

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**Chilcotin Moose Hunting Regulation Amendments**  
**August 24, 2018**

**Are you making changes to moose hunting in the Chilcotin?**

- Yes, government is amending hunting regulations to restrict the hunting of moose in parts of the Chilcotin, within the Cariboo Region.

**What exactly is changing and under what legislation?**

- Under the Wildlife Act, we are closing the limited entry hunt during the first two weeks of October this year in three areas of the Chilcotin.
- The areas, (or management units) are zones 5-14, 5-13A and 5-13C.
- We are also closing moose hunting in portions of management units 5-03, 5-05 and 5-06 which were affected by last year's wildfires (see attached maps)

**Are there any other restrictions?**

- Yes, we are prohibiting the use of motor vehicles for the purposes of hunting, during the moose hunting season, on any branch roads or trails in portions of management units 5-12A and 5-12B. Select main roads are not included in the prohibition.

**Why are these restrictions necessary? Why now?**

- These closures are an effort to accommodate Indigenous rights to harvest wildlife for food, social, and ceremonial purposes.
- Moose populations have decreased in the Chilcotin region by about 30-40% over the past decade, from about 18,000 to 11,500 animals.
- The current restrictions will be in place for this year's moose hunting season, and will be re-evaluated after this hunting season.

**What are government's short and long term goals with these changes?**

- The changes being announced today reflect both the short and long term goals of government. In the short term, implementing the restrictions and working collaboratively with the Tsilhqot'in Nation. The long-term goal is the rejuvenation of the moose population and ensuring sustainable growth for other animal species as well.

**Have you brought in restrictions like this before?**

- Yes. In response to the population decline, and to accommodate Indigenous rights to harvest wildlife for food, social, and ceremonial purposes, the allowable licensed harvest (resident and guided hunters) has been reduced by approximately 58% since 2012; the number of Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) authorizations decreased from 1,842 in 2011 to 768 in 2018. These additional measures will further reduce LEH authorizations to 722 for the 2018 hunting season.

**So the allowable harvest has been reduced by almost 60% over the past six years and moose numbers still haven't increased? Is something else going on?**

- Licensed hunting, only available for bull moose under Limited Entry Hunting, is not considered a significant contributing factor to the decline in moose populations.
- Research is ongoing to investigate the cause of moose declines in this area, however there have been moose declines in many jurisdictions in North America.
- Factors potentially contributing to the decline in moose population include landscape changes that impact the quality and quantity of habitat both from natural resource development and climate change, predation, unlicensed harvest and health.

**If there are about 11,500 moose in the Chilcotin today compared to 18,000 a decade ago - what kind of numbers would mean recovery success and show that the steps you are taking today and in previous years were successful? Back up to previous population levels?**

- Wildlife populations fluctuate in cycles, many of the factors within those cycles are beyond the ability of wildlife managers to control. However, in the coming years, as burnt forests begin to regenerate and forage returns, we expect to see habitat conditions that are favourable for moose and potentially other ungulate species, such as elk.
- The population estimate of 18,000 a decade ago is the highest population estimate within the last 20 years. Given changes in the landscape, especially increased access and roads, it will be a challenge to achieve those numbers again in the near future.
- Recovery of moose populations, and determining population objectives, will be a joint effort between Indigenous and Provincial Governments, stakeholders, and the public.

**Do you have scientific rational for bringing in these restrictions – what are the conservation goals at play here?**

- As noted, moose population densities have decreased in certain portions of the interest area and recovery is of significant interest to all hunters, including government and First Nations.
- From a conservation perspective, the licensed bull only moose harvest is considered sustainable and not a significant contributing factor to population declines.

- However, it is in both the First Nation's interests as well as all stakeholders' to reduce the harvest of cow moose in the Chilcotin.
- Another concern is that changes to the landscape from wildfires can increase sightlines for hunters, potentially resulting in higher success rates and more moose killed.

**What kind of consultation took place before you took this step?**

- The Province has made a commitment to reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and this closure moves towards fulfillment of that commitment. These restrictions are the result of deliberations between the Tsilhqot'in Nation in the Chilcotin and the Province to address concerns related to decreasing moose populations and increased vulnerability of moose to hunting following last summer's wildfires.

**So the Tsilhqot'in Nation are supportive of the hunting closures in their territory?**

- The Tsilhqot'in Nation want a complete ban on limited entry hunting in the Chilcotin. This past July they made a declaration and proposed a TN law to prohibit licenced hunters from their territory. Since then, government has been engaging with the Tsilhqot'in to find additional measures to improve moose management and strengthen the relationship.

**So you are working with them on reconciliation, but you are still allowing moose hunting in their territory – why don't you just ban moose hunting altogether in the Chilcotin?**

**Wouldn't that be a good example of reconciliation with the Tsilhqot'in?**

- The Province balances the needs of the public, and is mandated to manage wildlife in the best interest of all British Columbians.
- Hunting is an important component of the culture and livelihood of British Columbians, with strong economic implications to rural areas.
- The moose hunting opportunities that remain in place in this area are considered sustainable and balance the interests of Indigenous peoples and licensed hunters.

**Are the Tsilhqot'in calling for a total ban on moose hunting because, when you look at the numbers - years of hunting restrictions apparent haven't help the moose population bounce back? Is that why they are pushing for a complete ban on hunting moose?**

- We are unable to speak on behalf of the Tsilhqot'in Nation.
- The Province is committed to reconciliation and adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; work with the Tsilhqot'in Nation, and other Indigenous peoples, will continue in order to seek balance among the interests of all British Columbians.

**The Tsilhqot'in still have an indigenous right to hunt moose in their own territory don't they?**

- That's correct. However, the province is working with them to enforce cow moose hunting bans for those First Nation bands that have agreed to restrict their own band members from harvesting cow moose.
- Reducing the cow harvest is will help to increase moose populations in the Chilcotin.

**How many hunters were given a limited entry hunt permit last year to hunt moose and how many moose were killed last year in the areas where regulation changes occurred ? How many cows were killed compared to bulls?**

- In 2017 there were 784 authorizations available for these areas, there were approximately 150 moose harvested by resident hunters. For the 5 years previous to 2017, which weren't subject to extensive wildfires as were seen in the summer of 2017, the estimated harvest of moose by resident hunters was 375 per year.
- There has been no licensed hunting of cow moose in this area for many years.
- Data on how many moose (bull or cow) harvested by Indigenous hunters in previous years is not available.

**Why weren't major wildlife stakeholders (BCWF, GOABC, WSC) consulted prior to this decision being made?**

- The decision is part of larger government-to-government negotiations with the Tsilhqot'in Nation.
- It would not be appropriate for the Province to share ongoing negotiations of this nature with third parties.
- That said, the Province works closely with wildlife stakeholders throughout the year, and has worked hard to ensure their interests were reflected in the agreement.

**Will this decision be open to public input on the Angling Hunting and Trapping Engagement website?**

- As a government-to-government negotiated agreement, this decision is not included in online public engagement.

**How are Guide Outfitters impacted by this decision?**

- The allocation of moose to guide outfitters will be reduced proportionally to the reduction in resident allocation, consistent with the Minister's February 2015 allocation decision.
- The Director of Wildlife and Habitat will be briefing individual guides on how the decision specifically impacts their territory.

**Will government reimburse Guide Outfitters who will be out of pocket this season due to the latest restrictions?**

- There is no legal requirement for government to take that step. However, it has been done in the past.
- In 2016, government banned bull-moose hunting due to First Nations concerns and compensated \$0.149 million to affected Guide Outfitters.

**How are B.C.'s moose hunters being made aware of this decision?**

- B.C. hunters that are impacted by this decision have been notified via email, phone calls, or registered email. There are also notices posted on the Wildlife and Habitat Branch website and government media releases.

**Will this closure be in place in 2018 or beyond?**

- The duration of these regulations has not been determined, and the Province will continue dialogue with the Tshilqot'in National Government and stakeholders to ensure that wildlife in the area is managed in the best interest of the public.

## Leinweber, Rachelle R IRR:EX

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2018 6:30 PM  
**To:** Banford, Alexandra R IRR:EX  
**Cc:** McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX; Nash, Laurel IRR:EX; Ramsay, Devon IRR:EX; Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX; Stark, Aurian IRR:EX  
**Subject:** Re: REVIEWED - Chilcotin moose hunting

Thanks everyone. Have passed on your suggestions and flags. Appreciate your input.

S.

Sarah Plank  
Communications Director | Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
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Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 28, 2018, at 5:16 PM, Banford, Alexandra R IRR:EX <[Alexandra.Banford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alexandra.Banford@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

Thanks for the note and opportunity to review. Three suggestions for consideration:

- s.13,s.16
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- Jen Psyllakis is our key contact from FLNRORD on moose. She's a great contact if needed on some of the technical aspects.

Thanks to Devon for the input on this. Happy to discuss further, or clarify any of the above.

Thanks,  
*Alexandra*

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**From:** Plank, Sarah GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2018 3:42 PM  
**To:** McCarthy, Tom IRR:EX; Nash, Laurel IRR:EX; Ramsay, Devon IRR:EX; Banford, Alexandra R IRR:EX  
**Cc:** Pocock, Sharon GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Chilcotin moose hunting  
**Importance:** High

Hi all – FLNR is sending out an IB on the moose hunting restrictions in the Chilcotin either tomorrow or Thursday. Their draft materials are attached – currently with their MO for review. Would you mind please having a look to make sure there are no red flags from our perspective?

Thanks so much!  
Sarah.

Sarah Plank  
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**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Chilcotin moose hunting  
**Attachments:** IB Chilcotin Moose draft5.docx; Chilcotin Moose QA\_V8.docx  
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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]  
[Date]

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

### **New hunting restrictions for moose in the Chilcotin**

VICTORIA – The Province is taking additional action to manage moose in the Chilcotin part of the Cariboo Region, after a decade-long decline in the area's moose populations, wildfire impacts, and concerns from First Nations.

Over the past ten years, moose populations have decreased in the area by about 30-40 percent, from about 18,000 to 11,500 animals.

Under the Wildlife Act, the Province is closing the October 1-14 limited entry hunt in management units 5-13A, 5-13C and 5-14, and closing the moose hunt in portions of management units 5-03, 5-05, and 5-06. In addition, the use of motor vehicles for the purposes of hunting on branch roads or trails in portions of Management Units 5-12A and 5-12B is prohibited.

These restrictions are the result of discussions between the Province and the Tsilhqot'in Nation, and aim to address concerns related to decreasing moose numbers and increased vulnerability of moose to hunting following last year's wildfires. Changes to the landscape from wildfire can increase sightlines for hunters, potentially resulting in higher success rates and more moose killed. They will be in place for this year's moose hunting season and will be re-evaluated after the season is over.

At the same time, First Nations are working with government and their communities to reduce the harvest of cow moose in the Chilcotin. The moose hunting opportunities that remain in place in this area are considered sustainable and balance the interests of Indigenous peoples and licensed hunters. The Province is committed to reconciliation and adherence to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and will continue to manage wildlife in the best interests of all British Columbians.

The changes being announced today reflect both the short and long term goals of government. In the short term, implementing the restrictions and working collaboratively with the Tsilhqot'in Nation. The long-term goal is the rejuvenation of the moose population and ensuring sustainable growth for other animal species as well.

For maps of the affected areas please visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/important-notice>

#### **Contact:**

Media Relations

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