

RESOLUTION FORM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Alberta Fish & Game Association request the Ministry of Forestry and Parks and Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas pursue all steps to develop a mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) season in cooperation with the Government of Canada.

BRIEF:

The mourning dove is the most widely hunted and harvested game bird in North America, with relatively short hunting seasons in almost all provinces and states. Southern Alberta has many mourning doves, with birds fledged in the province hunted in every US state they migrate through, as well as in Mexico. A short two-week to one-month hunting season would provide additional hunting opportunities for residents, non-resident Canadians, and non-resident alien hunters.

CLUB ACTION ON RESOLUTION

Club Name: Lethbridge Fish & Game Association **Drafter:** Ian Gazeley **Date:** Sept. 18, 2023

Gov't Agency Contacted:

Person: _____ **Date:** _____

Person: _____ **Date:** _____

Date submitted to Zone Director: _____ **Director's Signature:** _____

Action by Zone Director: _____ **Date:** _____

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RESOLUTION FORM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Alberta Fish & Game Association request the Ministry of Forestry and Parks and Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas make changes to the cougar hunting regulations to allow a chase-only season to occur within any Cougar Management Area (CMA) from the closure of harvest (upon quota being reached in the CMA) until March 31st, or whichever is later.

BRIEF:

In many CMAs the hunting season is extremely brief, with the allowable quota being reached within days or a few weeks. For many hound owners, gratification in cougar hunting comes not from the harvest of an animal, but in working their dogs. Recruitment of new houndsmen is uncommon in Alberta due to the cost and effort of keeping and training dogs. If a CMA closes within days of opening, the ability to train hounds is virtually non-existent. In many CMAs cougars occur near human settlements during winter, where prey is concentrated. Maintaining a chase season until the end of March would help keep cougars away from populated areas reducing conflicts. Neighbouring jurisdictions have very liberal “chase-only” or “dog-training” seasons, making hound hunting more attractive to those new to the sport.

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RESOLUTION FORM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Alberta Fish & Game Association request the Ministry of Forestry and Parks and Ministry of Environment and Protected Areas make changes to the cougar hunting regulations to allow a boot-season within some, part, or all Cougar Management Areas (CMA) from the opening of any big game season, until November 31st.

BRIEF:

In many CMAs large areas become inaccessible before the season begins, or soon after. Cougar predation on mountain dwelling species such as mule deer and bighorn sheep can be substantial, potentially resulting in the local extirpation of small populations of ungulates. Previously reported harvest data during the current boot-seasons showed very few animals taken. Allowing hunters in the Mountain, and adjacent Foothills WMUs to opportunistically take a cougar would help increase the harvest of individuals in remote areas, with little to no impact on current CMA quotas.

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RESOLUTION FORM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Alberta Fish & Game Association request Ministry of Forestry and Parks promptly reinitiate review and revision of the Bighorn Sheep Species Management Plan (SMA), in full cooperation and transparent consultation with affected stakeholders.

BRIEF:

Government policy requires all SMAs to reviewed and revised every five years. The bighorn sheep SMA was last updated in 1993.

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RECOMMENDATION FORM

BE IT RECOMMENDED THAT:

The Alberta Fish & Game Association request that Alberta’s ministries of Forests, Tourism and Parks and Environment and Protected Areas undertake all appropriate actions to develop Mule Deer hunting opportunities for resident Albertans within parts of the Oldman Dam Recreation Area.

BRIEF:

Large areas of the Oldman Dam Recreation Area are underutilized for recreation. Outside of the immediate vicinity of the boat launch, camping and day use areas, a special weapons (archery and/or muzzleloader and/or shotgun) harvest opportunity could be created that would reduce the density of mule deer congregating in these areas. As chronic wasting disease has been found in adjacent areas, and evidence suggests that high population densities increase disease transfer, such a season would have multiple benefits.

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