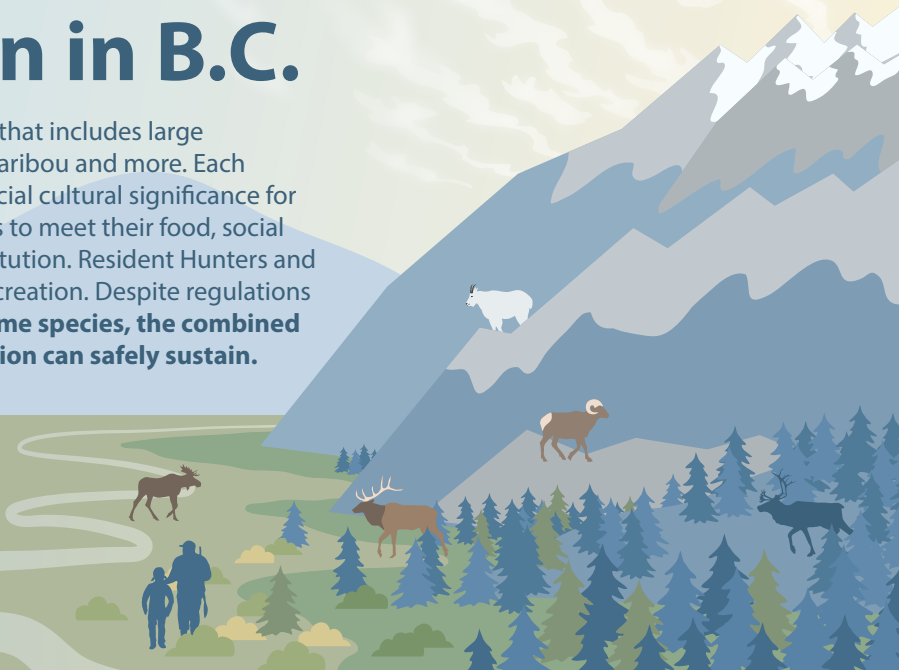


Understanding Wildlife Harvest Allocation in B.C.

British Columbia (B.C.) is home to a rich diversity of wildlife that includes large mammals such as elk, moose, mountain goat, wild sheep, caribou and more. Each species is an important part of its ecosystem and holds special cultural significance for many. For First Nations communities, the harvest of animals to meet their food, social and ceremonial needs is recognized in the Canadian Constitution. Resident Hunters and Guided Hunters seek harvest opportunities for food and recreation. Despite regulations to manage seasons and types of hunts, **for popular big game species, the combined demand of all user groups can exceed what the population can safely sustain.** These species can be designated as "Category A".

To fairly distribute harvest opportunity for Category A species among Resident Hunters and Guided Hunters after conservation and First Nations' needs are met, the Province apportions the remaining available harvest opportunity through setting of harvest allocations. Wildlife harvest allocations occur every 5 years.



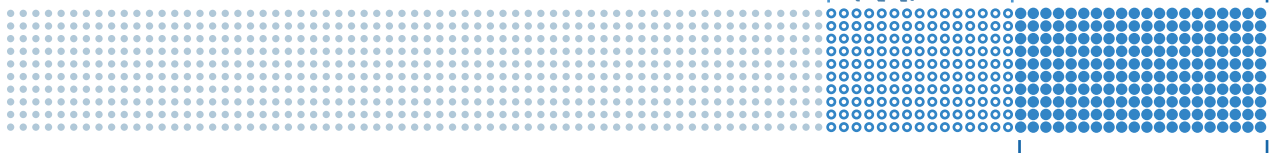
How does the allocation process work?

1. Provincial wildlife biologists assess the population.



Many factors influence wildlife populations, and some wildlife are more sensitive to harvest than others. Biologists use data from population inventories, habitat quality and species distribution, harvest reporting programs, as well as Indigenous and local knowledge to estimate the size and health of the population.

EXAMPLE POPULATION: 1 DOT = 1 ANIMAL



SUSTAINABLE MORTALITY

OTHER MORTALITY



SUSTAINABLE HARVEST



From this information, biologists also determine the number of animals that can be harvested or killed through other sources of mortality while meeting management objectives. This is the overall sustainable mortality.

EXAMPLE

Sustainable mortality: 350 animals
 Non-harvest mortality: 150 animals
 $350 - 150 = 200$
 200 animals can be sustainably harvested annually.

2. The harvest needs of First Nations are accounted for.



First Nations harvest wildlife through the exercise of their Aboriginal or treaty rights. Harvest needs can be based on the estimated number of animals to meet food, social, and ceremonial purposes or based on agreement with First Nations communities.

EXAMPLE

100 animals are estimated to be harvested annually by First Nations.

SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

ESTIMATED FIRST NATIONS HARVEST

100 

3. The annual allowable harvest (AAH) is calculated.



The First Nations harvest is deducted from the sustainable harvest, leaving the remaining harvest available for BC licensed hunters; this amount is called the AAH.

EXAMPLE

Sustainable harvest: 200 animals
First Nations harvest: 100 animals
 $200 - 100 = 100$

100 animals are available for licensed hunters (AAH).

ESTIMATED FIRST NATIONS HARVEST

AAH: ANNUAL ALLOWABLE HARVEST

100 

4. The AAH is allocated among Resident Hunters and Guided Hunters.

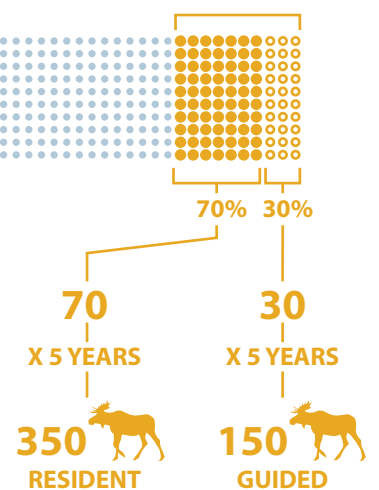


The AAH is split between Resident Hunters and Guided Hunters, and a greater percentage of the AAH is allocated to Resident Hunters as per the Harvest Allocation Policy. The annual allocations for Resident Hunters and Guided Hunters are multiplied over a 5 year period to determine each group's 5-year allocation.

EXAMPLE

AAH: 100 animals
Split: 70/30
 $100 \times 70\% = 70$
 $70 \times 5 \text{ years} = 350/5 \text{ years}$
The 5-year allocation for Resident Hunters is 350 animals.

AAH



5-YEAR ALLOCATION = AAH X SPLIT% X 5 YEARS

B.C. wildlife enrich our ecosystems, feed our families, hold social and cultural values for Indigenous peoples, and are enjoyed by residents and non-residents alike. Conservation of wildlife for generations to come is the first priority when considering harvest. The harvest allocation procedure means a wide variety of users enjoy the opportunity to hunt popular big game species, while long-term population stability and First Nations' harvest needs are met.

To find out more about harvest allocation and specific regional hunts, visit:

<https://www.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/sports-culture/recreation/fishing-hunting/hunting/wildlife-harvest-allocation>



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