

# WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 9, 2020 13:30 am - 16:00 pm, Conference Call

*WMZ 37 Survey and Results Graham/Jessu*

*Aerial Survey of WMZ 37 using Distance Sampling technique 19 & 20 February 2020*

Primary focus was White-Tailed deer, then mule deer, moose & elk. 3 helicopters flew 3.7 km grid. Flew a combined 3040 km in 2 days.

Species	Observed Animals	# Groups	Population Estimate	Density
White-Tailed Deer	2,270	246	13,359-19,203	1.41/km <sup>2</sup>
Mule Deer			311-771	0.047/km <sup>2</sup>
Moose			1,799-2,439	0.18/km <sup>2</sup>
Elk	408		Not enough observations to estimate	

*Regulation/Policy Changes Travis/Kevin/Katherine*

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Black bear tag seems to be a success.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> special elk in Moose Mountain looks promising
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> antlerless mule deer licenses have not been put into action. No plans to implement at this time.
- Youth game license was essentially replaced with a Youth Game Bird and Youth White-tailed deer. Overall price remains at \$20. Need to change from a combined license purchase due to on-line licensing system.
- Badger, black bear, racoon & skunk may be killed by land owner
- No permit required for trappers to shoot beavers.
- Game processors (meat cutter, taxidermy) must retain records for 1 year after the game is returned to owner. This was a clarification of when the clock starts.
- Allow tracked wheelchairs in southern zones for people with disabilities
- Hunter surveys are now mandatory. Not likely to impose any penalties this year. Although I fully support the hunter surveys I am adamantly against mandatory surveys—especially when we don't know what kind of penalty may be imposed. They had a few trouble areas where they were not getting enough responses and instead of addressing the problem they made the surveys mandatory across the board. I think instead of getting 20% response with good information they are going to get 80% response of garbage information.
- Pintail limits increased from 4 to 8 and possession 12 to 24
- Can hunt Sandhill Cranes in Last Mountain Lake area
- Outfitter licenses now issued for 5 years
- Minister can prohibit a person from applying for an outfitter license for 10 years
- 3 clients per outfitter for big game, birds and fish can have more clients per outfitter
- Reduced the outfitter fee this year due to Covid-19 and travel restrictions
- Proposed for 2021

- Signage of baits and stands
  - Remove bait, equipment and stand
- Disposal of inedible or diseased game
  - Disposal of carcass
- Requirement for fur license if you have previous trapping experience, e.g., moved from another province
- Antlerless mule deer allocation
- Captive Wildlife Regulations being re-written, slated for approval in 2021
- Plan to re-write the Wildlife Act in 2021
- CWD Policy and dumping of hides
- Mandatory Hunter Survey—looking for ways to hold people accountable to complete the surveys

*Draw Results Matthew*

- Increase in applicants. In 2011 there were 42,518 applicants, in 2019 102,469, in 2020 112,077.
- Overall success rates:
  - Elk 14.3%
  - Moose 10.5%
  - Mule Deer 22.2%
  - Antlerless Mule Deer 42.1%
  - Youth Mule Deer 82.0%
  - Pronghorn 3.87% -- huge bottleneck of people coming into the legacy pool
- Legacy Pool

Species	2019		2020	
	Eligible	Drawn	Eligible	Drawn
Elk	196	92	286	137
Moose	130	75	194	131
Mule Deer	31	5	36	5
Antlerless Mule Deer	2	0	2	0

Unallocated tags in 2020:

13A	Elk	5 licenses
61	Moose	18 licenses
PAWMZ	Mule Deer	39 licenses

Declined licenses (drawn for 3 or more species)

Species	# licenses declined
Elk	22
Moose	21
Pronghorn	2
Antlerless Mule Deer	17

- 5 people were drawn for 5 species
- 56 people were drawn for 4 species
- 659 people were drawn for 3 species
- 3,937 people were drawn for 2 species

Canadian Resident White-Tailed licenses are back at the normal number in 2020 (2,767) as in 2013 (2,959)

*CWD Program Rick Espie*

- 3,300 animals tested in 2019
- Mule deer are more likely to contract the disease, 30% positive overall, but some zones up to 70%
- Bucks are more likely to test positive, 43%
- 7 new WMZ's had positive tests in 2019

Species	# positive	# tested	Percent Positive
Elk	6	199	3%
Moose	1	202	0%
Mule Deer	414	1394	30%
White-Tailed	107	1503	7%
Total	528	3299	16%

Target zones for CWD testing in 2020:

- 50 & 55
- 36 & 37
- 9 & 10
- 2W

Trying to reduce processing times....

- In 2020 your hunting license number will be your tracking number for your head.
- Information will be integrated into the HAL system so you should be able to log into your HAL account and see if your animal tested positive or not.
- Check out the form at: <http://www.cwdsk.ca/submission.php>

CWD Survey yielded some interesting information (SBPA responded to the survey) regarding the topics:

- Baiting & feeding
- Harvest management

- Carcass movement & disposal
- Game farms

A draft strategy on tackling CWD is in the works (only took 20+ years)

*Game Management Plan Reporting Jeanette*

Some feedback on how to monitor progress on the plan. Need to see the action items and progress reported on a regular basis.