

I am submitting this letter with great concern for the future of all wildlife in British Columbia. A mistake now could cost the BC economy millions. If the BC Government errors, they must error on the side of wildlife, as it will take years to rebuild a species in decline.

I request you honestly recognize the decimation of Caribou in the Kootenay's, the steady decline of Rocky Mountain sheep, mule deer, elk and BC's moose population. Numbers are at the lowest in 30 years. This is not to point fingers but get wildlife management back on track. Wildlife management is a priority. The reason we are at this stage of concern is science-based wildlife management has been thrown out the window, as politicians use wildlife as a political football to further their political agendas. This is wrong. The BC Government employs biologists who study species and their habitat. The biologist should be provided with more funding as well as a voice to provide opinions, suggestions and recommendations, so all species thrive. The hunters of British Columbia provide over 12 million dollars annually, so this funding needs to be put right

back into the resources in which it is founded. This is not only about wildlife, but wildlife is the most important part of this wheel. With wildlife comes tourism, hunting, fishing and jobs. If the BC Government continues down this road to decimate ungulate numbers you will lose jobs in the guiding industry, butcher shops, tourism, animal viewing, hotel business, restaurant industry, as well as at gas stations and many fast food restaurants like Tim Horton's, McDonalds and A&W. This will hit rural BC communities with tremendous job losses. Which in turn have more persons on unemployment. I am 57 years of age. I have been an outdoor enthusiast all of my life. This is the worst I have ever seen things as for wildlife numbers. I urged you to make changes before you completely destroy what BC represents, which was and still can be, a province with a strong and diverse wildlife population.

Below is what I have recommended. For those who live in rural BC, hunting and fishing has been a way of life for decades. I am asking Premier John Horgan and Minister Thompson to respect rural BC communities and make

change for the better of all species and all British Columbian's.

Thank you,

Hunting Regulation changes- Region 4 only.

- The following should be implemented for 3 years and re-evaluated for each species depending on animal counts.
- **This should be a signed agreement between the government and concerned groups.**
- The following changes should start immediately with the 2018 spring bear and fall hunting season.
- A "Priority Based LEH System" must be introduced and put into place, as done in Alberta and Saskatchewan who have very successful hunting programs.
- No youth can apply for an LEH other than whitetail doe's or cow/calf elk. They will be eligible to apply for sheep, moose once they reach the age of 19 years.
- Hunting Season should be changed because of changing weather condition as a result of "Climate Change". Instead of a September 1st opening date, this date should be moved back to September 10. This will stop the loss of meat due to spoilage, when animals are harvested during higher than normal temperatures and do not get processed quickly enough. This will also take elk out of the main rut for rifle season as BC is one of the

only jurisdictions in North America who allows hunters to hunt elk in the rut.

- Re-introduce the LEH system, as a Priority based system LEH system for West Kootenay elk which took over 25 years to flourish and has been decimated in less than 10 years. Priority should be age based, giving senior hunters priority if they have applied for such a hunt. If a senior hunter has harvested an elk in the 2017 season he must sit out one year to give others an opportunity before he is able to reapply for an LEH draw.
- Any changes must be science based decisions founded and supported by animal counts, reported harvest numbers and information brought forward by hunters, trappers and guide outfitters.
- The decisions of this committee should not be agenda based. The decisions should be based on best practice decisions, to increase the number of ungulates in Region 4.

ELK

1. Cancellation of all cow/calf elk permits except for age restricted hunters. Hunters who are over 70 years should be able to harvest any elk (bull, cow or calf) at any elevation during regular elk season. These senior hunters deserve this right, as senior hunters. Youth hunters, under 16 years of age should be able to apply for an LEH to harvest a cow or a calf. These LEH cow/calf permits would target problem areas of the trench.
2. Archery elk season – Season change Sept 10-Sept 20. Any elk at any elevation.

3. Complete closure of spike elk season in Region 4.
4. Six Point general open season for elk. Dates changed starting September 20 to October 20.

**** Note-** moving the season back 10 days for 6 point for bull elk “would not” be a popular decision. But this would be beneficial to increase elk numbers, as this would be eliminating rifle hunting during the first part of the rut. BC is the only province or state that allows rifle hunting for bull elk in the rut.

Moose

1. Continuation with LEH Authorizations for bulls with a compulsory reporting with a Priority based LEH system in place. If a hunter or group have received a bull moose LEH for the 2017 fall hunting season and was successful in harvesting this species, he/they would be ineligible to apply for a bull for the 2018 season. But would be eligible in 2019 season.
2. Complete cancellation of spike/fork small Bull Moose season.

Whitetail Deer

1. Complete cancellation of Doe season in all of Region 4.
2. Whitetail deer bucks must be at least 3 points.
3. Bag limit for white tail bucks to be One (1) buck 3 points or better including all zones of region 4.

Mule deer

1. Bucks to be 4 point minimum as is right now.
2. No mule deer doe season.

Grizzly Bear

1. Grizzly LEH permits to be increased, but monitored. The Grizzly LEH season to be normal spring season April 1 – June 15, but an LEH authorization holder will also be able to hunt Grizzly from Sept 20- Nov 15, if unsuccessful in spring hunt. This is because of higher number of snow slides in the backcountry limiting access to hunting areas. Mandatory inspection as already required. The hunting of grizzlies is not a trophy hunt but predator management.
The recent document provided by the BC Attorney General confirms hunting is not a threat to British Columbia grizzly population.

Wolf

1. Open season for all elevations with no bag limit in Region 4. Mandatory inspection as already required. A cull should also take place in Region 4, to get the wolf numbers under control. A bounty should be placed on wolves, so both trappers and hunters for are financially compensated after harvesting and having the wolf inspected.

Cougar

1. Number of total cats taken to be increased with a set number of males and female to be harvested. Mandatory inspection as already required.

Sheep

Note-Any changes to be determined