

Vertical Response September 25 2017

Hi everyone - Fall is well underway and there has been some great critters taken already. Congrats to the lucky hunters and here's hoping that each and every one of you experiences success this hunting season. Success doesn't always mean you put an animal on the ground - it is about getting out with friends or family and experiencing all Mother Nature offers. Is a great time of year!!

LOOK FOR THE "ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW" ABA SURVEY

Brent has been attending the **Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council** meetings and is on the **Allocation Policy Review Sub-Committee**. After numerous meetings in 2016 and early 2017, the sub-committee recommendations were compiled by FW and are now open to the public and organizations for their feedback and comments. The issues discussed have all been points of discussion with stakeholders and FW for many years.

We are in the final touches of launching a **survey** using our mass email list - you can complete the survey directly off this survey email and then forward this survey email to any of your family and friends - they will be able to complete it as well. We will also be giving notice in the newsletter, on our website and Facebook page. Posters will be sent to archery shops and our affiliated clubs. People will be able to go to our website (www.bowhunters.ca) and click on the "survey" link and complete it. It is anonymous. One survey per email address.

We will send out a mass email TOMORROW with the survey attached!!

We will have the recommendation document on our website and it is copied word for word in the survey preamble to each question so that everyone gets the same information and can make an informed opinion.

This survey is to garner feedback on the recommendations that will be presented to Alberta Environment & Parks (FW) for the establishment of the "Big Game Allocation Policy". These are huge issues that many people have had concerns about over the years. NOW is the time to make your thoughts known. The survey results and feedback/comments will be taken to the next Alberta Game Policy Advisory Council meeting in early December 2017. These survey results will also be part of the process in forming the position of the ABA on each of these issues. There also will be a process for everyone to give feedback directly to FW - likely through an online application.

This Allocation Policy Review looked 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.

The issues and recommendations involve:

- Landowner Special License for antlered mule deer.*
- Non-Resident Access to Special License Draws.*
- Create a Special License draw for archery seasons.*

- *Allocate hunting allocations by opportunity instead of harvest.*
 - *Standardize the proportion of hunting opportunity allocated to the outfitted hunting industry.*
 - *Standardize the spatial scale at which hunting opportunity is managed.*
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The latest edition of your **ABA Newsletter** will be in your mailboxes near the end of October. Deadline for submissions (pictures or articles) will be right after Thanksgiving October 9th. We are in desperate need once again for articles so if you can put pen to paper and send us something that would be great! Contact Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com).

To check your membership expiry date, look at the mailing label on the back page of your newsletter- the expiry date will be on it as well as your membership number (starts with a "T" and ends with a "B").

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). If you renew after October 1st, your membership goes to end of 2018. Early in 2018 we will once again query the membership database and send a mass email specific to those members whose membership expired at the end of 2016 or 2017. Works awesome and is a very effective/efficient way to send reminders. We will be doing it again near the end of June to once again remind people to join/renew.

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.

Your **ABA Bowhunter Challenge 3D shoot** was hosted by the Woodland Archers from Whitecourt, August 12-13. A complete recap will be in the next newsletter.

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.

Huge thank you to Kris Skelly (our 3D Chairman)(Kris@albertabowhunters.com) and the committee for all their hard work in making our signature shoot happen.

The latest **ABA Raffle** (our 3rd **Cougar Hunt Raffle**) sold out quickly and the lucky winner was Chester Dodgson of Peace River. Chester's hunt will take place this December and we are looking forward to a great story!!

We may be doing another cougar hunt raffle but not sure when. Letting the outfitter get caught up with his obligations and we will see what happens. We only make app \$1000 profit after you factor in the hunt costs, ticket printing, credit card fees etc but it is a raffle that is very popular.

If anyone has any ideas on other raffle prizes etc let us know.

"Mark the date" for the **41st Annual ABA Banquet** March 24 2018 in Calgary at the Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre. 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!! Details on ticket prices, room bookings etc will be announced soon.

Make sure you get your **Game Award** entries into Ryk in a timely manner. Email them to Ryk (ryk@ryk.ca) or mail them (contact info at bottom of entry form) but make sure you follow up with a call

to make sure he did indeed get them. If you think you qualify for the Master Bowhunter buckle or the Grandmaster portrait let him know asap so we allow enough time to make things happen.

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.

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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