

The Future of Fish, Wildlife, and your access to it

February 17, 2016

FSJ, BC



Vision and Mission

“Leading the conservation and wise use of British Columbia’s fish, wildlife and habitat.”

- Advocacy for the wise use of fish, wildlife and habitat
- Protecting the rights of hunters, anglers and outdoor enthusiasts
- Fostering a heritage of conservation and promoting this among families and future generations through education and initiatives

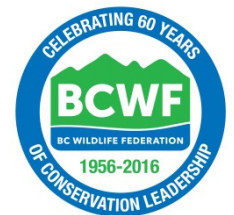
“To protect, enhance and promote the wise use of the environment for the benefit of present and future generations”

- Access to recreational and outdoor activities, fish and wildlife resources and crown land
- Provide science/fact-based solutions for members and other stakeholders in BC



BCWF Goals

1. Increase investment in fish wildlife and habitat management in the province
2. Resident priority- increase the opportunities for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation
3. Increase influence through partnerships and collaboration with government, First Nations stakeholders and other organizations
4. Effective and financially sound organization that serves its members
 - Need to be reliable relevant and solution based



Who are we

- Largest and oldest volunteer run charitable, non-partisan conservation organization in BC
- Membership of hunters, anglers, conservationists whose aims are to protect, enhance and promote the wise use of the environment for present and future generations
- Individual club roots traced back to the 1890s
- Current membership is made up of over 100 clubs across the province totalling more than 49,000 members and growing
- Donate over 300,000 hours to conservation/stewardship work



Our Approach

- Fish and wildlife are a public resource
- Should be managed to maximize the benefits to BCers
- Do not want to see fish, wildlife or other natural resources privatized
- These values are at risk

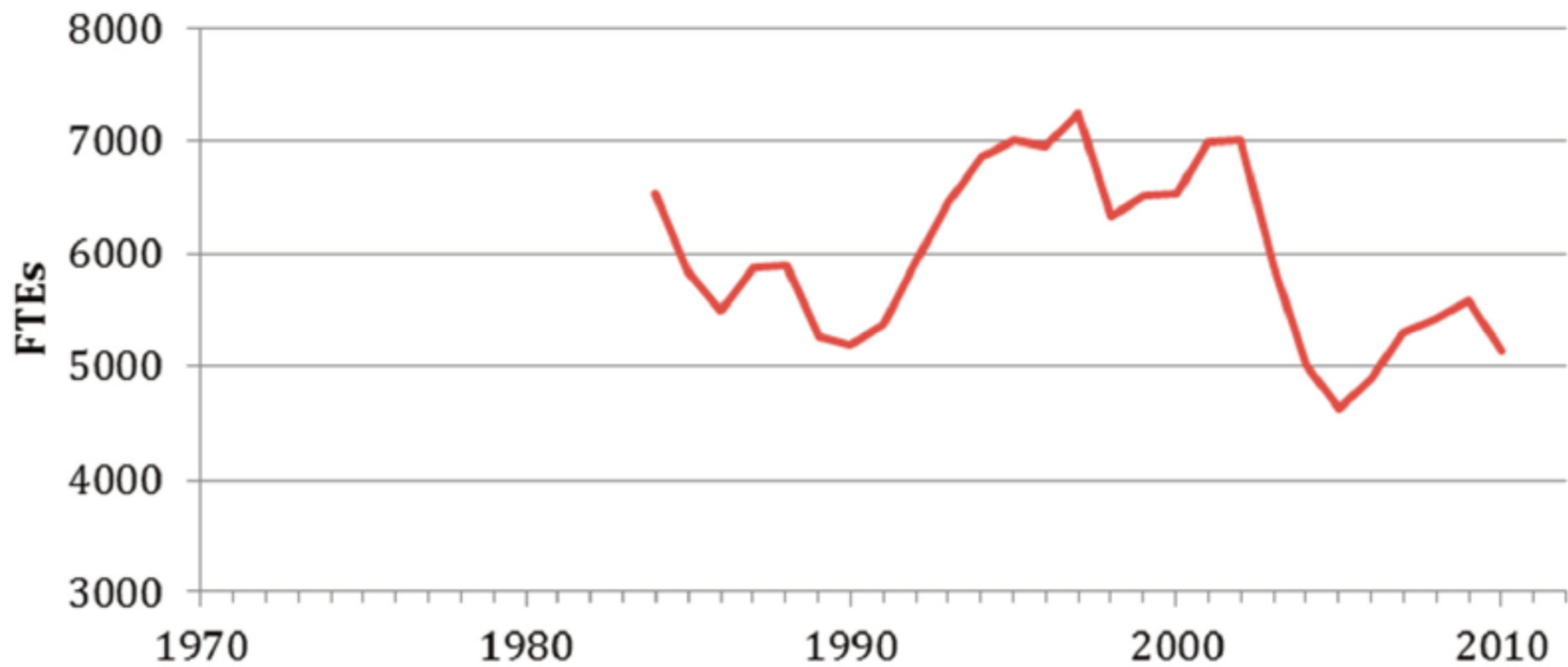


Needs of Fish and Wildlife

- Funding
- Science
- Social Support

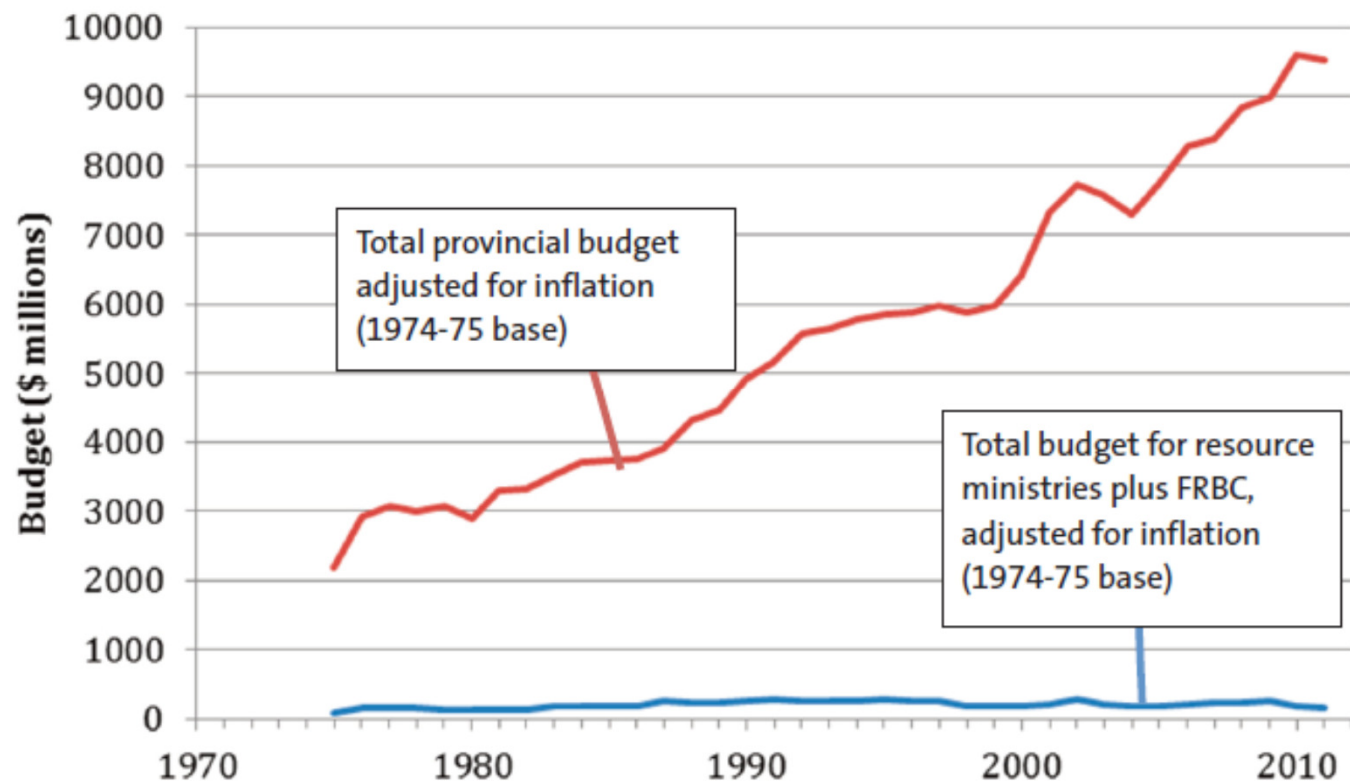


Total Natural Resource Ministry FTEs

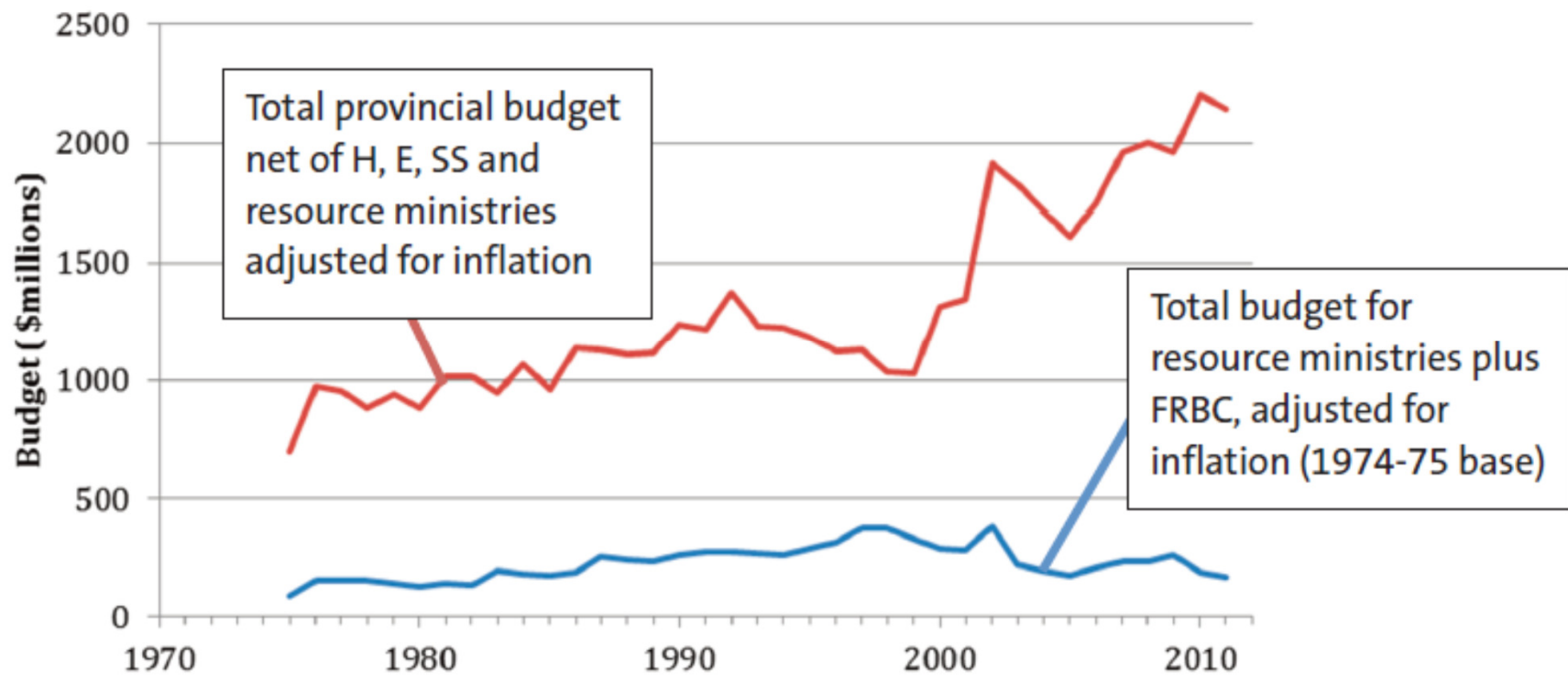


Archibald, R., D.S. Eastman, R. Ellis, & B. Nyberg. 2014. Trends in renewable resource management in

BC Resource Ministries Budget plus FRBC compared to the total provincial budget



Provincial Budgets Net H, E, SS



Funding & Capacity

- Provincial budget has steadily increased
- Responsibilities for resource ministries have increased
 - By 2010 there were 21% fewer staff than 1984
 - We have lost more since but government does not report FTEs
- 1998-2011 functions other than health, education and social services more than doubled
 - Funding for renewable resource ministries reduced by 56%



Needs of Fish and Wildlife

- ~~Funding~~
- ~~Science~~
- Social Support

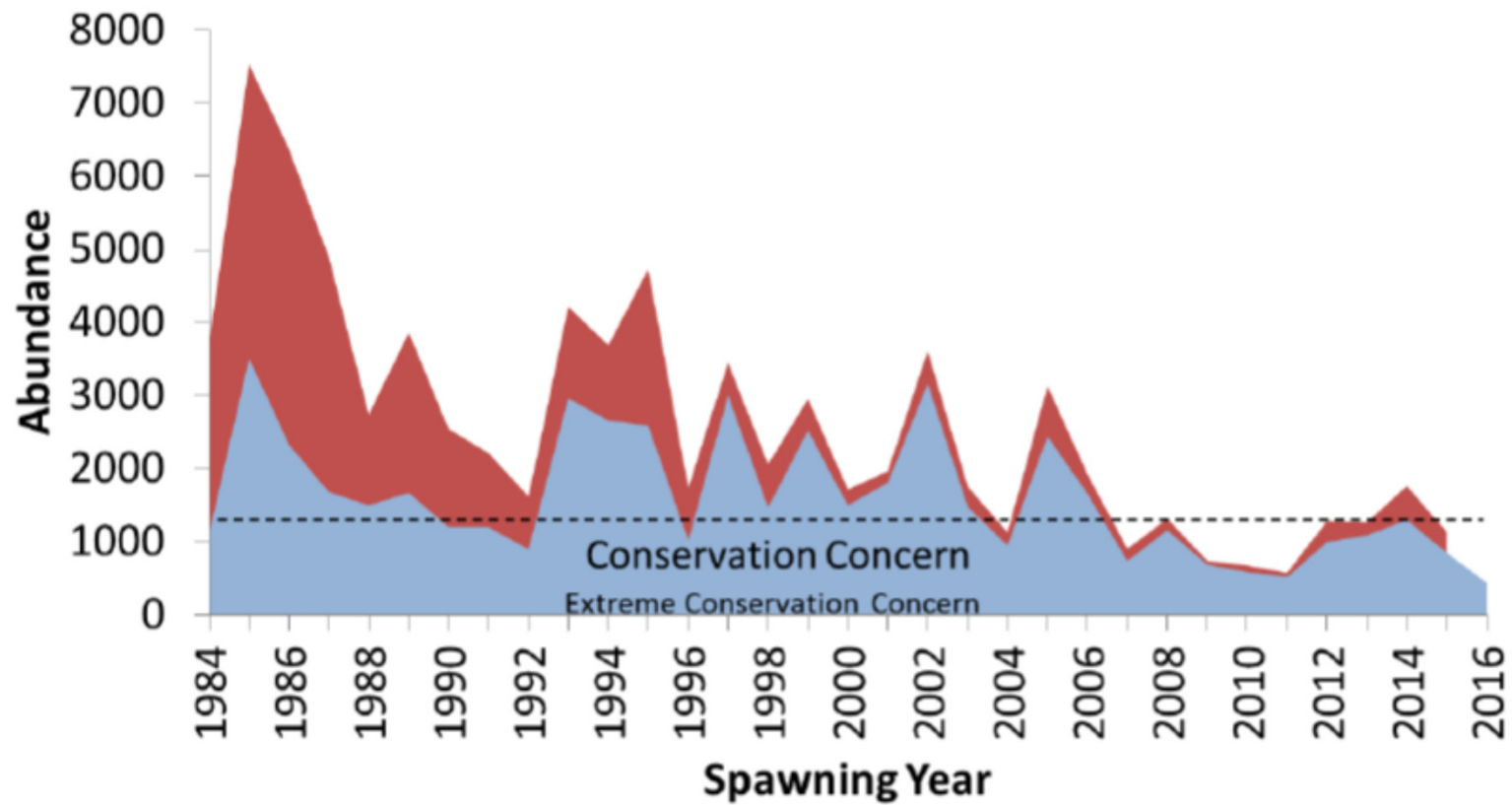


Wild-Domestic Sheep

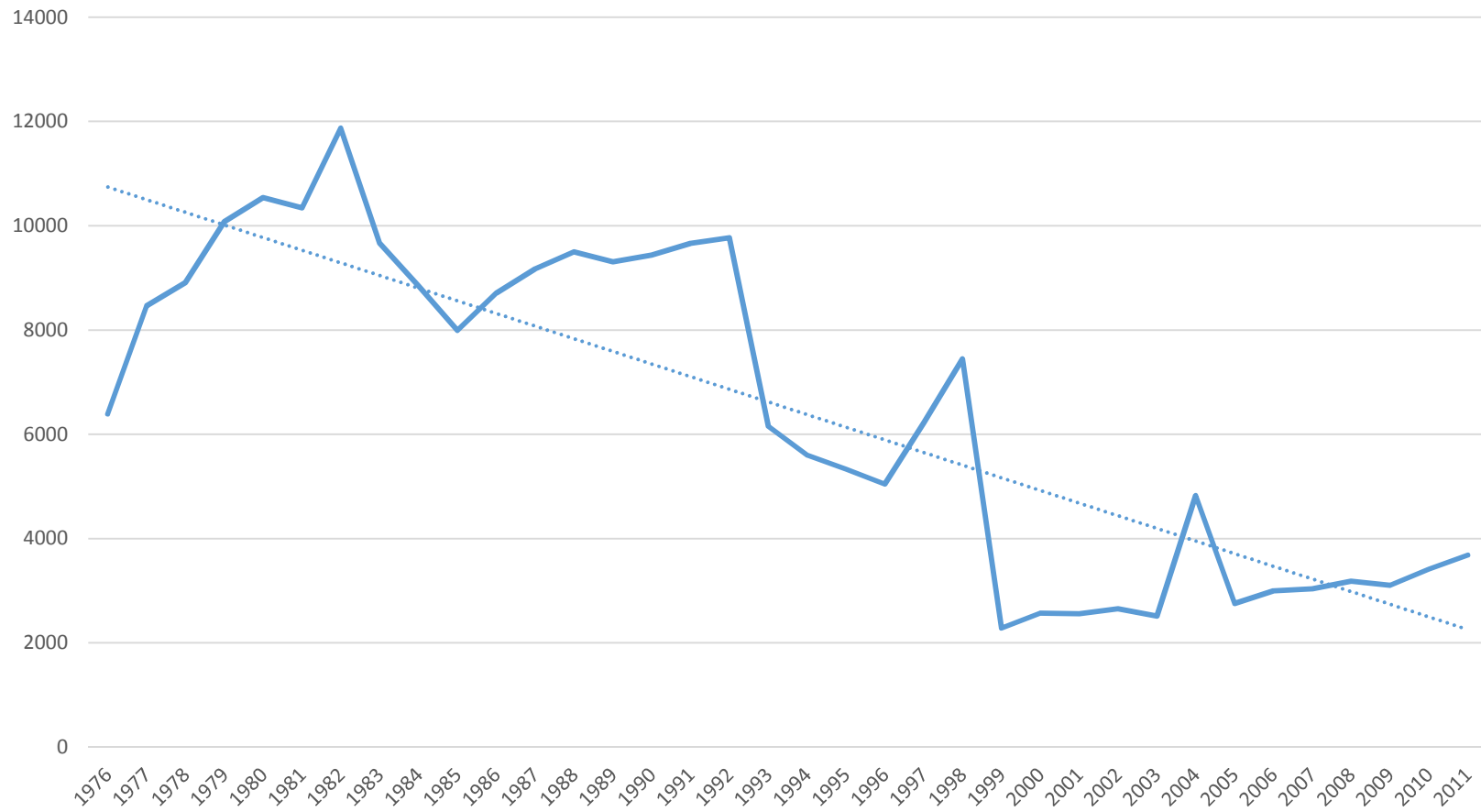
- Domestics carry bacteria which are foreign/fatal
- 1850 BH pop estimate NA 1.5-2M, currently 70K
- Results in pneumonia and death
 - Loss of all age classes and poor recruitment
- Chasm herd 110 to 28
- Spent hundreds of thousands on a farm-by-farm basis



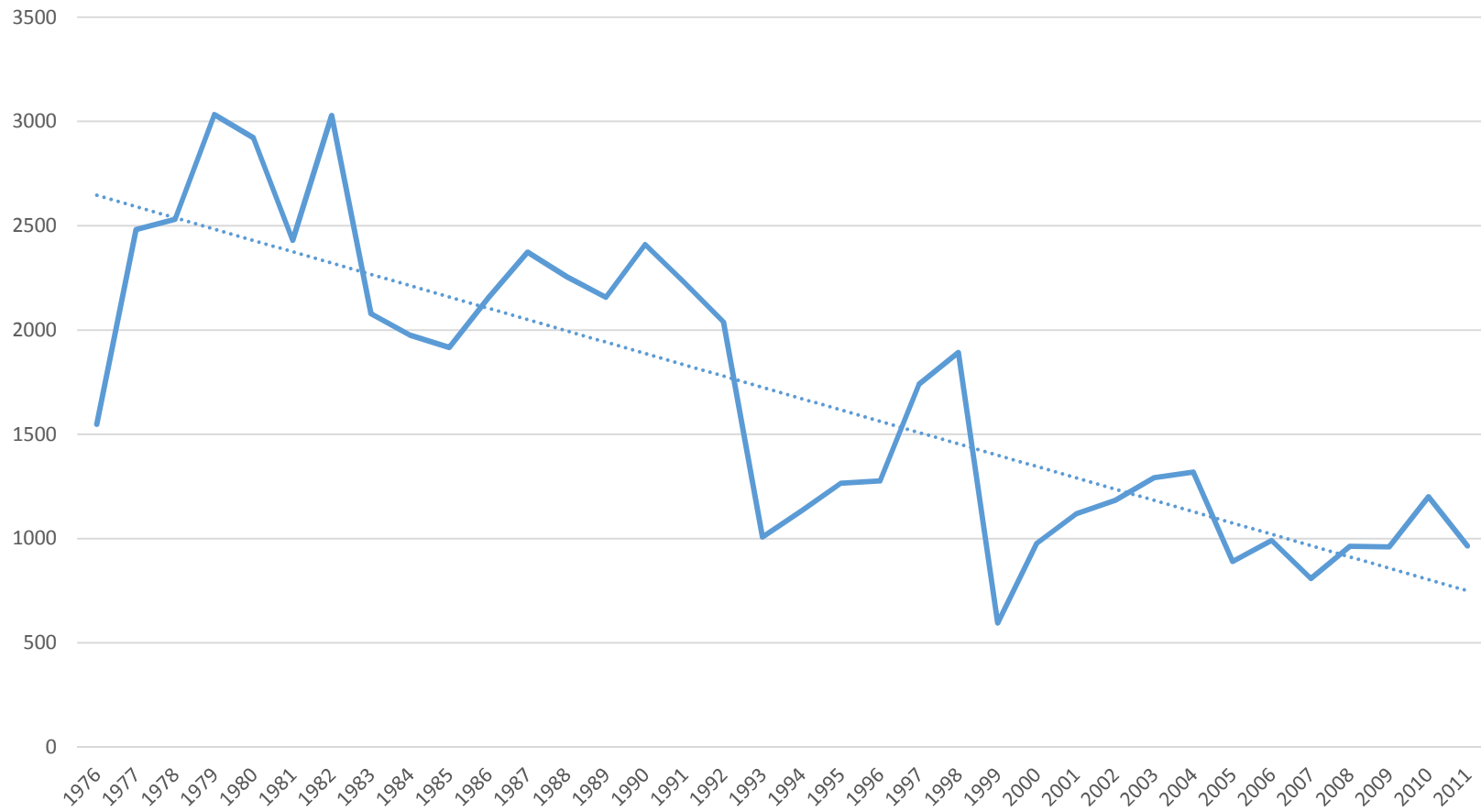
Thompson Steelhead



Region 5 Resident Moose Hunters



Region 5 Resident Hunter Moose Harvest



Schedule A - Map of the Tsilhqot'in Territory



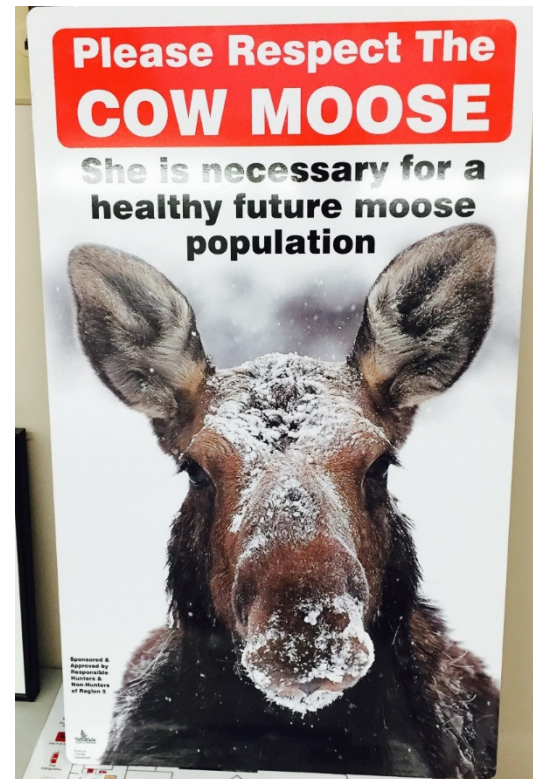
Latest Government Decision

- Transfer 100 bull moose (80 resident/20 g/o)
 - TNG shifting harvest to bulls
 - Regional recovery plan
- No consultation
- No long-term funding
- No changes in legislation/policy
- No real plan



First Nations Issues

- FOI
 - Gov't perception of public interest
 - Gov't strategy divide and conquer
 - FN partners



Biodiversity & ER

- Forest management
 - Managing for maximum yield
 - Stocking densities
 - Lack of fire management plans and provincial direction
 - Invasive weeds



Managing to Zero

- Long-term declines
 - *Mountain Caribou, Central interior moose, Thompson Steelhead, Adams River sockeye, Kootenay lake*
 - *Mule deer, elk concerns*
 - *Water sustainability/Habitat*
- Traditional response: Take from Peter to pay Paul, change the regulations, maybe study it
 - *Results: 0*



Needs of Fish and Wildlife

- ~~Funding~~
- ~~Science~~
- ~~Social Support~~



Funding Models: Who Pays the Freight

- Public pay – trade offs that result in loss in natural capital of watersheds and landscapes
- Developer pay – avoid, mitigate or offset
 - BC Hydro
- Polluter Pay – monitoring and enforcement
- User Pay – Dedicated license revenue
 - Outdoor tax
 - Industry (logging, mining, heli-skiing, eco-tourism)



Science

- Set legislated objectives for fish, wildlife, habitat at the landscape level
- Increase frequency of inventory
- Manage habitat, access, all wildlife
- Create recovery plans
- Implement

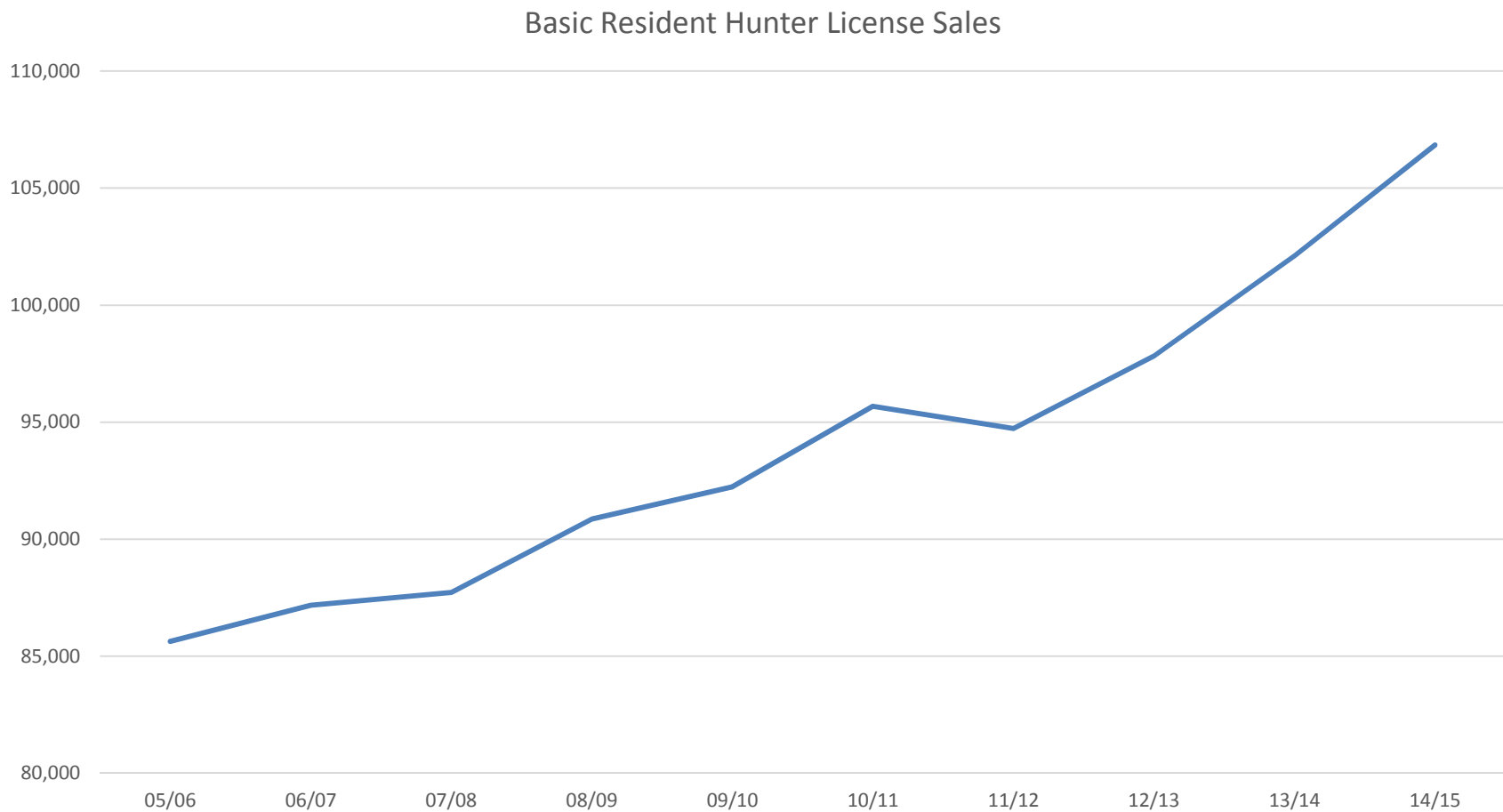


Social Support

- Create a roundtable
- Give First Nations and stakeholders goals to work towards
- Creates an inclusive, collaborative approach



Recent Trends Resident Hunting in BC



Approach

Historical

- Fish, wildlife, habitat in decline
- “Change the regulations”
- Staffing and capacity dwindling
- Take from Peter to pay Paul
- Fish, wildlife, resident hunters anglers not a priority

Future

- Decision Maker Education
- Need for increased capacity
 - Internal capacity and advisory
- Advocate for funding, science, social support
- Increase social value of natural (public) resources



Moving Forward

- Status quo not working
- Move to a sustainable model for fish, wildlife and habitat conservation
- Engage membership, stakeholders, First Nations, decision makers
 - Recruit intellectual capital and leaders
- All candidate forums



How do we drive change?

- Fish and Wildlife don't vote
- Need leaders to come forward
- Start in your network
- Engage your elected officials
- Write your newspaper, magazines, call your radio station
- Take a kid outdoors



Future Generations rely on you

BCWF.net

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