

## Vertical Response Jan 29 2017

Been a great start to the New Year as far as weather and snow depth goes. Should be a great year for the critters again and this makes it three in a row. Bodes well for survival of the young and old alike. Too bad the population of predators is so high.

Being the start of the year it is time to **renew** your membership. The best way to do that is online (or through any of our affiliated clubs - list in the newsletter) -- check the mailing label on this next issue for your expiry date. Or contact Brent (Brent@albertabowhnters.com) or Mike (Mike@albertabowhunters.com) and we can check the database as well. 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 very effective/efficient.

The 2nd **COLOR** edition of your ABA newsletter will be coming soon and what an awesome product it is - have gotten rave reviews and is well deserving. As always - send your hunting pictures and stories to Gord (Gord@albertabowhunters.com)

This is from a Jan 20 2017 Government of Alberta email press release regarding the **Castle area**. It is very important to review the management plan and make your thoughts and comments known:

*Adjacent to Waterton Lakes National Park and part of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem; the Castle area is internationally recognized as an important, biologically diverse ecosystem critical to connecting protected areas along Alberta's Southern Rocky Mountains. In the 2015 election, government made a commitment to enhance the protection of the Castle area, and the Government of Alberta is moving forward on this commitment.*

*On Jan 20, the Government of Alberta announced its "commitment to enhance the protection of the Castle Area". This includes the creation of the Castle Provincial Park and the Castle Wildland Provincial Park which will come into effect on February 16, 2017. As the Castle Parks are located within the South Saskatchewan Region, the SSRP has been amended to support government's commitment.*

*All activities and land uses in the Castle Provincial Park and Castle Wildland Provincial Park must be consistent with the Alberta Parks legislation and regulation(s) as well as the direction that has been set out in the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan. A Castle Parks Management Plan will provide strategic policy direction regarding management within the protected areas.*

*The development of a draft Castle Parks Management Plan was initiated in August 2016 and was led by the Parks Division of Alberta Environment and Parks. During plan development, the department worked closely with First Nations and key stakeholders to identify information and issues. Over 45 meetings were held between July 1st and November 30th with interested First Nations, stakeholders, ecology and land-use working groups and municipalities. Recommendations and advice were considered in the development of the draft plan. Collaboration with First Nations and stakeholders will continue through the review of the draft plan and the implementation of the strategies identified in the final plan.*

*Public input on the draft Castle Parks Management plan is encouraged and important. **You can access and review the draft plan as well as submit your comments, suggestions and concerns by visiting [albertaparks.ca/consult](http://albertaparks.ca/consult).** Feedback on the draft management plan for will be collected until March 20, 2017.*

The latest **ABA Raffle** is going very well with 76% of the tickets sold. The next newsletter will be out in three weeks and we expect a big jump in sales once that hits the mailboxes - if you haven't got

yours yet now is the time. We have an awesome rifle package put together - a Browning X Bolt in .243 (thumbhole stock) topped with a 3-15x Steiner scope. Comes with a sling and Boyt hard case. Included is a FOX Pro Fusion electronic call. Beauty of a gun and very versatile - the caliber is great for predators/deer/antelope and would fit young and old alike. Best place to get tickets is on the ABA online store ([www.bowhunters.ca](http://www.bowhunters.ca)) or contact Brent ([Brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Brent@albertabowhunters.com)). Ticket price is \$10 each. Raffle license #453046. We will do the draw at the next ABA Banquet March 25/17 in Nisku. GOOD LUCK!!

Things are coming together for the **40th Annual ABA Banquet** March 25 2017 at the Nisku Inn (same venue as last year). Best way to purchase the banquet tickets is from our online store at [www.bowhunters.ca](http://www.bowhunters.ca) and are now available from Brent ([Brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:Brent@albertabowhunters.com))(Cell 780-978-1195). Tables of 8 or 10 will be reserved. Adult is \$65/youth (12 and under) is \$25. The theme is "Mountain Fever" - showcasing sheep and mountain goats. Anyone bringing a mount/horns for the theme display will be entered for a prize draw. There will be another prize draw for anyone who brings something that qualifies for the annual awards. Steve Ecklund will be our guest speaker and be talking about his 2015 sheep hunt in WMU 410.

For Room reservations (group code *ABH17* or rate code *HUNT*) call 1 780 955 7744. Must book before March 8 to guarantee reservation. Queen doubles - \$105 + 9% tax. Includes 2 voucher breakfasts per day.

A twist for the **AGM** this year is a draw from all those who attend the AGM for a custom knife made and donated by member Dale Johnson - the hope is this draw will increase attendance for the AGM.

At the AGM we will be voting on a couple of **constitution changes** - official notification will appear in the next newsletter but here it is as well. If anyone has comments or questions contact Brent or any of the executive.

#### ARTICLE FOUR - MEETINGS AND APPOINTMENTS -- Point 2

Quorums - in discussion with Alberta Government Society Act people, they advised that there is nothing in the Society rules that say you need to have a certain number of people/executive for any meeting. Most organizations that have a quorum clause have wording to the effect "if after \_\_\_\_ minutes of the meeting starting, those present will be deemed to be the quorum."

Our constitution indicates at meetings of the Executive Committee, the quorum shall be three (3) voting members, at each Annual General Meeting, the quorum shall be twenty five (25) voting members and at Special General Meetings, the quorum shall be thirty five (35)voting members.

To follow the Society rules, we will be putting forth a motion to add the wording "if after 10 minutes of the meeting starting, those present will be deemed to be the quorum" for each of the three types of meetings listed.

#### ARTICLE 2 Membership -- Point 6.

Eliminate Associate club level - this level offered a discount to any club who affiliated with the ABA and had a different insurance provider/broker. Over the years, only one club has used this level. To make things simpler and streamline things administratively, it was discussed at several executive meetings and a motion was passed to bring it forward to the membership at the 2017 AGM for a motion to eliminate the Associate Club level.

We will also be **voting for the following executive positions** (President, Regulations Director, Secretary, North Director, Traditional Director, Newsletter) at the 2017 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). 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 2017 AGM at the Nisku Inn and Convention Center.

Candidates for election to any position may make their names known to the Vice-President in writing, at any time prior to the vote being called, or nominations from the floor will be accepted. Candidates for election need not be present, but if they are not, a signed notice of intent to stand for office must be in the hands of the Vice-President (Dale@albertabowhunters.com) prior to the vote being called.

If anyone thinks they qualify for the **Master Bowhunter buckle or the Grandmaster Bowhunter portrait**, you need to get a hold of Ryk (ryk@ryk.ca) or Brent right away so we can get the ball rolling with the engraving and the portrait artist. Kate our artist has asked to postpone any Grandmaster portraits this year until 2018 - she is in her graduation year and extremely busy. When you submit any of your Game Award entry forms to Ryk (by mail, email or fax) make sure you follow up with him and make sure he got them. When you email him pictures make sure the file size is not too big - we have had some end up in his junk mail folder and they have been missed.

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 Jan 12/17 with another meeting set for Feb 9, 2017. Once the 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. This policy review is looking at how the big game harvest/tags will be divided up among the residents, non-residents, bowhunters, landowners etc.

One disappointing thing we learned at the Jan 12/17 meeting is that the 72 proposed changes to the "Wildlife Regulations" policy/guiding document (is different than the Hunting Reg proposed changes below \*\*) that was sent up the chain of command in December 2016 by the FW policy guys we deal with, had been taken "off the books." This policy is set to expire at the end of June, 2017. They were told no other details, have no idea how far the package got, if the minister even seen it, who's desk did it stop at, if and when it will be given another look. Other than the govt and a team of lawyers are drafting something that will "ban spears, javelins and similar tools for hunting big game" - leaving out dropping rocks from trees, running down game and killing with knife etc which all would have been addressed in the package. The spear thing is all in a response to the bear spearing video this past spring. "Government got 160000 emails on this spear issue" - one hundred and sixty thousand!!! More than any other issue ever. A great deal of the proposed changes were of an administrative nature - like putting the "n" back in "sowshoe hare." Stakeholders did not have any real concerns with the change package. The lack of movement in going forward with this package of changes does not bode well for any of the other things us stakeholders are working on with government.

**\*\* 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

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.

See you at the Banquet/convention!!

Brent

[brent@albertabowhunters.com](mailto:brent@albertabowhunters.com)

780-978-1195