populations is being reviewed and harvest options for a limited number of populations are under evaluation. This issue has been discussed at the Fisheries Management Round Table.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-4-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD list in the Provincial Fishing Regulations all the Alberta water bodies that have a ban on gas powered motors, and horse power limitation; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: SRD will look at providing information on how anglers can access this information.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-I-2010.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD reinstate the Grizzly Bear season with tags available where there is a harvestable population; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. The status of the grizzly bear was changed to threatened in June 2010. Conditions requisite for reinstatement of a grizzly bear hunt are outlined in the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan for Alberta. Nothing will be moved forward at this time.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-3-2010.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the waiting period for a hunter who has harvested a trophy sheep to purchase another trophy sheep license be increased from one year to two years; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. On August 10, 2010, the Wild Sheep Federation will host a meeting to discuss all the sheep regulation proposals. AFGA is invited to that meeting.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-4-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD create and implement a system where the drawn license could be turned down (returned) and put into the unallocated undersubscribed license pool to be purchased by another hunter with the original hunter having their priority for that drawn license reinstated; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Reinstatement of draw priorities is a manual process which could put considerable demands on manpower. Currently, hunters that do not want a tag can use the 999 code to not be drawn. Hunters should use that system rather than declining a licence after being selected.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-5-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD establish a draw for antlerless White-tailed Deer in the WMUs 300 series zones not covered by a supplemental Antlerless White-tailed Deer License; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: This has been sent to the area biologists for evaluation within their work areas.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-7-1010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD develop a wild turkey management plan for Alberta; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Currently being looked at.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-8-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a male gobbler spring turkey season be established within the Cypress Hills Park WMU 624 and the surrounding two WMUs, 118 and 119; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation is present at Alberta Game Advisory Management Group and will respond to AFGA through that process.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-9-1010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development change the hunting regulations under the heading Big Game #8 to read: remove the distinctive evidence of sex and species from the carcass of any big game animal until the carcass is delivered) to include; a usual residence of the person who killed it, OR the animal is butchered, cut and packaged for consumption; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: SRD is currently working on similar legislation for 2011.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-10-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT within the Alberta Hunting Draws Rules that the list of draws available to non-residents Canadians be expanded to include: draw code 14 Antlerless Mule Deer, draw code 16 Antlerless White-tailed Deer; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: SRD will examine for 2011.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-11-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a random lottery tag (or tags) be added for any draw license that is currently statistically impossible to draw (other than for those at or near the top of the priority pool). This would be built into the current draw process, but would now also include a random draw component; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. On August 10, 2010, the Wild Sheep Federation will host a meeting to discuss all the sheep regulation proposals. AFGA is invited to that meeting.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-12-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD insist that all temporary pheasant storage sites have proper shelter as would any farmer who provides shelter for his birds; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Will be discussed with the Canadian Pheasant Company, which is contracted to do this.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-13-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD give Albertans the right to hunt coyotes on the pheasant release sites all year long; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: This is currently legal. A resident may, without a licence and on land to which he or she has the right of access, hunt (but not trap) coyote at all times of the year throughout the province, except as follows: 1) on public lands in the Green Area, only from October 1 to the last day of February; and 2) in Camp Wainwright (WMUs 728 and 730), only from January 3 to the last day of February.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-14-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD reopen formerly closed pheasant release sites specifically for put-and-take purposes; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: The pheasant release sites that will be stocked in 2010 are specified in a multi-year contract with the Canadian Pheasant Company and will not change.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-15-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD double the number of pheasants released per day at 2009 existing sites to accommodate demand; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: The number of pheasants to be released in 2010 is specified in a multi-year contract with the Canadian Pheasant Company and will not change.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-16-1010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AFGA request that SRD open a hunting draw in a combined area of WMUs 200 and 234 for antelope; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: There are few antelope in this area and they may not be there during antelope season. This will not be moved forward.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-18-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT where the trophy sheep special license draw in WMU 438 and 444-446 is not on priority draw and applicants are drawn, the applicants are not allowed to reapply in future years (once in a lifetime opportunity only); CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. On August 10, 2010, the Wild Sheep Federation will host a meeting to discuss all the sheep regulation proposals. AFGA is invited to that meeting.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-19-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD establish a deer and elk hunting season on the Wainwright Dunes Ecological Reserve (David Lake); CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation is present at Alberta Game Advisory Management Group and will respond to AFGA through that process.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-21-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD reinstate the Chronic Wasting Disease quota tags in WMUs of Chronic Wasting Disease management control; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. SRD/University research investigating the effects of hunting seasons in the spread of CWD is wrapping up. SRD will take at least one year to review and discuss management options in these areas.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-22-2010

BE IT RESOLVED THAT SRD increase winter aerial big game surveys and maintain a standard of every 3-5 years for every WMU; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: SRD will conduct aerial surveys as close to the best schedule possible with available manpower and money.

The following motion was brought forward from the floor as it resulted from government's response to last year's resolutions which was not received in time for a resolution to be submitted in due process.

Moved that SRD continue with the current priority draw system and not institute caps on any draw species at any priority level as they are proposing to do; CARRIED.

RESPONSE: Discussed at Alberta Game Management Advisory Group. SRD is not moving forward with capping of all species; however, sheep capping is undergoing further consultation and will be discussed at the August 10, 2010 meeting being hosted by the Wild Sheep Federation. AFGA is invited to that meeting.