

Wet'suwet'en Participation in Problem Elk Harvest

December 20, 2017

A number of farmers have had problems with elk destroying hay in the area and interference with livestock, and have asked the Province for help in dealing with this issue. The Province has asked the Office of the Wet'suwet'en for advice on how to proceed, since the areas in question are within Wet'suwet'en territory. Some of the issues identified include:

1. The elk to be harvested will be on private property and therefore permission is required from the landowner. Any harvest will have to meet the landowner's specific concerns, such as safety, vehicles in fields, gates, property boundaries, etc. If an elk crosses a fence into another property, hunters need to be sure they are not trespassing. We are working with the Province to identify properties and landowners that have requested help with elk.
2. The total population of elk in the area is not known, and an estimate on how much can be sustainably harvested cannot be made. Therefore, the intent of this harvest will be to only address the issue of crop damage, and to drive elk away from hay storage facilities and fields.
3. Currently, the population is thought to be relatively small, and will have to be tightly managed. The Chiefs will have to be involved in management of any elk harvest.
4. In order to ensure we can act on requests for elk harvests, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en will require a list of Wet'suwet'en hunters who want to harvest an elk. We will require name, address, Clan and House to match up properties with harvest opportunities. A sign-up sheet will be available at the front desk of the Office of the Wet'suwet'en.
5. Federal regulations require those with a firearm to have a valid Possession and Acquisition License

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