



May 14, 2020

To: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Graham Van Tighem, Executive Director
executivedirector@yfwmb.ca

Re: Wildlife Act Regulation changes: Moose Harvest Management Proposals

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Yukon Chapter (CPAWS Yukon) is pleased to provide our comments on the Moose Harvest Management Proposals 1-3.

CPAWS Yukon advocates for the territory's most valuable and priceless resource: our abundant wilderness. Our mission is to conserve the land, water and wildlife of the Yukon for current and future generations. In a world that is rapidly losing its wilderness, we want conservation to be a pillar in the Yukon so that our rich wildlife and diverse landscapes receive the protection they deserve.

Proposal 1: Adaptive management of moose in Yukon

CPAWS Yukon strongly supports this proposal, which will provide wildlife managers with more tools to alleviate pressure on moose populations. Our current management system, where regulation changes take two to four years, is not able to keep pace with increases in hunting pressure. This puts harvestable wildlife populations at serious risk of decline, in turn threatening future harvest opportunities.

In particular, adaptive management will enable wildlife managers to respond when new roads and trails for resource extraction and development projects lead to increased human access and hunting pressure.

The ability to adaptively manage moose populations is urgently needed, given that harvest reports, aerial surveys, and local observations all indicate that total moose harvest numbers are at, or above, sustainable levels in many Moose Management Units. The need for flexible and responsive tools will continue to rise as the territory's population grows and development pressure increases.

We do not have comments on the list of potential adaptive management tools, recognizing that the Board and/or Renewable Resource Councils will bring forward proposals that suit local circumstances.

Proposal 2: Sustainable harvest in the South Canol Moose Management Unit

CPAWS Yukon supports the proposal to manage licensed harvest in the South Canol Moose Management Unit. In particular, we support Option 2 because it offers greater flexibility and responsiveness by enabling a suite of moose harvest management tools.

Proposal 3: Sustainable harvest in the Sifton-Miners Range Moose Management Unit

CPAWS Yukon supports this proposal. In particular, we support Option 2 because it offers greater flexibility and responsiveness by enabling a suite of moose harvest management tools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Randi Newton
Conservation Manager, CPAWS Yukon
