


Briefing Note # 241112 re: Chilcotin Moose Hunt Update

Monday, November 26, 2018
2:52 PM

Subject	Briefing Note # 241112 re: Chilcotin Moose Hunt Update
From	Nasadyk, Alanah FLNR:EX
To	Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX
Sent	Thursday, August 2, 2018 8:40 AM
Attachments	 241112 IN_Moose ...

Lisa, attached is an information note for MDD on the Chilcotin Moose hunt. This issue is moving very quickly so staff are hoping to get the information to the Minister today. [On SP here.](#)
Thank you

	Alanah Nasadyk Issues and Administrative Coordinator Deputy Minister's Office (250) 387-1526 Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: July 31, 2018
File: 280/20 BN
Previous CLIFF: 240823
CLIFF: 241112

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Update on T'silhqot'in National Government intentions to unilaterally close the Chilcotin moose hunt for Fall 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Following an Emergency Leaders' Summit held on July 10, 2018, T'silhqot'in National Government (TNG) representatives announced via media that they intended the following actions with respect to licensed Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) for moose in their traditional territory:

- The launching of a legal challenge against the Province focusing on the Province's authority to make licensed hunting decisions in the area.
- Enforcing a ban on LEH hunting in their territory in Fall 2018.

TNG actions stem principally from the decision by the Director of Wildlife and Habitat with respect to quota and LEH authorizations for the Cariboo region moose hunt. Updated quota information was provided to guides, final LEH decisions have been made and the resident hunter draw has been run.

On July 19, 2018, Minister Doug Donaldson and Chief Russel Myers Ross met to discuss planned LEH in Fall 2018. Several areas were covered and an agreement was made to further examine possible area closures (either to vehicles or no shooting/hunting).

Under the T'silhqot'in Stewardship Agreement there is a section 9.0 Dispute Resolution that applies to disputes arising out of the implementation or interpretation of the agreement. This process has not been enacted by the TNG. If this matter is taken to the courts the Province will need to determine if we would want to enact the termination clause in section 11.5 of the T'silhqot'in Stewardship Agreement: *"If the TNG, the T'silhqot'in Nation or a Member Community chooses to bring a legal or administrative proceeding against British Columbia for inadequate consultation related to a provincial decision or action covered by this Agreement, that is a proceeding other than for a breach of this Agreement, such a proceeding may be grounds for terminating this Agreement."*

DISCUSSION:

The TNG maintain that only a full two-year closure of both the North and South Chilcotin is truly collaborative and noted that anything less could jeopardize collaborative efforts in the region. They have indicated previously they do not believe the Province has the legal authority to make moose hunting decisions within their traditional territory. A recent submission from the TNG on their proposed "Sustenance Hunting Policy" provides additional context, with Article E citing the purpose of the policy document as to *"be utilized until such time the T'silhqot'in take full control of management and legislation for wildlife"*. This statement underscores a fundamental difference in

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understanding between the parties and will need to be resolved if there is to be any long-term certainty on wildlife management in the region.

During the meeting held on July 19, 2018, TNG representatives agreed to explore additional options that may limit access and further support moose recovery and their community member's access to moose. Even if closures are successfully implemented, TNG representatives made no commitment to retract on their legal challenge or ban on LEH hunting. Previous concessions on licensed hunting have not led to certainty on harvest opportunities.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of options and tools to support discussion between TNG and Provincial representatives. Additional activities already implemented (e.g., ATV restrictions) and planned (e.g., road deactivation) are provided in Appendix 2. Both tables were shared with TNG representatives on July 27, 2018, by South Area A/ADM Mike Pedersen.

The Province continues to pursue collaboration on the land base both from a moose-specific viewpoint and a broader habitat management approach. Joint initiatives to establish and sustain collaborative decision making through the Fish and Wildlife Panel, established under the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and enhanced under the Accord have functioned relatively well, despite the lack of a final Terms of Reference document to govern how the panel should report to its respective governments. The draft Terms of Reference has been with the TNG for their comment for over a year. There is a commitment to review governance through a third party but this work has not yet been initiated.

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has raised significant concern about loss of opportunity and exclusion from deliberation between the two governments.

The regional guide association has expressed concern regarding access and resulting vulnerability of moose to harvest particularly in the management zones most affected by the 2017 wildfire.

NEXT STEPS

TNG and Provincial Representatives discussed options for additional access restrictions and area closures on a call August 1, 2018. Staff will be providing an update on outcomes and next steps as soon as they are confirmed with TNG.

Upon receipt of any joint-recommendation from Provincial and TNG representatives, Wildlife and Habitat Branch will lead the development of Minister's Order(s) for implementation this season. Note: recommendations must be received no later August 14 for sufficient lead time and communication to potentially affected hunters prior to September season opening and August 27 for the October season opening.

Wildlife and Habitat Branch will coordinate with GCPE on a communication strategy.

Regional Operations staff will coordinate with Conservation Officer Service for enhanced enforcement to support implementation of any new requirements.

Regional Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation representatives will coordinate with branch and region to discuss joint communications, challenges and opportunities regarding accountability to current agreements and expectations of collaboration (as appropriate).

Release updated moose fact sheet to demonstrate broader moose enhancement initiatives publically.

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Attachment(s):

Appendix 1: Draft options for access restrictions and area closures.

Appendix 2: Summary of activities already underway or planned.

Attachment 1: Additional information regarding Closed Areas Regulation

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Contact:

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
AssocDM	RM	August 1, 2018
DMO	AN	August 1, 2018
A/ADM	BB	August 1, 2018
Exec Director	WT	August 1, 2018
Director	JP	July 30, 2018
Author	JP	July 30, 2018

Appendix 1. Options and tools to implement area closures or no shooting zones.

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Appendix 2. Activities/Tools already in place.

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
Maintain ATV closures and restrictions across the North Chilcotin (MU 5-12 and 5-13) <u>Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation</u>	Yes	Yes	ATV for hunting restrictions limits any increase in hunter success resulting from the 2017 wildfires (fireguards & wildfire openings). All of MU 5-12 and 5-13 are closed to ATVs and snowmobiles for hunting. There are also extensive motor vehicle closed areas and motor vehicle for hunting closed areas in these management units. There is a September 1 to December 10, 4am-10am ATV/Snowmobile for hunting closure in the South Chilcotin.
Access deactivation planned in areas identified by TNG. Implementation expected 2018	Yes	Yes	2017 Motor Vehicle for hunting closures in wildfire areas to limit vulnerability of moose. Physical deactivation preferred (more effective) over regulatory closures. Specific areas include 1) Mackin Creek, 2) Morrison Meadow/Corkscrew Creek, and 3) Hungry Valley/Dash Creek
Access deactivation and connectivity corridors established under the South Chilcotin joint management plan	Yes	Yes	Expectation that current commitments will be brought into the legal realm through Forest Stewardship Plans and expanded to the North Chilcotin.
Moose (and other species) population surveys done with TNG observers.	Yes	Yes	TNG were engaged as observers and during interpretation of results for all recent Chilcotin Moose surveys. Areas included: 2017 – 5-04 & 5-13A SRB; 2018 – 5-13B SRB & 5-13A block.
Closure of the September 10 to 30 moose hunt in Management Units in the Chilcotin sub-region.	Yes	To be reviewed	Closure to be maintained as required in tandem with commitment by TNG to community hunting policy
\$370,000 provided to the TNG to support development of Tsilhqot'in Nation Community Hunting Policy (including harvest reporting), and development of a Moose Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Plan completed but under review. TNG has supported communities with implementing MOUs with the COS for hunting moratoriums. Habitat and access management linked to road deactivation planning. Harvest reporting and clarification of strategic goals require resolution.
Joint discussion through the Nenqay Dene Accord, Fish and Wildlife Panel on	Yes	Yes	Survey results and allocation methods shared with TNG. Joint recommendation for 2017-2021 moose AAH provided by Fish and

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
moose Annual Allowable Harvest			Wildlife Panel
Ongoing Collaborative Moose Collaring Research Program to identify factors contributing to moose mortality. TNG representatives participate on mortality investigations when available.	Yes	Yes	Predation identified as leading cause of adult female mortality followed by unlicensed harvest.
Assessment of 2017 wildfire impacts to wildlife: 1) 5-13A moose replicate block survey 2) Fisher inventory planned for 2018/19 3) Ongoing mule deer inventories	Yes	Yes	Plan to continue 5-13A moose survey in 2018/19 to track population response to wildfires. No negative impact observed during 2017/18 survey.
Joint initiative to develop shared decision making functions of the Nenqay Dene Accord Fish and Wildlife Panel	Yes	Yes	TNG has withheld finalization of the Terms of Reference for nearly one year now.
Support through cumulative effects assessment to district manager to establish expectations for Forest Stewardship Plan content respecting moose habitat conservation and management	Yes	Yes	Forest Stewardship Plan reviews underway. Licensee commitments to moose recovery unclear.
Investigation of impacts to key moose wetlands from feral horse use	N/A	Yes	Pending funding availability for surveys.
Discussion with TNG regarding feral horse abundance and impacts to moose through maintenance of high wolf populations.	Yes	Yes	Discussed at Fish and Wildlife joint meetings. No action from TNG.
Recovery of wildfire areas through rehabilitation activities.	Yes	Yes	District focus on reduction and revegetation of fire guards and recovery at riparian crossings.
Management for long term ecosystem resilience to reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire and beetle epidemics	Yes	Yes	Long term forest management. Short term meetings to initiate planning. To be discussed.

Attachment 1: Additional information re: Closed Areas Regulation

The Provincial *Wildlife Act* provides the authority to restrict/prohibit hunting and shooting. The authority to make these regulations, delegated to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is granted through Section 108(2) and (3):

Regulations by Lieutenant Governor in Council

- 108** (1) *The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the Interpretation Act.*
- (2) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:*
- (l.1) prescribing, by species, type, sex, age or physical features of the wildlife, the maximum number of wildlife that a person may possess and respecting the circumstances in which a person may possess a prescribed number of wildlife;*
 - (l.2) respecting the circumstances in which a person may take, kill or possess wildlife;*
 - (n) designating no shooting areas;*
 - (o) regulating or prohibiting the types and calibres of firearms or types of projectiles that may be discharged in a prescribed area;*
 - (s) prohibiting or regulating methods and devices for hunting, trapping, capturing or taking wildlife and respecting safety in those activities;*
- (3) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:*
- (e) prescribing open seasons or closed seasons, or both, for*
 - (i) wildlife by species, type, sex, age, circumstances or physical features of the wildlife, or*
 - (ii) persons, licences or permits, including prescribing different seasons for different classes of persons, including, without limitation, classes based on age;*

Regulations that restrict or prohibit hunting and shooting are housed within the Closed Areas Regulations (B.C. Reg. 76/84) of the *Wildlife Act*. The various designations under this regulation are:

No shooting, hunting or trapping areas

2 *The areas set out in Schedule 1 are designated as no shooting areas and, for the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in those areas.*

Seasonal no shooting, hunting or trapping areas

3 *Section 2 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 2 during the period set out for each area.*

No shooting or hunting areas

4 *The areas set out in Schedule 3 are designated as no shooting areas and, for the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in those areas except as prescribed for the trapping of furbearing animals.*

Seasonal no shooting or hunting areas

5 *Section 4 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 4 during the period set out for each area.*

No shooting areas

6 The areas set out in Schedule 5 are designated as No Shooting areas.

Seasonal no shooting areas

7 Section 6 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 6 during the period set out for each area.

No shooting areas — specified Crown land

7.1 The areas set out in Schedule 5.1 are designated as no shooting areas.

No hunting areas

8 For the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species, except as prescribed for the trapping of furbearing animals in the areas set out in Schedule 7.

No hunting or trapping areas

8.1 For the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in the areas set out in Schedule 8.1.

Seasonal no hunting areas

9 Section 8 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 8 during the period set out for each area.

Prohibited discharge areas under section 108 (2) (o) of the Act

- 10** (1) A person commits an offence if the person discharges
- (a) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 9 unless the person uses shot only,
 - (b) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 10 during the period set out for each area unless the person uses shot only,
 - (c) a rifle in an area set out in Schedule 11, or
 - (d) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 13 unless the person uses non-toxic shot only.

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Prohibited discharge areas under section 108 (2) (o) and (s) of the Act

- 10.1** (1) A person commits an offence if the person discharges or hunts with a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 14 unless the person uses shot only.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person hunting with a muzzle-loading firearm in the part of the area described in section 1 of Schedule 14 that is west of Highway 1 or Highway 19.

For further details on these regulations refer to Schedules 1-15 of the Closed Areas Regulations.

Table of additional moose hunting regulation options – Chilcotin Limited Entry Hunt zones

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-14

- Along Fraser River, and north of Highway 20 to Narcoslie Creek
- ?Esdilagh and Tl'esqox communities
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited between hours of 4am and 10am, September 1 to December 10
- Portion of land area that is **under moose hunting closure for ?Esdilagh community** by agreement with Conservation Officer Service
- Substantial wildfire disturbance 2010 and 2017, considerable forestry footprint (pine and fir beetle sanitation/salvage)
- High profile area for mule deer hunting, September through November
- Moose hunting commences October 1

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Defined Area for Castle Rock/Twan wildfire area in MU 5-14:

- Area bounded by West Fraser Road to the east, Tzenzicut Road to north and west to point of crossing of Twan Creek, Twan Creek to the west to Natural Resource District boundary to South.

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-13A (southern 1/3 of Management Unit 5-13)

- North of Alexis Creek community, eastern extent of Chilcotin River watershed
- Tl'etinqox, Tsi Del Del and ?Esdilagh communities. Southern 1/3 of zone immediately adjacent to Tl'etinqox community
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited from September 01 to December 05
- Eastern extent includes portion of area that is under moose hunting closure for ?Esdilagh community (agreement with Conservation Officer Service)
- 2/3 of Unit experienced wildfire disturbance in 2017, considerable forestry footprint across unit (pine and fir beetle sanitation/salvage).
- Moderate profile area for mule deer, September through November
- Moose hunting commences October 01

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Defined area for 5-13A includes:

- 100 Rosita – Tautri (100) FSR and all tributary roads beyond 185 km (ties to 5-14 measures)
- Alex Graham – Raven Lake (1300) FSR and all tributary roads beyond 1345km (ties to 5-14 measures)
- Alexis Creek – Nazko FSR and all tributary roads commencing at junction with Clusko River - Aneko (4600) FSR
- Clusko River – Aneko (4600) FSR commencing at junction with Alex Graham – Raven Lake (1300) FSR
- Chezacut (100) FSR and all tributary roads commencing at 140 km (ties to 5-12A)
- Honolulu (7000) FSR and all tributary roads up to 7035 km (ties to 5-13C)
- Tzenzicut – Ramsey (3000) FSR commencing at 3035 km (at junction with Saunders (3500) FSR)

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-13C (northern 1/3 of Management Unit 5-13)

- Along Fraser River, and north of Highway 20 to Narcoslie Creek
- Within area under Nenqay Dene Accord.
- Of high importance to Lhoosk'uz Dene and Ndazkoh communities of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance.
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited from September 01 to December 05
- Motor vehicle closed area proximal to the Itchas Ilgatchuz Mountains
- Area of substantial wildfire disturbance 2010, 2014, 2015 and 2017, considerable forestry footprint across unit (pine salvage).
- Moderate profile area for mule deer hunting, September through November
- Moose hunting commences September 10

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Defined area for 5-13C includes:

- Honolulu (7000) FSR and all tributary roads (ties to measures for 5-13A)
- Michelle – Baezaeko (3900) FSR and all tributary roads
- Michelle – Coglistiko (4000) FSR and all tributary roads
- Marmot (4100) FSR and all tributary roads

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-03

- Along Fraser River south of the Chilcotin River to the Churn Creek watershed
- Tl'esqox community
- South extent of unit subject to access management measures under the South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited from 4am to 10 am from September 01 to December 10
- Some wildfire disturbance in 2017, considerable forestry footprint across unit (pine salvage).
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting restricted between 4 am and 10 am.
- Motor vehicle use restricted in southern portions of Unit (Gaspard – West Churn (3200) FSR, Gaspard – Churn Creek (2800) FSR, other motor vehicle prohibitions for Churn Creek, Red Mountain, French Mountain
- High profile area for mule deer hunting, September through November
- Moose hunting commences October 01

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Option 1 - Defined area for 5-03 includes:

- Farwell Canyon (2000) FSR and all tributary roads from 2033km to 2063km (ties to measures for 5-04B)
- That area bounded by the Gaspard – Churn Creek (2200) FSR to the east, the Gaspard –Wales (2200A) FSR to the south, and the Mons Creek (2400) FSR to the west.

Option 2 - Expanded defined area for 5-03:

- Farwell Canyon (2000) FSR and all tributary roads from 2033km to 2063km (ties to measures for 5-04B)
- That area bounded by the Gaspard – Churn Creek (2200) FSR to the east and south, the Sky Ranch FSR to the west, and the Farwell Canyon (2000) FSR to the north

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-04B (northern 2/3 of Management Unit 5-04)

- South of the Chilcotin River and the western extent of the Big Creek watershed
- Yunesit'in and Xení Gwetin communities.
- Western extent of zone is within Declared Aboriginal Title Land
- Wildfire disturbance in 2017 exacerbated by considerable wildfire in 2005, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, forestry footprint across unit (pine salvage).
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting prohibited between 4 am and 10 am, September 01 to December 10
- Motor vehicle use prohibited for purposes of hunting in southern portions of Unit – Groundhog FSR, Rocky Lake (5800) FSR
- Moderate profile area for mule deer hunting, September through November
- Moose hunting commences October 01

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Defined area for 5-04B includes:

- Farwell Canyon (2000) FSR and all tributary roads from 2033km to 2063km (ties to measures for 5-03)
- Big Creek (700) FSR and all tributary roads to Big Creek
- Taseko Lake (900) FSR and all tributary roads to its junction with the Newton – Whitewater (7000) FSR
- Newton – Whitewater (7000) FSR from Chilko River to junction with Taseko Lake (900) FSR
- That area bounded by the Gaspard – Churn Creek (2800) FSR to the east, the Gaspard Creek (2200) and Gaspard – Wales (2200A) FSRs to the south and the Mons Creek (2400) FSR to the west.

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-06 (area in south extent of Management Unit, proximal to the Kleena Kleene wildfire complex)

- Southwestern Chilcotin highlands, Charlotte Alplands - southwest of Highway 20 between Tatla Lake, Anahim Lake and Heckman Pass.
- Wildfire disturbance in 2017
- Area important to the Ulkatcho community of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting prohibited between 4 am and 10 am, September 01 to December 10
- Comparatively limited vehicle access due to rugged terrain
- In whole Management unit, 52 LEH applications for target harvest of 8 moose. Quota of 8 moose.
- Moose hunting commences September 10

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Defined area for 5-06 includes:

- Big Stick FSR
- Klinaklini Valley 4x4 trail
- Miner Lake FSR
- Halfway FSR (existing motor vehicle restrictions)

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-12B

- Northeast of Highway 20 between Chilanko Forks, Anahim Lake and Heckman Pass.
- Limited wildfire disturbance in 2017
- Area important to the Ulkatcho community of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited September 01 to December 05
- In whole Management unit, 75 LEH applications for target harvest of 15 moose. Quota of 16 moose.
- Use of motor vehicles for purpose of hunting is prohibited on certain resource roads in north of Management unit,
- Moose hunting commences September 10

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Defined area for 5-12B includes:

- Chilanko Main FSR and all tributary roads
- Smoky Lake FSR system
- Dusty Lake FSR system
- Morrison Meadow (200) FSR system
- Lehman FSR system

Moose Limited Entry Hunt zone: 5-12A

- North of Highway 20 between Redstone, Anahim Lake and Chilanko Forks, north across Itchas Ilgatchuz Mountains to regional boundary
- South extent of zone into the Itchas Ilgatchuz Mountains is of core importance to Tsilhqot'in Nation, with a broad distribution of reserve lands.
- Limited wildfire disturbance in 2017. Puntzi wildfire in 2015.
- Use of ATV for purposes of hunting is prohibited from September 01 to December 05
- Motor vehicle closed area proximal to the Itchas Ilgatchuz Mountains
- In whole Management Unit, 97 LEH applications for target harvest of 15 moose. Quota of 24 moose.
- Moose hunting commences October 1

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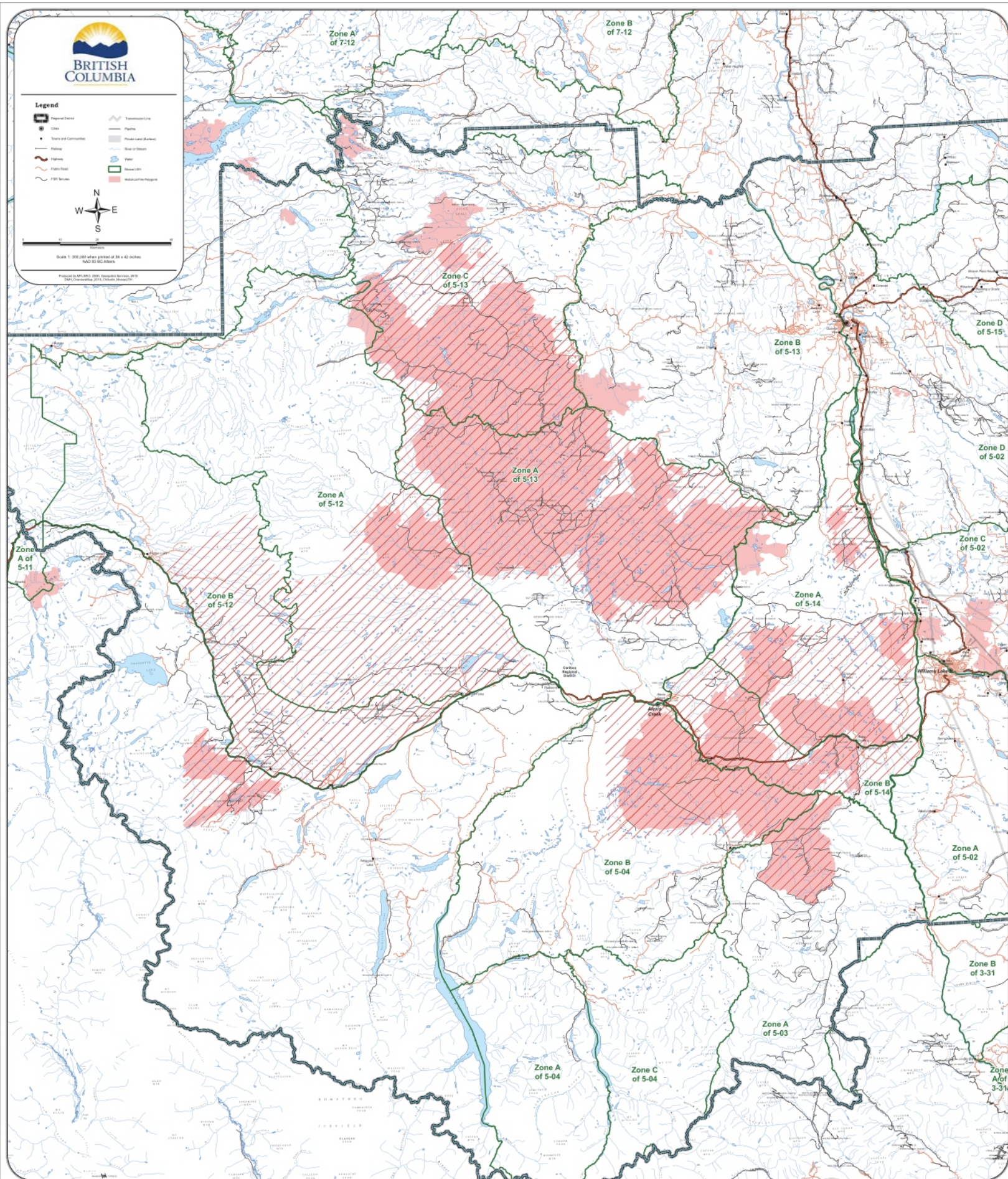
Defined area for 5-12A includes:

- Chezacut (100) FSR and all tributary roads (ties to measures for MU 5-13A)
- Satah "P" Road and all tributary roads
- Puntzi Lake Road and all tributary roads

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

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**MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: August 15, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 241554

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operation and Rural Development**

ISSUE: Additional regulations for licensed moose hunting in the Chilcotin sub-region

BACKGROUND:

Under terms of the Nenqay Dene Accord, and since late 2014, the ministry has been engaged with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) about moose management. Key initiatives have included establishing a Fish and Wildlife Panel (Panel), developing the outline of a moose management plan, and deliberating on matters of moose harvest regulation and allocation.

Following 2017 wildfire disruptions, Panel deliberations became closely focussed on the vulnerability of moose in landscapes broadly disturbed by wildfire, in particular on matters related to human-caused mortality. Grounded in their experiences during the 2017 wildfires, and knowing the state of cumulative effects on moose prior to the wildfires, the TNG was deeply concerned about the fate of the moose population and the Nation's ability to sustainably exercise its right to hunt moose. Questions arose around justification for maintaining licensed moose hunting in the face of post-wildfire conditions.

Information on the state of moose populations was shared during Panel deliberations, including positive results of post-wildfire surveys. The information indicated that a conservative licensed moose hunt remained a viable option that would not impact moose recovery. However, the TNG held no trust in the information, disputing grounds that a licensed hunt remained viable considering land conditions and moose population status. The Panel worked to develop joint recommendations around continuance of moose hunting, and allocation of hunting opportunity between licensed hunting sectors. Agreement could not be found. The TNG remained strongly aligned to closing licensed moose hunting, working towards measures that could reduce the impact of the Nation's hunters on moose.

The results of Panel deliberations were raised to decision in advance of 2018 Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) determinations. Decisions were made to continue the moose hunt, and to implement a reduction of licensed harvest and re-shaping the distribution of authorisations across LEH zones.

The decisions raised strongly stated response from the Nation, including reference to a TNG law prohibiting LEH, with litigation and direct actions should that hunt proceed. The Nation's response led to conversation with TNG leadership on July 19, 2018. Acting on direction from that conversation, ministry and TNG staff have been collaborating in development of options in response to TNG concerns. After identifying key areas of concern, a range of licensed moose hunting options was assessed. In addition, it was confirmed that the TNG wanted to engage in a joint game check and enhanced enforcement program, and re-invigoration of joint project and investment planning for moose management that would include many longer term initiatives that comprise the slate of options ministry staff prepared to support that past two weeks of negotiation.

DISCUSSION:

The development of additional regulatory options revolved around shared interests in:

- Reducing tensions around moose hunting,
- Providing a basis for the TNG to encourage the Nation's members to comply with national law prohibiting cow moose harvest,
- Reducing the vulnerability of bull moose to licensed hunting as a contribution to moose recovery, while protecting the Nation's rights to hunt moose.

OPTIONS:

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RECOMMENDATIONS:



August 21, 2018

Approved / Not Approved

Signature

Date

Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation
and Rural Development

Attachment(s)

1. Table of moose hunt regulation options
2. Assessment of additional regulation options
3. Map showing LEH zones and extent of geographic application of options

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
Associate DM		
DMO	AN	20 Aug 2018
ADM	TE	17 Aug 2018
PRGM Dir./Mgr.	RW /JS	15 Aug 2018

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

Date: August 22, 2018
Tracking No: 19/18
Log No: R1_2257
Reg. Count: N/A

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Regulation Amendments – Chilcotin Moose

LEGISLATION: *Wildlife Act*, ss. 16, 108 and 109

PURPOSE: This ministerial regulation amends the LEH Regulation and Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation to:

- Cancel the October 1-14 limited entry moose hunts in Zone A of management unit (MU) 5-13, Zone C of MU 5-13, and MU 5-14;
- Close limited entry moose hunting within portions of MUs 5-03, 5-04, and 5-06; and
- Implement motor vehicle for hunting prohibitions in portions of MU 5-12.

DISCUSSION:

First Nations in the Chilcotin area have expressed concerns related to licensed moose hunting opportunities in their territories and have requested that the Province further restrict licensed harvest. The attached ministerial regulation, if approved via your signature, will enact the options recommended in Decision Note 241554 (Appendix A). These regulation amendments are a component of three actions resulting from collaborative work with the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG), the others being enhanced game checks for this moose season and a commitment by government to work collaboratively with the TNG in the long-term on moose management and recovery.

Further information and background on licensed hunting opportunities and moose management in the Chilcotin is included in Decision Note 240747 (Appendix D).

CONSULTATION:

Regional staff worked collaboratively with the TNG to develop these regulatory amendments. The TNG have indicated that cancellation of the early October hunt will be insufficient and prefer a full closure in those zones. Government has committed to further dialogue with the TNG. It is unclear whether the regulatory changes in the proposed ministerial regulation are adequate enough to reverse the TNG declaration of banning moose hunting within the territory.

The provincial body of the B.C. Wildlife Federation (BCWF) and the Guide Outfitter Association of B.C. (GOABC) were not consulted on the changes. GOABC and regional guides may have hunts booked and seek compensation. BCWF has in the past opposed additional regulation changes citing that adequate measures have been previously taken

to address moose conservation concerns in the area, licensed hunting is sustainable, the proposed changes are not science based and that if the proposed changes are conservation driven then they should be equitably applied to First Nations harvesters. Ministry staff will contact GOABC and BCWF in advance of public release of the proposed changes to provide early notice.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL CAUTIONS:

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TIMING CONSIDERATIONS:

- It is crucial that this proposed amendment be made as soon as possible in order to provide hunters with as much advance notice as possible so they may plan their activities accordingly. Some of the hunts being restricted commence on September 10, and the hunts proposed to be closed commence on October 1.
- A decision on the ministerial regulation is requested no later than August 24, 2018. Your signature on the attached Ministerial Order will constitute approval.

Has GCPE been consulted on this Ministerial Order: Yes ☒ No ☐

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN:

If this ministerial regulation is approved:

- Provincial organizations representing guides and resident hunters will be notified.
- Local guide outfitters will be notified directly via phone and letter.
- The resident hunters with a LEH authorization for these hunts will be emailed (or phoned if no email address is available) and notified of the regulatory changes and closures.
- The in-season hunting regulation website will be updated and Frequently Asked Questions will be provided with a GCPE information bulletin.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix A: Ministerial Order R1_2257
- Appendix B: Regulatory Criteria Exemption Form
- Appendix C: Cliff 241554 - Additional regulations for licensed moose hunting in the Chilcotin sub-region
- Appendix D: Cliff# 240747 – Reports of T̓silhqot'in National Government intentions to unilaterally close the Chilcotin moose hunt for Fall 2018

Contact:

*ADM: Tom Ethier
Div: Resource Stewardship
Phone: 250 356 0972*

Alternate Contact:

*Name: Jennifer Psyllakis
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Phone: 250 387 5767*

Prepared by:

*Name: Stephen MacIver
Branch: Fish and Wildlife
Phone: 778 698 9112*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	RM	08/24/18
ADM	TE	08/24/18
ED	WT	08/23/18
Dir. Leg.	AC	08/23/18
Dir. W&H	√	08/23/18
Authors	SM	08/22/18

FLNRO News - Tuesday, July 03, 2018

Friday, October 12, 2018

3:20 PM

Subject	FLNRO News - Tuesday, July 03, 2018
From	Winterhoff, Thomas GCPE:EX
To	Winterhoff, Thomas GCPE:EX
Sent	Tuesday, July 3, 2018 7:55 AM

Today's News Online - FLNR

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Tuesday, July 03, 2018

Executive Summary

Articles of note:

-

Minister Doug Donaldson mentioned:

- City of Campbell River to request moratorium on logging in Snowden - Mike Davies - Campbell River Mirror - 29-Jun-2018 (Logging operations, Forest Practices Board)
- Do your part to prevent wildfires this weekend - Staff - Trail Daily Times - 30-Jun-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Do your part to prevent wildfires this weekend - Staff - Langley Times - 30-Jun-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

Ministry mentioned:

- Jacobson - wildfire risks - CFAF - CFAF - 29-Jun-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Crews fighting wildfire west of Nanaimo Lakes - Staff - Alberni Valley News - 02-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- UPDATE: Four separate suspicious fires at Mount Boucherie - Kelowna Capital News - 02-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Crews fighting wildfire west of Nanaimo Lakes - Nanaimo News Bulletin - 02-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Nanaimo Lake wildfire - CKNWX - CKWX - 03-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Mount Boucherie fires appear to have been set - The Daily Courier (Kelowna) - 03-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Teck fined \$78,100 for water pollution - Staff - The Free Press - 30-Jun-2018 (Environment)
- New hunting regulations outlined for the Cariboo - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 01-Jul-2018 (Fish and wildlife)
- Trails society says new survey misses mark - Lorne Eckersley - Creston Valley Advance - 30-Jun-2018 (Recreation, backcountry)
- Unauthorized dam near Willowbrook investigated after near-breach - Dustin Godfrey - Penticton Western News - 01-Jul-2018 (Water management, flooding, snowpack)

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- [Smyth - German report/Coleman - CKNW View from Victoria - CKNW - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Liberals didn't turn 'blind eye' to money laundering: Coleman - Michael Smyth - The Province - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Barn door shut after dirty cash is long gone - Les Leyne - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Poloz brings BoC message to Victoria - Les Leyne - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- ['I am not soft on crime,' Coleman says after release of casino report - Michael Smyth - The Province - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Smith/Sims - gas tax hike - CKNW Jon McComb - CKNW - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- **Archeology, heritage**

- [Haney House restoration to be celebrated - Neil Corbett - Maple Ridge News - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [UVic condo plan irks Victoria councillor - Richard Watts - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Lui/Ma - Chinatown development - CKNW - CKNW - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [UPDATE: Farmhouse on Kelowna's Brent Grist Mill site lost to fire - Lake Country Calendar - 02-Jul-2018](#)
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- [Climate change drives disease-spreading arthropods into new territory - David Suzuki - Goldstream News Gazette - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- **Energy**
- [First Nations' energy projects on hold amid Hydro review - Randy Shore - Vancouver Sun - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [LNG promises huge benefits to First Nations - Les Leyne - Prince George Citizen - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Site C opposition gets boost from book - Staff - West Kootenay Advertiser - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Abbotsford and Mission look to turn sewage biogas into cash - Tyler Olsen - Abbotsford News - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [North coast LNG - CKFU - CKFU - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- **Environment**
- [Revelstoke area environmental societies hosts quagga and zebra mussels information event - Staff - Revelstoke Review - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Teck fined \\$78,100 for water pollution - Staff - The Free Press - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- **Fish farms, aquaculture**
- [Fish farm boat incident - CKNW - CKNW - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [True patriot love in most of us was grand - Louise Dickson - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- **Fish and wildlife**
- [Grizzly bear mauls camping kayaker - Staff - The Province - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Summer comes early at Mt. Washington - Staff - Comox Valley Record - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Island Health issues warning to shellfish self-harvesters - Mike Davies - Campbell River Mirror - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Lake Country residents concerned for wildlife after trees cut down for cannabis - Carli Berry - Lake Country Calendar - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [BC First Nation calls emergency meeting to discuss moose allocation - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Rescued and happy - Staff - Aldergrove Star - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Six months later, rescued Cariboo cougar cub doing "fantastic" - Staff - Abbotsford News - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Rattlesnakes in parts of South OK could be hissssss-tory - Staff - Penticton Western News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [New hunting regulations outlined for the Cariboo - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Raewal - previous grizzly encounter - CBYG - CBYG - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [City, enviro group harvest Canada geese from Craig Bay waters - Staff - Parksville Qualicum Beach News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Federal government not protecting wild salmon: Blaney - Staff - Comox Valley Record - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Kayaker mauled by grizzly bear in southeast B.C. - Staff - Abbotsford News - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Mass migration of tiny toads above Chilliwack is about to take off - Jennifer Feinberg - Chilliwack Progress - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Revelstoke environmental society urges city to protect blue herons - Staff - Revelstoke Review - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Woman outraged after mountain goats killed - Staff - Trail Daily Times - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Caravetta - alleged grizzly attack - CKNW - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- **Forest industry, mills**
- [Port Alberni Port Authority sees decline in lumber, increase in raw log exports - Elena Rardon - Alberni Valley News - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Barcellos/Creuzot - PG economic growth - CKPG at Noon - CKPG - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- **Lands, range, foreshores**
- [Boon - grazing lease audit - CHNL - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Invasive plant species for sale in Kootenay region - Staff - West Kootenay Advertiser - 29-Jun-2018](#)

- [Invasive plants are a big deal - Opinion - Cowichan Valley Citizen - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Toxic giant hogweed plants show up in Duncan - Robert Barron - Cowichan Valley Citizen - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [McLuckie/Street - cattle poisoned by plants - CBYG - CBYG - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Editorial: Invasive plants are a big deal - Editorial - Vancouver Island Free Daily - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- **Logging operations, Forest Practices Board**
- [City of Campbell River to request moratorium on logging in Snowden - Mike Davies - Campbell River Mirror - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- **Natural Resource Sector**
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- [Furstenau - natural resources oversight - CBYG - CBYG - 29-Jun-2018](#)
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- [Two women plucked from Alouette Lake - Staff - Maple Ridge News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Trails society says new survey misses mark - Lorne Eckersley - Creston Valley Advance - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Brewer - hiking searches - CBYG - CBYG - 01-Jul-2018](#)
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- **Softwood**
- [Ottawa offers \\$2-billion in aid for tariff-hit companies - Daniel Leblanc - Globe and Mail - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Ottawa details list of U.S. tariff targets, offers up to \\$2B in support - Abbotsford News - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- **Water management, flooding, snowpack**
- [Unauthorized dam near Willowbrook investigated after near-breach - Dustin Godfrey - Penticton Western News - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [Ellison-area boil water notice downgraded - Staff - Kelowna Capital News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Furstenau talks issues in North Cowichan - Robert Barron - Cowichan Valley Citizen - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- **Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery**
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- [Past Kootenay weather extremes will become new normal, scientist says - Bill Metcalfe - Nelson Star - 29-Jun-2018](#)
- [Small businesses, tell the NDP government how you're doing - Jackie Tegart - Hope Standard - 01-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATE: Four separate suspicious fires at Mount Boucherie - Kelowna Capital News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Do your part to prevent wildfires this weekend - Staff - Trail Daily Times - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Crews fighting wildfire west of Nanaimo Lakes - Staff - Alberni Valley News - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Impose huge penalty for starting wildfires - Carol Robson - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Crews fighting wildfire west of Nanaimo Lakes - Nanaimo News Bulletin - 02-Jul-2018](#)
- [Nanaimo Lake wildfire - CKNWX - CKWX - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Do your part to prevent wildfires this weekend - Staff - Langley Times - 30-Jun-2018](#)
- [Mount Boucherie fires appear to have been set - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 03-Jul-2018](#)
- [Jacobson - wildfire risks - CFAX - CFAX - 29-Jun-2018](#)

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'I am not soft on crime,' Coleman says after release of casino report

The Province

Sunday, July 01, 2018

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By Michael Smyth

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FLNRO News - Thursday, July 05, 2018

Friday, October 12, 2018

3:21 PM

Subject	FLNRO News - Thursday, July 05, 2018
From	Winterhoff, Thomas GCPE:EX
To	Winterhoff, Thomas GCPE:EX
Sent	Thursday, July 5, 2018 7:56 AM

Today's News Online - FLNR

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Thursday, July 05, 2018

Executive Summary

Articles of note:

- B.C. rainforests disappearing at 'alarming' rate - Dominick DellaSala, Barbara Zimmerman & Andy MacKinnon - The Province - 05-Jul-2018 (Logging operations, Forest Practices Board)

Minister Doug Donaldson mentioned:

- Comstock Lake Fire Complex disbanded, fire being held - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

Ministry mentioned:

- Moose harvest reduced for Cariboo's fall hunt - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 04-Jul-2018 (Fish and wildlife)

- Williams Lake 2018 precipitation amount doubles 2017 - Monica Lamb-Yorski - Williams Lake Tribune - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Moose harvest reduced for Cariboo's fall hunt - Staff - Williams Lake Tribune - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Jakobsen - Vancouver Island wildfires - CFX - CFX - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Jakobsen - Island wildfires - CFX - CFX - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Category 2 open burns to be prohibited in southeast BC - Staff - Castlegar News - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Category 2 open burns

- Category 2 open burns to be prohibited in southeast BC - Staff - Cranbrook Townsman - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Malahat wildfire a false alarm - Goldstream News Gazette - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- West Kelowna gets own fire-danger station - The Daily Courier (Kelowna) - 05-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- West Kelowna Fire Rescue's new weapon for fighting forest fires - Alistair Waters - Kelowna Capital News - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- 'Suspicious' fire burning near Keremeos - Staff - Keremeos Review - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Wildfire burns above West Kelowna - Lake Country Calendar - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Wildfire on Vancouver Island expands to 85 hectares - Staff - Nanaimo News Bulletin - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- UPDATE: Wildfire near Sooke has increased in size to 85 hectares - Sooke News Mirror - 04-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

- Crews combat growing fire near Sooke - Katie DeRosa - Times Colonist (Victoria) - 05-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)

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- [Liberals slam NDP for price hikes at gas pumps - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Baldrey/Horgan - ferries replacement - Global BC News Hour - CHAN - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Palmer - German report - CKNW View From Victoria - CKNW - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Cannabis Day celebration put off until October - Tom Fletcher - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Eby is navigating some tricky roads - Keith Baldrey - Burnaby Now - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Non-profits, schools get break on B.C. health payroll tax - Tom Fletcher - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [B.C.'s high-flying attorney general has his plate full - Keith Baldrey - North Shore News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [High cost of dirty cash - Vaughn Palmer - Vancouver Sun - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- **Archeology, heritage**
- [Owners of fire-damaged Shaughnessy home facing charges - Naoibh O'Connor - Vancouver Courier - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [A piece of Kelowna's history goes up in smoke - Kathy Michaels - Lake Country Calendar - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [City delays decision on Chinatown plan after hearing from over 100 - Joanne Lee-Young - Vancouver Sun - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- **Energy**
- [Gas hike is NDP's Achilles heel - Mike Smyth - The Province - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Enbridge CDN assets sale - CKFU - CKFU - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Kvisle - LNG development - CBYG - CBYG - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Horgan says 'gouging' to blame for gas hikes, not taxes - Staff - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- **Environment**
- [Polluted water did not reach rivers - Teck - Staff - Nelson Star - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Burns Lake council raises concern over zebra and quagga mussels - Flavio Nienow - Burns Lake Lakes District News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Polluted water did not reach rivers - Staff - The Free Press - 04-Jul-2018](#)
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- [Grizzly bear put down in Lax Kw'alaams after it showed no fear - Staff - The Northern View - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Fishery closure would be devastating - Mike Hicks - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Caravetta - grizzly attack - CBYG - CBYG - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Squamish is wild - The Squamish Chief - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Team to study marine mammals off B.C. - Katie DeRosa - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Salmon natural bypass channel topic of Lumby meeting - Staff - Vernon Morning Star - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [WildSafeBC continues public awareness on fawning deer - Staff - Kimberley Bulletin - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Moose harvest reduced for Cariboo's fall hunt - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Rare Vancouver Island marmot spotted on Mt. Arrowsmith - Sandy McRuer - Alberni Valley News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- **Forest industry, mills**
- [Illinois Congress members blast U.S. tariffs on Canadian newsprint - Brent Jang - Globe and Mail - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Forestry summer students blog about Quesnel industry - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 04-Jul-2018](#)
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- [Canadians cautioned to look out for toxic giant hogweed - Staff - Cranbrook Townsman - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Bentley - Elsworth Airstrip - CBYG - CBYG - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- **Logging operations, Forest Practices Board**
- [B.C. rainforests disappearing at 'alarming' rate - Dominick DellaSala, Barbara Zimmerman & Andy MacKinnon - The Province - 05-Jul-2018](#)

- **Pipelines**
- [Protesters hang off bridge to halt tanker - Jane Seyd - Burnaby Now - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Police begin to remove protesters hanging off Ironworkers bridge - Staff - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Bellrichard - TMP bridge protest - CBYG - CBYG - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [TMP bridge protest update - CHNL - CHNL - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Hudema - TMP bridge protest - CFX - CFX - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Ironworkers Bridge protest - CKNW - CKNW - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Pipeline work begins to roll - Don Braid - National Post - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Speers-Roesch - TMP bridge protest - News 1130 - CKWX - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Regulator fines Kinder Morgan - Prince George Citizen - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Alberta, B.C. First Nations to talk buy-in on Trans Mountain pipeline - Gordon Hoekstra & Rob Shaw - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Speers-Roesch - TMP bridge protest - CKNW - CKNW - 05-Jul-2018](#)
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- [Filippone - Shannon Falls update - CBYG - CBYG - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Police find bodies of 3 missing hikers at Shannon Falls - Staff - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
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- [RCMP recover bodies of hikers who fell into B.C. waterfall - Staff - Globe and Mail - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Willcox/Banks - Shannon Falls deaths - CBYG - CBYG - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Three video bloggers dead after accident at Shannon Falls - Behdad Mahichi & Stephanie Ip - Vancouver Sun - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Shannon Falls update - CKNW - CKNW - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Banks - Shannon Falls deaths - News 1130 - CKWX - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Helicopter used to recover bodies - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Natural wonder famous for death-defying selfies - Randy Shore - Vancouver Sun - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Hikers killed after falling into B.C. waterfall - Stephanie Ip & Scott Brown - National Post - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Shannon Falls deaths - News 1130 - CKWX - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Willcox - Shannon Falls deaths - CHNL - CHNL - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- **Reforestation**
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- **Water management, flooding, snowpack**
- [K'omoks First Nation and CVRD working on water agreement - Comox Valley Record - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Minister Conroy urges accuracy in CRT coverage - Katrine Conroy - Castlegar News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Furstenau talks issues in North Cowichan - Staff - Chemainus Valley Courier - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Water alert lifted for Killiney Beach - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Killiney Beach water quality advisory lifted - Staff - Vernon Morning Star - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Kootenay West MLA clarifies Columbia River Treaty story - Katrine Conroy - Trail Daily Times - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- **Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery**
- [Recovery from 2017 B.C. wildfires will 'take years' - Staff - Houston Today - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [West Kelowna gets own fire-danger station - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Number of tourists coming to South Cariboo lower than last June - 100 Mile House Free Press - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Crews combat growing fire near Sooke - Katie DeRosa - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Williams Lake 2018 precipitation amount doubles 2017 - Monica Lamb-Yorski - Williams Lake Tribune - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- ['Suspicious' fire burning near Keremeos - Staff - Keremeos Review - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [West Kelowna Fire Rescue's new weapon for fighting forest fires - Alistair Waters - Kelowna Capital News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [O'Donaghey - Mt Boucherie fires - CKFR - CKFR - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Don't flick your butt - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 05-Jul-2018](#)
- [Crews douse "suspicious" fires near Munson Pond - Staff - Lake Country Calendar - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Category 2 open burns to be prohibited in southeast BC - Staff - Castlegar News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Malahat wildfire a false alarm - Goldstream News Gazette - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Develop a personal wildfire plan, B.C. fire chief says - Abbotsford News - 04-Jul-2018](#)

- [Wildfire on Vancouver Island expands to 85 hectares - Staff - Nanaimo News Bulletin - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Cigarette warning signs - CKFR - CKFR - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Wildfire burns above West Kelowna - Lake Country Calendar - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Category 2 open burns to be prohibited in southeast BC - Staff - Cranbrook Townsman - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [It's sign of the times for smokers in West Kelowna - Alistair Waters - Kelowna Capital News - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Brolund - fire danger monitor station - CKFR - CKFR - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Comstock Lake Fire Complex disbanded, fire being held - Staff - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [Jakobsen - Vancouver Island wildfires - CFX - CFX - 04-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATE: Wildfire near Sooke has increased in size to 85 hectares - Sooke News Mirror - 04-Jul-2018](#)
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Eby is navigating some tricky roads

New Westminster Record

Thursday, July 05, 2018

Page A06

By Keith Baldrey

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Baldrey/Horgan - ferries replacement

CHAN

Wednesday, July 04, 2018, 18:10

FW: Dec rationale

Friday, October 12, 2018
3:26 PM

Subject	FW: Dec rationale
From	Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX
To	Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX
Sent	Thursday, July 12, 2018 11:00 AM
Attachments	 Reason for decision_c...

Tim Renneberg
Ministerial Assistant
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
250-387-6240
tim.renneberg@gov.bc.ca

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From: Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 12, 2018 10:34 AM
To: Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX <Emily.Tackaberry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Dec rationale

Tim -

Here is the Director rationale on TNG Moose. Can you share with Minister?

Let me know if you need anything else.

d.

-----Original Message-----

From: Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 10:00 AM
To: Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX
Cc: Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX; Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX
Subject: FW: Dec rationale

Tim, you were looking for this document.

-----Original Message-----

From: Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2018 9:42 AM
To: Wenham, Logan FLNR:EX; Psyllakis, Jennifer FLNR:EX; Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX
Subject: Dec rationale

Tim is looking for JP's decision rationale on TNG Moose. Brenda could you retrieve this and send to him ASAP. Thx

Sent from my iPhone

Reason for decision: Moose quota and LEH in the Cariboo Region, 2018

Authority for decision

This decision rationale focuses on 2018 moose hunting in the Cariboo Region. Wildfire in 2017, winter survey information, collaboration and engagement with First Nations and information from stakeholders required that the limited entry hunting (LEH) authorizations and quota decisions based on Allocation decisions for the 2017-2021 period be examined closely.

Section 7 and section 8 of the Limited Entry Hunt Regulation (LEHR) provides authority for the Director of Wildlife to determine the number of LEH authorizations to be granted with respect to an LEH open season, within a minimum and maximum range established through regulation. In making such determination, the Director must consider the following criteria: (a) the recommended numbers approved and submitted by regional managers, (b) data on population dynamics of the species in the area subject to LEH open season, and (c) hunter success rates.

Section 60 of the *Wildlife Act* provides the Regional Manager the authority to attach a quota as a condition to a guide outfitter licence. Under the Act, a quota represents the total number of a game species that the clients of a guide outfitter may kill in the guide outfitter's guiding area (or part of it). Under the LEHR, a guide outfitter that has been assigned quota for a particular species may guide clients during an open season in which an LEH authorization is required to hunt that species. As the Director, Wildlife and Habitat, Section 100 of the *Wildlife Act* provides me all of the statutory decision making powers of a Regional Manager, including those listed under s. 60 of the Act. 2018 is the first year the Director is exclusively exercising the power to make these quota decisions, as part of the Province's initiative to centralize all quota decisions and LEH decisions with a single decision maker.

The Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development holds the authority to make regulations for LEH (*Wildlife Act*, section 16) and has been delegated authority to establish or discontinue open seasons (close a hunt; *Wildlife Act* Section 108). It is not within my statutory authority to close a hunt; however, it is within my authority to (i) when determining the number of LEH authorizations to be granted for an LEH open season, choose the absolute minimum amount from the minimum and maximum range established through regulation (subject to the criteria which I am required to consider in making such determination); and (ii) not issue quota to any guide outfitter operating within an LEH zone. I have considered requests to completely close the hunt within this context only.

Policies and Procedures

The scope of consideration under both Section 60 (*Wildlife Act*) and Section 8 (LEHR) is broad, and guidance is provided by several provincial policies and procedures (e.g., Allocation Policy (2015), Administrative Guidelines (2007), Game Harvest Management Policy and Procedure (2010), LEH Policy and Procedure (2016), Control of Species Policy (2006), Moose Harvest Procedure (2010)). Further, within the Cariboo region there are specific government-to-government agreements with Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) with supporting documents (e.g., Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement;

Nenqay Deni Accord and supporting Letter of Intent and Letter of Intent Addendum (2015); Letter of Commitment (2017)). In addition, the government has committed to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Guidance in the Provincial Moose Management Framework and Grey Wolf Management Plan also provides reference points for management options.

Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) is the number of animals of a species in a specific area of land that may be harvested in a year by licensed hunters. The AAH is a derivative of several population assessments that first considers conservation and sustainability of the species requirements and secondly the needs of First Nations rights for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Only after these two assessments have been applied is there consideration to the AAH for residents and guided (non-resident and non-resident alien) hunters (Allocation Policy).

Considerations

Specific priorities and objectives I have considered include:

1. Conservation: The foremost priority of managing any wildlife species is to ensure that any harvest does not have an unsustainable impact on the population.
2. First Nations' Rights and Interests: Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of indigenous peoples in Canada. Moose is a highly valued species which is relied on for food for all local Indigenous communities including the Tsilhqot'in, the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance and the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw .
3. Population targets: By agreement between the Province and TNG, the current objective for moose populations is to recovery numbers to 13,193 for the North Chilcotin Game Management Zone (5C) and 4,900 for the South Chilcotin Game Management Zone (5D); or approximately the population estimates from 2009.
4. Population compositions: The Moose Harvest Management Procedure (4.7.01.07.3) notes that bull:cow ratios should not be below 30 bulls:100 cows, or 50 bulls:100 cows where there are low density moose populations (< 200/1000 km² of fall range).
5. Allocation splits between licensed hunters: The Government's February 2015 announcement set the allocation of licensed harvest for the Cariboo at 75% resident/25% guided (non-residents and non-resident aliens). The Provincial government has reaffirmed they continue to support these splits and therefore informed my considerations.

1. Conservation Considerations

Population management

Harvest must not be a significant impact to population status. Natural variation in populations is expected, therefore, modest harvest rates are most often applied (the exception is in those situations where a population is over its objective and conflicts are resulting). Further, because moose populations are strongly regulated by cow and calf survival the licenced bull-only harvest helps ensure that harvest is not the driving factor in population fluctuations, even when there is uncertainty in harvest rates.

According to the Provincial Framework for Moose Management in BC (2015) the average maximum licensed harvest rate of 5% is generally sustainable with the highest estimate at 9%. These estimates do not take into consideration natural mortality, First Nations harvest or poaching. The current licenced harvest rates are estimated at 2.7% in the North Chilcotin and 2.5% in the South Chilcotin. With estimates of First Nations harvest derived from best available information and information provided directly by First Nations at the time of the Allocation decision, those percentages increase to 9.2% (North) and 10.8% (South). Therefore it is reasonable to infer that licensed harvest is not driving declines to populations as it represents a relatively small proportion of human harvest which is limited to bulls only.

Although the status of moose provincially are considered secure, population trends are declining in many areas of the province. In the Cariboo Region specifically, populations are at lows relative to a recent peak in population in 2009. Factors contributing to declines are being assessed, which I considered. I also note that 2017 and 2018 surveys in 5-03 and 5-04B suggest that the South Chilcotin moose population is increasing, with bull to cow ratios well above minimum targets.

Landscape Impacts

My decision cannot direct or require landscape measures, as I am only empowered under the *Wildlife Act* to rule on matters related to the licensed harvest. However, in making my decision, I am mindful that landscape issues form an important backdrop to the discussion as they ultimately impact moose recruitment and survival and the ability of the Province to achieve 2009 population targets.

With respect to road and access issues, the Province is working with First Nations to address these concerns. It was apparent in reviewing the joint submission from the Fish & Wildlife Panel¹ that differing perspectives persist. I do note that there is a commitment to identify and deactivate 3-5 road areas between now and Sept. 1, 2018. While this is a positive development, this work does not weigh heavily on my decision because it has yet to occur, and is limited in scope. Similarly, the objectives for wildfire recovery and forest / habitat enhancement are not confirmed and areas have not been prioritized. I understand that these efforts are also underway, but do not inform my considerations at this time.

The landscape impacts may also be contributing to improved success of predator populations. First Nations and stakeholders have both indicated they would support increased predator management. Predator-prey dynamics are an important part of natural systems and current predator response and control programs are implemented only when there is a direct threat to livestock and species at risk. Further, predator management systems are complex and usually need to be intensive to be successful. That said, I am in agreement with the recommendations that further assessment and work-planning needs to be considered to determine if a predator management approach is a viable part of the overall objective to recover moose populations. I limit my consideration of predator-dynamics in the context of how licenced harvest contributes to the natural mortality rates including that from predators.

¹ The Fish & Wildlife Panel was identified as a body to support the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and later the Nenqay Deni Accord and is co-chaired by the Province and Tsilhqot'in National Government.

Wildfire Impacts

Wildfire can cause direct mortality of wildlife². The long-term impact of wildfires is typically positive due to resulting increases in forage. Recovery can be expected within a short timeframe, but can vary greatly depending on fire intensity, which is still being determined. Generally, the area affected by wildfire had a mosaic of varying burn impacts, but areas of high quality moose habitat (wetlands, deciduous patches) were generally less severely burnt compared to areas of low quality moose habitat.

Population surveys were undertaken during winter early in 2018 with an objective to monitor moose populations and identify impacts from wildfire. Population estimates were relatively unchanged (sighted slightly more moose in LEH zone 5-13A, the zone with the most extensive burn area than from previous surveys).

I considered the responses of other jurisdictions and completed a scan of management responses undertaken in several states recently impacted by wildfire (Idaho, California, Montana) which revealed that these jurisdictions did not close hunting seasons as a result of wildfire, except where fire activity resulted in concerns for human safety. In Idaho, access closures have been used to address excess hunter density following wildfire.

Both the TNG and provincial representatives expressed concerns that increased sightability (lack of secure forest cover, longer sightlines) and access (roads and fire guards) following wildfire could increase hunter success rates. Moose may be more susceptible to hunters (and predators), but there is no research available to quantify what may be expected. Ordinarily, success rate fluctuations are managed on a three-year rotational basis, where the prior three years' success informs the success applied to the AAH in the current year to determine the number of LEH authorizations issued (LEH procedure).

However, given the uncertainty, I considered the approach proposed by Provincial biologists to reduce harvest levels to account for potential increases in success in advance of the hunting season and the assessment of a 5-20% reduction based on the amount of moose habitat within the 2017 fire perimeter to incorporate this potential increased vulnerability. I note that the recommendation was to make this reduction cumulative to other reductions undertaken to recover bull to cow ratios. I also considered TNG proposals of a two year licenced hunt closure, reducing harvest levels in absolute terms based on the percentage of moose habitat burned in the MU, or that LEH Zones 5-03 and 5-04B, which were impacted by wildfire, be closed in particular. Provincial representatives note that wildfire impacts to identified moose habitat within these areas is relatively small (see Table 1).

² Aerial surveys did not report any fire-related direct moose mortality; however, ground crews reported two dead moose. No mortality investigations were conducted, but the moose were reported unburned and may have died from smoke inhalation.

Table 1. Summary of wildfire overlap within LEH zones and suitable moose habitat within those zones.

LEH Zone	% Fire overlap	% moose habitat overlapped by wildfires*
5-13A	59%	68%
5-13C	39%	39%
5-14	32%	25%
5-04B/C	15%	12%
5-03	10%	9%
5-12A	7%	6%
5-13B	3%	3%

*Note: Moose habitat is estimated from cumulative effects model assessment. Not all area within the fire perimeters would have burnt, and severity of burnt areas would vary.

2.0 First Nations' Rights, Title and Interests

There are several First Nations groups with asserted and proven Aboriginal rights and title claims in the Cariboo region that may be affected by my decision. The Tsilhqot'in Nation is comprised of six communities that are represented by the Tsilhqot'in National Government. The Tsilhqot'in Nation have proven Aboriginal rights in an area frequently identified as the Claim Area and proven Aboriginal title within an area affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in its June 26, 2014 decision.

The rest of the Cariboo region is subject to asserted Aboriginal rights and title claims of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, the members of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance and the members of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw.

1,100 total moose were identified as harvested on an annual basis as part of the modelling work used to inform setting the 2017-21 allocation across the four Game Management Zones. This number is set aside for First Nations to address food, social and ceremonial rights prior to the consideration of licenced harvest. This represents approximately 60% of all potential calculated harvest based on population estimates for that allocation calculation. TNG submissions provide that despite the number of moose considered for calculation purposes, their community members are not successful in achieving their needs. Direct harvest information or community shortfall have not been provided, so although I acknowledge that there may be factors affecting community members from meeting their needs, I conclude that from a biological perspective, there is an available harvest that may be considered for licenced hunters.

I am also mindful of the Province's commitment to work collaboratively with the TNG in Chilcotin moose recovery and the very high value of moose to the Tsilhqot'in communities. The 2016 Nenqay Deni Accord is an effort to move beyond a long history of conflict, and to chart a new and better future with the Tsilhqot'in people as true partners in the social, political and economic life of British Columbia, for the benefit of all. BC has expressed the need to hear more from the TNG regarding details for issues raised (for example, around community moose harvest reporting, areas of interest related to landscape planning) to support collaborative decision-making. I note the collaborative wildlife work in the region to date includes:

- Collaborative forum for discussions the Fish & Wildlife Panel provides, including ongoing work planning and implementation of the Chilcotin Moose Recovery Plan.
- Tsilhqot'in community observers participating in moose and other wildlife surveys
- Community initiatives with an interest to sign binding MOUs for community initiatives between the Conservation Officer Service and the ?Esdilagh and Xeni Gwet'in and possibly other communities in similar initiatives around increased reliance on a bull-only harvest.
- Previously agreed commitments through the 2016 LOI Addendum and Strategic Forestry Agreement Funding. These agreements support the development of a Tsilhqot'in Nation Sustenance Harvest Policy, Moose Management Plan and an Access Management Project and are tied to previous Provincial decisions noted above related the reduced LEH harvest and September hunt closures.
- Cumulative Effects Project (led by 3 Tsilhqot'in communities, and BC)
- Review and update of the South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan

Collaboration implies that both parties to the Accord attempt to find consensus and common ground, even if this ground is not entirely their preferred approach.

Similarly, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) calls for effort be made to obtain the free, prior and informed consent from First Nations for decisions that affect their traditional territory and way of life. I find that the actions taken to date, including the efforts over the past five months, as well as the actions planned for implementation in the near future are addressing this core principle of UNDRIP, even though consensus was not achieved with all First Nations.

Tsilhqot'in National Government

The Province and the Tsilhqot'in Nation entered into a Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement, with amendments effective March 31, 2017. In late 2017, citing wildfire impacts, the Tsilhqot'in leadership recommended a full closure of all licensed harvesting in the North and South Chilcotin for 2018 and 2019; the two years was suggested to provide the time for TNG and BC to focus on habitat and predation factors. From December 2017 to April 2018, 10 meetings were held (primarily through the bilateral (BC-TNG) Fish & Wildlife Panel ("the Panel") to flesh out options. Provincial staff provided the TNG with a set of possible scenarios laying out specific targeted reductions in areas with concerns surrounding either wildfire or bull-to-cow ratios, but not a full closure.

The TNG responded with a memorandum providing some comment on these proposals, but ultimately maintaining a two year closure for the entire Chilcotin as the only approach acceptable to them.

I also received a joint decision paper from the co-chairs of the Fish & Wildlife Panel. This paper confirmed that core differences of views exist between Provincial and TNG staff, and a consensus had not been reached. The document provides clarification of the perspectives of both parties.

Finally, I met directly with TNG representatives on May 4, 2018 where they reiterated their request for a full two-year closure of the licensed moose harvest and that the time could be used for research and plan ways to achieve the population objective. The importance of moose to the communities was emphasized and concerns expressed both regarding the population trend and ability of community members to successfully achieve their harvest needs. It was noted that there was a lack of ability for community members to successfully hunt in traditional hunting areas and that given a constraint on resources (e.g., time, equipment) community harvesters were likely not as successful as licenced hunters. Information was not provided on the number of moose harvested or specifics of the short fall. It was also communicated that the Xeni Gwet'in are considering a ban for their members on harvest of all moose, possibly depending on provincial action.

TNG representatives also suggested that LEH authorizations may be held to one authorization per harvestable animal rather than based on hunter success rate (e.g., resident success averages 31% resulting in a general ratio of roughly 3 authorizations per harvestable animal) as a way to manage the uncertainty of hunter success. In considering a 1:1 ratio I also considered how to honour allocation splits and therefore also considered potential impacts to guide quota.

The TNG indicated an interest in pursuing a Tsilhqot'in-wide Memorandum of Understanding with the Conservation Officer Service (COS) to ban harvest of cow moose by their members. Previously these types of initiatives were discussed with specific TNG bands (?Esdilagh and Xeni Gwet'in). The TNG indicated a view that all MOUs would be jeopardized if anything less than a full two year closure is enacted.

In weighing my decision, I had to balance the possible impacts from the potential "bull only" First Nations harvest against other management options. If such a ban were put in place, this could add additional pressure to bull harvest. It is difficult to analyze exact impact, as First Nations bull harvest would increase, but success rates would likely decrease. Also, other First Nations in the area (SDNA) would not be subject to the ban.

Reliable First Nations' harvest data would reduce the uncertainty in the needs and challenges achieving those needs, as well as estimates of potential population impacts. These data are a key deliverables of a Letter of Intent signed in early 2016 to support the signing of the Accord. In the absence of such data, I am required to rely on First Nations' harvest estimates previously established for the 2017-2021 harvest period, and determine if other management actions taken in low bull-to-cow ratio areas would be sufficient to absorb increased bull harvest pressure from First Nations.

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance (SDNA)

The Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance is body that represents Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation and Ulkatcho Nation. The SDNA do not yet have a consultation agreement or

reconciliation agreement with the Province regarding wildlife management, but their traditional territory is located partially in the North Chilcotin. A discussion document was provided to the communities of Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation and Ulkatcho Nation on April 5, 2018 to seek input with the same options and analysis provided to the TNG. A phone call occurred on April 19, 2018 in which community representatives did not participate. An SDNA representative was in attendance and was invited to send along any feedback. None has been received to date.

Northern Shuswap

The Northern Shuswap Fish and Wildlife Joint Communication group meets quarterly to discuss fish and wildlife issues in the Cariboo region. The membership of this group includes the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, a body that represents Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake), Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe & Dog Creek), Xat'süll (Soda & Deep Creek), and T'exelc (Williams Lake) First Nation and the Esketem'c First Nation. The Northern Shuswap Fish and Wildlife Joint Communication group was contacted after surveys revealed low bull to cow ratios in their traditional territory (5-01, 5-02B, 5-02C). A briefing document was forwarded to the communities of Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake), Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe & Dog Creek), Xat'süll (Soda & Deep Creek), T'exelc (Williams Lake) and the Esketem'c detailing management options mirroring those proposed for similarly affected areas in other parts of the Cariboo region. After discussion, the Northern Secwepemc communities supported the Province's proposed reduction of target licensed bull moose harvest by 50%, which would match the more aggressive proposal discussed with the TNG and SDNA in similarly affected areas in MU's in areas in their traditional territories (see below).

3.0 Population Targets

The population target set represents a high over the last twenty years based on inventory and harvest data that are collected (Table 2).

The Cariboo is divided into four Game Management Zones or GMZs, which are set to reflect natural barriers and movement of moose across the landscape. These are:

- GMZ 5A (aka Quesnel Highlands): comprising zones 5-15 A-D, 5-16
- GMZ 5B (aka Cariboo): comprising zones 5-01 and 5-02 A-D
- GMZ 5C (aka North Chilcotin): comprising zones 5-10, 5-12 A-B, 5-13 A-C and 5-14
- GMZ 5D (aka South Chilcotin): comprising zones 5-03, 5-04 A-C, 5-05 and 5-06

Table 2. Cariboo Region moose population estimates by GMZ; 1999 - 2018.

Year	GMZ 5A	GMZ 5B	GMZ 5C	GMZ 5D
1999	2,700	8075	8,680	3,140
2004	2,850	6,650	11,225	5,300
2008	1,680	6,727	13,193	4,900*
2012	1,680	6,265	8,966	2,896
2016	1,680	6,645	9,300	2,900
2018	1,680	6,645	7,850	3,700

*2008 population estimate corrected based on errors found in 2005 survey analysis.

Moose populations naturally vary and are tied to many factors on the land base and weather (e.g., habitat changes from natural disturbances and land-use decisions, predator-prey dynamics, winter conditions, etc). The Province initiated a research project to better understand the factors affecting moose population declines six years ago. Cow moose were collared in five study areas and mortality causes were assessed. I am primarily informed by the results collected to date in the Big Creek Study Area (within the Cariboo Region); of the 17 cow moose that have died eight were a result of predators, five unlicensed harvest, three from health related causes (infection, starvation) and one accident.

4.0 Population Composition

2018 moose surveys completed in the Cariboo region indicate that bull to cow ratios in Zones 5-01, 5-02B, 5-02C, 5-13A, 5-13B and 5-14 are below provincial minimum targets. While not fire-related, this represents a management concern. Target bull to cow ratios are set at 30 bulls per 100 cows in areas where moose density is at least 0.2 moose/km² and 50 bulls per 100 cows in areas where moose density is below 0.2 moose/km². Low ratios are not a conservation issue directly, however, lower than desirable targets may affect probability that moose reproduce and thus recruitment rate may not achieve its full potential and is a concern for population recovery. Ratios in the above-noted LEH zones are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Bull:Cow ratio by LEH zone.

LEH Zone	Bull to cow ratio
5-01	18 bulls per 100 cows
5-02B	20 bulls per 100 cows
5-02C	15 bulls per 100 cows
5-13A	42 bulls per 100 cows*
5-13B	24 bulls per 100 cows
5-14	24 bulls per 100 cows

*Overall moose density is only 0.17 moose/km², therefore 50 bulls per 100 cows is desirable

In response to low bull to cow ratios, and for consideration in my deliberations, I received three scenarios from the Fish & Wildlife Panel following collaborative discussions between the Province and the Tsilhqot'in; two from the provincial representatives (licensed harvest level reductions) and one from TNG representatives (closure).

1. Target recovery of bull/cow ratios by reducing licensed harvest levels in above-noted LEH Zones by 25%. This reduction in licensed harvest levels is expected to result in a proportional reduction in LEH authorizations and guide quotas issued in these zones.
2. Target rapid recovery of bull/cow ratios by reducing licensed levels in the above-noted LEH Zones by 50%. This reduction in licensed harvest levels is expected to result in a proportional reduction in LEH authorizations and guide quotas issued in these zones.
3. Close the entire Chilcotin (GMZs 5C and 5D) to licensed harvesting (preferred option for the TNG). This would exclude zones 5-01, 5-02B and 5-02C (GMZ 5B) as they do not overlap the Tsilhqot'in territory.

First Nations in 5-01 and 5-02 (Northern Secwepemc) supported a 50% reduction in their specific areas.

Reductions to licensed harvest have previously been used effectively to recover low bull/cow ratios in other Cariboo Region LEH Zones. In 1995, the bull/cow ratio in LEH Zone 5-13A was 15 bulls per 100 cows. LEH authorizations were reduced by approximately 50% and the ratio recovered to 29 bulls per 100 cows within three years. In 1996, the bull/cow ratio in LEH Zone 5-02A was 19 bulls per 100 cows. LEH authorizations were decreased by approximately 50% and the ratio recovered to 40 bulls per 100 cows within two years.

Despite the apparent population increases observed in the South Chilcotin, First Nations in the area (notably the Xeni Gwet'in on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation) have indicated their members are having a hard time locating moose on the landscape. The Xeni Gwet'in are located primarily in LEH Zone 5-04. While density in 5-04 is relatively low (0.22 moose/km²) these estimates are an improvement over 2012 densities of 0.14 moose/km². Current densities were previously incorporated into calculations made for the 2017-2021 period.

5.0 Resident and Guided (Non-resident and Non-resident Alien) Stakeholder considerations

Resident and guided hunting are important activities in the province that provide both social and economic benefits to communities (e.g., food, employment and livelihood, tourism dollars). The Province also considers that hunting activities contribute to and enhance conservation values and environmental benefits by connecting people to nature and natural systems.

These stakeholders were provided an information package on April 11, 2018 and invited to provide comment. Comments received were limited. Predator control, habitat recovery and access were cited as important issues in addressing future moose recovery.

Guides also noted the hardships caused to their businesses from hunt reductions, previous closures and, in some cases, impacts from wildfires. The timing of the decision for the 2018 hunt was further impacting their ability to confirm fall hunts and having the potential to significantly impact their short-term business operations and long-term reputation.

Additionally, I heard that licensed hunters (guides and residents) would be supportive of a total ban on harvesting, if that total ban extended to First Nations. Such a ban would have to be voluntary with respect to First Nations, since the current population level, both locally and provincially, is within historic ranges and does not support a ban for First Nations for conservation purposes at this time.

Past management considerations

Prior management efforts undertaken with respect to licensed hunting include:

- 2012-2016 Allocation Period: A 35% reduction in AAH compared to the previous period.
- 2015-2017 regulation cycle there were three notable actions taken by the Province to support Tsilhqot'in members access to moose for sustenance:
 - The closure of the September 10-September 30 LEH seasons in: 5-03, 5-04A, 5-04B, 5-04C, 5-05, 5-12A, 5-13A, 5-14 (extending period of exclusive First Nations' use), and an additional 33% reduction in the allowable licensed harvest in these areas.
 - The implementation of Compulsory Inspection requirements in Management Units 5-03 to 5-06 and 5-10 to 5-14 to better ensure compliance and enforcement needs and improve the calculation of hunter success rates in the future.
- 2017-2021: A further reduction in AAH for licensed harvest by 33%.

Also in 2017, due to concerns that impacts to the landscape from wildfires would have a negative impact on moose populations, immediately following wildfire access restrictions being lifted, motor vehicle restrictions (MUs 5-3, 5-4, 5-13, 5-14) and hunt closures (Oct. 15-Nov. 15 in 5-13A and 5-13C) were put in place under the *Wildlife Act*. These restrictions and closures were a precautionary measure to provide time to complete an initial assessment of the impacts of the wildfires on moose populations and habitat over the winter 2017/18.

I am also mindful of past decisions and actions taken by the Province and the TNG. AAH for all species in the Chilcotin were set in 2016, following consultation with First Nations and local stakeholders. This

AAH determination would ordinarily inform the 2017-21 5-year cycle and provides an estimated 5-year licensed moose harvest for both the North Chilcotin (335 bulls) and South Chilcotin (120 bulls) on an annual basis.

6.0 Decision

As noted above, my decision authority is scoped within the *Wildlife Act* and many of the factors that have the potential to maximize the benefits to moose populations fall under other resource planning and legislative frameworks. The activities being implemented or explored to address these complementary management options are strongly supported by the Province and in my role as Director of Wildlife and Habitat I will prioritize policy and guidance that supports the alignment activities across resource sectors.

I note that current populations in most management zones are within or near the historic variation, and population trends indicate southern Chilcotin moose populations are increasing. I further note that various scenarios of licenced harvest options resulted in minimal impacts to the rate of population change. Therefore on balance I perceive no overall conservation issue that would require a reduction to minimum LEH authorizations (i.e., LEH of 1; effective hunt closure). Further, although some stakeholders representing both resident and guided hunters are supportive of a total closure that would apply to both First Nations and licenced hunters, I conclude that, given the lack of conservation urgency and the management options that are available, it would not be appropriate to impact the First Nations hunt with that type of management approach.

The number of moose (1100) set aside for First Nations needs was not noted as the concern by First Nation representatives, rather that harvesters were not successful in meeting their needs. I was not provided specific locations of hunter effort or success, but note that spatial distribution of moose and limitations on hunter effort are possibly contributing to this factor. I therefore also assumed an even effort throughout the territory boundaries for my considerations of the options for licenced hunting. Previous actions to close early hunt windows will remain in effect to address temporal considerations.

There are several factors noted above that are influencing my decisions regarding LEH authorizations and subsequent allocation for guided hunts. These factors include the population recovery targets, population composition, TNG interests and concerns, impacts of wildfire, landscape changes, and other stakeholder concerns.

To address low bull to cow ratios, I find it reasonable to take a similar action as that taken in 1995 and 1996 when harvest levels were reduced by 50%. The proposed actions that may be taken by the TNG and individual communities to ban cow harvest or encourage bull only hunts are welcomed and these actions are likely to increase the rate to achieve population recovery targets (i.e., earlier timeframe) given the retention of cow moose in the population. These shifts in harvest pressures will, however, affect the ability to achieve population composition targets and potential to ensure the reproductive potential is met. Without quantified numbers about a Tsilhqot'in harvest I assume that the maximum First Nation harvest estimates will be achieved and that there will be a significant shift towards bulls. Therefore, I will increase the reduction recommended by Provincial staff from 50% to 60% in areas where bull:cow

objectives are not being met and 10% in other management units that overlap the Tsilhqot'in traditional territory.

I also acknowledge that wildfire and landscape impacts may be increasing the vulnerability of moose to harvest. Therefore I conclude that a precautionary approach to further reduce licensed harvest of bulls is warranted in the management zones impacted by 2017 fires. I note that no agreement on LEH reduction to address wildfire impacts was achieved. Provincial staff provided a recommendation of reduction derived from percentage of habitat impacted by wildfire and TNG representatives provided in the absence of a closure, either a reduction based the absolute wildfire impacted area or an assumption of 100% success. I will apply a reduction based on the % of area of habitat impacted and apply this cumulatively to the 60% reduction. I acknowledge this falls short of the TNG request, but find it reasonable based on the documented impacts and long-term benefits from wildfire and the overall reduction in the licenced harvest.









2017-21 is the first allocation cycle to fall wholly within the policy framework established in February 2015. Under this system, AAH of Category A species (typically those where demand for licensed harvest exceeds supply) is split between resident hunters and guides on a set percentage. For Cariboo Region 5 Game Management Zones for moose this split is set at 75% resident harvest, 25% guided harvest. While this policy direction is not binding on the statutory decision maker, the government has re-affirmed their support for it in 2017 and I have applied this policy in the subsequent allocation for guide quota based on the same principles noted above.

7.0 Future Steps

The Province is committed to improving our shared knowledge base and collaboration with First Nations. I commend the collaboration and engagement efforts among First Nations and Provincial staff to date and encourage continued dialogue to refine the information used to support subsequent harvest decisions. However, harvest decisions are only one factor in the overall management of moose populations; I wish to re-iterate that the Province will continue to work collaboratively to address habitat and access issues, climate change impacts, and interactions with other wildlife in a manner that supports achieving the population objectives established for moose in the Cariboo Region. To this end the Province is committed to working with First Nation and stakeholders to explore and expand management activities that may include hunter game checks, enhanced enforcement, moose inventory and research, wildfire impact assessment, habitat enhancement and recovery post wildfire. No shooting areas could also be considered in areas of concern from a safety or high vulnerability perspective. Lastly, I note that the harvest decision is an annual decision and new information could change things in future years.

Fwd: Staff and Materials Request - Tsilhqot'in Nation and Moose LEH - Request for Call with Minister Donaldson July 19th

Monday, November 26, 2018
1:20 PM

Subject	Fwd: Staff and Materials Request - Tsilhqot'in Nation and Moose LEH - Request for Call with Minister Donaldson July 19th
From	Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX
To	Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX
Sent	Wednesday, July 18, 2018 5:34 PM
Attachments	<div> image001</div> <div> ATT00001</div> <div> 240823 IN_Moose ...</div> <div> ATT00002</div> <div> 240823_App endix1_Re...</div> <div> ATT00003</div> <div> 240823_App endix2_Su...</div> <div> ATT00004</div>

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

From: "Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX" <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>
Date: July 18, 2018 at 5:22:54 PM PDT
To: "Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX" <Tim.Renneberg@gov.bc.ca>, "McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX" <Kenn.McLaren@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX" <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, "Nasadyk, Alanah FLNR:EX" <Alanah.Nasadyk@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Fw: Staff and Materials Request - Tsilhqot'in Nation and Moose LEH - Request for Call with Minister Donaldson July 19th

Hello Tim and Kenn,

I've been asked to forward you the material for Minister's meeting tomorrow regarding the Tsilhqot'in Nation and Moose LEH.

Due to tight turnaround the DM hasn't been able to review yet, so I was asked to forward to you directly.

Brenda Larkin

From: Larkin, Brenda FLNR:EX

Sent: Wednesday, July 18, 2018 3:40 PM

To: Nasadyk, Alanah FLNR:EX

Cc: McNeill, Diana A FLNR:EX

Subject: RE: Staff and Materials Request - Tsilhqot'in Nation and Moose LEH - Request for Call with Minister Donaldson July 19th

Hi Alanah,

Attached is the material for the meeting. Please note that the cliff log 240747 was never referred to me and I didn't notice. So branch created a new log 240823.

The attached material is embedded into the log and attached here.

Please advise when DMO has reviewed and if there are any changes.

I have a request from the MO for staff and materials for the following meeting:

Materials and/or Staff Support Request for Minister's Meeting	
Meeting Date:	July 19 th
Meeting Time:	Meeting 3 - 4 pm Pre-brief 11:30 am – 12 pm
Participants :	MDD Chief Russel Myers Ross (Tsilhqot'in First Nation)
Regarding:	<i>Chief Russell Myers Ross, the Vice-Chair for the Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) requested his call regarding concerns about the moose LEH allocations for their territory. On July 10th, a Leadership Summit was convened at Tl'esqox to address the dire state of the moose population in the Tsilhqot'in Territory. Leadership, by consensus, directed the Council of Chiefs to enact an emergency Tsilhqot'in law to protect moose populations and ban Limited Entry Hunts (LEH) in the territory, effectively restricting all non-First Nation hunters from hunting moose. A draft law was reviewed and approved for final consideration by the Tsilhqot'in Council of Chiefs with enactment in the near future. Leadership also directed for a review of legal options to be completed to address the serious impact that provincial management of moose is having on Tsilhqot'in Aboriginal rights. (original request below)</i>
Materials?	Yes
Staff Support?	Yes
Location:	Conference call details 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID: s.15
Dial-in Details:	TBC
Due to DMO	by July 17th

Cliff #	240747
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Please confirm with me that South Area staff will attend and provide materials.

Kind regards,

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

Date: July 17, 2018

File: 280-20

CLIFF: 240823

**PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations and Rural Development**

ISSUE: Reports of Tsilhqot'in National Government intentions to unilaterally close the Chilcotin
moose hunt for Fall 2018

BACKGROUND:

Following an Emergency Leaders' Summit held on July 10, 2018, Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) representatives announced via media that they intended the following actions with respect to licensed Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) for moose in their traditional territory:

- The launching of a legal challenge against the Province focusing on the Province's authority to make licensed hunting decisions in the area.
- Enforcing a ban on LEH hunting in their territory in Fall 2018.

In addition, the TNG were close to entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Conservation Officer Service to apply a "bull only" harvest to its members but have now put this MOU on hold. This MOU is generally referenced in the Director's additional 10% reduction in certain LEH zones, although the specific agreement has not been referenced outside of TNG-BC discussions. One of the six Tsilhqot'in Communities (?Esdilagh) had a longer history working on a cow-only MOU and has indicated they will proceed with it regardless of the broader TNG decision.

TNG actions stem principally from the decision by the Director of Wildlife and Habitat with respect to quota and LEH authorizations for the Cariboo region moose hunt. This decision was made following engagement with the TNG in keeping with the principles of the Nenqay Deni Accord ("the Accord"). Engagement also occurred with the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance and the Northern Secwepemc First Nations. Given commitments in the Accord, the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and heightened First Nations' concerns in the wake of the Chilcotin fires, intensive collaborative efforts were undertaken over the past six months. These efforts did not achieve consensus. A detailed Decision Rationale is appended (Appendix 1).

Northern Secwepemc First Nations supported Provincial wildlife staff's recommendations for a reduction in moose harvest in MUs 5-01, 5-02B and 5-02C as a result of non-fire related bull-to-cow ratios that are below management targets. Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance did not provide significant input on Provincial management options.

Updated quota information have been provided to guides, final LEH decisions have been made and the resident hunter draw has been run. BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has raised significant concern about loss of opportunity and exclusion from deliberation between the two governments.

1 of 3

DISCUSSION:

The TNG maintain that only a full two-year closure of both the North and South Chilcotin is truly collaborative and noted that anything less could jeopardize collaborative efforts in the region. They have indicated previously they do not believe the Province has the legal authority to make moose hunting decisions within their traditional territory. A recent submission from the TNG on their proposed "Sustenance Hunting Policy" provides additional context, with Article E citing the purpose of the policy document as to *"be utilized until such time the Tsilhqot'in take full control of management and legislation for wildlife"*.

The Tsilhqot'in decision did result in a declaration of Aboriginal title for a small portion of the Tsilhqot'in traditional territory. Since that decision was rendered in 2014, there has been no LEH hunting within the Tsilhqot'in title area. This includes a small number of LEH moose hunts which overlap the title area. In those cases, hunters winning an LEH are advised to hunt in the portion of the LEH outside of the title area only.

The Province has pursued collaboration on the land base both from a moose-specific viewpoint and a broader habitat management approach. Joint initiative to establish and sustain collaborative decision making through the Fish and Wildlife Panel, established under the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and enhanced under the Accord have functioned relatively well, despite the lack of a final Terms of Reference (TOR) document to govern how the panel should report to its respective governments. The draft TOR has been with the TNG for their comment for over a year.

As part of the signing of the Accord in 2016, a Letter of Intent (LOI) was signed between the Province and the TNG. A section of this document, entitled "Immediate Measures for Moose Recovery" includes commitments made by the Province and the TNG with respect to moose management in the Chilcotin.

Highlights of actions taken by the Province as a result of the LOI included:

- closure of the September 10 to 30 moose hunt in a series of management units in the Chilcotin for 2016;
- reduction of the overall licensed moose harvest in that area by approximately 33%;
- support for compulsory inspection for moose in the area for 2016; and
- creating strategic policy direction through engagement with the TNG by ensuring joint recommendations of a Fish and Wildlife Panel are fully considered by decision makers.

Highlights of commitments of the TNG included a development of a First Nations Sustenance Hunting Policy that includes actions to reduce reliance on cow moose and governance of community wildlife harvesting practice (e.g., wildlife harvest reporting, the use of ATVs and the harvest of antlerless moose). To support the development of this Policy, the Province provided \$170,000 to the TNG. A draft policy has been received, but it fails to address all core deliverables (e.g., wildlife harvest reporting is not mentioned). Another \$200,000 was provided to assist the TNG in support of a Moose Management Plan developed with the Province. The Moose Management Plan in its current form is only a set of identified map locations relating to access but does not on its own provide a detailed access management strategy nor a plan on achieving target moose populations.

The TNG also committed to the provision of moose harvest needs of their communities, a hunter harvest protocol and community engagement around the protocol. These actions were linked directly to the future of the September 10 to 30 moose closures noted above. Although these TNG deliverables have not been fully met, the Province agreed to keep the September season closed

2 of 3

in 2017 and again in 2018. The issue of First Nations' harvest data remains an unresolved and contentious issue in Tsilhqot'in communities.

Staff have reviewed the engagement process leading to the decision on the moose LEH and confirmed that it followed the process spelled out in the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and consistent with the Accord. The Province also fulfilled post-decision responsibilities by providing notification and a rationale document.

Under the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement there is a section 9.0 Dispute Resolution that applies to disputes arising out of the implementation or interpretation of the agreement. This process has not been enacted by the TNG in their actions above, who instead have suggested they intend to proceed straight to legal review. If this matter is taken to the courts the Province will need to determine if we would want to enact the termination clause in section 11.5 of the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement: *"If the TNG, the Tsilhqot'in Nation or a Member Community chooses to bring a legal or administrative proceeding against British Columbia for inadequate consultation related to a provincial decision or action covered by this Agreement, that is a proceeding other than for a breach of this Agreement, such a proceeding may be grounds for terminating this Agreement."*

Additional detail on collaborative efforts with the TNG, including potential future actions discussed at a July 9, 2018 meeting between the Director of Wildlife and Habitat, regional staff from FLNR and MIRR is provided in Appendix 2. Outreach to BCWF and other non-indigenous partners is required.

NEXT STEPS

The upcoming meeting is an opportunity to reiterate some of the actions taken to date with respect to collaboration, and appeal to the TNG leadership to return to the table and continue to discuss moose management under the agreed-to processes laid out in the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and the Accord. Recovery of moose populations to satisfactory levels will require many actions and sufficient time. To date there have been significant challenges in moving forward, with obstacles including a lack of clarity around process making it hard to advance shared decision making.

Table negotiators have suggested offering an independent mediator to review collaborative engagement processes and to assess how to improve these processes in the future. Getting clarity on process and a shared understanding of collaboration and goal-setting may help provide the foundation for improved results in future.

There is also a moose fact sheet released annually that can be updated for 2018 to demonstrate broader moose enhancement initiatives.

Attachment(s): **Appendix 1:** Reason for decision (w/prologue summary letter)
 Appendix 2: Summary of actions

Contact:
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Resource Stewardship Division
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Alternate Contact:
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Fish and Wildlife Branch
Phone: (250) 387-5657

Prepared by:
Logan Wenham, Wildlife Policy Unit Head
Fish and Wildlife Branch, Victoria
Phone: (778) 698-9221

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
ADM	TE	July 18, 2018
Director	JP	July 18, 2018
Assoc. Director	MB	July 18, 2018
Author	LW	July 17, 2018

APPENDIX 1

Summary of decision from approved letters to Guide Outfitters (for full Decision Rationale see full text below)

After considerable deliberation, I have determined the following:

- Hunt zones with below target bull-to-cow ratios will have their licensed bull moose harvest reduced by 50%. These zones are: 5-01, 5-02B, 5-02C, 5-13A, 5-13B, 5-14. This reduction is intended to allow for recovery of healthy bull-to-cow ratios and follows a similar approach employed successfully in 1995 and 1996 and is aligned with guidance in the Provincial Framework for Moose Management.
- An additional 10% reduction to licensed bull moose harvest in hunt zones 5-03, 5-04, 5-05, 5-12A, 5-13A and 5-14 in expectation of additional pressure on bull harvest from First Nations' harvesters in those zones.
- A precautionary adjustment to LEH success rates of between 5 to 20% in areas impacted heavily by wildfire to take into account increased sightlines and access opportunity for hunters. This adjustment will be applied to 5-13A, 5-13C and 5-14 and will be re-evaluated after 2018 data has been assessed.
- All other zones in the Cariboo Region will be unchanged and will continue to be assessed based on pre-existing 2017-2021 notional allocation decisions.

In making this decision, I was guided by moose population objectives, scientific review, the Provincial Framework for Moose Management, as well as consultation and collaboration with local First Nations and stakeholders as noted above.

Harvest decisions are only one factor in the overall management of moose populations. I wish to re-iterate at this time that the Province remains committed to addressing habitat and access issues, climate change impacts, and interactions with other wildlife in a manner that supports achieving the population objectives.

Jennifer Psyllakis
Director, Wildlife and Habitat

Reason for decision: Moose quota and LEH in the Cariboo Region, 2018

Authority for decision

This decision rationale focuses on 2018 moose hunting in the Cariboo Region. Wildfire in 2017, winter survey information, collaboration and engagement with First Nations and information from stakeholders required that the limited entry hunting (LEH) authorizations and quota decisions based on Allocation decisions for the 2017-2021 period be examined closely.

Section 7 and section 8 of the Limited Entry Hunt Regulation provides authority for the Director of Wildlife to determine the number of LEH authorizations to be granted with respect to an LEH open season, within a minimum and maximum range established through regulation. In making such determination, the Director must consider the following criteria: (a) the recommended numbers approved and submitted by regional managers, (b) data on population dynamics of the species in the area subject to LEH open season, and (c) hunter success rates.

Section 60 of the *Wildlife Act* provides the Regional Manager the authority to attach a quota as a condition to a guide outfitter licence. Under the Act, a quota represents the total number of a game species that the clients of a guide outfitter may kill in the guide outfitter's guiding area (or part of it). Under the Limited Entry Hunt Regulation, a guide outfitter that has been assigned quota for a particular species may guide clients during an open season in which an LEH authorization is required to hunt that species. As the Director, Wildlife and Habitat, Section 100 of the *Wildlife Act* provides me the entire statutory decision making powers of a Regional Manager, including those listed under section 60 of the Act. 2018 is the first year the Director is exclusively exercising the power to make these quota decisions, as part of the Province's initiative to centralize all quota decisions and LEH decisions with a single decision maker.

The Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development holds the authority to make regulations for LEH (*Wildlife Act*, section 16) and has been delegated authority to establish or discontinue open seasons (close a hunt; *Wildlife Act* section 108). It is not within my statutory authority to close a hunt; however, it is within my authority to (i) when determining the number of LEH authorizations to be granted for an LEH open season, choose the absolute minimum amount from the minimum and maximum range established through regulation (subject to the criteria which I am required to consider in making such determination); and (ii) not issue quota to any guide outfitter operating within an LEH zone. I have considered requests to completely close the hunt within this context only.

Policies and Procedures

The scope of consideration under both section 60 (*Wildlife Act*) and section 8 (Limited Entry Hunt Regulation) is broad, and guidance is provided by several provincial policies and procedures (e.g., Allocation Policy (2015), Administrative Guidelines (2007), Game Harvest Management Policy and Procedure (2010), LEH Policy and Procedure (2016), Control of Species Policy (2006), Moose Harvest Procedure (2010)). Further, within the Cariboo region there are specific government-to-government agreements with Tsilhqot'in National Government (TNG) with supporting documents (e.g., Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement; Nenqay Deni Accord and supporting Letter of Intent and Letter of Intent Addendum (2015); Letter of Commitment (2017)). In addition, the Government has committed to implement the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Rights for Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Guidance in the Provincial Moose Management Framework and Grey Wolf Management Plan also provides reference points for management options.

Annual Allowable Harvest (AAH) is the number of animals of a species in a specific area of land that may be harvested in a year by licensed hunters. The AAH is a derivative of several population assessments that first considers conservation and sustainability of the species requirements and secondly the needs of First Nations rights for food, social and ceremonial purposes. Only after these two assessments have been applied is there consideration to the AAH for residents and guided (non-resident and non-resident alien) hunters (Allocation Policy).

Considerations

Specific priorities and objectives I have considered include:

1. Conservation: The foremost priority of managing any wildlife species is to ensure that any harvest does not have an unsustainable impact on the population.
2. First Nations' Rights and Interests: Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of indigenous peoples in Canada. Moose is a highly valued species which is relied on for food for all local Indigenous communities including the Tsilhqot'in, the Southern Dakh Nation Alliance and the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmuw.
3. Population targets: By agreement between the Province and TNG, the current objective for moose populations is to recovery numbers to 13,193 for the North Chilcotin Game Management Zone (5C) and 4,900 for the South Chilcotin Game Management Zone (5D); or approximately the population estimates from 2009.
4. Population compositions: The Moose Harvest Management Procedure (4.7.01.07.3) notes that bull:cow ratios should not be below 30 bulls:100 cows, or 50 bulls:100 cows where there are low density moose populations (< 200/1000 km² of fall range).
5. Allocation splits between licensed hunters: The Government's February 2015 announcement set the allocation of licensed harvest for the Cariboo at 75% resident/25% guided (non-residents and non-resident aliens). The Provincial Government has reaffirmed they continue to support these splits and therefore informed my considerations.

1. Conservation Considerations

Population management

Harvest must not be a significant impact to population status. Natural variation in populations is expected, therefore, modest harvest rates are most often applied (the exception is in those situations where a population is over its objective and conflicts are resulting). Further, because moose populations are strongly regulated by cow and calf survival the licenced bull-only harvest helps ensure that harvest is not the driving factor in population fluctuations, even when there is uncertainty in harvest rates.

According to the Provincial Framework for Moose Management in BC (2015) the average maximum licensed harvest rate of 5% is generally sustainable with the highest estimate at 9%. These estimates do not take into consideration natural mortality, First Nations harvest or poaching. The current licenced harvest rates are estimated at 2.7% in the North Chilcotin and 2.5% in the South Chilcotin. With estimates of First Nations harvest derived from best available information and information provided directly by First Nations at the time of the Allocation decision, those percentages increase to 9.2% (North) and 10.8% (South). Therefore it is reasonable to infer that licensed harvest is not driving declines to populations as it represents a relatively small proportion of human harvest which is limited to bulls only.

Although the status of moose provincially are considered secure, population trends are declining in many areas of the province. In the Cariboo Region specifically, populations are at lows relative to a recent peak in population in 2009. Factors contributing to declines are being assessed, which I considered. I also note

that 2017 and 2018 surveys in 5-03 and 5-04B suggest that the South Chilcotin moose population is increasing, with bull to cow ratios well above minimum targets.

Landscape Impacts

My decision cannot direct or require landscape measures, as I am only empowered under the *Wildlife Act* to rule on matters related to the licensed harvest. However, in making my decision, I am mindful that landscape issues form an important backdrop to the discussion as they ultimately impact moose recruitment and survival and the ability of the Province to achieve 2009 population targets.

With respect to road and access issues, the Province is working with First Nations to address these concerns. It was apparent in reviewing the joint submission from the Fish and Wildlife Panel¹ that differing perspectives persist. I do note that there is a commitment to identify and deactivate 3-5 road areas between now and September 1, 2018. While this is a positive development, this work does not weigh heavily on my decision because it has yet to occur, and is limited in scope. Similarly, the objectives for wildfire recovery and forest / habitat enhancement are not confirmed and areas have not been prioritized. I understand that these efforts are also underway, but do not inform my considerations at this time.

The landscape impacts may also be contributing to improved success of predator populations. First Nations and stakeholders have both indicated they would support increased predator management. Predator-prey dynamics are an important part of natural systems and current predator response and control programs are implemented only when there is a direct threat to livestock and species at risk. Further, predator management systems are complex and usually need to be intensive to be successful. That said, I am in agreement with the recommendations that further assessment and work-planning needs to be considered to determine if a predator management approach is a viable part of the overall objective to recover moose populations. I limit my consideration of predator-dynamics in the context of how licenced harvest contributes to the natural mortality rates including that from predators.

Wildfire Impacts

Wildfire can cause direct mortality of wildlife². The long-term impact of wildfires is typically positive due to resulting increases in forage. Recovery can be expected within a short timeframe, but can vary greatly depending on fire intensity, which is still being determined. Generally, the area affected by wildfire had a mosaic of varying burn impacts, but areas of high quality moose habitat (wetlands, deciduous patches) were generally less severely burnt compared to areas of low quality moose habitat.

Population surveys were undertaken during winter early in 2018 with an objective to monitor moose populations and identify impacts from wildfire. Population estimates were relatively unchanged (sighted slightly more moose in LEH zone 5-13A, the zone with the most extensive burn area than from previous surveys).

I considered the responses of other jurisdictions and completed a scan of management responses undertaken in several states recently impacted by wildfire (Idaho, California, Montana) which revealed that these jurisdictions did not close hunting seasons as a result of wildfire, except where fire activity

¹ The Fish & Wildlife Panel was identified as a body to support the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and later the Nenqay Deni Accord and is co-chaired by the Province and Tsilhqot'in National Government.

² Aerial surveys did not report any fire-related direct moose mortality; however, ground crews reported two dead moose. No mortality investigations were conducted, but the moose were reported unburned and may have died from smoke inhalation.

resulted in concerns for human safety. In Idaho, access closures have been used to address excess hunter density following wildfire.

Both the TNG and provincial representatives expressed concerns that increased sightability (lack of secure forest cover, longer sightlines) and access (roads and fire guards) following wildfire could increase hunter success rates. Moose may be more susceptible to hunters (and predators), but there is no research available to quantify what may be expected. Ordinarily, success rate fluctuations are managed on a three-year rotational basis, where the prior three years' success informs the success applied to the AAH in the current year to determine the number of LEH authorizations issued (LEH procedure).

However, given the uncertainty, I considered the approach proposed by Provincial biologists to reduce harvest levels to account for potential increases in success in advance of the hunting season and the assessment of a 5-20% reduction based on the amount of moose habitat within the 2017 fire perimeter to incorporate this potential increased vulnerability. I note that the recommendation was to make this reduction cumulative to other reductions undertaken to recover bull to cow ratios. I also considered TNG proposals of a two year licenced hunt closure, reducing harvest levels in absolute terms based on the percentage of moose habitat burned in the MU, or that LEH Zones 5-03 and 5-04B, which were impacted by wildfire, be closed in particular. Provincial representatives note that wildfire impacts to identified moose habitat within these areas is relatively small (see Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of wildfire overlap within LEH zones and suitable moose habitat within those zones.

LEH Zone	% Fire overlap	% moose habitat overlapped by wildfires*
5-13A	59%	68%
5-13C	39%	39%
5-14	32%	25%
5-04B/C	15%	12%
5-03	10%	9%
5-12A	7%	6%
5-13B	3%	3%

*Note: Moose habitat is estimated from cumulative effects model assessment. Not all area within the fire perimeters would have burnt, and severity of burnt areas would vary.

2. First Nations' Rights, Title and Interests

There are several First Nations groups with asserted and proven Aboriginal rights and title claims in the Cariboo region that may be affected by my decision. The Tsilhqot'in Nation is comprised of six communities that are represented by the Tsilhqot'in National Government. The Tsilhqot'in Nation have proven Aboriginal rights in an area frequently identified as the Claim Area and proven Aboriginal title within an area affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in its June 26, 2014 decision.

The rest of the Cariboo region is subject to asserted Aboriginal rights and title claims of the Tsilhqot'in Nation, the members of the Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance and the members of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw.

1,100 total moose were identified as harvested on an annual basis as part of the modelling work used to inform setting the 2017-21 allocation across the four Game Management Zones. This number is set aside for First Nations to address food, social and ceremonial rights prior to the consideration of licenced harvest. This represents approximately 60% of all potential calculated harvest based on population estimates for that allocation calculation. TNG submissions provide that despite the number of moose considered for calculation purposes, their community members are not successful in achieving their needs. Direct harvest information or community shortfall have not been provided, so although I acknowledge that there may be factors affecting community members from meeting their needs, I conclude that from a biological perspective, there is an available harvest that may be considered for licenced hunters.

I am also mindful of the Province's commitment to work collaboratively with the TNG in Chilcotin moose recovery and the very high value of moose to the Tsilhqot'in communities. The 2016 Nenqay Deni Accord is an effort to move beyond a long history of conflict, and to chart a new and better future with the Tsilhqot'in people as true partners in the social, political and economic life of British Columbia, for the benefit of all. BC has expressed the need to hear more from the TNG regarding details for issues raised (for example, around community moose harvest reporting, areas of interest related to landscape planning) to support collaborative decision-making. I note the collaborative wildlife work in the region to date includes:

- Collaborative forum for discussions the Fish and Wildlife Panel provides, including ongoing work planning and implementation of the Chilcotin Moose Recovery Plan.
- Tsilhqot'in community observers participating in moose and other wildlife surveys.
- Community initiatives with an interest to sign binding MOUs for community initiatives between the Conservation Officer Service and the ?Esdilagh and Xeni Gwet'in and possibly other communities in similar initiatives around increased reliance on a bull-only harvest.
- Previously agreed commitments through the 2016 Letter of Intent Addendum and Strategic Forestry Agreement Funding. These agreements support the development of a Tsilhqot'in Nation Sustenance Harvest Policy, Moose Management Plan and an Access Management Project and are tied to previous Provincial decisions noted above related the reduced LEH harvest and September hunt closures.
- Cumulative Effects Project (led by three Tsilhqot'in communities, and BC).
- Review and update of the South Chilcotin Stewardship Plan.

Collaboration implies that both parties to the Accord attempt to find consensus and common ground, even if this ground is not entirely their preferred approach.

Similarly, the UNDRIP calls for effort be made to obtain the free, prior and informed consent from First Nations for decisions that affect their traditional territory and way of life. I find that the actions taken to date, including the efforts over the past five months, as well as the actions planned for implementation in the near future are addressing this core principle of UNDRIP, even though consensus was not achieved with all First Nations.

Tsilhqot'in National Government

The Province and the Tsilhqot'in Nation entered into a Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement, with amendments effective March 31, 2017. In late 2017, citing wildfire impacts, the Tsilhqot'in leadership recommended a full closure of all licensed harvesting in the North and South Chilcotin for 2018 and 2019; the two years was suggested to provide the time for TNG and BC to focus on habitat and predation factors. From December 2017 to April 2018, 10 meetings were held (primarily through the bilateral (BC-TNG) Fish and Wildlife Panel to flesh out options. Provincial staff provided the TNG with a set of

possible scenarios laying out specific targeted reductions in areas with concerns surrounding either wildfire or bull-to-cow ratios, but not a full closure.

The TNG responded with a memorandum providing some comment on these proposals, but ultimately maintaining a two year closure for the entire Chilcotin as the only approach acceptable to them.

I also received a joint decision paper from the co-chairs of the Fish and Wildlife Panel. This paper confirmed that core differences of views exist between Provincial and TNG staff, and a consensus had not been reached. The document provides clarification of the perspectives of both parties.

Finally, I met directly with TNG representatives on May 4, 2018 where they reiterated their request for a full two-year closure of the licensed moose harvest and that the time could be used for research and plan ways to achieve the population objective. The importance of moose to the communities was emphasized and concerns expressed both regarding the population trend and ability of community members to successfully achieve their harvest needs. It was noted that there was a lack of ability for community members to successfully hunt in traditional hunting areas and that given a constraint on resources (e.g., time, equipment) community harvesters were likely not as successful as licenced hunters. Information was not provided on the number of moose harvested or specifics of the short fall. It was also communicated that the Xeni Gwet'in are considering a ban for their members on harvest of all moose, possibly depending on provincial action.

TNG representatives also suggested that LEH authorizations may be held to one authorization per harvestable animal rather than based on hunter success rate (e.g., resident success averages 31% resulting in a general ratio of roughly 3 authorizations per harvestable animal) as a way to manage the uncertainty of hunter success. In considering a 1:1 ratio I also considered how to honour allocation splits and therefore also considered potential impacts to guide quota.

The TNG indicated an interest in pursuing a Tsilhqot'in-wide Memorandum of Understanding with the Conservation Officer Service (COS) to ban harvest of cow moose by their members. Previously these types of initiatives were discussed with specific TNG bands (?Esdilagh and Xeni Gwet'in). The TNG indicated a view that all MOUs would be jeopardized if anything less than a full two year closure is enacted.

In weighing my decision, I had to balance the possible impacts from the potential "bull only" First Nations harvest against other management options. If such a ban were put in place, this could add additional pressure to bull harvest. It is difficult to analyze exact impact, as First Nations bull harvest would increase, but success rates would likely decrease. Also, other First Nations in the area (Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance) would not be subject to the ban.

Reliable First Nations' harvest data would reduce the uncertainty in the needs and challenges achieving those needs, as well as estimates of potential population impacts. These data are a key deliverables of a Letter of Intent signed in early 2016 to support the signing of the Accord. In the absence of such data, I am required to rely on First Nations' harvest estimates previously established for the 2017-2021 harvest period, and determine if other management actions taken in low bull-to-cow ratio areas would be sufficient to absorb increased bull harvest pressure from First Nations.

Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance

The Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance is body that represents Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation and Ulkatcho Nation. The Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance do not yet have a consultation agreement or reconciliation agreement with the Province regarding wildlife management, but

their traditional territory is located partially in the North Chilcotin. A discussion document was provided to the communities of Lhoosk'uz Dene Nation, Lhtako Dene Nation, Nazko First Nation and Ulkatcho Nation on April 5, 2018 to seek input with the same options and analysis provided to the TNG. A phone call occurred on April 19, 2018 in which community representatives did not participate. A Southern Dakelh Nation Alliance representative was in attendance and was invited to send along any feedback. None has been received to date.

Northern Shuswap

The Northern Shuswap Fish and Wildlife Joint Communication group meets quarterly to discuss fish and wildlife issues in the Cariboo region. The membership of this group includes the Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, a body that represents Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake), Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe & Dog Creek), Xat'süll (Soda & Deep Creek), and T'exelc (Williams Lake) First Nation and the Esketem'c First Nation. The Northern Shuswap Fish and Wildlife Joint Communication group was contacted after surveys revealed low bull to cow ratios in their traditional territory (5-01, 5-02B, 5-02C). A briefing document was forwarded to the communities of Tsq'escen' (Canim Lake), Stswecem'c/Xgat'tem (Canoe and Dog Creek), Xat'süll (Soda & Deep Creek), T'exelc (Williams Lake) and the Esketem'c detailing management options mirroring those proposed for similarly affected areas in other parts of the Cariboo region. After discussion, the Northern Secwepemc communities supported the Province's proposed reduction of target licensed bull moose harvest by 50%, which would match the more aggressive proposal discussed with the TNG and SDNA in similarly affected areas in MU's in areas in their traditional territories (see below).

3. Population Targets

The population target set represents a high over the last twenty years based on inventory and harvest data that are collected (Table 2).

The Cariboo is divided into four Game Management Zones or GMZs, which are set to reflect natural barriers and movement of moose across the landscape. These are:

- GMZ 5A (aka Quesnel Highlands): comprising zones 5-15 A-D, 5-16
- GMZ 5B (aka Cariboo): comprising zones 5-01 and 5-02 A-D
- GMZ 5C (aka North Chilcotin): comprising zones 5-10, 5-12 A-B, 5-13 A-C and 5-14
- GMZ 5D (aka South Chilcotin): comprising zones 5-03, 5-04 A-C, 5-05 and 5-06

Table 2. Cariboo Region moose population estimates by GMZ; 1999 - 2018.

Year	GMZ 5A	GMZ 5B	GMZ 5C	GMZ 5D
1999	2,700	8075	8,680	3,140
2004	2,850	6,650	11,225	5,300
2008	1,680	6,727	13,193	4,900*
2012	1,680	6,265	8,966	2,896
2016	1,680	6,645	9,300	2,900
2018	1,680	6,645	7,850	3,700

*2008 population estimate corrected based on errors found in 2005 survey analysis.

Moose populations naturally vary and are tied to many factors on the land base and weather (e.g., habitat changes from natural disturbances and land-use decisions, predator-prey dynamics, winter conditions, etc.). The Province initiated a research project to better understand the factors affecting moose population declines six years ago. Cow moose were collared in five study areas and mortality causes were assessed. I am primarily informed by the results collected to date in the Big Creek Study Area (within the Cariboo Region); of the 17 cow moose that have died eight were a result of predators, five unlicensed harvest, three from health related causes (infection, starvation) and one accident.

4. Population Composition

2018 moose surveys completed in the Cariboo region indicate that bull to cow ratios in Zones 5-01, 5-02B, 5-02C, 5-13A, 5-13B and 5-14 are below provincial minimum targets. While not fire-related, this represents a management concern. Target bull to cow ratios are set at 30 bulls per 100 cows in areas where moose density is at least 0.2 moose/km² and 50 bulls per 100 cows in areas where moose density is below 0.2 moose/km². Low ratios are not a conservation issue directly, however, lower than desirable targets may affect probability that moose reproduce and thus recruitment rate may not achieve its full potential and is a concern for population recovery. Ratios in the above-noted LEH zones are provided in Table 3.

Table 3. Bull:Cow ratio by LEH zone.

LEH Zone	Bull to cow ratio
5-01	18 bulls per 100 cows
5-02B	20 bulls per 100 cows
5-02C	15 bulls per 100 cows
5-13A	42 bulls per 100 cows*
5-13B	24 bulls per 100 cows
5-14	24 bulls per 100 cows

*Overall moose density is only 0.17 moose/km², therefore 50 bulls per 100 cows is desirable

In response to low bull to cow ratios, and for consideration in my deliberations, I received three scenarios from the Fish and Wildlife Panel following collaborative discussions between the Province and the Tsilhqot'in; two from the provincial representatives (licensed harvest level reductions) and one from TNG representatives (closure).

1. Target recovery of bull/cow ratios by reducing licensed harvest levels in above-noted LEH Zones by 25%. This reduction in licensed harvest levels is expected to result in a proportional reduction in LEH authorizations and guide quotas issued in these zones.
2. Target rapid recovery of bull/cow ratios by reducing licensed levels in the above-noted LEH Zones by 50%. This reduction in licensed harvest levels is expected to result in a proportional reduction in LEH authorizations and guide quotas issued in these zones.
3. Close the entire Chilcotin (GMZs 5C and 5D) to licensed harvesting (preferred option for the TNG). This would exclude zones 5-01, 5-02B and 5-02C (GMZ 5B) as they do not overlap the Tsilhqot'in territory.

First Nations in 5-01 and 5-02 (Northern Secwepemc) supported a 50% reduction in their specific areas.

Reductions to licensed harvest have previously been used effectively to recover low bull/cow ratios in other Cariboo Region LEH Zones. In 1995, the bull/cow ratio in LEH Zone 5-13A was 15 bulls per 100 cows. LEH authorizations were reduced by approximately 50% and the ratio recovered to 29 bulls per 100 cows within three years. In 1996, the bull/cow ratio in LEH Zone 5-02A was 19 bulls per 100 cows.

LEH authorizations were decreased by approximately 50% and the ratio recovered to 40 bulls per 100 cows within two years.

Despite the apparent population increases observed in the South Chilcotin, First Nations in the area (notably the Xeni Gwet'in on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation) have indicated their members are having a hard time locating moose on the landscape. The Xeni Gwet'in are located primarily in LEH Zone 5-04. While density in 5-04 is relatively low (0.22 moose/km²) these estimates are an improvement over 2012 densities of 0.14 moose/km². Current densities were previously incorporated into calculations made for the 2017-2021 period.

5. Resident and Guided (Non-resident and Non-resident Alien) Stakeholder considerations

Resident and guided hunting are important activities in the province that provide both social and economic benefits to communities (e.g., food, employment and livelihood, tourism dollars). The Province also considers that hunting activities contribute to and enhance conservation values and environmental benefits by connecting people to nature and natural systems.

These stakeholders were provided an information package on April 11, 2018 and invited to provide comment. Comments received were limited. Predator control, habitat recovery and access were cited as important issues in addressing future moose recovery.

Guides also noted the hardships caused to their businesses from hunt reductions, previous closures and, in some cases, impacts from wildfires. The timing of the decision for the 2018 hunt was further impacting their ability to confirm fall hunts and having the potential to significantly impact their short-term business operations and long-term reputation.

Additionally, I heard that licensed hunters (guides and residents) would be supportive of a total ban on harvesting, if that total ban extended to First Nations. Such a ban would have to be voluntary with respect to First Nations, since the current population level, both locally and provincially, is within historic ranges and does not support a ban for First Nations for conservation purposes at this time.

Past management considerations

Prior management efforts undertaken with respect to licensed hunting include:

- 2012-2016 Allocation Period: A 35% reduction in AAH compared to the previous period.
- 2015-2017 regulation cycle there were three notable actions taken by the Province to support Tsilhqot'in members access to moose for sustenance:
 - The closure of the September 10-September 30 LEH seasons in: 5-03, 5-04A, 5-04B, 5-04C, 5-05, 5-12A, 5-13A, 5-14 (extending period of exclusive First Nations' use), and an additional 33% reduction in the allowable licensed harvest in these areas.
 - The implementation of Compulsory Inspection requirements in Management Units 5-03 to 5-06 and 5-10 to 5-14 to better ensure compliance and enforcement needs and improve the calculation of hunter success rates in the future.
- 2017-2021: A further reduction in AAH for licensed harvest by 33%.

Also in 2017, due to concerns that impacts to the landscape from wildfires would have a negative impact on moose populations, immediately following wildfire access restrictions being lifted, motor vehicle restrictions (MUs 5-3, 5-4, 5-13, 5-14) and hunt closures (Oct. 15-Nov. 15 in 5-13A and 5-13C) were put in place under the *Wildlife Act*. These restrictions and closures were a precautionary measure to provide

time to complete an initial assessment of the impacts of the wildfires on moose populations and habitat over the winter 2017/18.

I am also mindful of past decisions and actions taken by the Province and the TNG. AAH for all species in the Chilcotin were set in 2016, following consultation with First Nations and local stakeholders. This AAH determination would ordinarily inform the 2017-21 5-year cycle and provides an estimated 5-year licensed moose harvest for both the North Chilcotin (335 bulls) and South Chilcotin (120 bulls) on an annual basis.

6. Decision

As noted above, my decision authority is scoped within the *Wildlife Act* and many of the factors that have the potential to maximize the benefits to moose populations fall under other resource planning and legislative frameworks. The activities being implemented or explored to address these complementary management options are strongly supported by the Province and in my role as Director of Wildlife and Habitat I will prioritize policy and guidance that supports the alignment activities across resource sectors.

I note that current populations in most management zones are within or near the historic variation, and population trends indicate southern Chilcotin moose populations are increasing. I further note that various scenarios of licenced harvest options resulted in minimal impacts to the rate of population change. Therefore on balance I perceive no overall conservation issue that would require a reduction to minimum LEH authorizations (i.e., LEH of 1; effective hunt closure). Further, although some stakeholders representing both resident and guided hunters are supportive of a total closure that would apply to both First Nations and licenced hunters, I conclude that, given the lack of conservation urgency and the management options that are available, it would not be appropriate to impact the First Nations hunt with that type of management approach.

The number of moose (1100) set aside for First Nations needs was not noted as the concern by First Nation representatives, rather that harvesters were not successful in meeting their needs. I was not provided specific locations of hunter effort or success, but note that spatial distribution of moose and limitations on hunter effort are possibly contributing to this factor. I therefore also assumed an even effort throughout the territory boundaries for my considerations of the options for licenced hunting. Previous actions to close early hunt windows will remain in effect to address temporal considerations.

There are several factors noted above that are influencing my decisions regarding LEH authorizations and subsequent allocation for guided hunts. These factors include the population recovery targets, population composition, TNG interests and concerns, impacts of wildfire, landscape changes, and other stakeholder concerns.

To address low bull to cow ratios, I find it reasonable to take a similar action as that taken in 1995 and 1996 when harvest levels were reduced by 50%. The proposed actions that may be taken by the TNG and individual communities to ban cow harvest or encourage bull only hunts are welcomed and these actions are likely to increase the rate to achieve population recovery targets (i.e., earlier timeframe) given the retention of cow moose in the population. These shifts in harvest pressures will, however, affect the ability to achieve population composition targets and potential to ensure the reproductive potential is met. Without quantified numbers about a Tsilhqot'in harvest I assume that the maximum First Nation harvest estimates will be achieved and that there will be a significant shift towards bulls. Therefore, I will increase the reduction recommended by Provincial staff from 50% to 60% in areas where bull:cow objectives are not being met and 10% in other management units that overlap the Tsilhqot'in traditional territory.

I also acknowledge that wildfire and landscape impacts may be increasing the vulnerability of moose to harvest. Therefore I conclude that a precautionary approach to further reduce licensed harvest of bulls is warranted in the management zones impacted by 2017 fires. I note that no agreement on LEH reduction to address wildfire impacts was achieved. Provincial staff provided a recommendation of reduction derived from percentage of habitat impacted by wildfire and TNG representatives provided in the absence of a closure, either a reduction based the absolute wildfire impacted area or an assumption of 100% success. I will apply a reduction based on the % of area of habitat impacted and apply this cumulatively to the 60% reduction. I acknowledge this falls short of the TNG request, but find it reasonable based on the documented impacts and long-term benefits from wildfire and the overall reduction in the licenced harvest.

2017-21 is the first allocation cycle to fall wholly within the policy framework established in February 2015. Under this system, AAH of Category A species (typically those where demand for licensed harvest exceeds supply) is split between resident hunters and guides on a set percentage. For Cariboo Region 5 Game Management Zones for moose this split is set at 75% resident harvest, 25% guided harvest. While this policy direction is not binding on the statutory decision maker, the government has re-affirmed their support for it in 2017 and I have applied this policy in the subsequent allocation for guide quota based on the same principles noted above.

7. Future Steps

The Province is committed to improving our shared knowledge base and collaboration with First Nations. I commend the collaboration and engagement efforts among First Nations and Provincial staff to date and encourage continued dialogue to refine the information used to support subsequent harvest decisions. However, harvest decisions are only one factor in the overall management of moose populations. I wish to re-iterate that the Province will continue to work collaboratively to address habitat and access issues, climate change impacts, and interactions with other wildlife in a manner that supports achieving the population objectives established for moose in the Cariboo Region. To this end the Province is committed to working with First Nation and stakeholders to explore and expand management activities that may include hunter game checks, enhanced enforcement, moose inventory and research, wildfire impact assessment, habitat enhancement and recovery post wildfire. No shooting areas could also be considered in areas of concern from a safety or high vulnerability perspective. Lastly, I note that the harvest decision is an annual decision and new information could change things in future years.

APPENDIX 2: Summary of Actions

- FLNR and TNG have a shared interest in recovering moose populations in the Chilcotin.
- Harvest decisions have used a precautionary approach and are based on limited harvest of bulls.
- Population assessments were updated for MU 5-13B in winter 2018 and further assessments are planned for winter 2019.
- In an attempt to understand the impacts of the Chilcotin Plateau wildfire to the Zone 5-13A moose populations, a subset of sample units (blocks) from the January 2017 flights were surveyed in winter 2018. A similar number of moose were sighted in resurveyed blocks in 2018 as compared to 2017, with slightly more being sighted in 2018. The 2018 survey findings appear to align with available literature which suggests the direct negative impact of wildfires to ungulate populations is low. The longer term impact of wildfires is typically positive due to resulting increases in forage but the vegetation response may be more muted in these drier ecosystems.

Summary of Cariboo Region FLNR Actions and Time Frames

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
Maintain ATV closures and restrictions across the North Chilcotin (MU 5-12 and 5-13)	Yes	Yes	ATV for hunting restrictions limit any increase in hunter success resulting from the 2017 wildfires (fireguards & wildfire openings) All of MU 5-12 and 5-13 are closed to ATVs and snowmobiles for hunting. There are also extensive motor vehicle closed areas and motor vehicle for hunting closed areas in these management units.
Access deactivation planned in areas identified by TNG. Implementation expected 2018	Yes	Yes	2017 closures in wildfire areas to limit vulnerability of moose. Physical deactivation preferred (more effective) over regulatory closures. Specific areas include 1) Mackin Creek, 2) Morrison Meadow/Corkscrew Creek, and 3) Hungry Valley/Dash Creek
Access deactivation and connectivity corridors established under the South Chilcotin joint management plan	Yes	Yes	Expectation that current commitments will be brought into the legal realm through FSPs, and expanded to the North Chilcotin.
Moose population surveys done with TNG observers.	Yes	Yes	TNG were engaged as observers and during interpretation of results for all recent Chilcotin Moose surveys. Areas included: 2017 – 5-04 & 5-13A SRB; 2018 – 5-13B SRB & 5-13A block.
Closure of the September 10 to 30 moose hunt in Management Units in the Chilcotin sub-region.	Yes	To be reviewed	Closure to be maintained as required in tandem with commitment by TNG to community hunting policy

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
\$370,000 provided to the TNG to support development of TN Community Hunting Policy, and development of a Moose Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Plan delayed but completed. Implementation of the TNG hunting policy under discussion at the Fish & Wildlife panel. TNG has supported communities with implementing MOUs with the COS for hunting moratoriums. Habitat and access management linked to road deactivation planning.
Joint discussion through the Nenqay Dene Accord, Fish and Wildlife Panel on moose Annual Allowable Harvest	Yes	Yes	Survey results and allocation methods shared with TNG. Joint recommendation for 2017-2021 moose AAH provided by Fish & Wildlife Panel
Ongoing Collaborative Moose Collaring Research Program to identify factors contributing to moose mortality. TNG representatives participate on mortality investigations when available.	Yes	Yes	Predation identified as leading cause of adult female mortality followed by unlicensed harvest.
Assessment of 2017 wildlife impacts to Wildlife: 1) 5-13A Moose replicate block survey 2) Fisher inventory planned for 2018/19 3) Ongoing mule deer inventories	Yes	Yes	Plan to continue 5-13A moose survey in 2018/19 to track population response to wildfires. No negative impact observed during 2017/18 survey.
Joint initiative to develop shared decision making functions of the Nenqay Dene Accord Fish and Wildlife Panel	Yes	Yes	TNG has withheld finalisation of the Terms of Reference for nearly 1 year now.
Support through Cumulative Effects assessment to District Manager to establish expectations for Forest Stewardship Plan content respecting moose habitat conservation and management	Yes	Yes	FSP reviews underway. Licensee commitments to moose recovery unclear.
Investigation of impacts to key moose wetlands from feral horse use	N/A	Yes	Pending funding availability for surveys.
Discussion with TNG regarding feral horse abundance and impacts to moose through maintenance of high wolf populations.	Yes	Yes	Discussed at fish and wildlife joint meetings. No action from TNG.
Recovery of Wildfire areas through rehabilitation activities.	Yes	Yes	District focus on reduction and revegetation of fire guards and recovery at riparian crossings.
Management for long term ecosystem resilience to reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire and beetle epidemics	Yes	Yes	Long term forest management. Short term meetings to initiate planning. To be discussed.

Additional discussion points at a July 9, 2018 meeting between FLNR and TNG staff:

Potential future actions were also discussed with the TNG at a meeting on July 9. Discussion included:

- Games checks, enhanced enforcement, road deactivation and access management, climate change adaptation (e.g., assessing potential objectives against future conditions and potential shifts in wildlife (elk and moose) distribution, establishing no hunting/shooting zones or adjusting LEH boundaries, and linkages to other initiatives (e.g., *Land Act* orders, wildfire recovery, cumulative effects, land use planning, and forest management decisions.
- There was some positive uptake in the actions identified that are forward looking, objective setting in nature that may have power to influence forestry decisions and practices as well as with the possibility of no shooting / hunting zones or LEH boundary changes. TNG also expressed interest in a legislative review of the *Forests and Range Practices Act*.
- TNG representatives noted that all items lacked substantive shifts in authority for management of the resource within TNG traditional territory.

FLNRO News - Thursday, July 19, 2018

Monday, November 26, 2018

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Thursday, July 19, 2018

Executive Summary

NOTE: Due to increased wildfire activity in southern B.C. over the past 48 hours, there were numerous fire-related stories. There are too many to list individually in this summary. Please refer to the "Wildfires, fire prevention and wildfire recovery" section below.

Articles of note:

- Falling tree kills hiker near Campbell River - Campbell River Mirror - 18-Jul-2018 (Recreation, backcountry)

Minister Doug Donaldson mentioned:

- Deadfalls in Salmon Arm pose risk for wildfires - Barb Brouwer - Salmon Arm Observer - 18-Jul-2018 (Wildfires, fire prevention, wildfire recovery)
- Province should fund bus routes - Keith Baldrey - New Westminster Record - 19-Jul-2018 (Minister Doug Donaldson)

Ministry mentioned:

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- [Fire in backcountry near Keremeos reaches 400 hectares in size - Lake Country Calendar - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Okanagan Mountain Park wildfire burns overnight - Carli Berry - Kelowna Capital News - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATED: Lightning sparks seven new fires in the Cariboo, one extinguished - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [More lightning forecast as storm sparks 38 new wildfires in B.C. - Staff - Abbotsford News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [South Okanagan firefighters save veteran's house - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Lightning sparks new fires in Cariboo, Prince George Fire Centres - Staff - Burns Lake Lakes District News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Two wildfires burning near Golden - Staff - Golden Star - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [More lightning forecast as storm sparks 38 new wildfires in B.C. - Carli Berry - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATE: Grass fire ignites in Glenrosa - Jen Zielinski - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Highway closed by fire near Peachland - The Daily Courier \(Kelowna\) - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Central/North wildfires - CBYG - CBYG - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Cluster of fires fans smoke over West Kelowna - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Campfires now prohibited in Sooke - Sooke News Mirror - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Non-wildfire related calls line plague dispatchers, block line - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATED: Prepare for Highway 97 to close again due to wildfire - John Arendt - Summerland Review - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [City puts finishing touches on Wildfire Recovery Plan - Quesnel Cariboo Observer - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Update: Six new wildfires ignited by lightning in Cariboo Fire Centre - Monica Lamb-Yorski - Williams Lake Tribune - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Wildfire Sprinkler Protection Unit training begins in Fraser Lake - Staff - Vanderhoof Omineca Express - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Fire ban looms for Vernon - Jennifer Smith - Vernon Morning Star - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Evacuation alert issued due to Dog Creek Trail Wildfire - Vanderhoof Omineca Express - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATED: Four small wildfires reported near Revelstoke following Tuesday night storm - Revelstoke Review - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Updated: Okanagan Mountain Park fire grows - Carli Berry - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATE: Placer Mountain fire grows to 50 hectares - Tara Bowie - Keremeos Review - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Four wild fires still burning near Keremeos - Tara Bowie - Keremeos Review - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [BC Wildfire Service on small fire up St. Mary Lake Road - Carolyn Grant - Kimberley Bulletin - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Carrot Mountain fire fans smoke over West Kelowna - Jen Zielinski - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Jakobsen - campfire ban - CKNW - CKNW - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Breaking: Evacuation order, local state of emergency, for Mount Eneas wildfire - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Wildfires erupt in B.C. Okanagan forcing evacuation orders and a highway closure - Abbotsford News - 18-Jul-2018](#)

- [Foster - wildfire evacs - CKNW - CKNW - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Okanagan wildfires - CHNL - CHNL - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Two fires caused by lightning at Big White last night - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Jacobsen/Henson - wildfire danger/fire response - CFX - CFX - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Three fires sparked in Peachland overnight - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Henson - wildland fire responses - CFX - CFX - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Regional trails closed due to fire hazard - Parksville Qualicum Beach News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Penticton fire offers tips to stay safe during wildfire season - Kristi Patton - Penticton Western News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Reported fire north west of Bradley Creek was a 'smokechase' - Staff - 100 Mile House Free Press - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Okanagan wildfires delay highway traffic - Staff - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Pike Mountain fire still out of control but did not grow overnight - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Behind the scenes of the evacuation - Neil Godbout - Prince George Citizen - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Wildfire burns above Summerland - Staff - Globe and Mail - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Deadfalls in Salmon Arm pose risk for wildfires - Barb Brouwer - Salmon Arm Observer - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Okanagan wildfires - News 1130 - CKWX - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Complete list of B.C. Interior wildfire coverage - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [New wildfire starts - CKFR - CKFR - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Tynan - interior wildfires - CBU - CBU - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Catherall - new wildfires - CHNL - CHNL - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Update: Peachland wildfire hits 200 hectares, Hwy. 97 backed up - Kelowna Capital News - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Allen - wildfire weather forecast - CBYG - CBYG - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [UPDATED: Okanagan Mountain Park fire forces evacuation alert - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- [Grass fire ignites in West Kelowna - Lake Country Calendar - 18-Jul-2018](#)
- **Miscellaneous**
- [Canada's new trade minister looks beyond U.S. market - Shawn McCarthy - Globe and Mail - 19-Jul-2018](#)
- [Trade on agenda for premier's meeting - Keith Doucette, Brett Bundale - Prince George Citizen - 18-Jul-2018](#)

Columnists

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Government projects to cost us more

The Daily Courier (Kelowna)

Thursday, July 19, 2018

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By Les Leyne

Copyright

FLNR: End of Day Media Request Report - July 30/31

Monday, November 26, 2018

1:24 PM

Subject	FLNR: End of Day Media Request Report - July 30/31
From	Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX
To	GCPE FLNR Media Requests GCPE:EX; Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX; Matthen, Sheila GCPE:EX; Sheldan, Tim FLNR:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Thomas, Vivian P GCPE:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Eckardt, Dana R FLNR:EX; Robinson, Gordon FLNR:EX; Tackaberry, Emily FLNR:EX; Lowther, Brett GCPE:EX; Winterhoff, Thomas GCPE:EX; Affleck, Lindsey A GCPE:EX; Roscoe, Lisa GCPE:EX; Makarowski, Dawn GCPE:EX; Uppenborn, Jeremy GCPE:EX
Sent	Tuesday, July 31, 2018 4:27 PM

Sharon Needem - Freelancer

ISSUE: Forest crimes in BC

STATUS: With Program Area

Barbara Curry Mulcahy - Valley Voice (New Denver): Arrow Lakes, Slocan & North Kootenay

ISSUE: Slocan Valley Rail Trail

STATUS: With Program Area

Helena Skrinjar - CFTK - Prince Rupert

ISSUE: Vancouver Island drought levels

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Cameron, water stewardship manager, provided interview on July 30, 2018.

Jaimie Kehler - CBC - Kelowna

ISSUE: Psoroptes project - Big horn sheep

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- pre-tape scheduled with wildlife biologist Andrew Walker for 12:30 p.m. today. Interview will air on CBC Daybreak South Wednesday morning.

Jamie Ballam - CKMQ Merritt (Q101)

ISSUE: Vancouver Island drought levels

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Chris Walder, operations manager for Thompson Okanagan, to provide interview.

Joel Barde - Pique NewsMagazine

ISSUE: Road closures in upper Lillooet River area - grizzly conservation

STATUS: Provided Background

- Hi Joel,

Please see responses to your questions below:

1. Why is this area important in terms of promoting genetic diversity?

The Upper Lillooet River watershed is a lynchpin for regional grizzly bear conservation and recovery because in addition to its inherently high natural productivity of high-energy food (specifically huckleberries and salmon), it provides multi-season core habitats for female bears and their cubs. The Upper Lillooet is also a natural movement corridor and linkage for grizzly bears and other wildlife to other, more remote areas. As such, it is critical that motorized access be managed so that it does not threaten the security of grizzly bears, their ability to access foods like spawning salmon and huckleberries, to enable the recolonization of areas with low grizzly bear numbers, and to allow for the genetic and demographic exchange necessary for the long-term persistence of grizzly bears in the four threatened Grizzly Bear Population Units (GBPUs) that overlap the District.

2. Can you please identify the estimated populations of the four grizzly bear populations that utilize the area(the South Chilcotin Ranges Grizzly Bear Population Unit (GBPU), adjacent to the Squamish-Lillooet, Stein-Nahatlatch, and the Garibaldi-Pitt GBPU's)?

Source: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/soe/indicators/plants-and-animals/grizzly-bears.html>

Grizzly Bear Population Unit Name South Chilcotin Ranges
Population Status Threatened
Reason for Status Population estimate <50% of carrying capacity
Population Estimate 203
Area of Useable Habitat (km²) 15220
Estimated Population Density (Grizzly bears/1000km²) 13
Estimation Method Inventory
Is this population hunted? N
Reason for not hunting, if not hunted Threatened
Percent area with > 0.6 km of roads/km² (2003) 23%
Size of population unit (Ha) 1,620,065

Grizzly Bear Population Unit Name Squamish-Lillooet
Population Status Threatened
Reason for Status Population estimate <50% of carrying capacity
Population Estimate 59
Area of Useable Habitat (km²) 5019
Estimated Population Density (Grizzly bears/1000km²) 12
Estimation Method Inventory
Is this population hunted? N
Reason for not hunting, if not hunted Threatened
Percent area with > 0.6 km of roads/km² (2003) 19%
Size of population unit (Ha) 582,834

Grizzly Bear Population Unit Name Stein-Nahatlatch
Population Status Threatened
Reason for Status Population estimate <50% of carrying capacity
Population Estimate 24
Area of Useable Habitat (km²) 7510
Estimated Population Density (Grizzly bears/1000km²) 3
Estimation Method Inventory
Is this population hunted? N
Reason for not hunting, if not hunted Threatened
Percent area with > 0.6 km of roads/km² (2003) 23%
Size of population unit (Ha) 779,768

Grizzly Bear Population Unit Name Garibaldi-Pitt
Population Status Threatened
Reason for Status Population estimate <50% of carrying capacity
Population Estimate 2
Area of Useable Habitat (km²) 6031
Estimated Population Density (Grizzly bears/1000km²) 0.3
Estimation Method Inventory; Expert Opinion

Is this population hunted? N
Reason for not hunting, if not hunted Threatened
Percent area with > 0.6 km of roads/km² (2003) 25%
Size of population unit (Ha) 660,433

3. Allen McEwan said that the Lillooet South FSR will help protect a vital huckleberry patch. Can you explain its significance? How many bears have been tracked there?

After the June 15 spring period, in the Upper Lillooet River watershed grizzly bears typically move into higher elevations as the temperatures increase and snowline rises in order to take advantage of new vegetation growth, to utilize other food sources such as huckleberries, and for other reasons such as mating. Movement may also result from disturbance by ongoing or continuous human activities, including noise, smoke and smells that are typical of camp sites and garbage. Though grizzly bears typically avoid humans, in some instances grizzly bears are known to protect important feeding habitats, or alternatively investigate human activities, sometimes to the disturbance or detriment of both humans and grizzly bears.

Wildfire burn areas in the Upper Lillooet River watershed are a grizzly bear subpopulation driver, un-paralleled anywhere else in south west BC. The study team have collared 9 females and 7 males during huckleberry season since 2007 (from July 1st to October 31st each year). In addition, there have been at least 4 uncollared mature females with cubs in the last 3 years at DNA hair snag sites in the burn areas. The importance of huckleberries (*Vaccinium membranaceum*) to the short and long-term trajectory of grizzly bear populations has been repeatedly demonstrated by research elsewhere in BC (e.g. McLellan 2015, Lamb et al. 2017) and the same is true in southwest BC (McLellan and McLellan 2015). Managing the security of the grizzly bears using through effective restriction of public motorized access is essential to achieving grizzly bear recovery in southwest BC. By closing roads at a suitable location, bears, particularly females with cubs, using the burn to forage on berries will be far less likely to encounter humans. Restricting public access will minimize grizzly bear mortality risk and protect the ability of the population to remain productive. Such measures will eventually help enable the population to expand into currently vacant but suitable habitats nearby.

Let me know if you have further questions.

Thanks,
Frank
Tina Lovgreen - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Wildfire impact on wildlife
STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Helen Schwantje, wildlife veterinarian, will provide interview.

Speaking points provided:

- Regarding impacts on wildlife, most species in the Okanagan evolved in, and require, wildfire-maintained ecosystems to thrive. The stress that wildfire puts on populations is a short-term displacement resulting from a brief removal of forage and, potentially, security cover.
- Literature suggests that wildlife populations are not negatively impacted by wildfires, and

any wildlife mortality directly related to fires is considered to be outweighed by the long-term benefits to habitat.

- Animals will generally escape, and smaller burrowing animals go underground to depths where temperatures are normal even when the surface temperature is several hundred degrees.
- There are short- and long-term benefits, depending on fire severity, that wildfire can have on wildlife habitat, and the Province prescribes burns frequently to improve wildlife habitat.
- For example, wildfires lead to increased forage quality and quantity that can be beneficial to a variety of species and their populations in the long term. A specific example would be Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park with an estimated 18-20 mountain goats before the 2003 fire. Now, the population has grown to more than 100.

Lorene Keitch - Columbia Valley Pioneer

ISSUE: backcountry violations

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- NRO Sheila Crombie provided interview.

Helena Skrinjar - CFTK - Prince Rupert

ISSUE: Drought levels

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Cameron, Water Stewardship Manager, to call.

Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist

ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Cameron, water stewardship manager, provided interview at 2:10

Jenny Peng - Metro News Vancouver

ISSUE: Helitours

STATUS: Provided Background

- Hi Jenny,

Following up on your request regarding heli-bikes:

The Ministry is not being inundated with tenure applications by heli-bike companies.

Let me know if you have any further questions.

Thanks,

Dawn

Michael Tymchuk - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island (Kelowna)

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Camerson, water stewardship manager, to provide interview.

Michael Tymchuk - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island (Vancouver)

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Cameron, water stewardship manager, to provide interview.

Jon De Roo - The Eagle (Courtenay) CKLR 97.3

ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Camerson, water stewardship manager, provided interview.

Max Haberstroh - CBC British Columbia

ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- Valerie Camerson, water stewardship manager, provided interview.

David Brindle - Powell River Peak
ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island
STATUS: Provided Background

- Confirmed the east coast of Vancouver Island is included in the level 3 drought rating. I added that there is a link provided in the IB that identified which areas are included. He confirmed he received it and just wanted verbal confirmation.
Dave Biro - CHEK TV - Victoria
ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island
STATUS: Scheduled Interview
- Valerie Cameron, water stewardship manager, to provide interview.
Sharon Vanhouwe - Juice FM 89.7 - Duncan
ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island
STATUS: Scheduled Interview
- Valerie Camerson, water stewardship manager, provided interview.
Michael Tymchuk - CBC - Victoria
ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island (Victoria)
STATUS: Scheduled Interview
- Valerie Cameron, water stewardship manager, provided interview.
Josh Hylden - CFX 1070
ISSUE: Drought levels - Vancouver Island
STATUS: Scheduled Interview
- Valerie Camerson, water stewardship manager, provided interview.
Megan Turcato - Global - Okanagan
ISSUE: Eagle Pass fire lookout
STATUS: Provided Background
- No, a decision has not been made yet. We'll let you know when a decision has been made.
Sean Brady - Kamloops This Week
ISSUE: Wildfire Act fine data
STATUS: Provided Background
- Hi Sean,
Jeremy is away on vacation. He noted that you want a breakdown of Wildfire Act/Regulation offences for the Kamloops Fire Centre. We've just received the newest stats broken down by fines issued by the Conservation Officer Service, and Natural Resource Officers (see below) for the area. The data is further broken down by offence for each section of the act/regulation. Let Dawn or I know if you need anything more.

Cheers,

Vivian Thomas
Communications Director
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development
Tel: 250 356-2475 cell: 250 213-2972
Vivian.Thomas@gov.bc.ca

Note: This regional breakdown includes some slight changes for the overall violation tickets

issued, as compared to the stats we sent you earlier.

Tickets issued by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Conservation Officer Service:

Section of Wildfire Act or Reg by COS Zones in Kamloops Fire Centre 2016 2017

2 Fail to report fire 1

10(3) Light, fuel or use fire against restriction 1 28

10(4) Fail to comply with fire restriction 2

11(2) Fail to comply with restricted area requirements 1

12(2) Fail to comply with order restricting activity or use 7

16(2) Fail to comply with fire control order 1

3(1) Drop, release or mishandle burning substance 3

5(1) Light, fuel or use fire against regulations 1 1

5(2) Fail to extinguish or report fire 1 3

Total 3 47

Tickets issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's Compliance and Enforcement Branch (Natural Resource Officers):

Natural Resource Officers (VT = violation ticket)

2017 Wildfire Act:

S. 10(3) – Light, fuel or use fire against restriction = 8 Violation Tickets

S. 5(1) – Light, fuel or use fire against restrictions = 4 VTs

S. 2 – Fail to report fire = 1 VT.

S. 5(2) – Fail to report fire = 1 VT

Total = 12 Violation Tickets issued.

2017 Wildfire Regulation:

S. 5 – Fail to have sufficient fire tools = 2 VTs.

S. 6(3) – Fail to comply with high risk activity restrictions, and keep at active site firefighting tools and adequate..... = 2 VTs.

Total = 4 Violation Tickets issued

Total for the 2017 Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation = 16 Violation Tickets issued.

2016 Wildfire Act:

S. 5(1) – Light, fuel or use fire against restrictions = 5 VTs

S. 10(3) – Light, fuel or use fire against restriction = 3 VTs

S. 5(2) – Fail to report fire = 2 VTs.

S.6(1) – Light, fuel or use fire against regulations, industrial = 2 VTs.

Total = 12 Violation Tickets issued

2016 Wildfire Regulation
No VTs issued

Total for the 2016 Wildfire Act and Wildfire Regulation = 12 VTs issued.

Paul Henderson - Chilliwack Progress

ISSUE: Chilliwack River Valley Borden Creek squatters

STATUS: Unavailable for Interview

- Unfortunately, we could not make your deadline. I will continue to monitor the situation and I will update you with any information that becomes available.

Steve Arstad - InfoNews

ISSUE: Wildfire response, recovery, future mitigation - Mt Eneas

STATUS: Provided Background

- Does the ministry have any idea what state the area affected by the Mt. Eneas wildfire is in for timber and wildlife values?
 - While we know the approximate area of forest within the fire perimeter and within the timber harvesting land base, the true loss cannot be determined until the smoke clears. At this point, it is too early to know.
 - Most wildfires will result in timber value losses, however, considerable value can be (and regularly is) recovered in the salvage of accessible burned timber.
 - While wildfires can cause disruption and migration for some wildlife species, any wildlife loss is considered to be outweighed by the long-term benefits of fire to wildlife habitat.
 - For example, wildfires lead to increased forage quality and quantity that can be beneficial to a variety of species and their populations in the long term. A specific example would be Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park with an estimated 18-20 mountain goats before the 2003 fire. Now, the population has grown to more than 100.

Is it left to regrow? Are there any steps being prepared for wildfire salvage and reforestation?

- Where appropriate, salvage permits will be issued for wildfire-impacted timber, and licensees with these permits will then be required to reforest areas in which they've harvested.
- As part of post-wildfire response and recovery, the ministry assesses the impacts on wildlife habitat and other forest values (e.g. old growth management areas and timber supply) within fire perimeters.
- Reforestation also takes place under other programs such as Forests For Tomorrow and the Forest Enhancement Society of B.C.

Is it more susceptible to mudslides?

- Severely burned forest landscapes can be rendered more susceptible to erosion, particularly in the first year following the event, due to loss of vegetation and temporary hydrophobicity of soils, in some cases.

What does the ministry do now as far as future fire and slide mitigation in the area?

- Post-wildfire, rehabilitation efforts include deactivating fireguards and the re-establishment of natural drainage patterns to help mitigate slide risks.

Manusha Janakiram - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: Wildfire reward

STATUS: Provided Background

- Hi Manusha,

In response to your request, you may attribute the following to a spokesperson with the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development spokesperson:

- We have measures in place to deal with people who don't comply with the Wildfire Act and Regulation. In fact, in 2016, we increased the fines for those found committing offences against the act and regulation (<https://news.gov.bc.ca/10608>)
- Anyone found in contravention of a burning prohibition may be issued a violation ticket for \$1,150, required to pay an administrative penalty of \$10,000 or, if convicted in court, fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If a contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs.
- Crime Stoppers, a registered charitable society, works with citizens, the media and law enforcement agencies to help solve crimes, including arson, and already offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and charge of individuals suspected of criminal activity.
- They would be better to approach with this request.

Thanks,

Dawn

Sterling Eyford - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: Horne Lake gift cards

STATUS: Reporter Dropped

- Reporter stated "Thanks for getting back to me. I think we are good for this, right now. But can you send me a note when you actually get someone picking up a card?"

A request has been left with the program area to follow up with us.

Larry Pynn - Vancouver Sun


ISSUE: South Selkirk caribou numbers

STATUS: Reporter Dropped

- No response given.

FW: Briefing Note # 241112 re: Chilcotin Moose Hunt Update

Monday, November 26, 2018
1:25 PM

Subject	FW: Briefing Note # 241112 re: Chilcotin Moose Hunt Update
From	Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX
To	Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX
Cc	Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX; Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX
Sent	Thursday, August 2, 2018 9:15 AM
Attachments	 241112 IN_Moose ...

Minister,

For your review, thank you.

From: Nasadyk, Alanah FLNR:EX

Sent: August 2, 2018 8:40 AM

To: Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX

Subject: Briefing Note # 241112 re: Chilcotin Moose Hunt Update

Lisa, attached is an information note for MDD on the Chilcotin Moose hunt. This issue is moving very quickly so staff are hoping to get the information to the Minister today. [On SP here.](#)

Thank you



Alanah Nasadyk
Issues and Administrative Coordinator
Deputy Minister's Office
(250) 387-1526
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

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

Date: July 31, 2018
File: 280/20 BN
Previous CLIFF: 240823
CLIFF: 241112

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

ISSUE: Update on T'silhqot'in National Government intentions to unilaterally close the Chilcotin moose hunt for Fall 2018.

BACKGROUND:

Following an Emergency Leaders' Summit held on July 10, 2018, T'silhqot'in National Government (TNG) representatives announced via media that they intended the following actions with respect to licensed Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) for moose in their traditional territory:

- The launching of a legal challenge against the Province focusing on the Province's authority to make licensed hunting decisions in the area.
- Enforcing a ban on LEH hunting in their territory in Fall 2018.

TNG actions stem principally from the decision by the Director of Wildlife and Habitat with respect to quota and LEH authorizations for the Cariboo region moose hunt. Updated quota information was provided to guides, final LEH decisions have been made and the resident hunter draw has been run.

On July 19, 2018, Minister Doug Donaldson and Chief Russel Myers Ross met to discuss planned LEH in Fall 2018. Several areas were covered and an agreement was made to further examine possible area closures (either to vehicles or no shooting/hunting).

Under the T'silhqot'in Stewardship Agreement there is a section 9.0 Dispute Resolution that applies to disputes arising out of the implementation or interpretation of the agreement. This process has not been enacted by the TNG. If this matter is taken to the courts the Province will need to determine if we would want to enact the termination clause in section 11.5 of the T'silhqot'in Stewardship Agreement: *"If the TNG, the T'silhqot'in Nation or a Member Community chooses to bring a legal or administrative proceeding against British Columbia for inadequate consultation related to a provincial decision or action covered by this Agreement, that is a proceeding other than for a breach of this Agreement, such a proceeding may be grounds for terminating this Agreement."*

DISCUSSION:

The TNG maintain that only a full two-year closure of both the North and South Chilcotin is truly collaborative and noted that anything less could jeopardize collaborative efforts in the region. They have indicated previously they do not believe the Province has the legal authority to make moose hunting decisions within their traditional territory. A recent submission from the TNG on their proposed "Sustenance Hunting Policy" provides additional context, with Article E citing the purpose of the policy document as to *"be utilized until such time the T'silhqot'in take full control of management and legislation for wildlife"*. This statement underscores a fundamental difference in

1 of 9

understanding between the parties and will need to be resolved if there is to be any long-term certainty on wildlife management in the region.

During the meeting held on July 19, 2018, TNG representatives agreed to explore additional options that may limit access and further support moose recovery and their community member's access to moose. Even if closures are successfully implemented, TNG representatives made no commitment to retract on their legal challenge or ban on LEH hunting. Previous concessions on licensed hunting have not led to certainty on harvest opportunities.

Appendix 1 provides an overview of options and tools to support discussion between TNG and Provincial representatives. Additional activities already implemented (e.g., ATV restrictions) and planned (e.g., road deactivation) are provided in Appendix 2. Both tables were shared with TNG representatives on July 27, 2018, by South Area A/ADM Mike Pedersen.

The Province continues to pursue collaboration on the land base both from a moose-specific viewpoint and a broader habitat management approach. Joint initiatives to establish and sustain collaborative decision making through the Fish and Wildlife Panel, established under the Tsilhqot'in Stewardship Agreement and enhanced under the Accord have functioned relatively well, despite the lack of a final Terms of Reference document to govern how the panel should report to its respective governments. The draft Terms of Reference has been with the TNG for their comment for over a year. There is a commitment to review governance through a third party but this work has not yet been initiated.

BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) has raised significant concern about loss of opportunity and exclusion from deliberation between the two governments.

The regional guide association has expressed concern regarding access and resulting vulnerability of moose to harvest particularly in the management zones most affected by the 2017 wildfire.

NEXT STEPS

TNG and Provincial Representatives discussed options for additional access restrictions and area closures on a call August 1, 2018. Staff will be providing an update on outcomes and next steps as soon as they are confirmed with TNG.

Upon receipt of any joint-recommendation from Provincial and TNG representatives, Wildlife and Habitat Branch will lead the development of Minister's Order(s) for implementation this season. Note: recommendations must be received no later August 14 for sufficient lead time and communication to potentially affected hunters prior to September season opening and August 27 for the October season opening.

Wildlife and Habitat Branch will coordinate with GCPE on a communication strategy.

Regional Operations staff will coordinate with Conservation Officer Service for enhanced enforcement to support implementation of any new requirements.

Regional Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation representatives will coordinate with branch and region to discuss joint communications, challenges and opportunities regarding accountability to current agreements and expectations of collaboration (as appropriate).

Release updated moose fact sheet to demonstrate broader moose enhancement initiatives publically.

2 of 9

Attachment(s):

Appendix 1: Draft options for access restrictions and area closures.

Appendix 2: Summary of activities already underway or planned.

Attachment 1: Additional information regarding Closed Areas Regulation

Contact:

*Tom Ethier, ADM
Resource Stewardship Division
Phone: (250) 356-0972*

Contact:

*Jennifer Psyllakis, Director
Wildlife and Habitat Branch
Phone: (250) 387-5657*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
AssocDM	RM	August 1, 2018
DMO	AN	August 1, 2018
A/ADM	BB	August 1, 2018
Exec Director	WT	August 1, 2018
Director	JP	July 30, 2018
Author	JP	July 30, 2018

Appendix 1. Options and tools to implement area closures or no shooting zones.

s.13

s.13

Appendix 2. Activities/Tools already in place.

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
Maintain ATV closures and restrictions across the North Chilcotin (MU 5-12 and 5-13) <u>Motor Vehicle Prohibition Regulation</u>	Yes	Yes	ATV for hunting restrictions limits any increase in hunter success resulting from the 2017 wildfires (fireguards & wildfire openings). All of MU 5-12 and 5-13 are closed to ATVs and snowmobiles for hunting. There are also extensive motor vehicle closed areas and motor vehicle for hunting closed areas in these management units. There is a September 1 to December 10, 4am-10am ATV/Snowmobile for hunting closure in the South Chilcotin.
Access deactivation planned in areas identified by TNG. Implementation expected 2018	Yes	Yes	2017 Motor Vehicle for hunting closures in wildfire areas to limit vulnerability of moose. Physical deactivation preferred (more effective) over regulatory closures. Specific areas include 1) Mackin Creek, 2) Morrison Meadow/Corkscrew Creek, and 3) Hungry Valley/Dash Creek
Access deactivation and connectivity corridors established under the South Chilcotin joint management plan	Yes	Yes	Expectation that current commitments will be brought into the legal realm through Forest Stewardship Plans and expanded to the North Chilcotin.
Moose (and other species) population surveys done with TNG observers.	Yes	Yes	TNG were engaged as observers and during interpretation of results for all recent Chilcotin Moose surveys. Areas included: 2017 – 5-04 & 5-13A SRB; 2018 – 5-13B SRB & 5-13A block.
Closure of the September 10 to 30 moose hunt in Management Units in the Chilcotin sub-region.	Yes	To be reviewed	Closure to be maintained as required in tandem with commitment by TNG to community hunting policy
\$370,000 provided to the TNG to support development of Tsilhqot'in Nation Community Hunting Policy (including harvest reporting), and development of a Moose Management Plan	Yes	Yes	Plan completed but under review. TNG has supported communities with implementing MOUs with the COS for hunting moratoriums. Habitat and access management linked to road deactivation planning. Harvest reporting and clarification of strategic goals require resolution.
Joint discussion through the Nenqay Dene Accord, Fish and Wildlife Panel on	Yes	Yes	Survey results and allocation methods shared with TNG. Joint recommendation for 2017-2021 moose AAH provided by Fish and

Activity	2018	Long term (5 years +)	Comments
moose Annual Allowable Harvest			Wildlife Panel
Ongoing Collaborative Moose Collaring Research Program to identify factors contributing to moose mortality. TNG representatives participate on mortality investigations when available.	Yes	Yes	Predation identified as leading cause of adult female mortality followed by unlicensed harvest.
Assessment of 2017 wildfire impacts to wildlife: 1) 5-13A moose replicate block survey 2) Fisher inventory planned for 2018/19 3) Ongoing mule deer inventories	Yes	Yes	Plan to continue 5-13A moose survey in 2018/19 to track population response to wildfires. No negative impact observed during 2017/18 survey.
Joint initiative to develop shared decision making functions of the Nenqay Dene Accord Fish and Wildlife Panel	Yes	Yes	TNG has withheld finalization of the Terms of Reference for nearly one year now.
Support through cumulative effects assessment to district manager to establish expectations for Forest Stewardship Plan content respecting moose habitat conservation and management	Yes	Yes	Forest Stewardship Plan reviews underway. Licensee commitments to moose recovery unclear.
Investigation of impacts to key moose wetlands from feral horse use	N/A	Yes	Pending funding availability for surveys.
Discussion with TNG regarding feral horse abundance and impacts to moose through maintenance of high wolf populations.	Yes	Yes	Discussed at Fish and Wildlife joint meetings. No action from TNG.
Recovery of wildfire areas through rehabilitation activities.	Yes	Yes	District focus on reduction and revegetation of fire guards and recovery at riparian crossings.
Management for long term ecosystem resilience to reduce potential for catastrophic wildfire and beetle epidemics	Yes	Yes	Long term forest management. Short term meetings to initiate planning. To be discussed.

Attachment 1: Additional information re: Closed Areas Regulation

The Provincial *Wildlife Act* provides the authority to restrict/prohibit hunting and shooting. The authority to make these regulations, delegated to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, is granted through Section 108(2) and (3):

Regulations by Lieutenant Governor in Council

- 108** (1) *The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations referred to in section 41 of the Interpretation Act.*
- (2) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:*
- (l.1) prescribing, by species, type, sex, age or physical features of the wildlife, the maximum number of wildlife that a person may possess and respecting the circumstances in which a person may possess a prescribed number of wildlife;*
 - (l.2) respecting the circumstances in which a person may take, kill or possess wildlife;*
 - (n) designating no shooting areas;*
 - (o) regulating or prohibiting the types and calibres of firearms or types of projectiles that may be discharged in a prescribed area;*
 - (s) prohibiting or regulating methods and devices for hunting, trapping, capturing or taking wildlife and respecting safety in those activities;*
- (3) *Without limiting subsection (1), the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations as follows:*
- (e) prescribing open seasons or closed seasons, or both, for*
 - (i) wildlife by species, type, sex, age, circumstances or physical features of the wildlife, or*
 - (ii) persons, licences or permits, including prescribing different seasons for different classes of persons, including, without limitation, classes based on age;*

Regulations that restrict or prohibit hunting and shooting are housed within the Closed Areas Regulations (B.C. Reg. 76/84) of the *Wildlife Act*. The various designations under this regulation are:

No shooting, hunting or trapping areas

2 *The areas set out in Schedule 1 are designated as no shooting areas and, for the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in those areas.*

Seasonal no shooting, hunting or trapping areas

3 *Section 2 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 2 during the period set out for each area.*

No shooting or hunting areas

4 *The areas set out in Schedule 3 are designated as no shooting areas and, for the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in those areas except as prescribed for the trapping of furbearing animals.*

Seasonal no shooting or hunting areas

5 *Section 4 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 4 during the period set out for each area.*

No shooting areas

6 The areas set out in Schedule 5 are designated as No Shooting areas.

Seasonal no shooting areas

7 Section 6 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 6 during the period set out for each area.

No shooting areas — specified Crown land

7.1 The areas set out in Schedule 5.1 are designated as no shooting areas.

No hunting areas

8 For the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species, except as prescribed for the trapping of furbearing animals in the areas set out in Schedule 7.

No hunting or trapping areas

8.1 For the purposes of section 26 (1) (c) of the Act, there is no open season for any wildlife species in the areas set out in Schedule 8.1.

Seasonal no hunting areas

9 Section 8 applies to the areas set out in Schedule 8 during the period set out for each area.

Prohibited discharge areas under section 108 (2) (o) of the Act

- 10** (1) A person commits an offence if the person discharges
- (a) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 9 unless the person uses shot only,
 - (b) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 10 during the period set out for each area unless the person uses shot only,
 - (c) a rifle in an area set out in Schedule 11, or
 - (d) a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 13 unless the person uses non-toxic shot only.

1.]





Prohibited discharge areas under section 108 (2) (o) and (s) of the Act

- 10.1** (1) A person commits an offence if the person discharges or hunts with a firearm in an area set out in Schedule 14 unless the person uses shot only.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person hunting with a muzzle-loading firearm in the part of the area described in section 1 of Schedule 14 that is west of Highway 1 or Highway 19.

For further details on these regulations refer to Schedules 1-15 of the Closed Areas Regulations.

FW: 239874 - ADM Approval Proposed Hunting Regulation Changes in Atlin area

Monday, November 26, 2018
1:27 PM

Subject	FW: 239874 - ADM Approval Proposed Hunting Regulation Changes in Atlin area		
From	Purdy, Sandra FLNR:EX		
To	Donaldson, Doug FLNR:EX		
Cc	Jones, Tristan FLNR:EX; Renneberg, Tim FLNR:EX; McLaren, Kenn FLNR:EX; Silverio, Lisa FLNR:EX		
Sent	Tuesday, August 14, 2018 4:10 PM		
Attachments	<div><div> 239874 v4</div><div> Moose Regulation...</div><div> 239874 v4</div><div> 239874 - incoming 1</div></div>		

Minister,
Attached is a letter for your signature. It is saved in the Minister's signing folder [here on SharePoint](#).
Sandra



Reference: 239874

<DATE>

s.22

Thank you for your letter of May 31, 2018, regarding proposed hunting regulation changes in the Atlin area. I share your concern for wildlife conservation and management, and appreciate your expertise and knowledge regarding the Atlin area.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is committed to resident hunter opportunity, and I understand your concerns about how the new regulations will impact hunting pressure in the Atlin area.

The regulation change follows the ministry's Harvest Allocation Policy, which prioritizes conservation; First Nation's food, social and ceremonial harvest opportunities; and then, resident and non-resident hunting opportunity. This balance can often be difficult to achieve, but I can assure you that your concerns regarding resident hunter opportunity and hunting pressure were shared by all parties at the table.

The ministry will be working with our First Nation partners to monitor the impacts of these regulation changes and to adapt them as necessary in order to ensure that we are meeting our objectives, including active engagement with stakeholders. We are increasing our investment into monitoring hunting and harvest to inform future decision making, and will be sharing this information with stakeholders.

If you would like to discuss these matters further, please contact our Skeena Region Fish and Wildlife Section Head, Troy Larden, at 250 847-7203 or Troy.Larden@gov.bc.ca.

Again, thank you for taking the time to express your views.

Sincerely,

Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Troy Larden, Fish and Wildlife Section Head, Skeena Natural Resource Region

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Tel: 250 387-6240
Fax: 250 387-1040
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for



Moose
Regulation...

Inserted from: <<file:///C:/Users/dbullard/AppData/Local/Temp/{F298C9FA-A714-46F3-84CD-056092D02226}.doc>>

May 31, 2018

Honourable Doug Donaldson
1175 Main Street
Smithers, BC
V0W 1A0

Dear Minister Donaldson

In regards to the proposed hunting regulation changes for the Atlin area, I realize there is not much time left for decision making, however I would like to express that the third option that was recently sent out after comments came in about the first two options that were proposed, is not a good one. The third option goes against the original objectives that led to making changes in the hunting regulations for our area. I'm quoting the objective on the original document

Proactively addresses the issue of increased hunter pressure in the Skeena North due to the more liberal season compared to the rest of the Province as well as the proposed, more restrictive season in Skeena South

Please since we need to see a change to the moose regulations in our area, consider the original options that were sent out, Where there were no closures in the middle of the season, however there were restrictions that matched the rest of the province and Skeena region. This would then not give the BC resident hunter reason to travel so far north into the Atlin area, it would help keep the BC resident hunters spread out thru the province rather than concentrating them all in the Atlin Area.

The third option has a fully open season in September during the time frame that we have been noticing most of the BC resident hunters showing up in the Atlin Area. So this third option goes directly against the reason I quoted above to be making these changes.

Please DO NOT consider the third option at all, with now such a short time frame left for your decision to be made, consider the Option #2 from the original options sent out in February

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, I know you are busy.

s.22

Atlin BC

Bullard, Dan FLNR:EX

From: Donaldson.MLA, Doug LASS:EX
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 9:26 AM
To: Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX
Subject: 239874 FW: Atlin Hunting Regulation Changes
Attachments: Moose Regulations Atlin.doc

A constituent of Ministers

-----Original Message-----

From: **s.22**
Sent: Thursday, May 31, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Donaldson.MLA, Doug <Doug.Donaldson.MLA@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Atlin Hunting Regulation Changes

Julie: As per our conversation yesterday afternoon, please find attached a letter to forward on to Doug Donaldson for his review regarding moose hunting regulation changes in the Atlin area. I understand he only has days left to make his decision on this, please make sure he sees my letter today.
I thank you so much for putting in this effort.

s.22

May 31, 2018

Honourable Doug Donaldson
1175 Main Street
Smithers, BC
V0W 1A0

Dear Minister Donaldson

In regards to the proposed hunting regulation changes for the Atlin area, I realize there is not much time left for decision making, however I would like to express that the third option that was recently sent out after comments came in about the first two options that were proposed, is not a good one. The third option goes against the original objectives that led to making changes in the hunting regulations for our area. I'm quoting the objective on the original document

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Thank you for taking the time to read my letter, I know you are busy.

s.22

Atlin BC



Reference: 239874

s.22

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Again, thank you for taking the time to express your views.

Sincerely,

Doug Donaldson
Minister

pc: Troy Larden, Fish and Wildlife Section Head, Skeena Natural Resource Region

Ministry of Forests, Lands,
Natural Resource Operations
and Rural Development

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO BOX 9049 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Tel: 250 387-6240
Fax: 250 387-1040
Website: www.gov.bc.ca/for

FLNRO News - Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Monday, November 26, 2018

1:29 PM

Subject	FLNRO News - Wednesday, August 15, 2018
From	Makarowski, Dawn GCPE:EX
To	Makarowski, Dawn GCPE:EX
Sent	Wednesday, August 15, 2018 7:56 AM

Today's News Online - FLNR

DO NOT FORWARD THIS E-MAIL TO ANYONE

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Executive Summary

Note: Media coverage about **wildfires will be delivered in a separate email.*

Articles of Note

-

Minister Quoted

-

Ministry Mentioned

- [Records sought on human remains - Allan Lund - Prince George Citizen - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Bioagents released in the Burns Lake area - Burns Lake Lakes District News - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Houston council supports "multi-species approach" to protect caribou - Houston Today - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Burns Lake councillor encourages locals to open their homes to evacuees - Burns Lake Lakes District News - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Judge reserves decision in sasquatch tracker's case - Jennifer Saltman - Vancouver Sun - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [One-two punch: Haze and drought - Lindsay Kines - Times Colonist \(Victoria\) - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Eastern Vancouver Island now under Level 4 drought conditions - Staff - Nanaimo News Bulletin - 14-Aug-2018](#)

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- [Eby plays a tricky tune on fate of ICBC rates - Vaughn Palmer - Vancouver Sun - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Expect higher, but fairer rates - Burnaby Now - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Palmer - ICBC rates - CKNW View From Victoria - CKNW - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- **Archeology, heritage**
- [Records sought on human remains - Allan Lund - Prince George Citizen - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- **Environment**
- ['Too early' to know impact of fuel spill from sunken tugboat - Andrea Woo - Globe and Mail - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Climate change may be contributing to beach closures - Denise Ryan - Vancouver Sun - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Bioagents released in the Burns Lake area - Burns Lake Lakes District News - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Raising sunken tug - News 1130 - CKWX - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- **First Nations**
- [Federal government to declare statutory holiday to mark residential-school legacy - Gloria Galloway - Globe and Mail - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- **Fish and wildlife**
- [Gitxsan chiefs 'close' territory to recreational fishery - Staff - Terrace Standard - 14-Aug-2018](#)
- [Closure of Steelhead fishery a blow to Spences Bridge - Barbara Roden - Ashcroft Cache Creek Journal - 14-Aug-2018](#)
- [SFU study looks at why fish take a leap - Burnaby Now - 15-Aug-2018](#)
- [Houston council supports "multi-species approach" to protect caribou - Houston Today - 15-Aug-2018](#)