



The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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Sale of Public Lands still an Issue

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Edmonton November 3, 2010)... Alberta's largest conservation group, the **Alberta Fish & Game Association (AFGA)**, while encouraged that the proposed sale of 16,000 acres in Southern Alberta to **SLM Spud Farms** is not going through is dismayed at the **Government of Alberta's** stance on the issue.

First, it was not the government that said no to the deal but rather it was the proposed purchaser that withdrew the offer. (*Hansard, Tuesday, November 2, 2010, Afternoon*)

Second, the Government does not feel that Albertans have any say when it comes to selling **public land** as recorded in Hansard (*Tuesday, November 2, 2010, Afternoon*) quoting **Alberta Sustainable Resources Development Minister Mel Knight** who said: "We do not at this point in time and I do not anticipate that the transfer of public land for agricultural purposes would require public consultation."

"This is totally unacceptable," said **AFGA President Quentin Bochar**, "by definition the term public land means just that, it is owned by the public, i.e. Albertans, and as in any other case it is the right of an owner to have a say as to what will happen with their property."

He further stated that, "The incredible amount of pressure from many sources placed on all Alberta lands makes it a non-option to sell any of it, plain and simple."

The AFGA has had a long-standing policy that does **not** support the sale of **any** publicly- owned lands especially in light of the fact that the populated areas of the province, classified by the Alberta Government as "white areas" wherein the subject property lies, contain very limited amounts of publicly-owned land.

The AFGA encourages all members and anyone else that cares to contact their MLA, the Premier, and the Minister of ASRD to voice their opinion. MLA contact information can be found at: http://www.assembly.ab.ca/net/index.aspx?p=mla_home)

The Alberta Fish and Game Association is a not-for-profit volunteer organization proud to serve Albertans in the promotion of the wise use of our fish and wildlife resources and the conservation of their habitats. The AFGA has been active since 1908 in working towards these goals and has a province-wide membership of more than 20,000 individuals spread among 100+ Clubs.

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