

A letter was sent to Tom Ethier, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Branch and to Brian Clark, Director of Regional Operations by Mel Arnold, President of the BC Wildlife Federation regarding the Provincial Allocation Policy.

Due to problems with my scanner, I was unable to provide you with the actual copy of this letter so I am going to type it out for you all.

Here it is:

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Brian Clark
Director Regional Operations
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Dear Tom and Brian:

Re: Provincial Allocation Policy

I am writing on behalf of the membership of the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) to address concerns regarding the implementation of the Provincial Allocation Policy.

The BCWF looked forward to and supported having a Provincial Allocation Policy that clearly addressed the issue of resident priority along with consistent and correct application of the new policy. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and regional managers to ensure that this occurs. Unfortunately there are examples where this is not occurring and no attempts have been made to increase utilization.

It is disturbing to see administrative guidelines applied to guide-outfitters in areas where resident utilization was never achieved and LEH authorizations have actually been reduced per the 2008 LEH synopsis. This contradicts the provisions of the policy.

The BCWF requests that the three provisions committed by the MoE in regards to the Provincial Allocation Policy occur:

1) **Audit Function**

There was a specific commitment that existing opportunities under the policy would be audited for compliance. There have been no audits to ensure that the provisions of the policy are being correctly adhered and applied consistently throughout the province.

2) Formal Training

There was a commitment to have formal training on the application of the new Allocation Policy. This was to ensure that there would be only one consistent manner of application throughout the province by regional managers and their staff.

With such an easy policy to follow there is likely little reason for actual training. The policy is straight-forward and all MoE staff are more than capable of understanding and effectively achieving maximum utilization for resident hunters. However, this is not happening. Regional managers need to be held accountable and that accountability needs to be ensured by MoE upper-management. Both of these issues need to be addressed and rectified.

3) LEH Review

The BCWF would like a clear commitment to having the findings of the LEH Review addressed. Specifically, resident hunters must be provided with the opportunity to achieve their allocated harvest. In many cases, the regions have unfairly restricted residents from achieving allocated harvest; this should be dealt with immediately. It should be noted the other residency group is not hindered in achieving their assigned quota.

The members of the BCWF look forward to consistent application of the Provincial Allocation Policy and the stated commitment to resident priority. The intent of the policy was to create an equitable and transparent process to ensure residents are given priority as well as fair opportunity to meet allocated harvest goals. None of this is happening. The BCWF wants to ensure that all residents are given the fair and equitable opportunity to achieve their allocated share as committed to through the entire process.

Yours in Conservation

Mel Arnold
President, BC Wildlife Federation

CC Nancy Wilkin, ADM Environmental Stewardship Division
CC Al Martin, Executive Director Fish, Wildlife and Ecosystems
CC Bill Bennett, Chair, B.C. Outdoor Caucus
CC BCWF Membership
CC BCWF Wildlife/Allocation Committee