



2019 RESOLUTIONS

The constitution of Manitoba Wildlife Federation defines a resolution as a “written statement and proposed solution to an issue or concern” and “may contain a change to the Federation’s policies, programs, and procedures”. Resolutions that are passed by a 2/3 majority vote form the policy and guidelines that the President and Executive Committee follow on behalf of the membership.

The following resolutions have been submitted by associations for discussion at the next Manitoba Wildlife Federation Annual General Meeting and Convention, set for April 12th & 13th, 2019 at the Canad Inns Destination Centre, Portage la Prairie. The following resolutions have been forwarded to all the Affiliate Clubs so they will have the opportunity to discuss it at the local level before the April meeting.

In accordance with the constitution, **associations submitting a resolution are required to have a member in attendance on Saturday, April 13th, 2019, to bring the resolution or proposed motion to the floor.** We look forward to these discussions!

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the MWF office.

Resolutions

Resolution 2019 - 01

Resolution Title: Elk Season Change in GHA’s 29, 29A and GHA’s 28, 31A

Affiliate Name: Southwest Wildlife Groups – Boissevain, Deloraine, Killarny, Tiger Hills and Brandon

Background:

Due to the increase in the number of elk that are inhabiting GHA’s 29, 29A and GHA’s 28, 31A the above noted southwest wildlife groups would like to see an increase in the number of elk harvested each year. The number of elk in 29, 29A and 28, 31A is believed to be somewhere between 600 to 1000 animals in each hunting zone. These elk have been observed by numerous individuals that live and hunt in these areas, several different herds have been observed in each area.

These herds range from 50 to 250 animals per herd in GHA’s 28, 31A, with 6 different herds being observed. In GHA’s 29 and 29A the numbers are similar 30 to 200 animals per herd in and different herds. GHA 29 and 29A is located along the US border, some of these elk travel back and forth between North Dakota and Manitoba via the Turtle Mountains, which may cause a problem for an accurate count of these elk during an aerial survey.

The damage to crops, hay and fences has increased in these areas over the past several years. The damage is at the limit of what producers in the area are willing to put up with. They would also like to see the number of elk controlled at the current level. If these elk are allowed to go on at the current level of harvest they will increase in number to the point where they will cause significant losses to producers in the area.

Hunters wishing to harvest these over abundant elk in these GHA's by way of the Big Game Draw System have to wait 4 to 5 years for an archery tag and 7 to 10 years for a rifle tag. There is no landowner season at the present time.

We believe there is an opportunity for hunters to harvest more elk in these GHA's without causing any decline in the population but rather controlling the population at its current level.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the number of elk tags in GHA's 29 and 29A be increase from 45 tags to 80 tags and that the number of elk tags in GHA's 28 and 31A be increased from 65 tags to 125 tags by way of 4 different season in each area.

To be set out as follows:

GHA 29 and 29A

- Archery – August 26th to September 15th – One Elk
40 licences – 40 tags
- Rifle – September 23rd to October 1st – One Bull Elk
20 licenses – 10 tags
- Rifle – December 16th to December 22nd – One Elk
20 licenses – 10 tags
- Land owner – December 31st to January 27th – One Elk
20 licenses – 20 tags

GHA 28 and 31A

- Archery – August 26th to September 15th – One Elk
60 licenses – 60 tags
- Rifle – September 23rd to October 14th – One Elk
50 licenses – 25 tags
- Rifle – December 6th – December 23rd – One Antlerless Elk
40 licenses – 20 tags
- Land owner – December 31st to January 27th – One Elk
20 licenses – 20 tags

Resolution 2019-02

Resolution Title: White-tailed Deer Crossbow Season

Affiliate Name: Brandon Wildlife Association

Background:

With our aging archery population not all bow hunters are able to continue to hunt with traditional bow hunting equipment.

The introduction of horizontal bows (crossbows) has added another dimension to our hunting community.

Currently bow hunters with a “permanent upper limb impairment” may be eligible for a cross bow permit for all archery seasons.

The approval process is arduous and relies on the medical community to declare the individual “permanently disabled.”

Cross bows currently may be used during muzzle loader and general (rifle) seasons. Many other jurisdictions in both Canada and the United States offer separate cross bow seasons for white-tailed deer.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that a separate crossbow season for white-tailed deer begin on the 1st Monday of October and continue to the end of general (rifle) season.

Resolution 2019-03

Resolution Title: Moose & Elk Hunting Party Draws

Affiliate Name: Brandon Wildlife Association

Background:

The numbers of big game hunters in the province of Manitoba are decreasing. The reasons for this are many.

There are mentored hunts to introduce Manitoba youth to the concepts of ethical hunting and stewardship of wildlife resources. For example, first time hunters can participate in mentored white-tailed deer hunts during the white-tailed season.

However, mentored hunts are few and far between, making it difficult for our aging big game hunters to pass along their experience and expertise for future generations.

Furthermore, establishing big game camps and retrieval of game for moose and elk hunting is both arduous and cost prohibitive unless shared by larger numbers.

Wait times, to be successful in the draw for some areas can be excessive resulting in diminished hunt opportunities.

Currently the Manitoba big game draw application allows for two applicants per draw season. An increase to six applicants to form a group would allow experienced hunters to mentor others and share/create lasting memories.

If sufficient tags are unavailable, no tags are awarded to the group.

Anticipated increased harvest due to large party hunting could be monitored by Sustainable Development and factored into future allocation of tags.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the big game draws for moose and elk allow for group applications that permit up to 6 hunters in a party.

And, be it further resolved, that a group draw status would be determined by the lowest priority member of the group.

Resolution 2019-04

Resolution Title: Change to Coyote Hunting Season, Bag Limits, and Licensing to all Residents, Non-resident and Foreign resident.

Affiliate Name: Rapid City & District Wildlife Association

Background:

As stated in regulations: *Whereas a resident may hunt grey wolf and coyote in any valid GHA during the wolf and coyote season if they possess any big game hunting license for the current license year. However, if the hunting in a GHA while the area is open to white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou hunting, the wolf or coyote hunter must have an unused white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou game tag (personal or party), which is valid for the area, species and time period. Where the white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou hunting seasons are closed, a resident may hunt wolves or coyotes provided he/she is in possession of an unused white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou license.*

As stated in regulations: *And whereas, a non-resident and foreign resident may only hunt gray wolves and coyotes if they possess an unused white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou game tag (personal or party), which is valid for the fall hunting season in the area, species and time period.*

As stated in regulations: *And whereas, foreign resident gray wolf and coyote hunters must be accompanied by a licensed Manitoba guide. No more than three hunters may use the services of a guide at one time.*

And whereas, the UNUSED white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou license system limits the number of coyotes harvested due to the hunters not wanting to disturb their hunting areas during the pursuit of white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou by discharging their firearm at a coyote prior to harvesting a white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou.

And whereas, resident, non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters are limited to the time periods of other game seasons such as white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou in order to harvest a coyote limits their season to just the fall and excludes the winter months in most GHA's.

And whereas, even though the existing season for residents extends to the end of February, most resident hunters are still limited to only harvesting a coyote during a valid white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou seasons which in most GHA's do not extend past first week of December.

And whereas, licensed outfitters in most GHA's are unable to offer a coyote hunt separately due to limits on white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou seasons, insuring clients have an unused license, and a bag limit of one coyote.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that a separate coyote license become available for all resident, non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters and the season be extended in all GHA's to the end of March like gray wolf.

And, be it further resolved, that the bag limit for coyote be increased from one to 3 to 6 for all resident, non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters at the discretion of the province.

And, be it further resolved, that the existing season and bag limit for coyote stay the same for those resident, non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters who chose not to purchase the separate coyote license, but however wish to purchase a white-tailed deer, elk, moose, black bear or caribou license and take a coyote under the existing regulations.

And, be it further resolved, that the province of Manitoba will charge a license fee for all resident, non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters for a coyote license only which will increase revenue for the province with extra license sales.

And, be it further resolved, that with this coyote license, all non-resident and foreign resident (guided) hunters may come to Manitoba with express purpose to hunt just coyote, which will increase tourism revenue

throughout the province outside of the regular fall hunting seasons. Not to mention the benefits to the other game species by reducing predation from coyotes.

And, be it further resolved, that these changes and additions to the coyote season and licensing be applied to coyote only and separate from Gray Wolf regulations.

Resolution 2019-05

Resolution Title: Sufficient Supply of Licenses Available at Vendors

Affiliate Name: Brokenhead River Game & Fish Association

Background:

Whereas, some members of the local hunting community have had difficulty obtaining licenses to hunt big game animals such as deer and moose;

And whereas, it can take considerable time and effort to locate a vendor who has a supply of these licenses and tags.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation petition the province to ensure that license vendors are provided a sufficient supply of game and fish licenses in their inventory prior to the commencement of those particular seasons.

Resolution 2019-06

Resolution Title: New Draw Elk Season in GHA 22

Affiliate Name: Russell Game & Fish Association

Background:

There has been a substantial increase in sightings of large Elk herds in GHA 22, including the area from Roblin to Brandon.

Since the reduction of elk licenses in GHA 23 and 23A by the government over the last 10 years, hunting pressure has not gone down and there are a lot less animals. Talking to hunters from the west end of Riding Mountain, many of them did not get an animal. A lot of elk have moved out of this area and headed west of Highway 83 and to the south of Highway 45.

GHA 22 is a huge area with what we feel is a good population of animals. If a season was opened in GHA 22, the number of tags could be reduced in 23 and 23A to allow the population of elk/moose to increase in these areas.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation ask Sustainable Development to complete an elk/moose study of GHA 22 to determine animal numbers;

And, be it further resolved, that Sustainable Development consider the feasibility of a new elk draw season in GHA 22.

Resolution 2019-07

Resolution Title: Black Crappie in Whiteshell Provincial Park

Affiliate Name: Seven Oaks Game & Fish Association

Background:

Due to the increase number of Anglers within the Park and speaking with other Anglers and observing Social Media Outlets along with Articles written in the Winnipeg Free Press, Black Crappie have become a targeted sport fish to angle in Manitoba. The Whiteshell River chain of lakes (e.g. South and North Cross and Sailing Lake) are seeing increased angling pressure due to their accessibility during the winter months, and with the aid of off-road vehicles have become popular lakes of choice. Other lakes such as White, Caddy, Big Whiteshell and Brereton are also seeing increased Black Crappie angling pressure.

The Fisheries department is currently conducting an age and population study of Black Crappie. The collected data will be released within the next two years. The resolution being proposed will aid in the sustainability of this fishery until such time all data had been collected and analysed.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the daily and possession limited of Black Crappie be reduced to 4 from its currently daily and possession limit of 6 within the Whiteshell Provincial Park;

And, be it further resolved, that all Black Crappie 12 inches and over in length must be released within the Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Resolution 2019-08

Resolution Title: Removal of Ravens as a Protected Species

Affiliate Name: Minnedosa Game & Fish Association

Background:

Ravens are currently a protected bird in Manitoba, and we are the only western province that currently doesn't allow hunting of this bird. Regarded as a predatory species, they have built up a reputation for destruction on farms, where they regularly destroy silage pits, stored grain and hay bales. They also directly impact song and game bird populations as well as their nests and young. With the growing abundance of these pests in our area we are now witness to countless acts of destruction.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation approach Sustainable Development to remove ravens from the list of protected species.

Resolution 2019-09

Resolution Title: Removal of Cormorants as a Protected Species

Affiliate Name: Minnedosa Game & Fish Association

Background:

Cormorants are currently under provincial protection. Following a significant reduction in their population (going back to 1972), and a subsequently protection law placed on the species, they have made a dramatic comeback. This has resulted in thousands of birds currently inhabiting our province, causing a harmful impact on both our fishing ecosystem and for the future abundance and quality of fish in our waterways. Cormorants have shown how durable and adaptable they are to different environments and how they will eradicate the

available food within the vicinity. They are not only detrimental to the fish but also to the foliage surrounding the area.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation approach Sustainable Development to remove cormorants from the list of protected species.

Resolution 2019-10

Resolution Title: MWF to Petition Minister to Enter into Agreement with the Committee for Cooperative Moose Management

Affiliate Name: Brokenhead River Game & Fish Association

Background:

Whereas, the Cooperative Committee for Moose Management (CCMM) has been working with stakeholders since 1995;

Whereas, a final report regarding the status of the moose population in Game Hunting Area 26 has been submitted to the Minister of Sustainable Development;

Whereas, this final report has outlined a series of recommendations concerning the management of the local moose population; and

Pursuant to section 84(1) of The Wildlife Act (CCSM c. W130) that enables the Minister to enter into agreement with any society, group, organization, person or individual for

- a) the joint management of wildlife or exotic wildlife, or mutual assistance in the enforcement of laws relative to wildlife or exotic wildlife; or
- b) the development and implementation of joint informational, educational or training programs; or
- c) the conduct of joint biological or ecological investigations; or
- d) reciprocal arrangements for fees to be charged for licences or permits issued under this Act and their counterparts issued in the other jurisdictions; or
- e) the joint management of wildlife habitats; or
- f) the development and implementation of joint programs for the control of damage caused by wildlife or exotic wildlife; or
- g) the development and implementation of joint programs for the control of wild animals;

or for all or any of those matters, and the agreement may include provisions for contributions by the government toward the cost of implementing the provisions thereof.

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation endorse the recommendations of the Committee for Cooperative Moose Management, and petition the province to implement said recommendations;

And, be it further resolved, that the Manitoba Wildlife Federation call on the province to exercise its authority under section 84(1) of The Wildlife Act (CCSM c. W130) for the Minister to enter into agreement with the

Committee for Cooperative Moose Management to continue its mandate for at least a five-year period, subject to renewal;

And, be it further resolved, that any agreement include funding support at a level sufficient for the Committee for Cooperative Moose Management to achieve its objectives.

Resolution 2019-11

Resolution Title: MWF Membership Fee Increase

Affiliate Name: MWF Executive Committee

Background:

Whereas at the 2016 MWF AGM, voting delegates approved a membership fee increase due to the increasing costs associated with core operating expenses (staffing, office costs, etc.) and programming. An increase in membership fees also occurred in 2012 and 1996. While MWF is always mindful of keeping expenses as low as possible, inflationary pressures continue to occur and thoughtfully planned and deliberate increased spending to promote the growth of our organization necessitates that we are vigilant about our overall financial position.

Whereas MWF staff and the Executive Committee continue to explore and implement cost-savings measures in a planned approach;

And whereas MWF continues to secure forms of funding (e.g., grants, donations, fundraising banquets, raffles, etc.) outside of membership fees to grow programs as well as offset fixed/core costs such as salaries and office expenses

And whereas the ability to secure such additional funding varies from year-to-year, and thus is not a reliable source of funds to pay for the core expenses of the organization

And whereas subsequent to the membership fee increase in 2016, core expenses have continued to rise (e.g., telephone and postage has risen 16% to over \$15,000 annually, the base office lease rate has increased 16% to over \$26,000 annually, salaries and benefits have increased 7% to \$372,000 annually, increased focus on internet and website communications have resulted in a 23% increase to \$8,000), as well as many other costs such as advertising and promotion, travel, etc. continue to rise.

And whereas, MWF has recently begun to incur new costs associated with a cloud-based (internet-based) membership and donation database (approximately \$20,000 per year), as well as increased costs of financial transactions due to the use of on-line payment systems

And whereas, the fee increase in this resolution would generate approximately \$42,000 in additional revenue (based on the current level of memberships)

Resolution:

Therefore, it be resolved, that annual fees for MWF Single and Family memberships be increased by \$5.00, and Youth membership be increased by \$3.00, effective January 1, 2020.