



Comparison of the final 2008 and draft 2015 versions of the *Management Plan for Elk in Yukon*

The overall aim of the draft plan remains the same: to maintain self-sustaining populations of elk on the landscape to provide wildlife viewing and harvest opportunities, while acknowledging and addressing concerns related to the presence of elk.

Population Management

- Because the Takhini and Braeburn elk herds are considered small when compared to populations across North America, it remains a priority in the draft plan to understand elk habitat use and distribution, keep wildlife key area maps updated, and provide input on elk values.
- The risks associated with managing a small population are described in the draft plan. Population monitoring and modeling remains a priority in the draft plan, which calls for revisiting the harvest management approach if the herd size drops to 100-120 animals.
- Several studies completed since 2008 to determine the number of elk that can be sustained in the range of both herds have been summarized in the draft plan. Additional studies are not needed.
- Because work on studying the elk genetics is not a priority at this time it was not included in the draft plan.
- Results of a 2012 study on the competition between ungulates in elk and bison range are summarized in the draft plan. While no additional research into competition between ungulates is recommended, the draft plan notes that monitoring changes in populations of other ungulates and large carnivores in elk range remains important.

Habitat

- The draft plan recognizes the Takhini Valley is important for farming in Yukon. It now identifies the need for new land dispositions to be aware of potential conflicts with elk in order to mitigate conflicts.
- Conserving elk habitat in the core zone and carefully managing habitats in the buffer to mitigate conflicts remains priorities in the draft plan.
- Further studies to understand the impact of elk on their range are not considered a priority at this time and are not included in the draft plan.

Elk Hunting

- The draft plan describes the hunting regime and results of the elk hunts that have taken place since 2009. It also describes how government allocates permits to First Nations, plans harvest and outlines various zones.
- The draft plan calls for a small number (e.g., five or less) of elk hunt permits to continue to be issued. Remaining permits will be reserved to help address management issues like agriculture conflicts.

Elk-Agriculture Conflicts

- The draft plan addresses conflicts between elk and agriculture in more detail than the 2008 plan, including the range of tools available to mitigate conflicts.

Other

- The draft plan still recognizes the importance of elk population health, wildlife viewing opportunities, and reducing the risk of collisions between elk and vehicles. While these sections were updated with new information, the management actions remain the same.