

## **WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 15, 2021 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

### **Game Management Plan Reporting** Katherine Conkin

- Will continue to update this document for distribution within the WAC (not a public document) to track progress

### **Habitat management Plan** Pete Joyce

- 20 year plan with a 5 year review

Develop management plans for each game species with practical thresholds to guide management and allocation decisions.

### **White-tailed deer management,** Tom Perry

Develop management plans for each game species with practical thresholds to guide management and allocation decisions.

- Official animal emblem of Saskatchewan
- Managed since 1968
- Steady license sales around 40,000 per year, antlerless licenses dropped from about 15,000 per year to ~1,000 per year in 2012
- Recommend to stop feeding deer-any congregation increases the risk of CWD transmission
- Only 3 carcass drop-off points in Saskatchewan
- Deer movement project monitoring WT deer movement from around Love/White Fox. One doe move over 100 km along the Caribou Creek over the summer and then moved back to the forest fringe for the winter.

### **Moose management,** Gerry Kuzyk

Enhance public awareness and support for management actions through education and communication on invasive and non-native species issues.

- Population has been steady at around 40,000 animals
- Annual harvest has been about 5,000 animals, 59% bulls, 32% cows and 9% calves
- Objective to preserve/maintain populations—new strategy of “Don’t shoot cows”, likely to move away from cow tags to either-sex
- Will align some season dates
- Heat stresses moose more than cold, especially if lack of water to cool off. Can lose calves when in calf and too hot.

### **Wild boar strategy,** Leanne Heisler

Strengthen provincial legislation and policies to prevent the introduction and control the spread of harmful invasive species.

- Imported from Europe in the 1980’s and 1990’s
- Observed in over 60 RM’s throughout Saskatchewan

- Threat to wildlife, habitat and agriculture
- They eat anything/everything
- Can be a threat to humans if cornered
- Carry up to 45 pathogens that can transmit to domestic pigs
- Now called Feral Pigs
- Provincial Task Force to eradicate:
  - o Agriculture
  - o Environment
  - o SK Crop Insurance
  - o SaskPork
- Report sightings to:
  - o SCIC: 1-888-935-0000 or [www.scic.ca/wildlife/feral-wild-boar-control-program](http://www.scic.ca/wildlife/feral-wild-boar-control-program)
  - o SaskPork: 1-833-PIGSPOT
- Google Sask Boar Control or CWHC Invasive Pogs
  - o [www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/invasive\\_pigs.php](http://www.cwhc-rcsf.ca/invasive_pigs.php)
- Seemed to be a disconnect with what transpired at the Wild Pig Symposium, 20 June 2019 (report on SBPA website)

### **Captive Wildlife Regulations, Jeanette Pepper**

Design and promote cost-effective wildlife data collection programs that use citizen science surveys to engage the public as volunteers.

- Excludes domestic animals, fish or insects
- Formally 30,000 species allowed, now approx. 630 allowed species without a license
- Dangerous species cannot be rehabilitates, e.g., black bear, and do not become the property of the rehabilitator
- New licensing restrictions for zoos
- Falconers: restricted to two wild caught birds per year, license fee of \$50 and \$200 for breeders

### **Cooperative Wildlife Management Survey/Hunter Harvest Surveys, Jesus Karst/Tom Perry**

Develop a comprehensive wildlife inventory program with new or improved survey methodologies, protocols and wildlife population modeling tools.

- \$20 fee for not completing a survey starting in 2022-23, will not restrict you from applying for big game, but will need to be paid before you can purchase a hunting license.
- There is an app for your phone to report wildlife sightings

### **Survey Results/Upcoming Inventories, Graham Thibault**

GMP Outcome 2. Equitable allocation of game species to optimize social, cultural and economic benefits.

- Didn't fly any surveys due to covid
- Woodland caribou pellet collection surveys ongoing
- Ground surveys for Pronghorn and Deer
- Planning to do aerial surveys in early 2022
- Pronghorn population fairly stable 2019 to 2021 except in Great Sandhills where there is a decline
- Spotlight Survey
  - o White-tailed deer generally increasing province wide
  - o Mule deer increasing in Parkland and Forest Fringe, but decreasing along Sask River

**Maintain a transparent process that allocates hunting opportunities according to the Game Allocation Framework.**

- Prior question on changes to white-fronted goose proposal was received well. Good feedback
- Proposals bear season and wolves add-on
  - o Wolves: want an add-on, outfitters stated that they would not make any money on this license...only to make their hunts more attractive. Could not sell an individual wolf hunt, would be added onto an existing bear or deer client.
  - o Request for a 25% increase in bear allocations. Lots of discussion, but currently more than 1/2 of their allocation goes unused. The issue seems that the government regulations are preventing them from re-allocation tags internally.
- Proposal for blood tracking
  - o CO's are basically against due to enforcement issues.
  - o Most, participants were and are in favour of permitting dogs on lease for retrieval (SBPA position is in favour of leashed dogs for big game retrieval)

**Conduct the big game draw annually and review every five years. Annual Big Game Draw Results, Matthew Weiss**

- Website issue at the end of the big game application so the deadline extended to 28<sup>th</sup>
- Applications continue to increase, in 2012 there were 33,897 applications and in 2021 there were 52,416 applicants
- Success Rates:

Elk	14%
Moose	10%
Mule Deer	23%
Antlerless Mule Deer	48%
Youth	85%
Pronghorn	3.61%

- Currently ~1/2 of the legacy pool applicants are getting drawn

Multiple Big Game Draw Success

Number of Successful Applications	Number Licenses Received
0	5
58	4
700	3
4338	2
16296	1

- Seen an increase in un-purchased licenses, i.e., successfully drawn for a big game, but did not carry through to purchase the tag. Environment thinks this is a covid issue.

Year	Un-claimed License
2021	7550
2020	5432
2019	3554
2018	3493

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Review and update The Wildlife Act, 1998 to ensure appropriate authority exists to address wildlife conservation and management priorities.

**Roadmap for the Wildlife Act Review, Jeanette Pepper/Christine Markel**

- Haven't made any substantial changes since 1998

**Emphasize hunter ethics and landowner respect in the Firearm Safety and Hunter Education program. Saskatchewan Association for Firearms Education (SAFE) program, Travis Williams/Shawna Bellavance**

- SERM auditing the requirement of Hunter Safety training. 87% compliance. Addressing specific instances of non-compliance
- Suggested Hunter Safety be attached to our HAL

- Next meeting—early May or June.

Agricultural Producers Association of Saskatchewan Devin Harlick Richard Boulding  
 Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Robin Mcleod Katie Rasmussen  
 General Public Gregg Sheppard  
 Nature Saskatchewan David Weiman Jordan Ignatiuk  
 Regina Fish and Game League Brodie Anderson Paul Gebhardt  
 Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities Norm Nordgulen Larry Grant  
 Saskatchewan Black Powder Association Robert Schultz  
 Saskatchewan Bow Hunters Association Al Kalnicki Ed Bergen  
 Saskatchewan Cattlemen's Association Keith Day Levi Hull  
 Saskatchewan Commission of Professional Outfitters Jeff Smith Roy Anderson

Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association Lee Sexon Kelcy Elford  
Saskatchewan Trappers Association Wrangler Hamm  
Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation Dwayne Davison Heath Dreger  
South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association Tim Yates Michael Hunt