BIG GAME HARVEST STATISICS BACKGROUND AND INTERPRETATION

DATA SOURCES

1. Resident hunters, days and kills are populated using Hunter Sample (HS) survey data.

2. Non-resident hunters, days and kills are populated with Guide Declaration (GD) data (this may include some resident hunter information, if a resident hunted with a guide outfitter) and Permit to Accompany (PTA) data (from 2019 onward).

3. Both resident and non-resident kill data is replaced with Compulsory Inspection (CI) kill data for Grizzly Bear, Caribou, Cougar, Goat and Sheep. The "CI" column indicates where CI kill data has been used in place of HS and GD/PTA kill data. See the DATA SOURCES worksheet in the excel workbook for a table describing how HS, GD/PTA and CI data are used in the dataset.

INTERPRETING THE BIG GAME HARVEST STATISTICS SPREADSHEET

1. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT UNIT (WMU):
   a. The WMU worksheet contains resident and non-resident harvest and effort data at the WMU level. This sheet also contains regional and provincial level data where the harvest or effort could not be assigned to a specific WMU – see below.

   b. Data that could not be assigned to a WMU:
   Incomplete data that could not be assigned to a WMU but could be assigned to a region is designated by the region number followed by two zeros in the WMU field. For example, WMU = 600 indicates data that could not be assigned to a WMU within Region 6 but could be assigned to Region 6.
   The regional 'unknown' WMU for Region 7A is 770 and for Region 7B is 780. Prior to 2018, the 'unknown' WMU for all of Region 7 is 700.

   c. Data that could not be assigned to a WMU or region:
   Incomplete data that could not be assigned to a WMU or a region is designated by WMU = 900. For example, WMU = 900 means somewhere in BC, but no location was provided. For WMU 900, the region field is assigned a value of '0'.

2. REGION:
   a. The Region worksheet contains harvest and effort data at the regional level. Regional totals are designated by the region number followed by two nines in the WMU field. For example, WMU = 699 indicates all data for Region 6.

   b. Data that could not be assigned to a region:
   Incomplete data that could not be assigned to a region is designated by WMU = 900. For example, WMU = 900 means somewhere in BC, but no location was provided. For WMU 900, the region field is assigned a value of '0'.

   c. Prior to 2018, the regional dataset contains the Region 7 'unknown' WMU 700 because the data could not be assigned to Region 7A or 7B.

3. PROVINCE:
   a. The Province worksheet contains harvest and effort data at the provincial level. There are no 'unknown' WMUs in this worksheet.

4. ALL WORKSHEETS:
   The WMU and regional level worksheets are set up so that adding all WMUs or Regions for a species and year will equal the provincial total.
   Note: See below for information on adding Hunters across WMUs and regions.

   Prior to 2018: WMU, regional and provincial level data was contained in one sheet. With this format change, columns between the three worksheets are identical allowing a user to consolidate data into one sheet, if they choose. If data is consolidated into one sheet, be sure to consider that there are data duplicated between the WMU and regional sheets – WMU 900 and WMU 700 (prior to 2018) are included on both sheets.

5. HUNTERS:
   For a species and year, summing WMU-level hunter estimates does not equal the regional total, and summing regional-level hunter estimates does not equal the provincial total. Because hunters often hunt in more than one WMU within a region or more than one region within the province, number of hunters is re-calculated at the regional and provincial levels to avoid overcounting. This applies to both Resident and Non-Resident Hunters.

6. HARVEST RATIOS:
   Harvest ratios for resident and non-resident harvest are presented as male, female, juvenile and unknown sex/age classes. Compulsory inspection does not include a juvenile category, therefore no juvenile harvests are identified if the data source is CI.

IMPORTANT NOTES

FOR OMINECA AND PEACE REGIONS:
- All Region 7A or 7B WMUs can be accessed by selecting '7A' or '7B' in the REGION field on the WMU worksheet.

GENERAL:
- There are some data errors, especially in the earlier years (e.g. caribou hunting on Vancouver Island). Around 1991, a filter was added to the HS system that blocked data for areas where the animal either did not exist or there were no hunting seasons. Data reporting and entry errors also exist in both CI and GD that produce similar results.

- There are instances for both residents and non-residents where CI data is available, and HS or GD data is not. These show up as records with null values under the resident or non-resident HUNTERS and DAYS fields but with kill data under the KILLS field.
  This occurs in resident data where an HS estimate is not produced (no one responded to the survey) but a CI record exists. This can occur in non-resident data where a Permit to Accompany is used to harvest a CI animal. Until recently, Permit to Accompany data was not electronic and therefore not available for use in this dataset prior to 2019.

- Prior to 2014, CI records for Limited Entry Hunt (LEH) kills were assigned to the WMU in which the LEH hunt area is named after, rather than the WMU in which harvest took place.

For example, a harvest from LEH hunt area 720A could be reported as WMU 720 when the harvest may have been in WMU 721.

- Prior to 2008, non-resident Mule Deer and White-Tailed Deer was not differentiated, and collected as 'DEER'.

- Caribou kill data for 1976, 1977, 1995 and 1996 is from HS for residents and GD for non-residents (Caribou were taken off CI for those years). For all other years, caribou kill data is from CI.

- Filters have been applied to all data in the excel version of the dataset. Various combinations of data can be accessed by clicking the down pointing triangle in the small grey box to the right of each field heading.