



Peace Region Proposed Wildlife Regulation Change for 2016-2018

Peace Moberly Tract – Moose Hunting Restrictions

Proposed Regulation Change

The Province is proposing changes to moose hunting regulations for licensed hunters within the Peace Moberly Tract (PMT), which includes portions MUs 7-31 and 7-32 (see map A1). The proposed changes include:

1. Closure of ‘any bull’ moose season that currently runs from August 15th to 31st within the PMT
2. Implementation of moose rut closures (September 25th to October 5th)
 - a. No hunting of general open season bull moose (spike-fork/tripalm/10-points) within the PMT from September 25th to October 5th (inclusive)
3. Implementation of a “No Shooting Area” adjacent to the Sauteau community
4. Closure of youth cow or calf Limited Entry Hunting season within the PMT

Background

Currently within the PMT, licensed hunters may hunt moose under the following regulations:

1. Any bull moose from August 15th to August 31st
2. MU 7-31: Spike-fork, tripalm, or 10-point bull moose from September 1st to October 31st
3. MU 7-32: Spike-fork, tripalm, or 10-point bull moose from September 1st to September 30th and October 16th to October 31st; Bow only for spike-fork, tripalm, or 10-point bull moose from October 1st to October 15th

The PMT is an area of significant cultural importance to Saulteau and other Treaty 8 Nations. The PMT encompasses approximately 107,000 hectares of land, located south of the Peace River and extending south to Moberly Lake (see map A1). With the approval of Site C and the construction-related permits, the Province is prepared to propose a series of regulatory changes for licensed hunters of moose within the PMT consistent with the intent of the Site C Joint Review Panel, Recommendation 20:

- *“The Panel recommends that the Province set aside the hunting, fishing and trapping rights in the Peace Moberly Tract for people holding Section 35 rights under the Constitution Act, 1982. The Panel also recommends that the Province and affected First Nations enter discussions on the Area of Critical Community Interest with a view to the harmonious accommodation of all interests in this land”*

Rationale

The decision to propose regulatory changes for licensed moose hunting within the PMT is in response to the recommendations from the Joint Review Panel (Recommendation 20). The Province has made a commitment to implement these recommendations within the PMT in a manner that continues to preserve an opportunity for licensed hunters. The main objective of the Panel’s recommendation is to compensate for Site C-related impacts occurring within the PMT by restricting licensed hunting opportunity in favour of those holding Section 35 rights under the Constitution Act, 1982.

If implemented, the regulation changes may enhance the ability of First Nations to carry out their traditional right to harvest moose by limiting licensed hunting opportunity and the harvest of moose during certain areas and seasons within the PMT. The opportunity for licensed hunters to harvest moose within the PMT would still exist in accordance with the regulation changes.

Map A1. Peace Moberly Tract boundary



