

Public Advisory Committee – first conference call

7 p.m., Nov. 22, 2012

Present:

Jim Fulton, Northeast Wildlife Fund, Ft Nelson, representing wildlife users in Ft Nelson

Leif Olsen – Northern Guides Outfitters

Karen Goodings – Regional District representing agriculture

Rick Mayor – BCWF vice-president and Dawson Creek Rod and Gun Club

Steve Hewitt – North Peace Rod and Gun Club

Mark Phinney – local hunter, Dawson Creek

Carl Gitscheff– president local Trappers Association, Dawson Creek

Nick Baccante - FLNRO

Chris Addison -FLNRO

Introductions, preamble, general objectives, role of the committee

Bison

Rick Mayor – keep Pink Mtn bison within set geographical limits

Steve Hewitt – yes, there are crowding issues in the bison hunt

We want to increase hunting opportunities, and institute a shared hunt, which will increase utilization

Jim – concerns over Liard bison, not being hunted

We need to think about habitat management in conjunction with other tools, such as harvest.

Fontas herd has a whole set of its own problems that we need to deal with.

Karen – interested in plains bison in Pink Mountain, salting program

Carl and Jim – keep bison north of the Liard River

Deer

Steve Hewitt – concerns over mule deer, significant decline, numbers are extremely low, and the quality has decreased, don't want to go to an LEH scenario (Chris: LEH for bucks not supported provincially)

Carl – most mule deer have one or two small bucks, number of bucks is not sufficient for the number of does or quality of hunt. We have good deer habitat in the Peace, need to create favourable habitat to divert deer from conflict areas.

Moose

Mark – what are you hearing from people about moose populations

Chris – hoping for a higher harvest of cows by FN. If cow harvest not high enough, and result in an elevated age of cows, FN say that moose are depleted (not confirmed by our own surveys). Recruitment concerns in areas of high bear densities. We need population demographics data.

Nick – tooth collection program

Rick – share the same concern of low harvest of cows, and also effects from tick mortality on moose would favour elk

Carl – need population objectives across the various land use zones

Jim – include Stone sheep as a priority species

Chris – 7,200 sheep in the region, lower than the mid 80's, as in most other species

CMA with T8

Chris – gave background on CMA

Mark – what's the future of the CMA, and what's the FN capacity to implement it, what about the other FN that haven't signed the agreement?

Chris – all options are being considered, agreements expire March 31, 2022 but the crown still has obligations to consult

Carl, Leif – need to increase level of service through the board

Chris – we have a lawsuit we're dealing with as well

Chris/Nick – confirm that we have the correct people on this committee, and where do we go from here. This regional committee is to be a counter point to the provincial committee.

If this committee is formally established, FN will be invited to participate in this committee.

To do:

Set up next steps, confirm membership and representation, develop TOR's

short term to do; bison, grizzly bear

develop list of priority management plans with an implementation schedules.