

Changes to the 2011 – 2012 Elk Hunt

A cows only hunt is the major change facing resident and First Nations hunters who will be applying for, or receiving permits to hunt Takhini and Braeburn elk this year.

Resident hunters can apply for one of 72 permits to take cow elk from the Takhini or Braeburn herds.

The deadline for hunters to file their application is June 17, 2011. The draw will take place in the following week and successful applicants will be contacted by registered mail and names posted on the Environment Yukon website.

The cows only hunt recommendation from the elk technical team is a temporary measure to meet current management objectives to reduce the overall population in the Takhini herd and to re-balance the herd..

The recommendation came when the results of last winter's census determined that bull numbers were low in the Takhini Valley.

There was a 73 per cent success rate on bull permits over the first two years hunters while only 31 per cent of the cow permits were filled.

A greatly skewed ratio of bulls to cows could have long term implications for this herd which is being managed for a population that is "healthy and free of diseases of concern".

The elk technical team will evaluate the early season harvest success rate in October to determine if additional cow elk permits can be drawn for a November 1 to March 31 late season hunt. Those permits would come from the original priority list of applicants who filed for the June 17 deadline.

The additional permits would be available to meet the goal of reducing the Takhini herd's population to its 2007 level within two to three years.

Any licensed resident hunter can obtain a Wildlife Act Permit to hunt elk of either sex in the Elk Exclusion Area. This season extends from April 1 to March 31 but does NOT allow the holder to hunt elk in the Permit Hunt Authorization area.

Issued May 31, 2011