Minutes (as amended Dec7/16)

November 2nd 2016

Attendees:

Ministry reps: Conrad Thiessen

SHAC: Denys Bell

1. **Review minutes of July 27th meeting**
   1. ***Atlin and area representation:*** There is a group called the Northern Round Table formed that includes reps from FN’s , local hunters and FLNRO representatives that will give input to the ministry on harvesting regulations in the northern portion of Region 6. This group is not to replace the input of the Northern reps on SHAC, however to augment input to the ministry.
   2. ***2018 Elk season next steps.*** FLNRO are currently meeting with the Office of the Wetseueten and local Cattlemen’s Associations, discussing actions which will co-ordinate in a proposal for harvest of Elk in Region 6 by the 2018 regulation cycle.
   3. ***Secretary for 2017 mtg***. continuing efforts to have a secretary separate from a SHAC member for the 2017 meeting date.
2. **Important dates leading up to April 29th 2017 SHAC mtg.**
   1. (see file below)
3. **Updates on Ungulates Inventory 2017**
   1. Nass Moose
      1. Has been attempted 2 years, but poor survey conditions made impossible
      2. Will attempt again this winter
   2. Moose (BV/LD)
4. proposed inventory to begin late January 2017
5. temperatures to be -5 degree C
6. snow cover to be as close to 100% as possible
7. 3 machines for inventory with a seat available for an observer on each flight
8. **Caribou and Moose surveys from winter 2015/16;**

Issue from SHAC mtg. 2016

*Ungulate Inventory - CT.*

*The Ministry conducted several counts on moose and caribou this year but some of our data are not ready to be handed out as of yet.*

Conrad will forward the **reports** to SHAC through the chair, when available. At this time the reports are not available, however the summary of the surveys were presented at the 2016 SHAC meeting. **\*see attached file below.\***

1. **LEH success information from 2015 hunts.**

Harvest information from the 2015 season is now available. Conrad will forward to SHAC through the chair.

1. **2017-21 allocation consultation updates:**

Consultation on all harvest allocations within Region 6 is presently ongoing with FN representatives.

1. **South Skeena Moose GOS options:**

The present resident hunter moose harvest from the majority of MU’s in the southern parts of the Skeena region with the present 6 day GOS results in resident hunters overachieving on their allocation. The level of harvest during the GOS results in the near or complete utilization of the resident allocation leaving no moose to be harvested during the LEH seasons. It is suggested that broad objectives for the harvest of moose from these MU’s be discussed and forward prior to the March deadline for submissions to SHAC.

The AL Gorley report on Moose Enhancement Strategy, is now available.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017 SHAC MEETING

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | Description | Actioned by. |
|  |  |  |
| March 18th 2017 | SHAC members to have written proposals and confirmation of attendance to chair. | SHAC members |
| April 1st 2017 | 1. Chair to provide agenda to all participants 2. Ministry to provide to chair, all ministry proposed changes to regs. | 1. Chair/secretary 2. Ministry reps. |
| April 15th 2017 | Ministry to provide response’s to **all proposals** back to chair. | Ministry reps |
| April 29th 2017 | SHAC meeting | ALL |
| May 29th 2017 | Minutes distributed to all attendees | Chair/secretary |
| October 1st 2017 | Ministry to have final regulation proposals to Victoria. Postings on the AHTE website could begin to show earlier than October 1st. | Ministry Staff |

\*from above \*

**2015/16 surveys**

Northern caribou (2nd week of October)

* Many caribou had migrated to lower elevations early, reduced sample size
* Not intended to be a population estimate, looking for large sample size and ratios
* Carcross
  + Rut in
  + In conjunction with YTG
  + 47 bulls:100 cows, 21 calves:100 cows, 720 caribou counted
* Atlin
  + Primarily in BC
  + 59 bulls:100 cows (highest recorded since 1984), 26 calves:100 cows, 446 counted counted
* Swan Lake
  + 37 bulls:100 cows, 27 calves:100 cows, 333 counted
* Little Rancheria
  + Primarily in BC
  + 27 bulls:100 cows, 23 calves:100 cows, 189 counted
* Horseranch
  + 40 bulls:100 cows, 22 calves:100 cows, 133 counted

Alsek Moose

* In conjunction with YTG
* November survey
* Excellent survey conditions
* Low calf recruitment, other factors similar to previous

Klappan moose

* Heidi

Telkwa caribou

* Fall rut count: 16 animals
* 3 GPS collared cows
* Rec monitoring and planning process
* WHA approved

Tweedsmuir caribou/moose

* Heidi moose
* 24 collared caribou – 2 mortalities
* 5 GPS collared wolves – 1 killed this week, 1 collared wolf killed collared caribou
* Caribou using remnants left after burn

Nass moose

* To be delivered in conjunction with Nisga’a Lisms Government
* Cancelled due to poor survey conditions

**2016/17 Surveys**

No funding confirmed yet.

Possible surveys:

* BVLD moose survey
* 6-25 and 6-29 sheep survey
* Grizzly bear occupancy in Francois GBPU
* Atlin & Carcross caribou population estimate
* Goat PMU definition – GPS collaring
* BVLD elk survey