



# The Alberta Fish & Game Association

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*AFGA Position Paper (January, 2006)*

## **INSTREAM FLOW NEED POSITION**

1. The AFGA believes that sufficient flows for fish and wildlife must be maintained in all flowing waters in Alberta on a first priority basis.
2. The minimal flow should be based on the annual median flow and should vary in time with the natural seasonal variation. Water withdrawal should not be permitted at water flows that are below the minimum flows (median annual discharge curve).
3. To ensure a natural flow regime Water Conservation Objectives must consider that short term releases from hydro facilities do not negatively impact the aquatic environment.
4. Winter minimum flows must be reviewed to determine if such flows have been altered by human caused factors. If minimum flows have been reduced below natural levels, adjustments must be factored in to ensure the best representation of minimum is used.
5. The median flow should be developed for various watercourses at specific locations by a committee of knowledgeable scientists using instream flow data calibrated over several years. The data should be available for review by stakeholders. Instream flows must be maintained above a minimal level as the health of the aquatic environment correlates with the health of humans.

**AFGA**

*(January 14, 2006)*