

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: September 8, 2014

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 209070

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ISSUE: The Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy Review is nearing completion s.13
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BACKGROUND:

The Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy in the Province of British Columbia was to be transitionally implemented over the allocation period of 2007-2011 and was to be fully implemented for the allocation period of 2012 – 2016.

Over the last few years, government has been informed by the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) that full implementation in some areas of the province was going to create substantial impacts to some guides. The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has informed government that the current allocation policy needs to be fully implemented for proper management of species populations. Both BCWF and GOABC have expressed a desire for allocation splits to be set in legislation.

In April 2013, the Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations directed a review to be done on the Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy (the policy) to provide the Minister with clarification and an overall better understanding of the full impact of the policy on both the guide and resident hunting sectors to:

1. examine policy implementation outcomes to gain a better understanding of the full impact of the policy,
2. determine how the policy fits with the original Guiding Principles and Objectives from the Terms of Reference used in the development of the Harvest Allocation Policy,
3. guide the development of a current, transparent, publically available data base of all information related to the implementation of the Harvest Allocation Policy,
4. assemble challenges, issues and concerns relating to the implementation of the Harvest Allocation Policy, and
5. draft recommendations and options to be provided to the Minister for consideration with the ability for either group to submit their own comments.

To facilitate the review, a project team and stakeholder advisory process involving the GOABC and the BCWF was established in the summer of 2013. A third organization, the Coastal BC Guide Outfitter Association (CBCGOA), has been engaged through ongoing conversations with the Ministry Lead, Executive Director Diane Nicholls. Joint meetings were held at two month intervals (approximately) and many meetings with the individual stakeholders were also held. In all cases the meetings were managed by an independent facilitator. It was agreed that the review would yield:

1. a transparent and publically available data set,
2. an Economic Impact Assessment of the Allocation Policy,
3. a Recommendations Framework to direct the creation of any further policy changes and refinements, and

4. an analysis of the Guide Industry Resiliency with recommendations for strengthening the sector.

The ministry continues to support the underlying principles of the 2007 Harvest Allocation Policy and further policy changes will affirm the goals of maintaining the principle of 'resident hunter priority' and the fostering of a viable provincial guide outfitting industry in order to ensure continued economic and tourism opportunities in rural BC.

DISCUSSION:

The Allocation Review is nearing completion and a final package of information is being assembled. This package, which is intended to clarify issues, will be submitted to the Minister in late September.

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All organizations involved, (GOABC, BCWF and CBCGOA) have submitted letters or comments to the ministry outlining their positions on the draft framework. A final meeting will be held with the GOABC and the BCWF on September 15, 2014 to review the final documents and recommendations.

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There is a briefing being organized for the end of September which will offer the required information to facilitate responses to these audiences.

NEXT STEPS:

1. The information package will be prepared to support decisions.
2. Stakeholders will be asked to submit any additional comments on the final documents by end of September.
3. Minister will be fully briefed in late September in preparation for decisions.

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DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	2014-Sept-09
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	DN	2014-Sept-08

**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: October 22, 2014
Date of previous note: October 1, 2014
File: 280-20
CLIFF: 209743

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ISSUE: Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) is meeting with Minister Thomson on October 27, 2014 to discuss the Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy Review outcomes.

BACKGROUND:

At the end of September 2014, the Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy review was completed and sent to Minister Thomson for decision. As part of this review, the key stakeholders were given the opportunity to submit their final position on the outcomes of the review. The meeting with GOABC on October 27, 2014 is meant to be a discussion with them on their position of the review as articulated in the letter sent October 17, 2014 (attachment 1). There is also a meeting being held between GOABC and Minister Bennett and information was also requested by Minister Rustad in response to the GOABC letter being copied to him.

DISCUSSION:

The allocation policy of 2007 was a new policy brought into effect by a transitioned approach across the Province of British Columbia. The transitioned approach to implementation was an attempt to manage impacts to some guides affected by the policy. Guide outfitters raised concerns of significant impacts to their business. Due to this concern, Minister Thomson directed a review of the allocation policy.

The Wildlife Harvest Allocation Policy review was initiated in 2013 and completed in September 2014 with final recommendations going to the Minister Thomson. The review participants consisted of representatives from Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR), Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) and the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF), with the BC Coastal Guides also being involved as a secondary process. s.13

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In the October 17th letter from GOABC they mention the following additional items of concern:

1. *“The proposed package does not mitigate the financial impacts to our sector.”*

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2. *“The BCWF is seeking legislative splits that would see the resident hunters share increased, above current allocation levels.”*

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3. *“Mitigation to guide outfitters for loss of quota, through the direct awarding of fractional territories, and/or compensation/retraining through an established mitigation trust needs to be implemented as soon as possible.”*

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4. *“Increased flexibility in the Administrative Guidelines to better allow the ability to harvest the 5-year quota.”*

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CONCLUSION:
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Attachments: 209472 Wildlife Allocation Policy Review Recommendations – Decision Note

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM	TE	October 23, 2014
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	DN	October 22, 2014

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MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS
DECISION NOTE

Date: December 9, 2014
File: 280-20
CLIFF/tracking #: 210870

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ISSUE: Wildlife Allocation Policy Review Decision

BACKGROUND:

The Wildlife Allocation Policy (the policy) was to be transitionally implemented over the allocation period of 2007-2011 and was to be fully implemented for the allocation period of 2012-2016.

Over the last few years government has been informed by the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) that full implementation in some areas of the province was going to create substantial impacts to some guides. The implementation of the policy has caused impacts in some regions; however, GOABC has indicated the impacts that are of most concern are those that are due to two factors:

1. A change in some regions from historical regional level allocations with independent Regional Manager discretion for allocation and quota setting, to setting allocation and quota at the guide territory level, and
2. A change in some regions from using success factors to not using success factors for assigning quota to guides.

The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has informed government that the allocation policy needs to be fully implemented for proper management of wildlife populations.

As a result, the Minister directed in 2013 a review to be done with both GOABC and BCWF to deliver the following:

1. Clarification and an overall better understanding of the full impact of the policy on both the guide and resident hunting sectors.
2. Determine how the policy fits with the original guiding principles and objectives from the terms of reference used in the development of the harvest allocation policy.
3. Establish a current, transparent and publicly available database of all information related to the harvest allocation policy.
4. Assemble challenges, issues and outstanding concerns relating to implementation of the policy.
5. Draft recommendations and options to be provided for consideration with the ability for either group to submit their own comments.

The purpose of this note is to present options for decision on how to manage Wildlife Harvest Allocations in BC.

DISCUSSION:

The Wildlife Allocation Policy has been an issue of concern for a number of years for the GOABC, BCWF, BC Coastal Guide Outfitters Association (BCCGOA) and the ministry. It has had a number of reviews, most notably the “Trumpy Report” in 2011 as well as this review (initiated in June 2013 and completed in September 2014) which occurred with GOABC, BCWF, BCCGOA and the ministry and is now completed.

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OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands
and Natural Resource Operations

Date

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
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ADM	TE	Dec 9, 2014
Author	DN	Dec 8, 2014

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

DECISION NOTE

Date: October 1, 2014

File: 280-20

CLIFF#: 209472

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

ISSUE: Wildlife Allocation Policy Review Recommendations

BACKGROUND:

The Wildlife Allocation Policy (the policy) was to be transitionally implemented over the allocation period of 2007-2011 and was to be fully implemented for the allocation period of 2012-2016.

Over the last few years government has been informed by the Guide Outfitters Association of BC (GOABC) that full implementation in some areas of the province was going to create substantial impacts to some guides. The implementation of the policy, has caused impacts in some regions, however the GOABC has indicated that the impacts that are of most concern are those that are due to two factors:

1. A change in some regions from historical regional level allocations with independent Regional Manager discretion for allocation and quota setting, to setting allocation and quota at the guide territory level, and
2. A change in some regions from using success factors to not using success factors for assigning quota to guides.

The BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has informed government that the allocation policy needs to be fully implemented for proper management of wildlife populations.

As a result, the Minister directed in 2013 a review to be done with both GOABC and BCWF to deliver the following:

1. Clarification and an overall better understanding of the full impact of the policy on both the guide and resident hunting sectors.
2. Determine how the policy fits with the original guiding principles and objectives from the terms of reference used in the development of the harvest allocation policy.
3. Establish a current, transparent and publicly available database of all information related to the harvest allocation policy.
4. Assemble challenges, issues and outstanding concerns relating to implementation of the policy.
5. Draft recommendations and options to be provided for consideration with the ability for either group to submit their own comments.

The purpose of this note is to present recommendations that have been developed through the Wildlife Allocation Policy Review as directed.

This note will discuss the above five deliverables with the following documents which are attached for reference:

1. Wildlife allocation recommended framework which includes statements of positions from the Guide Outfitters Association and the BC Wildlife Federation where consensus could not be reached.
2. Administration of the Industry (Guide Outfitters) Five-Year Allocation Recommended Framework
3. Summary of the economic assessment of impacts to the guiding community by the allocation policy.

DISCUSSION:

The Wildlife Allocation policy has been an issue of concern for a number of years for the GOABC, BCWF, BC Coastal Guide Outfitters Association (BCCGOA) and the ministry. It has had a number of reviews, most notably the “Trumpy Report” in 2011 as well as this review (initiated in June 2013) which occurred with GOABC, BCWF, BCCGOA and the ministry and is now completed.

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The allocation framework is now complete and the following outlines how this framework and the review met the directed criteria mandated by Minister Thomson.

- 1. Clarification and an overall better understanding of the full impact of the policy on both the guide and resident hunting sectors.**

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- 2. Determine how the policy fits with the original guiding principles and objectives from the terms of reference used in the development of the harvest allocation policy.**

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- 3. Establish a current, transparent and publicly available database of all information related to the harvest allocation policy**

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- 4. Assemble challenges, issues and outstanding concerns relating to implementation of the policy**

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- 5. Draft recommendations and options to be provided for consideration with the ability for either group to submit their own comments.**

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OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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Approved / Not Approved

Signature
Steve Thomson, Minister

Date

NR

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