

Hello Everyone,

Please find the attached final version of the alternate Mule Deer Management Option as sent to MOE on Friday. Your feedback has been incorporated as much as possible and this can now be considered as the BCWF Region 5 Official position.

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to send comments and feedback. It was much needed and is appreciated.

Last week I came to the realization that I had been mistaken about just what the current proposed options could mean in the long term and that that most either didn't comply with Provincial Wildlife Harvest Strategy or with BC Wildlife Federation Policy in one way or another. I decided that I should completely review all comments and possibilities. I think that I may have come across a way that we can both meet the Ministries buck to doe requirements and retain all of our season.

These Options combined should reduce the Buck Harvest by at least 850, increase Antlerless Harvest by the about same amount, and help meet the Ministries Recruitment and Retention goals. All of this is based on the Ministries own data.

September 1 to 9	As Present but add
September 1 to 9	Youth Season for Antlerless Deer (same as Regions 3, 7A and 8)
September 10 to 30	Antlerless Deer LEH to allow for the Harvest of an additional 750 does will compensate for the decrease in Buck Harvest
September 10 to October 31	Any Buck
November 1 to 10	4 Point or better Buck Season (Could be put into immediate 2 year Moratorium- Additional 250 Bucks)
November 10 to 20	4 Point or better Buck Season
November 20 to 30	4 Point or better Buck Season
December 1 to 10	As Present - Archery Only
3 Mule Deer Limit -	1 per Season
	1 of which must be Antlerless under LEH or Youth Season Only
	only 1 may be 4 Point or Better Buck

Pros:

Proven success in our Region (Raised buck to doe ratio from 11/100 in '97 to 30/100 by 2003)

Consistent with the **Provincial Wildlife Harvest Strategy**

Would **Accelerate Buck to Doe Ratio recovery** by addressing **both sides of the ratio** instead of the just one side as in all the previous proposals

The added September doe harvest would not have been bred, reducing unnecessary and unproductive buck post-rut fatigue, orphaned fawn should have a good chance of survival as conditions have not yet declined significantly from summer highs and time remains to rejoin maternal groups.

Allows hunters to participate in **traditional** timeframes (November Deer Rut)

Would be **consistent with other Regions** (Region 3, Region 4, Region 6, Region 7A, Region 8)

Three November seasons would allow for greater management flexibility for potential future opportunities or concerns (**Moratoriums, 3 Point or Better**) to any November season without having to affect the entire month

Should **increase Total Harvest** and **Lower Population below Carrying Capacity** while Improving Buck to Doe Ratios and improving herd overall health.

Would address the concern that a Doe LEH hunter would **Harvest a Trophy Buck instead of Antlerless** as this is taken into account and permitted

Should enjoy the **support of CCGOA** as they would still be able to take out their clients

-Ease for enforcement

-Ease of understanding regulations. Reduce crowding in other Regions..

-Other regions would not be subject to an increase in Hunter Participation and Crowding due to Region 5 Closure.

Would allow **Buck recruitment** into the deer population.

-Would allow the **economic benefits** that **November** hunting brings to the Cariboo / Chilcotin. (We need **economic diversity in the Cariboo / Chilcotin** as we could be facing a major economic turnaround in our Forest Sector)

These proposals have now been subject to comment from all Regional Members and can be considered to be the BC Wildlife Federation, Region 5, Cariboo-Chilcotin-Coast's official position. We are no longer in favor of any option that will result in LEH or de-facto permanent closures.

Yours in Conservation,

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President