

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-1-2011

Signage and Enforcement in Camping Areas

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development place appropriate signage at popular random camping areas throughout the Province and conduct extensive enforcement to ensure random camping does not result in litter being left in these areas.

BRIEF: Some random campers are leaving litter behind them in many areas of the Province, and we fear that all random campers may suffer from the actions of a few. Targeting the offenders now is necessary to ensure the freedom of responsible random camping to continue.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-2-2011

Side-by-Side ATV Restrictions

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request the current regulations restricting the use of ATV's be changed to allow hunters who are paraplegic or quadriplegic, or have permanent spinal injuries that confine them to a wheel chair, to hunt any big game throughout the non-motorized Forest Land Use Zones (FLUZ's) along the East Slopes Region of Alberta with the use of a 'side-by-side' ATV.

BRIEF: The definition of a side-by-side ATV refers to quads, and restricts the use of argos and the slightly larger double-passenger OHV's/ATV's. Currently along the East Slopes Region, OHV use (including ATV's) is restricted to motorized access Forestry Land Use Zones (FLUZ's). These FLUZ's get used by hunters and other recreationalists on a regular basis and would be a challenge for persons with a disability since there are many users and could likely be a safety issue. A person with a disability that is paraplegic or quadriplegic is unable to get off a quad at ANY time. Permits exist for those person's to be allowed to discharge a firearm from a motorized vehicle, including a quad, legally.

Trappers in some of the non-motorized FLUZ's have a 'grand-father' clause that allows them to register with the Forestry Area Office, permitting them to use snow machines during the trapping season (winter) to access their trap lines only. For enforcement, a recommendation would be to have the hunter register with the local Forestry Area Office responsible for those areas they wish to hunt. The registration will ensure that each quad user is registered with the forestry office for safety purposes, and also to allow the hunter to provide their proof (in the form of a permit) to the Conservation or Forestry Officers enforcing the area. The documents required would be the same documents those person's need to show to receive a "handi-cap" parking permit. Any illegal ATV use would cause the hunter to lose their license for any given period of time, or permanently.

GENERAL RESOLUTION NUMBER G-3-2011

Removal of "No Hunting with Pistols or Revolvers" Clause

WHEREAS not all pistols and revolvers fall under federal jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS it is within the powers of the Chief Firearms Officer to issue Authorizations to Carry for those firearms that do fall under federal jurisdiction,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request Alberta Sustainable Resource Development remove the "No Hunting with Pistols or Revolvers" clause from the hunting regulations.

BRIEF: It has been mentioned by Alberta Sustainable Resource Development in the past that they don't want to make a specific handgun season because of the federal position on most handguns; however, simply removing the restriction from the regulations would allow those with handguns that are not federally controlled to use them, as well as open the door for individuals to press the Chief Firearms Officer for permits to carry for the legal purpose of hunting.

FISHERIES RESOLUTIONS

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-1-2011

Non-Resident Canadian Angling License Fee

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development increase the non-resident Canadian angling license fee to achieve parity with neighbouring provinces.

BRIEF: Presently Alberta has a one price system for residents and non-resident Canadians. Each year we notice a higher influx of non-resident Canadians fishing our streams and lakes.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-2-2011

Disclosure of Number of Walleye Tags for Special Lakes and Fish Sizes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the number of walleye tags (i.e. in each lake and for each size grouping) to be issued in any year be made available to anglers prior to the draw.

BRIEF: The angler should be made aware of the number of available tags prior to the draw so that they are able to make better choices before entering the draw and spending money on walleye draws that have small opportunities for success.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-3-2011

FWIN Program Walleye Management

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the killing of fish by government for the Fall Walleye Index Netting Program be terminated until clear justification be provided that describes why this information is necessary and why this information cannot be gathered from fish harvested by anglers, commercial fishermen or domestic fishermen.

BRIEF: The need for gathering walleye population information by killing the fish, especially at small lakes, does not appear to be warranted, as no harvests are being permitted. A limited walleye harvest based upon lake productive capability could be established and anglers could be allowed to harvest and use this limited harvest.

- FWIN lakes tested in 2010 included 38 lakes and included the following:
 - Jackson Lake (complete), Kinnaird Lake (complete), Blackett Lake (complete), Lac La Biche (complete), Pinehurst (in progress), Winefred (was scheduled but will not be complete due to low temperatures)
 - Net Lake, Unnamed (Brutus) Lake, and Keith Lake, all located within the Richardson back country area
 - Smoke and Iosegun Lakes were not surveyed because of water temperatures
 - Orloff, Skeleton, Amisk, Long, Seibert, Laurier, Cold, Garner, Brutus, Net, Keith, Jackson, Bluett, Kinnard and Pinehurst Lakes. Also Lac Bellevue and Lac La Biche are all planned
 - Rolling Hills Reservoir and Crawling Valley Reservoir
 - Sylvan Lake, Wizard Lake, Pigeon Lake, Buck Lake
 - Lesser Slave Lake, Snipe Lake, Winagami Lake, North Wabasca Lake, South Wabasca Lake

- Fall gill netting program that has been conducted in over 50 lakes during the past 10 years by ACA and by the Alberta Government
- Establish CPUE (# walleye/100 sq. m/24 hours). Numbers range from Heart Lake at 2 to Buck Lake at 44.3
- H. Norris indicated the government program (prior to 2009) was testing about 11 lakes per year and killing about 300 walleye/lake and 100 pike/lake plus other fish.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-4-2011

Northern Pike Management

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the general provincial catch limits for northern pike be changed to allow a maximum daily catch of 2 fish with no size limit restriction, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT lakes requiring special northern pike limits be established when specific biological information supports either increased or more restrictive regulation.

BRIEF: Many lakes with smaller sized pike are not being utilized. Risk to the elimination of northern pike is extremely low. Fish habitat is linked to high production years that influence pike production more than angling. Simplification of fisheries regulations would be desirable.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-5-2011

Yellow Perch Management

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the general provincial catch limits for yellow perch be changed to allow a maximum daily catch of 15 fish with no size limit restriction, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT lakes requiring special yellow perch limits be established when specific biological information supports either increased or more restrictive regulations.

BRIEF: Many lakes with smaller sized perch are not being utilized. Risk to the elimination of yellow perch is extremely low. Fish habitat is linked to high production years that influence yellow perch production more than angling. Simplification of fisheries regulations would be desirable.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-6-2011

Lake Sturgeon Management

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the government should provide detailed information on the status and population trends of lake sturgeon for public review prior to any consideration for endangered species designation.

BRIEF: There is a concern about the possibility the lake sturgeon will be declared an endangered or threatened species in Alberta. The concern is in the accuracy of the government information on numbers of lake sturgeon inhabiting the North Saskatchewan River.

FISHERIES RESOLUTION NUMBER F-7-2011

Ban on Use of Kernel Corn as Bait

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development list in the Provincial Fishing Regulations that all stocked trout lakes ban the use of kernel corn as bait.

BRIEF: When kernel corn is used as bait, the fish cannot digest the large kernels as it plugs up the digestive tract of the trout and they lose weight and eventually die, as the corn cannot pass through the anus of the trout.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTIONS

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-2-2011

Outfitter Allocations

BE IT RESOLVED THAT all allocations for big game to outfitters be terminated in each WMU where residents are applying for more than 3 years to be successfully drawn.

BRIEF: Currently in many WMU's, and for certain draws, residents may have to wait up to 14 or 15 years to be drawn. Meanwhile that animal continues to be hunted by the out-of-province hunter. Once again, the Alberta resident should have priority.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-5-2011

Permit Big Game Hunters to be Accompanied by a Pack Dog

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Fish & Wildlife Division change the law to permit hunters in 400-series WMU's to be accompanied by a pack dog while hunting big game.

BRIEF: Alberta is currently the only western state or province that does not allow big game hunters to be accompanied by a dog while hunting big game in the mountains. These dogs are used as pack animals and serve as an excellent deterrent against grizzly bears when camping in remote areas and when field dressing game in grizzly country. These dogs are in no way permitted to assist in the harvesting of game and are serious working dogs that are in direct control by the hunter at all times. By permitting the use of pack dogs in grizzly country, human/bear confrontations could be greatly reduced.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-6-2011

Use of a Dog to Track a Wounded Animal

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development change the hunting regulations to allow a big game hunter to use a **leashed** dog to track a wounded animal.

BRIEF: Though no hunter wants to wound an animal, it does happen. Many times there is no snow on the ground during hunting season and tracking of a wounded animal with a dog would help in recovering lost game when tracking can be very difficult. The use of a dog would allow for more recovery of wounded animals. The dog would have to be kenneled prior to the wounding and right away after game retrieval.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-8-2011

Archery Season for Elk Draws in 164, 166 and 208

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development implement an archery season for elk in WMU's 164, 166, and 208 for those that are successful in the elk draws there. This would be a September/October season.

BRIEF: As a draw license for elk in these WMU's is good for all three WMU's and as there is no split season in this area, an archery season would give those that are successfully drawn an opportunity to hunt elk in these WMU's during the rut.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-9-2011

Study of Sharp Tail Grouse Population

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development conduct a study to determine if the sharp tail grouse population in WMU's 320-340 can sustain the current harvest levels, and adjust bag limits by WMU accordingly.

BRIEF: At this time it appears that the current populations of sharp tail grouse cannot sustain the current bag limits. With increased predator populations, we believe that bag limits must be reduced in some WMU's until such time as numbers increase. A population study is required to make appropriate adjustments to bag limits in each WMU.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-10-2011

Ruffed and Spruce Grouse Seasons

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development align the opening date of Ruffed and Spruce Grouse seasons with the opening date of the season for ducks and geese in the 200 – 300 WMU's, which is September 8th in the 2010 Regulations.

BRIEF: Opening date for ducks and geese, ruffed grouse and spruce grouse and big game archery seasons differ by few days in the subject zones. Closer alignment of the season opening dates would reduce confusion, while providing opportunity to hunt more species during one outing in the early season.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-11-2011

Antelope Season Extension

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Alberta Fish and Game Association request that Alberta Sustainable Resource Development extend the antelope seasons in the combined WMU's of 160, 162, 163, 166, to include the WMU's of 200, 202, 203, 232, 234 as well.

BRIEF: This area has a healthy population on the extreme northern edge of their range. Limited hunting pressure would not be a factor in numbers when compared to the effect of winter conditions.

WILDLIFE RESOLUTION NUMBER W-12-2011

Bison Special License Draw

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development increase the maximum number of applicants that may apply together for the Bison Special License Draw to two from one.

BRIEF: While understanding the reason for reducing it to one from the previous four to attain the required harvest numbers, we feel that allowing two hunters to apply together would enhance the harvest and the hunting experience. Most hunters apply for a bison license because they wish for the chance of a lifetime to harvest a bison personally. It is not so much a meat hunt (although the meat would be a bonus), nor would most people wish to have a partner harvest their bison. It is not a hunt to take on alone, so having two hunters together make it more appealing and safer. It is a long trip for most, but the chance of harvesting a bison makes it worthwhile. Two successful applicants could likely still find partners if they wished and the hunt could then be more appealing, plus the required harvest could be met.

ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION

ENVIRONMENT RESOLUTION NUMBER E-2-2011

Animal Composting Program

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development establish an animal composting program for both wild and domestic animals in an effort to assist with the issues of dead animals on our roadways and rural landscape, and

BRIEF: Other jurisdictions have proven success in composting cattle and game animals whereby animals can be fully composted within a matter of just a few weeks. This will minimize the problem of predator issues on the roadways and in the ranching community. This would also minimize the spread of diseases through the transition of animal material throughout the landscape.