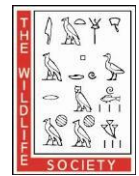




The Wildlife Society
Manitoba Chapter



The Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter
Written submission to the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development on
Bill 29 - The Wildlife Amendment Act (SAFE HUNTING AND SHARED MANAGEMENT)

October 31st, 2018

On behalf of the membership of The Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter (TWSMB), Manitoba's oldest science-based wildlife management organization comprised of professional biologists, ecologists and natural resource professionals throughout the province of Manitoba, we want to provide comments to the Standing Committee on Social and Economic Development with respect to Bill 29 – The Wildlife Amendment Act.

The Wildlife Society has developed three position statements that encourage efforts by governments to support safe hunting, safe use of firearms, and provide resources for conservation law enforcement. We have also developed three position statements that encourage governments to consider the use science, scientific peer review, and the public trust doctrine in managing wildlife. We have attached these documents to this letter, and encourage the committee to review them in consideration of this Bill 29.

In addition, The Wildlife Society recognizes and respects to the importance of hunting and wildlife harvest by Indigenous peoples in Manitoba. Co-management (or shared management) has been shown to be a valuable tool to support wildlife management goals. With this in mind, TWSMB's has specific comments on the following sections of Bill 29:

Sec 12.2(3) – This section addresses provisions to restrict permits for night hunting if it threatens the viability of the species. TWSMB has no policy or position related to night hunting but has previously expressed concerns on the status of moose conservation in broad areas of Manitoba (see previous correspondence attached). We would like to reemphasize that the development of a Provincial moose management plan would be important in executing shared management.

Sec 88.1(2) – This section would create a shared management committee, made up of multiple members, including representatives from Indigenous communities, who would advise the Minister on measures to manage a specified species of wildlife in a designated area. TWSMB requests that this committee be mandated to utilize a multi-evidenced based approach where scientific methods harmonize with Indigenous knowledge systems. It would also be important for this committee to be subject to peer review and consider the principles of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

In closing, TWSMB is encouraged to see an increased recognition in Manitoba's legislature of the importance of wildlife and professional wildlife management. We hope that the suggestions we provide

here will serve as an important step to a more sustainable future for wildlife for the benefit of all Manitoban's.

Sincerely,

Michel Leclaire

Michel Leclaire
President, The Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter

Attach:

TWS Final Position Statements – 1) Hunting, 2) Firearms, 3) Conservation Law Enforcement, 4) Use of Science in Policy and Management Decisions, 5) Scientific Peer Review of Agency Decision Processes, 6) The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Open Letter on the Status of Moose Conservation in Manitoba; Status of Moose Conservation in Manitoba