

**United Bowhunters of British Columbia  
East Kootenay Elk Management Plan Recommendations  
2005-2009**

**Introduction**

The “United Bowhunters of British Columbia” are a provincial body representing the interests of the bowhunting community within British Columbia. The UBBC considers conservation of our wildlife resource a priority and accepts the invitation of the minister as a stakeholder in the revised Elk Management Plan for the East Kootenays.

As a stakeholder, bowhunters have a keen interest in regulation changes which affect bowhunting opportunity as well as wildlife management direction. Bowhunting allows high levels of recreational activity with little risk of over harvest. Bowhunter numbers also continue to increase while other hunter numbers are decreasing. These facts suggest that not only can bowhunting offer a partial solution to hunter retention and recruitment; it can be used as a safe and conservative approach to harvesting elk without complex regulation.

Other jurisdictions in North America who enjoy elk hunting seasons generally hunt the full month of September with bow only and hunt either sex elk. In the East Kootenays, the bow only season is much shorter, hunting only 9 days under an Any Bull regulation. This reduced opportunity contributes to low archery harvest levels, to the point of being considered “non consumptive”. Recent introductions of junior rifle hunting within this short season have further impacted the quality of the archery elk hunt. Dissatisfied bowhunters within the province are requesting improved opportunity and parity with other elk producing jurisdictions.

Population estimates indicate an increase in elk from year 2000 levels with improved cow/calf ratios. Bull elk numbers seem to have increased as well. The UBBC agrees that “expanded archery seasons” (p.44 EK Elk Man. Plan) should be considered as a management tool and recreation opportunity within the framework of the revised elk management plan.

**Bowhunting Opportunity Recommendations (Elk)**

Sept.1-15 Bow Only Either Sex Elk (present management units)

Sept.1-Oct.20 Bow Only Either Sex Elk, Special Area – below 1100m. Rocky Mountain Trench Radium to USA border. (Wildlife conflict/damage elk area)

Sept.1-Oct.20 Bow Only Either Sex Elk, Special Area – Interface Fire Safety Areas within specified distances (i.e. 2 km) from rural inhabitation. (Safety/Wildlife conflict areas, EK communities)

Dec.1-20 Bow Only Cow Elk, Specified Areas (mandatory inspection for pregnancy monitoring rates)

**Habitat**

The UBBC supports enhanced habitat restoration activities, noxious weed management and the reduction of livestock grazing where forage plants have been detrimentally impacted and carrying capacity severely compromised. The UBBC also supports the enhancement of transitional habitats which may improve the holding potential for ungulates prior to inhabiting historical winter range.

**Access**

The UBBC support regulation limiting the use of ATV's for the retrieval of game only, with an operating restriction from 09:00 to 15:00, during a legal hunting season.

**Predators**

The UBBC supports liberal harvest regulations on the harvest of wolves, bears, coyotes and cougar.

**Volunteers**

The UBBC support and promote the volunteer efforts of Conservation Organizations who aid with wildlife monitoring, habitat restoration and other conservation initiatives benefiting elk and other wildlife.

Thank You,

Monty Evin  
Director, United Bowhunters British Columbia