



FOR RELEASE
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Public review of updated elk management plan to begin

WHITEHORSE —The Department of Environment and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) are seeking public comment on a draft updated management plan for the Takhini and Braeburn elk herds, Minister of Environment Wade Istchenko announced today.

"An updated elk management plan will help us work towards meeting the goal of maintaining healthy elk populations while addressing concerns from stakeholders," Istchenko said. "The new plan aims to address concerns over conflicts between elk and agricultural producers in the Takhini Valley."

YFWMB will host public meetings in Carmacks, Haines Junction and Whitehorse during the review period of September 14 to October 13. Comments on the plan can also be submitted online or in writing to the YFWMB office in Whitehorse.

"The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board takes its role in facilitating public involvement in the management of fish and wildlife in the Yukon very seriously, and will lead the public review of the Draft Elk Management Plan," says Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board chair Bob Dickson.

The first Management Plan for Elk in the Yukon was completed in 2008, and focused on sustaining healthy populations of elk and provided a framework to guide management actions.

The Department of Environment initiated a multi-stakeholder review of the plan in February 2015 in response to concerns from the agriculture industry over increasing elk-agriculture conflicts. The most extensive proposed changes to the plan have been made to the section that addresses these conflicts. Other updates reflect the work completed since the development of the plan in 2008, such as continued work on reducing collisions between elk and motor vehicles.

Affected First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, and the Yukon Agriculture Association all participated in the development of the draft updated plan. Currently it is estimated that there are 200 elk in the Takhini herd and 60 elk in the Braeburn herd.

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Learn more:

Draft Elk Management Plan survey

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