

## Vertical Response June 15 2017

Hi everyone - hope you bear hunters had some success this spring. We spent lots of time in the tree this spring looking to close the deal on a big brown bear for Carrie but it didn't happen. Close!! Bears are such fun to hunt - all have their own personalities, are real characters. Targeting big old boars makes it a tough challenge. Next year time now.

Make sure you get your **draws** in - deadline is midnight June 22. The results will be available online July 12 - mountain goat and antelope not until August 8 2017.

Changes for the 2017 draws are:

- new antlered and antlerless elk hunting seasons have been created in WMUs 110, 132, 136, 138, 500, 501, 502 and 514.
- new seasons have been added for the CFB Suffield elk hunt.
- WMUs 206, 208, 228, 240 and 242 have been added to the list of mandatory deer head submissions for CWD testing.
- goat hunting area "H" has been closed for the 2017 season.

The latest edition of your **ABA Newsletter** just came out and this will be the last issue you will get unless you are a current 2017 member. To check if you are a current member, look at the mailing label on the back page of this latest issue - the expiry date will be on it. If you have any questions, you can also contact John (John@albertabowhunters.com), Mike (Mike@albertabowhunters.com) or myself (Brent@albertabowhunters.com).

We are getting lots of rave reviews about the newsletter, now being in color one of them. It is an awesome product and the envy of many organizations. Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com) does an outstanding job putting it together. He has **ZERO** content for articles for this next issue (deadline July 9) and we really need some in order to keep the product at a high standard for you, the member. Also send pictures for the Brag Board!!

We are a **corporate sponsor** of the **Alberta Trappers Association** and with that comes a 1/2 page ad in their newsletter. It is a brand new format - full color 52 page magazine and another awesome product. Latest issue just came out. Check out their website (www.albertatrappers.com) and consider joining the ATA.

The best way to **renew your ABA membership** is to do it online (www.bowhunters.ca) (or through any of our affiliated clubs - list in the newsletter). Early in 2017 we queried the membership database and sent a mass email specific to those members whose membership expired at the end of 2015 or 2016. Worked awesome and is a very effective/efficient way to send reminders. We will be doing that again near the end of June to once again remind people to join/renew.

In looking at membership numbers over the last decade, we have seen a jump in membership numbers from the average of app 1172 (2006-2010) to an average of app 1595 (2011-2015). The high was in 2013 with 1790 members!! in 2016 our numbers dropped to 1297. That shows a drop of 493 from the high in 2013 to last year. Quite significant.

The **mass email list** we have built up over the last 7 years now has 2086 viable email addresses. Every one of these email addresses represents someone who was or currently is, an ABA member since 2010. Based on our 2016 ABA membership of 1297 and making adjustments for family members as we only take one email address per membership for the email database, we have app 900 current members

out of the 2086 email addresses. If we could get everyone on this email list to renew, we could potentially add a minimum of 1186 members -- what an incredible boost to the association!!

**PLEASE** think of rejoining the ABA - the benefits are many and numbers really do make a difference when we engage in the various stakeholder/government meetings.

Kris Skelly (our 3D Chairman)(Kris@albertabowhunters.com) and the committee have done a great deal of work with your **ABA Bowhunter Challenge 3D shoot** format. They just finished looking over the 3 affiliated club submissions for hosting the shoot and it was awarded to the Woodland Archers from Whitecourt, August 12-13. Great submissions from the other potential hosts!! From feedback through the 3D community and our members the decision has been made that this shoot going forward will be held this same weekend in August and will be a standalone shoot. Look for more details as things progress on our Facebook Page and website, in the next newsletter.

The latest **ABA Raffle** (our 3rd **Cougar Hunt Raffle**) is going very well with 63% of the tickets already sold. The winners of the last two raffles took great cats with Kelly and had great hunts!! Best place to get tickets is on the ABA online store ([www.bowhunters.ca](http://www.bowhunters.ca)) or contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhunters.com)(780-978-1195). Ticket price is \$100 each with only 100 available. Raffle license #462042. We will do the draw August 15, 2017. GOOD LUCK!!

Things are coming together for the **41st Annual ABA Banquet** March 24 2018 in Calgary at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre. We aren't sure of the theme yet but the format this year (after struggles to get guest speakers and a lot of feedback from members) will be a "Social" after our award presentations. Lots of people looking forward to that and it should be fun!! Mark your calendars now.

At the 2018 AGM we will be voting on some **constitution changes** as we finish off a complete review that we are now undertaking. Some of it is administrative, some of it involves the Member Conduct portion and ALL of it is based on the recommendations we have gotten from a lawyer. Official notification will appear in the newsletter in the spring of 2018 prior to the AGM. We will be sending out a separate email on the changes to be voted on. Handouts will be available at the AGM. If anyone has comments or questions contact Brent or any of the executive.

We will also be **voting for the following executive positions** (Vice President, Treasurer, Membership, 3D Director, Central Director, South Director) at the 2018 AGM. If anyone is interested in running for any of these positions, would like more information as to the job descriptions, what is all involved, don't hesitate to contact any of the current executive (email contact info on page 2 of newsletter). The job descriptions are outlined in our constitution (available to any member) and current executives can explain some more of the hows and whys of the organization. Elections will take place at the 2018 AGM. We are always looking for new blood and to give some of the long standing folks a break. Consider getting involved.

Brent has been attending the **Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council** meetings and is on the **Allocation Policy Review Committee**. The Allocation Policy Review committee met again on Feb 9, 2017. The preliminary work of this committee is done. Its recommendations will be taken to AGPAC general, internal FW people and then the draft "policy" will be open to the public and organizations for their feedback and comments. We were hoping this would all be done by the end of June but things have been delayed and as committee members and stakeholders, we are waiting for the next move from FW. Once we know more, we will keep everyone updated.

This Allocation Policy Review is looking at how the big game harvest/tags will be divided up among the residents, non-residents, bowhunters, landowners etc. There are a great many parts to this

policy and some affect bowhunters. We need bowhunters to get engaged in the consultation process and make their voices heard. Stay tuned.

**\*\* 2017 Hunting Regulation proposed changes**

- create antlered and antlerless elk hunting seasons in WMUs 501, 502, 514, 110.
- change the elk season in WMU 500 to a standalone hunting season.
- add WMUs 206, 208, 228, 240 and 242 to the list of areas to mandatory submit heads of harvested deer for CWD testing. Follows a recent positive in 242.
- remove the requirement for designated pheasant release sites to be closed at 2pm during the pheasant season

*In an email communication several months ago from Matt Besko (Director of Wildlife Policy) "there will be **NO** changes to the sheep hunting regulations. FW will continue to monitor and manage sheep populations using survey, registration and harvest data, in addition to enhancing habitat and managing other factors influencing the survival of mature rams. The sheep management plan and domestic sheep separation policy are still processes in motion, including continued discussions with stakeholders."*

**Alberta Environment and Parks** is currently in the initial phase of developing **caribou range plans** for the Northwest planning area. The "plan" --- *"is to ensure caribou herds remain on the landscape for future generations. To achieve this outcome, AEP will focus on supporting the pillars of Indigenous rights and cooperation, jobs and community support, and clear rules for continued operating of oil and gas and forestry. AEP will also encourage you to visit their updated website and learn more about the caribou range planning process and how you can become engaged in this initiative. Also, please feel free to take some time and fill out a short survey and provide them with information that will help inform us as we work to develop caribou range plans across the region.*

Caribou Range Planning website: <https://talkaep.alberta.ca/caribou-range-planning>

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts/comments on the ABA, do not hesitate to contact any of the executive or myself at any time.

And again, **please consider rejoining!!** We need as many members as possible.

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