



Reference: 132308

DEC 08 2010

Scott Ellis
Guide Outfitters Association of BC
Suite 103 – 19140 – 28th Avenue
Surrey BC V3S 6M3

Dear Scott Ellis:

Thank you for your letter of October 4, 2010, in which you request the Ministry of Environment (now the Ministry of Natural Resource Operations) to restart the sale of fractional and vacant guide territories.

I would like to confirm for you the definitions I use for “fractional guide territories”, “vacant guide territories” and “unoccupied territories”, to ensure we are both clear on what is being discussed. “Vacant guide territories” are territories for which there is a guiding history, but no guide is currently active in the area. “Unoccupied territories” are those areas where guiding activities have not occurred previously, and “fractional guide territories” are areas that the regional manager considers to be suitable for guided hunting but not suitable for designation as a stand-alone guide territory.

I agree with you that the sale of fractional and vacant guide territories is an issue that needs to be reviewed now that we are proceeding towards full implementation of the Harvest Allocation policy. At present, however, this remains a task we are not currently resourced to address. We are examining the 2011/2012 budget and will work to provide the time and resources necessary to deal with this issue. In the meantime, I have instructed staff to review current policies and procedures for disposing of unoccupied territories, to determine which areas of the province meet the definition of “unoccupied”, and to begin developing guiding principles that will help us move this issue forward to a resolution. The GOABC’s input will be essential to our understanding of the guiding industry’s position on any proposed options for the disposal of vacant and fractional guide areas.

Sincerely,

Tom Ethier
Director
Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management

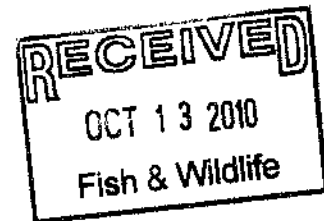


Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

Suite 103, 15140 - 28th Avenue, Surrey, BC Canada V3S 6M3 Telephone: (604) 541-6332 Facsimile: (604) 541-6339 Email: info@goabc.org

October 4, 2010

Tom Ethier
Director, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9391 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M8



RE: Fractional and Vacant Guide Territories

Dear Tom:

Your letter dated September 29, 2010 (reference # 130540) reconfirmed that allocation shares will be applied at the guide outfitter level. This means that guide outfitters will not be permitted to harvest animals in factional and vacant guide territories to achieve their regional annual allowable harvest.

The sale of factional and vacant guide territories was temporarily suspended by the Ministry of Environment during the development of the Allocation Policy. Since the Policy is now being implemented, the reason for deferring the sale of factional and vacant guide territories is no longer valid. The Allocation Policy commits to the timely "review of the status of uncertificated areas" and "disposition of guide territories". The sale of factional and vacant guide territories could help mitigate the impact of the Allocation Policy for some of our members and result in additional revenue for government.

The Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia requests the Ministry of Environment restart the sale of factional and vacant guide territories.

Please call 604-541-6332 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Ellis
General Manager
Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia

cc. Jody Shimkus, ADM - MoE
Doug Konkin, DM - MoE
Mark Werner, President - GOABC



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Wildlife Stewardship is our Priority™