

From: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:31 AM
To: s.22
s.22
FLNR:EX; s.22
s.22
Schwantje, Helen
Rich Harris (Richard.Harris@dfw.wa.gov); s.22
s.22
Cc: s.22
Almberg, Emily (EAlmberg@mt.gov); Rich Harris
(Richard.Harris@dfw.wa.gov); s.22
MacIver,
Stephen FLNR:EX
Subject: Comment Request on Proposed BC Regulation RE. Prohibition on Pack-camelids for the purposes of hunting

s.22 & all,

I am seeking some quick input on the attached, to provide me with context as some of the info referred to lies with some of you folks, and I want to be certain the comments are being described clearly in terms of context (please see attached - *letter from* s.22).

I am also looking for your thoughts on the merits of this proposed precautionary regulation (proposal #2160) for BC, and an indication of your thoughts on risks. The intent behind the proposal was to remove the highest risk activity related to hunting in wild sheep and goat habitats (i.e., packing with domestic sheep, goats and camelids). Among other info, we had supported the package with anecdotal information related to an outbreak of contagious ecthyma in mountain goats in NW BC, where we suspected the virus originated from an area where the use of llamas as trekking animals had begun (circa mid 1990's). In my research of neighbouring jurisdictions, I have noted several similar proposals that have only partially been adopted, or not at all. In my conversations to date, the non-establishment of the proposed bans that included camelids was not a result of a zero-risk determination, but instead a lack of clinical evidence on the extent to which risk would be posed by camelids. A majority of jurisdictions suggest caution even though they have not gone as far as prohibition. I have been very clear with all that this proposal is a precautionary attempt to reduce the highest risk posed to wild sheep and goats from camelid packing, within the confines of our Wildlife Act legislation, until such time that clinical evidence can demonstrate no risk and the regulation can be amended.

I am hoping for some quick perspectives on this, and some clarity on context of the citations and from the authors mentioned in s.22 letter. We are finalizing the package to be forwarded to the decision-maker in the next week or so, so some quick information is greatly welcomed, but all related information is greatly appreciated. Many thanks in advance.



letter from

s.22

Using Domestic Sheep, Goats, and Camelids for the Purposes of Hunting

Proposal Number: 2160

Proposed Regulations: A person commits an offence where he hunts big game while accompanied by, or with the use or aid of, domestic sheep, goats and/or camelids, including as pack animals.

Bill Jex, RPBio.
Regional Wildlife Biologist,
Skeena Region,
British Columbia Ministry of Forest, Lands
& Natural Resource Operations

Mail to:

Bag 5000
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0

Phone:

(250) 847-7804

Fax:

(250) 847-7728

Jager, Brenda CSNR:EX

From: s.22
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 12:35 AM
To: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Subject: letter from s.22
Attachments: Bill Jex FLNR Smithers, B.C..odt

Hello Bill,

Attached is my letter outlining some of the information received in regards to Proposal #2160.

I've attempted to cover the details pertinent to our discussion, and in most cases you will be able to access the long version of the reports without me having to download, print and send hard copies to you.

The response to Proposal #2160 is amazing, and we're waiting for more documentation to arrive. I can inform you when those responses are received. s.22 to request their input. In

some cases s.13 was required.

Others are waiting for the outcome of the decision before getting involved.

The Ministry and the Fish and Wildlife Branch have certainly created a firestorm surrounding Proposal #2160. It has been an education in politics and procedure, and has renewed an awakening in the Camelid community. I half expect the s.22

I hope we will be able to come to a logical conclusion in the matter of Proposal #2160.

Kind regards,

s.22

Attachment: Letter to Bill Jex

Jager, Brenda CSNR:EX

From: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 1:02 PM
To: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Draft SHAC Minutes and Final SHAC ToR
Attachments: SHAC Minutes (2015).docx

NOTE: I am including the attached as it contains information that is loosely associated with the FOI request and I want my response to be comprehensive. The email below is the source of the attached correspondence, but was kept within the ministry and did not include any parties listed in the FOI request.

The meeting minutes in the attached email are from a regional advisory committee consultation process. The committee includes guide outfitters, but they are not specifically GOABC representatives. The minutes include discussion on Regulation 2160, which can be found at the top of page 13.

I have removed the ToR document referenced in the source email below, as it is unrelated to the info request.

Bill Jex, RPBio.
Regional Wildlife Biologist,
Skeena Region,
British Columbia Ministry of Forest, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Mail to:
Bag 5000
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone:
(250) 847-7804
Fax:
(250) 847-7728

From: Mike [mailto:steele@bulkley.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2016 9:22 PM
To: Adam Moleski; Dave Lewis; Dennys Bell; s.22 Igor Steciw; Jim Lancaster; Joe Smith; s.22
s.22 Lloyd & Jack Hooper; Mike Young; s.22 Mike Langegger; s.22
s.22 ; Stefan Schug; Jim & Tracy De La Mare; Norbert Mund; s.22 : Brad Lytle; Terri
O'Neill
Cc: Thiessen, Conrad D FLNR:EX; Dixon, Krystal FLNR:EX; Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Subject: Draft SHAC Minutes and Final SHAC ToR

Hi Again Everyone,

Brad Lytle asked me to send the following.

This is a reminder for our upcoming Skeena Hunter's Advisory Committee (SHAC) meeting on Saturday the 12th of March, 2016. For now please assume that the meeting will be at the same time and location as last year (Smithers, B.C. from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the MFLNRO Caribou Room). This will be verified shortly.

Attached you will find last year's draft SHAC minutes and the final SHAC Terms of Reference (ToR). While the minutes are still draft until discussed at the March meeting the ToR are final and are the rules we all need to adhere to. These were originally sent out to everyone on June 10th, 2015.

A reminder also that any and all submissions for regulation changes need to adhere to the SHAC ToR.

Specifically:

- * Each committee member shall contact the chair six weeks prior to an upcoming meeting to indicate their attendance and to identify any items or submit written regulation proposals for consideration and inclusion on the agenda.
- * Fish & Wildlife (FW) staff will communicate to SHAC (through the chair) all proposed regulations complete with rationale as to why they are being proposed 4 weeks prior to SHAC meeting.

As such, the latest dates for submission would be January 29th and February 12th respectively. Please send submissions to Brad Lytle (Chair) and c.c. them to Terri O'Neill (Recording Secretary).

Thanks, Terri

From: M.T. O'NEILL

Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 7:18 PM

To: Adam Moleski ; Brad Lytle ; Dave Lewis ; Dennys Bell ; s.22 ; Igor Steciw ; Jim Lancaster ; Joe Smith ; s.22 ; Lloyd and Jack Hooper ; Michael Young ; s.22 ; Mike Langedger ; Mike O'Neill ; s.22 ; Stefan Schug ; Jim &

Tracy De La Mare ; Norbert Mund ; s.22

Cc: Conrad Thiessen ; Dana Atagi ; Bill Jex

Subject: Draft SHAC Minutes

Hi Everyone,

Attached are the draft minutes from the meeting in May, as well as the corrected terms of reference as discussed.

Please read the minutes over and get back to me when time permits.

Thanks, Terri

“DRAFT MINUTES”

SKEENA HUNTER’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MAY 09, 2015

SHAC Members	Brad Lytle (BL) Chair	Independent Hunter
s.22		Kitimat Rod and Gun Club
	Adam Moleski (AM)	Bowhunter – RHABC
	Mike Langegger (ML)	NWFWCA – BCWF Reg. 6
	Dennys Bell (DB)	Tweedsmuir Rod and Gun Club
	Stephen Schug (SS)	F.N. Perspective
	David Lewis (DL)	P.R. Rod and Gun Club
	Joe Smith (JS)	Fulton River Rod and Gun Club
s.22		Independent Hunter (Houston)
	James De La Mare (JD)	Morice Mountain Marksmen
	Tracy De La Mare (TD)	Independent Hunter (Houston)
	Ron Langdale (RL)	Trappers Association
	Igor Steciw (IS)	B.V. Rod and Gun Club
	Norbert Mund (NM)	Francois – Oosta Sportsmen
	Mike O’Neill (MO)	Independent Hunter (Smithers)
	Mike Young (MY)	N.W. Guides Association
	Jim Lancaster (JL)	N.W. Guides Association
s.22		Observer
	Bill Jex (BJ)	FLNRO – Wildlife Branch
	Conrad Thiessen (CT)	FLNRO – Wildlife Branch
	Dana Atagi (DA)	FLNRO – Fish and Wildlife Branch
	Terri O’Neill (TO)	Recording Secretary

Discussion Regarding the Terms of Reference

Motioned by MO, seconded by ML, that the terms of reference be adopted with the changes made by the committee.

The updated version will replace the wording “Non-Native” with “Licensed Hunter”, and Trappers will be included. As well, Morice Mountain Marksmen will be included representing the Houston Area.

DB will make the changes and will forward them to be included with the minutes so all members have a current copy.

CT questioned as to how proposals are being shared with the member’s representative represent?

DB stated that he brings the submitted proposals to a Club meeting and they are discussed and voted on. Other Clubs do the same.

SS is giving the First Nations perspective because of his knowledge from working with them for 7 years.

s.2
2 is sitting as an independent hunter now that he is retired from guiding. He is also sitting as one of the founding members.

Minutes from 2014

DB stated that two of the hardest jobs are recording the minutes and running the meeting. Therefore, it’s important to get the minutes out for review in a timely manner while the meeting is still fresh in the membership’s minds.

No one has the right to add things that weren’t discussed or ask for something to be deleted that was said unless the committee agrees.

Clarification comments are welcome.

Motioned by JD, seconded by s.22 that the minutes be accepted as read with the addition of BJ’s clarification comments.

Elk Harvest Committee

MO. The committee met on short notice during the AGM of the NFWFCA held in Smithers as most of the committee members would be present, as well as s.22 from the Cattlemen’s Association. He apologized for not contacting NM or the Ministry.

DA. With our cutbacks and lack of staff we would probably not have been able to attend anyway.

MO. Basically the Elk Committee has come up with a proposal based on the increase in Elk sightings in the Bulkley Valley and Lakes area. The proposal is just a draft but we feel it's a good start. The Cattlemen's Association don't think it will have the impact that they would like to see.

The proposed hunts will take place in Management-Units 6-04 through 6-09 excluding M.U. 6-07

A 9-day bow season from September 1 through 9th for 6 point or better bulls.

A 9-day GOS rifle season from September 17th through 25th for 6 point or better bulls.

An option for a possible winter hunt on farm land as exists in the Peace Region.

All hunts should be subject to a mandatory inspection or reporting. This will help with a population estimate for the area and for harvest monitoring.

SS. This small-scale type of hunt was tried in Europe and was unsuccessful. The Elk get educated very quickly because they are herd animals and then they either move to another area or go nocturnal. We need experts on elk management to have any impact on this herd which is increasing every year and we don't have that kind of expertise in this Valley.

RL. A farmer in the Woodmere area found 8 large sheds around his feeding stations. I think with hunters having opportunity to hunt elk will take the pressure off of the moose.

AM. Again this year I have game-cam pictures of probably 7 different bull elk just in behind the Telkwa area. Other guys I work with are seeing elk everywhere. On the Pebbles Ranch in the Francois Lake area the mule deer have left and all the farmer is seeing is elk. Hunters are not seeing deer in the Peace region like they used to. In the P.G. area during the first hunt there hunters harvested over 60 bulls.

JD. On our road patrols for Forestry we are seeing elk from Houston to the Tahtsa Lake area back to Nadina Lake and over as far as the Parrots.

MO. What the committee would like to know is if the Ministry is in support of an elk hunt?

DA. Again, in the past 3 years we have been challenged with lack of staff and funds. Creating a new hunt is not as easy as you may think, we can't just implement a new hunt. There is lots of consultation required with everyone that will be impacted. First Nations will need to be brought to the table as well as the Cattlemen.

RL. How many years will it take to get a hunt?

DA. Again, because of staffing shortages we are not sure.

MO. What this Committee needs to know is "Does the Ministry support an Elk harvest in our area?"

CT/BJ. No, we choose to remain neutral on the matter.

MO. So, basically your staff has no concerns on the negative impacts the elk are having on the other ungulates. Well, our Committee is concerned and we need this to move ahead.

BJ. I feel that we do have some expertise in this Valley. I personally worked with transplanting the Roosevelt Elk on the Island and in the Sechelt Area.

CT. I was in the Peace Region when a solution was agreed to there. Consultation has to happen with the FN's.

IS. I think it is very important that resident hunters are first with this new hunt. The Ministry should not be involved in the political forum with wildlife management. They should concentrate on the biology not the politics.

SS. This is the steelhead issue revisited. The best thing the Ministry can do is go to the FN groups and tell them that this is the plan the Ministry is suggesting, not going to the FN and asking for them to develop the plan.

ML. The consensus around the table is that the elk hunt needs to move forward. We need to work together with everyone to make it happen. Elk are to the point they are destroying farm land and displacing moose, deer and caribou.

MO. This Committee of local hunters developed both the moose and deer strategies for our area so I think we will be able to come up with a good plan for elk.

Motioned by MO, seconded by IS, that if everyone is in agreement with this draft Elk Plan then we move forward from this meeting to meet the time frame required to implement an elk hunt for the 2016 season. Agreed by consensus.

ACTION - Brad Lytle will be the lead . Igor, Adam and Mike O'Neill will also be part of the working group. The Ministry, Cattlemen's Associations and the First Nations will also be included.

OLD BUSINESS

BL. Old business is basically the proposals that have been brought forward by this Committee in the past several years that have not been acted upon by the Ministry.

Hudson Bay Mountain Goat

CT. Basically nothing has changed. What would this committee like to know?

IS. Firstly this is for a bow season only. Hunters are able to hunt every other species on the mountain with a rifle so we can't understand why we can't have an archery season for goat. We are not asking for the area around the ski hill. Hudson Bay is a very large mountain range.

CT. The owners of the ski hill did a count in 2008 and saw less than 50 goats. We can't open a hunt based on those numbers.

MO. Is the Ministry opposed to this hunt?

CT. We didn't support it last year so our position remains the same.

IS. Well, we don't agree with you position.

JL. In my area alone we saw 40 goat.

MO. My question was ``Is the Ministry opposed to a goat hunt?"

CT. Yes, we are opposed to the hunt.

MO. We are surprised that you would allow a developer to do their own goat survey. We will probably have to do our own as well.

JL. I would like to suggest that we do 3 counts.

BL. Would the Ministry be interested in doing a goat count on Hudson Bay?

CT. We have many goat populations that we are more interested in.

DA. We are more interested in monitoring goats where they are hunted.

ML. Are you not concerned about the negative impacts the commercial development will have on the goat population?

CT. We are not the approving agency, we are just one voice at the table and to date we have not been very successful.

ML. There seems to be a total disconnect between fish and wildlife managers and the developers and the final decision makers.

CT. I feel very confident in the work that s.22 has done. I am very confident with his numbers. His count was done in August 2008, a total of 59 goats were counted with 43 of them adults.

MO. To be accurate was all of the Hudson Bay Range surveyed?

BJ. I am not certain how far back he went but I think so.

ACTION - BL. This Committee would like a copy of the Hudson Bay Mt 2008 goat count and the actual area that was covered.

Ungulate Inventory

CT. Lots of work was done in the last year. Moose counts were done at the Dease Lake area check points to get an idea of the licensed harvest.

Goat surveys were done in the summer by Krystal. Some of the results are:

6-09E counted 75 goat, estimate 94.

6-09D counted 39 goat, estimate 49.

Morice Mtn. 54 goat - no population estimate.

6-09G counted 49 goat, estimate 56.

6-04A Foxy and China Creek. No final numbers as of yet.

ML. With the road block on the Klappan the information will be biased.

JD. There was another road block on the Morice Forest Road. What is the legality of the blockades and what is being done about it?

DA. Right or wrong the Government won't take down F.N. blockades.

ML. What is being done about "Beyond Boarding" the snowboarders that were at the Klappan blockade?

DA. That is being looked into.

JD. Nadina and Morice Mountains. How many are adults? Is any goat considered an adult? It seems our regulations are different than the rest of the Province? It seems that there are "any goat" seasons in other parts of B.C.

BJ. There is no "any goat" season in other parts. Any goat two years of age or older is considered harvestable.

JD. I believe that in the LEH booklet it states "any goat any age" in the Kootaney's.

BJ. It is unlawful to harvest a Nanny in the company of a kid.

BJ. I will look into the wording.

JD. I am confused about the numbers the Ministry is putting out for the Morice and Nadina Mountains.

s.2 What were the weather conditions like when the counts were done and what time of year was it? This can really make a difference when counting goat.

CT. We had clear conditions. The counts were done July 28, 29, and 30th.

IS. With the hot summer we had last year the goat wouldn't be on the mountain they would be down in the trees.

JL. We did a count in the Yukon in July and then counted the same path in September of the same year and it was amazing difference in the counts with the cooler weather.

I would like to know how the goat zones got to be so small? With the 50 threshold we are going to have lots of problems. Slowly, area by area, we are going to be closed down.

DL. We would like the results of the count done in the Dease Lake area.

Moose

CT. The moose data are incomplete and not available at this time.

BL. What kind of time lines are we looking at for receiving the information?

CT. Probably a couple of months.

Telkwa Mountain Caribou - Tweedsmuir Caribou - Tahltan Caribou

CT. The latest counts show 16 caribou with 16 of them collared in the Telkwa's

Tweedsmuir had a count of 80 animals with 37 with collars.

For the Tahltan herd in the Gnat Pass area 600 animals were counted in less than 3 hours. This count included both sides of the road. Their numbers are up from the last count.

Sheep

BJ. 6-28A count was done in the Bennett Lake West area including parts of the Yukon and the numbers are down. Most of the counts are just finishing up. Yukon and Alaska are planning a huge sheep count in 2016.

Surveys for 2016

BJ. We are planning another moose count in the Klappan area as well as the Nass area.

JD. If goat season opens up August 1st why would you do a count just days before?

s.22 10 years ago a count was done during hunting season spooking everything. Nothing surprises me anymore.

DA. We only have a small window when we are able to do our counts and we won't do them during the natal season.

Meeting Date for 2016

BJ. The original request for the meeting date change came from the Provincial Wildlife Branch it wasn't from us locally. But, just so you know, if the meeting date is changed to earlier in the year there is a good chance many of the Ministry staff will be out doing wildlife surveys.

BL. Historically our meeting date was in December and that seemed to work.

Motioned by JS, seconded by MO, that the 2016 meeting be held on the second Saturday in March. Agreed by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS

Bear Meat Inspection

DL. Will the availability to get your bear meat tested for trichinosis at a cost of \$30.00 to the hunter be available in the North as is offered in the Southern part of B.C.

CT. We are not aware of this service as it is not done by the Ministry. We believe this is offered through the Ministry of Agriculture.

Meziadin Conserancy Area

ML. This is a deal between the Nis'ga and the Provincial Government. They are apparently planning this for the area and we are not being informed.

BJ. Mike Neto is the Parks contact and he is the person with that kind of information. It might be an idea to invite him to our next meeting.

RL. The guiding area in the Meziadin area has just been bought by the Nis'ga.

MO. A similar issue was discussed in the Cassiar LRMP and there was no support to shut down the bear hunting. This would require re-opening the LRMP.

DA. Hunting is allowed in most Conservancy areas

ML. We think it is important that we as a committee be informed of these proposals and it would be helpful if the Ministry would let us know when proposals like this come up so we can act on them if needed.

Resident Under-Harvest Resulting From LEH Restrictions

MO. Thank you for the harvest information. As residents we are concerned about the resident under-harvest for sheep. In Edziza, we have only harvested 4 sheep out of a possible 15 in the last 5-year period. Why has the Ministry not increased our permits to increase resident harvest?

CT. This decision is part of the Stikine Advisory process.

MO. I am part of that process and increasing hunting permits has already been agreed to.

CT. Well the 5-year period is from 2012 to 2106 so we still have two years left.

MO. You know that we won't harvest a huge amount of sheep in the next two seasons so what would it hurt to issue more permits? LEH numbers can change on short notice.

CT. It does link into Parks and I was not at the table when the decisions were made.

MO. The decision was made years ago on how to adjust the LEH permits, we just need the Branch to do it. In Spatsizi residents can take 55 rams in a five year period and they have only harvested 37. It's not a huge risk. Maybe we should make 5% of our 110 permits any ram?

ML. There is an obvious frustration with LEH. The Ministry is supposed to review resident LEH harvest every 3 years and make adjustments either by increasing or decreasing permits and it's not being done. It's no wonder resident hunters are frustrated.

MY. The guides did discuss the possibility of an "any ram" permit but the Ministry hasn't zoned Spatsizi Park like they were supposed to and we are concerned too many rams will come out of the more easily accessed areas which wouldn't be good.

BJ. It is my understanding the goal is to keep the Park as a whole.

MO. At the last meeting of the Stikine Committee the Park was to be zoned into two areas. We need this to be followed up on. There are a lot of people that apply for sheep permits in Spatzisi with no intentions of going hunting. I also think it's time we had an allocation meeting with the resident hunters and the guide outfitters.

ML. There is a risk involved with harvesting these smaller rams.

BJ. We would have to have a discussion with Park reps. Data state that harvesting smaller rams can have a negative impact on "trophy" rams as well as on the ewe and lamb groups as the smaller rams tend to hang around the family groups.

ML. Seeing the data would be interesting.

BJ. Once we start doing on-line surveys we will be able to understand better about who are getting the permits without any intentions of using them.

MO. Basically we need 30 permits to be issued for Edziza to have any hope of increasing our harvest.

The Committee supports the 30 permits for Edziza but not for a harvest on "any ram" in Spatzisi.

Mule Deer 3-Point Opportunities

AM. I have noticed a big increase in large 3-point mule deer in the past few years. I have several different ones on my game cam. Having talked with others I need to do more research into the negative affects this could have on the mule deer population.

The proposal was withdrawn.

Dall Sheep - GOABC

SS. If illegal rams are being shot then it shouldn't be hard to track down who is the problem as this is a fly-in area only.

CT. I talked with s.22 and he's not aware of any illegally shot rams.

ML. We do not support a "once in a lifetime ram" idea.

The proposal tabled until a GOABC rep knowing the issue is available.

Dall Sheep - Age 8 Only Proposal

The proposal was withdrawn by ML given the previous motion being tabled.

Increased Grouse Season

s.22 This proposal is being put forward to coordinate timelines with the local deer season. It's to promote families to go hunting together.

Motioned by s.22 seconded by MO, that we support this season change.

BJ. We cannot include 6-12 or 6-13 in this as we would have to consult with the FN on the Charlottes. It is also no longer in our management area. I am also concerned about grouse being harvested on their winter range. This could have a negative impact on them especially if it snows.

The current season was established in 1989. September 10th to November 15th. This closing date was picked because of concerns of hens being removed from the clutches that late in the season could kill the whole clutch as they rely on her to get them through the winter.

MO. That's all very interesting because years ago this Committee proposed not having a season at all if we were having a wet spring. The Ministry said it wouldn't make any difference as hunters have a very small impact on the grouse populations.

BJ. All I can say is that caution should be taken.

Motion passed by consensus.

Ministry Proposals

Amendment to the current Range of Authorizations for Thinhorn Sheep LEH Zones 6-25D & 6-28

MY. What is the point of having a range of authorizations of 1-100?

DA. The range of authorizations is recommended by Region. We need to be able to make management changes without going to Cabinet. It gives us more room to work.

ML. Why the drop in LEH.

BJ. The population has decreased.

MO. Is there any harvest data to support this?

BJ. Yes but this is more about sheep populations.

MO. Residents shouldn't be taking the hit if we are not the ones having the impact. Did the guides get decreased? I always find it interesting how the Ministry has no problem decreasing our LEH permits but they seem to have a real problem increasing them. We need the data.

BJ. Yes they got decreased. Goodwin and Larson. I can't pull the numbers out of the air, but yes they did.

DB. Without the harvest and population data we cannot support this proposal. You should be sending us the information prior to the meeting or at least be bringing it to the table.

MO. If you want to take away opportunity you should be providing us with the data as to why. This is a standard request. The information was available it just wasn't forwarded to the committee.

Based on the lack of supporting data the committee does not support this proposal.

Request for submission of an Incisor tooth from Harvested Thinhorn Sheep

SS. How many illegal sheep are being harvested each year?

BJ. Approximately four sheep. The cases that go to court is where this will be beneficial. The tooth gets sent to a lab that specializes in aging by teeth.

ML. Have you asked the Crown if this would be beneficial?

BJ. Yes I have and yes it would be.

This request is supported by the Committee.

Change the Range of Authorizations for Moose in MJ 6-04 Francois Lake Area

CT. The numbers need to be changed as per the proposal so we have room to work in order to protect the moose populations.

MO. It would be nice to see the most current data you are using to justify your decisions. We only received the data up to 2011. Where is the data from 2012 and 2013? The permit changes need to work both ways. They need to go up to increase our harvest if we are not meeting our target and down for conservation reasons.

CT. There is a social cap on increasing permits that we are required to follow.

RF. The open season is not having as big of an impact on the moose populations that we are lead to believe. Predators are the main problem, as well as the railway in the winter.

JD. Logging practices have changed moose behavior as well.

MO. This is an entire Southern Skeena issue. We have moose crossing management units causing numbers to go up and numbers to go down.

DB. Our Club supports this if it means we can keep our open season.

This change was supported by the Committee, but requests the most recent data for all M.U.'s in the BV-Lakes area be supplied ASAP.

Closure of LEH Goat hunts in 6-04A, 6-09D, 6-09G, and 6-09R

CT. These proposed closures are the result of surveys done in July of 2015.

s.22 I think these numbers are inaccurate as I have personally been on these mountains and there are lots of goats up there. In many of the areas in Region 7 there are GOS for residents and guides. It seems to me it is only in Region 6 that we are having a problem. It's like there is an anti-hunting attitude in this local office.

JD. What was the temperature when Krystal was doing these counts, and again, why do the counts just before hunting season begins?

JL. I am concerned about these small zones that are in the same area, and one by one they are being closed. These goat don't just stay in one zone, they move around between the small zones that the Ministry has created.

s.22 I am concerned about the wording "recommendations will be made to close". Sounds like we don't have any input.

MO. Again more information, even a map, would have been very useful right about now.

DB. (After reviewing a map) I am concerned about the proposal to close a zone on one side of Troitsa Lake when across the lake there is a GOS. This doesn't make sense when we all know the goats migrate from one side of the lake to the other.

BL. I think at this point we should probably look at each proposed closure individually and vote on it.

6-04A	Kasalka Range	no support
6-09D	Nanika Mountains	no support
6-09G	Nadina Mountain	no support
6-09R	Atna River	no support

Prohibition on the Use of Unmanned Drones and Other Flying Aircraft for the Purposes of Hunting

BJ. Other Regions are already doing this we are just keeping in step with them.

DB. I can't support this because of the wording "fair chase". Basically a drone is a fancy aircraft that can stop in mid-air. What's next trail cams, you can now get instant information from them now. What about scopes, do they provide "fair chase" or google maps? We shouldn't manage by going into the tackle box.

NM. Hunters should have some code of ethics and just not use these things.

RL. Will non-hunters be regulated as well? I wouldn't want something buzzing over me while I was hunting.

JD. It sounds like they are becoming a problem for air traffic so I think something will be done fairly soon.

BJ. I personally had two moose hunts disrupted by drones this last season. Apparently hunters are using drones to spot sheep before going into the mountains.

SS. The drones would probably work really well for doing Elk counts.

Supported, but not by Denys.

Prohibition on the Use of Domestic Sheep, Goats, and Camelids for the Purposes of Hunting Big Game Species and Back-country Recreation

BJ. These domestic species have the potential to spread diseases to wild sheep. We are just trying to be proactive.

ML. The science is there and is fairly clear. The Province has been looking into this for some time. It can be devastating to wild sheep. This is a proposal that we should support.

DB. We are supporting restricting hunters, will other user groups be restricted as well?

BJ. Yes, it will include all user groups.

MO. This came up during the Cassiar LRMP and it should have been done years ago.

Supported by consensus.

Extension of the 400m Firearm Restriction from Meziadin Junction to the Yukon Boarder

BJ. With the creation of the NW transmission line and Red Chris mine providing more access we are concerned about safety along this Highway.

MO. Years ago there was a regulation just like this but the CO's asked to have it removed because the FN people were not abiding by it. It was not fair that it only applied to the licensed hunter.

ML. Who is claiming it's a safety issue? Are they anti-hunters?

IS. In 45 years of being a Doctor I treated only 2 firearms accidents. I don't think this is an issue.

Only 3 SHAC members in favour, the rest of the Committee was against. Not supported.

Election

BL. Apparently my term as Chair is up. I have finished my two years but am willing to put my name forward for another term.

SUPPORTED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting adjourned at 1600 hours

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS AND ACTION POINTS

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference was adopted with the changes made by the committee.

The updated version will add Trappers replace the term “Non-Native” with “Licensed Hunter”, as well Morice Mountain Marksmen will be included representing the Houston area.

DB will make the changes and will forward them to be included with the minutes so all members have a current copy.

Elk

Everyone is in consensus with this draft elk plan and we will move forward from this point to meet the timeframe required to implement an elk hunt for the 2016 season.

ACTION - Brad Lytle will be the lead . Igor, Adam and Mike O. will also be part of the working group. The Ministry, Cattlemen’s Associations and the First Nations will also be involved as is possible.

Hudson Bay Mountain Goat

This committee would like a copy of the 2008 Hudson Bay Mountain Range goat count - including the numbers counted, the population estimate and the exact study area.

Mountain Goat

The Committee would like the results of the Dease Lake count.

BJ will look into the wording in the LEH booklet regarding what is a harvestable goat in other parts of B.C.

Even though the proposed Mtn. Goat closures were not supported by this committee we would still appreciate a maps of the areas.

Sheep

The Committee supports the increase in LEH permits to 30 for the Edziza Area.

The Committee would like to have forwarded to them the data on the harvest for 6-25D and 6-28.

Moose

The Committee would like the most current harvest data for moose in Region 6, especially the BV Lakes M.U.'s. Currently we have up to 2011 which was forwarded to us this year but if the Ministry is making decisions based on the 2012 and 2013 data we would like to have it ASAP.

Grouse

This Committee fully supports the extension of the grouse season to November 30th.

Meeting Date Change

The next SHAC meeting will be held on the second Saturday in March of 2016.

Note from the Chair

Request for all future meetings:

All Ministry proposals for openings or area closures should be accompanied by population data, the most recent harvest data and area-specific maps. This will help to keep our meeting flowing in a more productive manner.

Jager, Brenda CSNR:EX

From: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, February 14, 2018 12:59 PM
To: Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: 2015 FLNRO proposed regulation changes for discussion at SHAC
Attachments: SHAC 2015 Regulation Proposal domestic stock prohibition.docx

NOTE: I am including the attached as it contains information that is loosely associated with the FOI request and I want my response to be comprehensive. The email below is the source of the attached correspondence, and did not include any parties listed in the FOI request. The regulation proposal that was sent in that email went to a regional advisory committee as part of a consultation process. The committee includes guide outfitters, but they are not specifically GOABC representatives.

Bill Jex, RPBio.

*Regional Wildlife Biologist,
Skeena Region,
British Columbia Ministry of Forest, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

Mail to:
Bag 5000
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
Phone:
(250) 847-7804
Fax:
(250) 847-7728

From: Thiessen, Conrad D FLNR:EX
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2015 3:40 PM
To: blytle@sd54.bc.ca
Cc: Atagi, Dana Y FLNR:EX; Jex, Bill A FLNR:EX; Dixon, Krystal FLNR:EX; steele@bulkley.net
Subject: 2015 FLNRO proposed regulation changes for discussion at SHAC

Brad,

I'm attaching the proposed regulation changes being considered by FLNRO for new regulation cycle. If you need any clarification on the proposed regulations I'd be happy to provide clarity. I look forward to the discussion with SHAC in April.

Conrad Thiessen, M.Sc., R.P.Bio.
Senior Wildlife Biologist
Skeena Region
Natural Resource Operations
Bag 5000
3726 Alfred Avenue
Smithers, BC V0J 2N0
phone: 250.847.7299
fax: 250.847.7728
conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca

Contact: Bill Jex
Affiliation: FLNRO

Phone: 250-847-7804

E-mail: Bill.Jex@gov.bc.ca

Regulation Proposal: Prohibition on the use of domestic sheep, goats & camelids for the purposes of hunting big game and back-country recreation.

Briefly describe the proposal:

- The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is considering crafting a regulation to prohibit the use or accompanying of domestic stock animals during hunting and trekking (typically as beasts of burden or pack animals), at any time of year except as authorized by permit.
- The ministry is currently seeking advice and feedback from COS & ministry legal counsel on this proposal prior to formal development. It has been determined that there are currently no other provisions in regulation that would address this issue;
- As this would be a provincial regulation consultation would need to occur on a provincial scale (including PHTAT).

Reason for proposal (Rationale):

- Recently hunters have indicated that there may be an increasing interest in the use of domestic stock;
- Introducing some domestic stock animals into some environments can result in transmission of viruses, disease and other pathogens to wildlife, both through direct/indirect contact, but also through exposure to persistent pathogens being left on the landscape.
- Over the past two years scientific literature has been published that documents disease transmission pathways from some domestic species (such as domestic goats and sheep) to wildlife species (such as wild sheep), resulting in predictable and known catastrophic die-offs in wild populations.
- Neighbouring jurisdictions such as Alaska, the NWT and the Yukon have undertaken the implementation of regulatory and policy changes to prohibit this type of use/activity, to proactively protect the health of wild ungulates.
- Other organisations are in support or have recommended establishment of a protective provision such as this:
 - Wild Sheep Foundation & Wild Sheep Society of BC
 - University of Victoria Law Centre
 - BC Assembly of First Nations
 - The Wildlife Society
- Several of our mountain ungulate species have cross-border home-ranges, so by not implementing similar protective measures in BC, we run the significant risk of exposing all of the jurisdictions to viruses, diseases and parasites.
- Furthermore, because northern populations of wildlife are known to be more immunologically naive due to lack of prior exposures, these animals are particularly sensitive to viral, disease and parasitic infections.
- If no action is taken and infection by some pathogens occurs (e.g., pneumonia viruses), negative impacts to populations, hunter opportunity and commercial activities such as guide outfitting will be catastrophic and in some cases irreparable.

Describe the specific regulation proposal (outline specific MU's, season dates, bag limits, attach a map if required, # of authorizations, etc). Use back of form if required.

- Currently being considered as a Province-wide regulation.