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2026 Limited Entry Hunt Regulation Changes Summary

On May 25, 2026, amendments to the Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) Regulation and Hunting Regulation were enacted by the B.C. government. Changes were made to address conservation concerns, uphold First Nations rights, advance reconciliation and to provide a diversity of licensed hunting opportunities for all living in B.C.

The amendments reflect changes related to LEH. For example, if a general open season (GOS) hunting was replaced with an LEH, both the closure of the GOS and the implementation of the LEH are included below.

There are additional regulation changes still under consideration not related to LEH. Changes to motor-vehicle prohibitions, firearms restrictions, GOS, etc. are still pending decision and will be reflected in the updated 2026-2028 Hunting and Trapping Synopsis once posted.

Maps of relevant zones are included in the [LEH Regulations Synopsis](#). Detailed maps of LEH zones [have also been posted online](#).

These regulations support advancing reconciliation through deeper collaboration, weaving of Indigenous Knowledge and science to achieve shared objectives, and working together with hunters and the community to better meaningful way of life for First Nations, alongside reasonable access for licensed hunting.

Of note, the B.C. government has made changes to moose hunting regulations in the Peace, Cariboo and Skeena regions, and opened hunting seasons for caribou in part of the Peace region, mountain sheep in part of the Caribou region, and elk in parts of Vancouver Island, Lower Mainland and Kootenay regions.

Moose in the Peace region

Moose hunting regulation changes implemented in 2022 shifted the region from a region-wide, antler-restricted GOS to a mix of GOSs in some management units (MU; 9 MUs), LEH only (7 MUs), or a combination of LEH and two short 2-day GOSs in 12 MUs, with a commitment to review the changes as wildlife managers and First Nations improved understanding of moose populations, demographics, and harvest rates.

Since 2019, 89% of the Peace region has now been surveyed. The current moose population estimate for the Peace region is more than 48,000 animals, with average ratios of 40 (± 2.5) calves per 100 cows and 75 (± 7.1) bulls per 100 cows.

Moose populations in all MUs with available data are stable to increasing, indicating potential for greater licensed harvest opportunity while still upholding moose population and hunter density objectives.

For 2026, most existing regulations have been maintained with a small subset of proposed regulatory measures still proceeding. These consist of proposals as follows:

- Addition of Zone 7-43A and the split of 7-33 into two zones (one mainly private land and another mainly Crown land)
- The reinstatement of the rut hunt (October 1-15) for both LEH and GOS seasons (Oct 1-15) to spread hunting pressure over a longer period and reduce crowding
- Conversion of all LEH hunts from a spike-fork/tri-palm/10-point (SOFT-10) antler restriction to "Any Bull"

Some non-regulatory changes accompany this approach including a transition from cap-based harvest management to a conservative 2% harvest. This is better aligned with moose management practices, and is anticipated to provide an overall increase to licensed hunting opportunity.

Moose in the Skeena region

The greater Teslin Lake area is one of the few remaining accessible GOS moose hunting areas in northern Skeena and has experienced shifts in hunter effort following the implementation of northern moose LEH zones in 2024, with limited access points contributing to crowding.

To address these concerns, new LEH zones that overlap key areas in the greater Teslin Lake region, including Hall Lake, Teslin Lake, Swift River, Swan Lake and the B.C. portion of the Alaska Highway have been implemented. Three seasons are proposed to provide a range of hunting opportunities in the greater Teslin Lake area.

The regulation change is intended to improve the hunting experience and land stewardship by reducing crowding and conflicts in the proposed LEH zones and lowering harvest pressure in small, highly accessible areas.

Moose in the Cariboo region

Following the 2017 wildfires, portions of LEH Zones 5-3, 5-4 and 5-6 were temporarily closed to moose hunting as a precaution to protect potentially vulnerable populations and moose LEH boundaries were adjusted at the time to reflect the temporary closures.

Moose inventories completed since the fires show stable or increasing populations. In LEH Zone 5-3A, moose density has increased by 18% compared to pre-fire estimates, and bull to cow ratios in the Chilcotin remain well above the provincial target of 30 bulls per 100 cows.

Additionally, the Ministry of Forests has rehabilitated a significant portion of fire guards and associated roads, and LEH authorizations have been adjusted to account for potential increases in hunter success.

Given current population data and management conditions, the temporary closures in portions of LEH Zones 5-3, 5-4, and 5-6 are no longer required and realignment of LEH Zones 5-3A, 5-4D (previously named 5-4B), and 5-6A back to their historical MU boundaries has been implemented.

Caribou in the Peace region

In 2022 licensed caribou hunting in the Peace region was closed as a temporary measure until more information on caribou populations was collected. Recent inventories estimate the caribou population in the region at over 4,000 spread across 6 interconnected herds.

LEH for 5-point bull caribou has been re-instated in portions of the region that have minimal motorized access, have little to no resource-extraction activities and do not overlap with herds listed as threatened or endangered under the federal [Species at Risk Act](#). The herds in these areas are self-sustaining and not subject to wolf control.

Mountain sheep in the Cariboo region

A collaring study has confirmed that Taseko Mountain bighorn sheep are part of a larger herd range that includes Region 3, specifically MU 3-32, which has a GOS for full curl rams and an LEH for $\frac{3}{4}$ -curl rams.

In 2024 and 2025, the area was surveyed as one population for the first time, resulting in a minimum estimate of 120 Bighorn Sheep, a level considered

sufficient to support sustainable harvest. Due to past challenges with GOS (hunter crowding and harvest levels), an LEH for full curl bighorn rams has been implemented for Taseko Mountain.

Elk in the Kootenay region

Agricultural conflict involving elk is longstanding in the Kootenays, and since 2018 the elk population has increased, resulting in growing conflict with agricultural operations and affecting producers' ability to operate effectively.

Hunters are a valuable tool to reduce agricultural forage loss, decrease the amount of time elk spend on agricultural lands, and increase social tolerance for elk on private land to discourage high fencing and associated impacts on wildlife movement.

Four areas were identified for management: Fort Steele, Creston, Grasmere and Cranbrook. LEH has been implemented in these areas with date ranges intended to limit harvest to non-migratory elk and allow more prescriptive harvest management.

These new LEH opportunities fall within the [Kootenay Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone \(PDF, 1.4MB\)](#), where elk harvested are subject to mandatory head submission and carcass transport restrictions.

These changes are reflected in the updates to the [LEH Regulation Synopsis](#).

Remaining regulation changes

The remaining regulation changes, listed by region, are summarized in the following tables.

Region 1: Vancouver Island

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Close the McCurdy elk LEH Hunt on Vancouver Island (1-12E)</p>	<p>Aerial elk inventory results from 2023–2025 show that the elk population in the McCurdy (LEH 1-12E) population unit is performing below expectations and indicates a declining trend. Engagement with First Nations, resident hunters and guide outfitters corroborates concerns about the declining trend.</p> <p>The population estimate for this unit has fallen below thresholds for sustainable harvest opportunities identified in the “Management Plan for Roosevelt Elk in BC (2015).”</p> <p>The exact causes of the decline are unknown, but unregulated harvest, predation and habitat changes leading to reduced security are believed to be contributing factors.</p>
<p>Amend a LEH Hunt Zone on Vancouver Island (1-5D) due to elk dispersal</p>	<p>Elk hunt zone 1-05D was opened in 2022 to provide hunting opportunity and reduce elk conflict near the highway and agricultural areas around Cassidy, BC. Some of these elk have dispersed south of the Nanaimo Airport and moved outside the hunt zone, creating conflict with at least one agricultural producer.</p> <p>The hunt boundary was amended to mitigate the risk of crop depredation in the agricultural portion of the zone.</p>
<p>Amend a LEH Hunt Zone on Vancouver Island (1-11A)</p>	<p>Over the past five years, elk have dispersed out of LEH elk hunt zone 1-11A within the Tsulton elk population unit near Telegraph Cove.</p> <p>Although the area is relatively remote, some elk within the Tsulton population unit have taken up residence adjacent to the hunt zone near Highway 19.</p> <p>The current boundary of LEH elk zone 1-11A was extended to include the area next to the highway to address concerns about elk using habitats immediately along the highway corridor.</p> <p>The boundary adjustment aims to reduce public safety risks and better manage elk occupying this high-risk area.</p>

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Region 2: Lower Mainland

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Various amendments to Roosevelt elk LEH opportunities</p>	<p>The primary intentions of amending elk LEH regulations on the south coast are to increase wildlife-related recreational opportunities and to improve the overall hunting experience through seasons adjustments that reduce hunter crowding.</p> <p>Elk have been relocated to the south coast over the past decades, and herds are generally increasing in both size and distribution. For example, forty-one Roosevelt elk were relocated to Chehalis in 2013-2014; a winter 2025 survey estimated a population of 229 elk, with the herd expanding into adjacent areas. Hunting opportunities for elk throughout the south coast are frequently amended to reflect this growth.</p> <p>Management of Roosevelt elk will follow “A Management Plan for Roosevelt Elk in BC,” with seasons established only where winter aerial surveys show populations greater than 50 animals and stable to increasing.</p> <p>Harvest rates will align with population estimates, trends, and targets outlined in “A Management Plan for Roosevelt Elk in BC” and will be implemented in agreement with local First Nations.</p>

Region 4: Kootenays

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Close Portions of Two Mountain Goat Zones (4-26A and 4-20C) by Allen Creek Mountain</p>	<p>Allen Creek lies within MU 4-26A and 4-20C, east of Lavington Creek, approximately 10 km southwest of Canal Flats. The most recent inventory in 2014 observed 11 mountain goats in the area, down from 39 goats observed in 2004.</p> <p>Both the Mountain Goat Management Plan and the Mountain Goat Harvest Management Procedure recommend no harvest when herds contain fewer than 50 adult goats. This area was closed to mountain goat hunting as the herd is estimated to be below 50 adult goats.</p>

Region 5: Cariboo

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Expand Mountain Goat LEH Zone in Cariboo (5-4H)</p>	<p>Based on observations of mountain goat distribution, a modification was made to mountain goat LEH Zone H of 5-4 to better align with goat distribution during the fall hunting season.</p> <p>The boundary adjustment is intended to more evenly distribute hunting pressure throughout the LEH zone and improve management consistency with observed seasonal goat use.</p>
<p>Create New Mountain Goat LEH Zone (5-12A, Itcha-Ilgachuz)</p>	<p>Population estimate for the Itcha-Ilgachuz Mountain Goat herd is a minimum of 339 and has been stable or increasing for the past two decades. Observations across the Chilcotin indicate the Itcha-Ilgachuz herd is less isolated than previously believed.</p> <p>A LEH has been implemented based on the current population size of the Itcha-Ilgachuz Mountain Goat Population Management Unit. No hunting would be permitted within the Ilgachuz Range Ecological Reserve or the Itcha range. The Itcha range would be maintained as a hunting refugia.</p>

<p>Convert Part of Mitchell-Matthew Mountain Goat herd from GOS to LEH (5-15E)</p>	<p>The Mitchell-Matthew Mountain Goat Population MU has historically been managed through GOS due to its remote and difficult access. Increased access due to logging risks mountain goat overharvest in an area with uncertain population connectivity.</p> <p>This herd was surveyed in August 2022 producing a count of 102 mountain goats and a population estimate of 145.</p> <p>In 2023, extensive logging began around Mt. Spranger and Mt. Ispha, creating easy access for goat hunting. The GOS was replaced with LEH in the areas where new access results in goats being more vulnerable to increased harvest pressure.</p>
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Region 6: Skeena

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Reduce Minimum Range of Authorizations (RoA) for Moose Hunts in Skeena (6-8 and 6-9)</p>	<p>The RoA for an LEH hunt defines the minimum and maximum number of LEH authorizations that the Director of the Wildlife and Ecosystems Branch may issue.</p> <p>LEH hunts in MUs 6-8 and 6-9 have minimum RoAs of 25 and 50, respectively. These minimum authorization levels limit the Director’s ability to dynamically manage resident moose harvest in alignment with sustainability objectives.</p> <p>Despite declining moose populations in these two MUs, hunter success has remained high, or increased, creating a situation where optimal allocation of future LEH authorizations may be constrained by these high RoA minimums.</p> <p>The RoA for these hunts have had the minimum value lowered to allow LEH authorizations in MUs 6-8 and 6-9 in a manner that is responsive to both population dynamics and resident hunter success rates.</p>

<p>Split Moose LEH Seasons in Skeena (6-30A)</p>	<p>In 6-30A, the season consists of a single, multi-month LEH authorization, whereas adjacent areas offer multiple authorizations of two, three and nearly four weeks each.</p> <p>Hunter behaviour within the single multi-month season in 6-30A has resulted in noticeable concentrations of hunters on the land at certain times, leading to crowding and potential land-use conflict among licensed hunters, First Nations hunters and other land users.</p> <p>Multiple shorter seasons will support sustainable harvest management by allowing more direct control over hunter distribution in the area.</p>
<p>Remove Moose Compulsory Inspection (Skeena and Moose LEH Zone A of 7-52)</p>	<p>In 2024, mandatory harvest reporting of moose was implemented. As a result, the compulsory inspection requirement for moose in the Skeena and 7-52A is no longer needed, as mandatory reporting is now providing robust harvest information.</p>

Region 7A: Omineca

Regulation change	Rationale
<p>Amend Moose LEH Boundaries in Omineca (7-38A and B)</p>	<p>An administrative error in 2024 resulted in the boundary between zones A and B of 7-38 following the Omineca River instead of the adjacent park boundary. Adjusting the boundary to follow the park boundary corrects this administrative error and aligns the regulation with what was agreed to during previous engagement.</p>
<p>Increase the RoA for Omineca Caribou LEH hunts</p>	<p>The RoA sets the lower and upper limit of authorizations the Director of the Wildlife and Ecosystems Branch may issue for a specific LEH hunt, as defined in regulation.</p> <p>Caribou hunting in the Omineca was converted from GOS to LEH in 2024. The RoA was conservatively set during that time while the province collected more information on hunter success rates.</p> <p>While there are no current plans to increase caribou LEH opportunities in the Omineca region, early results from the first</p>

	<p>years of the new LEH seasons, including hunter success rates, indicate there may be sustainable opportunities to increase authorization numbers, which requires an increase to RoAs.</p> <p>Monitoring of these hunts will continue, and actual recommended authorizations will continually be adjusted as needed, within the new RoA.</p>
<p>Amalgamation of elk LEH zones and implementation of new youth-only elk LEH in the agricultural areas of the Omineca region</p>	<p>As of 2024, the wintering elk population in the Omineca region is estimated at 2,350–3,070 individuals in the Omineca. Over the past two years, elk populations in M.U.s 7-12, 7-13, 7-14 and 7-25 have increased by approximately 25%. Around Prince George, more than 600 elk have been observed wintering on or near agricultural lands, while elk populations in the Robson Valley have remained relatively stable since 2015. Populations are primarily on agricultural lands.</p> <p>Private landowners have reported increasing elk-related conflicts, including damage to fences, crops and agricultural land. One tool to address elk–human conflict on private property is the use of fall and winter antlerless elk LEH authorizations, which can help haze elk away from agricultural lands while providing hunting opportunities for resident hunters.</p> <p>Amalgamating zones in areas with similar elk populations and conflict patterns (for example, Robson Valley, Prince George, Vanderhoof) provides landowners with greater flexibility to host hunters if desired and offers hunters more property options where their authorization is valid. Amalgamated LEH zones for private-land-only elk hunts are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. MU 7-2: includes 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5 and 7-17 b. MU 7-7: includes 7-7, 7-8, 7-9, 7-10, 7-15 and 7-24 c. MU 7-12: includes 7-12, 7-13, 7-14 and 7-25 <p>The objective of this proposal is to improve hunter access to private land for elk haze hunts and to provide hunting opportunities for youth.</p>