

Skeena Wildlife Regulation Change Proposal Form

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Objective of Proposal (describe what outcomes the regulation change is expected to achieve. For example change to bull: cow ratio, reduce crowding of hunters, etc.):

- To align the trapping season end dates for wolverine and lynx in Region 6.

Proposal Description (specific MU's, season dates, bag limits, attach a map if required, # of authorizations, etc.):

- Currently, the lynx trapping season, in region 6, is from November 15 – February 15.
- The wolverine season, for coastal MU's (6-3, 6-11 and 6-14) is from November 15 – February 15, and for the remaining MU's is November 15- February 28.

Proposal Rationale (provide supporting survey data*, scientific literature, and/or traditional knowledge):

- Clients/trappers have inquired why these seasons end at different times, especially when they typically use the same set up (cubbys with a 330 conibear).
- To avoid bycatch outside of lynx season, it is recommended to align these two end dates (either both end at February 15) or, extend lynx to end February 28.

Pros and Cons of Implementing this Proposal (explain how the benefits of this proposal outweigh the costs):

- **Pros:**
 - A lynx and wolverine trapping season that is aligned makes it easier for enforcement, and reduces potential by-catch out of season.
 - This reduces the potential of illegal activity, where trappers state different catch dates, in order to keep the lynx by-catch, if they catch it in wolverine set up after February 15.
- **Cons:**
 - If the lynx season is extended to February 28 (except coastal MU's, 6-3, 6-11 and 6-14, to align with the wolverine season), consideration to vulnerability of lynx by extending the trapping season 2 weeks (as moves further into their breeding).
 - If the wolverine season end date is moved from February 15 vs 28, to align with the lynx season, this reduces the current opportunity for trappers.

Please submit to Conrad Thiessen at conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca

*We encourage early communication with regional wildlife biologists regarding proposed changes particularly for those lacking survey data as we can provide advice on how to collect data to strengthen rationale for proposed change.

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Demonstrate how support was achieved for this proposal within your First Nation or stakeholder group (e.g., voting results from members including total number polled, # support, # non-support, # indifferent, etc; concerns raised during discussion; efforts taken to reach as many individuals represented by your group):

List First Nations and stakeholder groups (other than your own) that you contacted regarding the proposed regulation change (include details of support or not for the proposal):

- Consultation with First Nations and the BC Trappers Association will need to occur.

Submission Deadline: April 1, 2017

Please submit to Conrad Thiessen at conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca

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