

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Ontario Conservation Centre

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

OFAH FILE: 407/411/794
January 12, 2016

Public Input Coordinator
Wildlife Policy Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 8M5

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: EBR 012-6073 – Amendment to wolf and coyote hunting regulations in Northern Ontario under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997

The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is Ontario's largest non-profit, conservation-based organization, representing 100,000 members, supporters and subscribers, and 725 member clubs. Thank you for providing the public with an opportunity to comment on this proposal. We respectfully submit the following comments and recommendations for your consideration.

Improvements to wolf and coyote management have sufficient merit on their own to justify these changes. But the proper management of wolves and coyotes is also a key component of moose management, and this proposal is a welcome change. The recovery of moose populations will require intensive management efforts in many areas, and this burden cannot be borne solely by licensed hunters. We applaud the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) for following through on its commitment to examine the full suite of factors that impact moose populations in Ontario.

Northern Area

We fully support the removal of the game seal requirement for wolves and coyotes in Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 1-41. We also support no harvest limit for coyotes during the open season in these units. However, we are concerned that a harvest limit of two wolves per hunter could be insufficient to benefit moose populations in some areas. Caribou and elk populations would similarly benefit from higher harvest limits. **What information was used to determine a sustainable harvest limit of two wolves per hunter per year?**

We recognize the need to collect harvest information for canids to ensure the continued sustainability of licensed hunting, but we are deeply concerned that the only method for reporting harvested canids is online. Many areas of Northern Ontario suffer poor internet penetration, and many hunters are unfamiliar with the use of computers and the internet. This makes it effectively impossible for some hunters to comply with the mandatory reporting requirement. **We strongly recommend that the MNRF provide a telephone-based reporting option in addition to online reporting.**

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
January 12, 2016
Page Two

Central Area

In our opinion, one of the greatest threats to eastern wolf populations is genetic pollution resulting from hybridization with coyotes. By maintaining a game seal requirement and harvest limit for coyotes in central Ontario, the MNRF is effectively protecting a species that threatens the existence of eastern wolves. Furthermore, given the recent concerns about white-tailed deer and reintroduced elk populations, how have you taken into consideration the management objectives for these other species in your decision to maintain a game seal and harvest limit for wolves?

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations. We look forward to working with the MNRF to ensure healthy and sustainable moose populations across their range in Ontario for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Yours in Conservation,



Mark Ryckman, M.Sc.
Senior Wildlife Biologist

MR/gh

cc: Chloe Stuart, Director, Species Conservation Policy Branch, MNRF
Deb Stetson, Manager, Wildlife Section, MNRF
OFAH Board of Directors
OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services
OFAH Fish & Wildlife Staff